

BEMIDJI—"THE MAGIC CITY OF THE NORTH"



BEMIDJI A CITY WITH A FUTURE; CITY OF PROMISE

Best Type of Clean Hustling Community; Built on Solid Foundation of Natural Resources.

RAPIDLY FORGING AHEAD AS MANUFACTURING CENTER

Has Friendly, Democratic, Hard Working, Homeloving Citizens; Has Much to Offer.

"A city embosomed in the West, Set like a jewel in the billowy Folds of Nature's green, luxurious drapery."

(By Guy W. Small.)

Published in the "Northern Minnesota" Magazine at Duluth.

Sixty miles north from the nearest railroad Chief Bemidji thought he was safe from their encroachments, but one day with the beautiful autumn haze hanging over the lake he saw seven white men invade his country. They were Tams Bixby, Harris Richardson, Henry Hutchinson, A. C. Clauson, W. J. Hilligoss, Louis Lohn and F. A. Silver, and they had purchased the present townsite of Bemidji. One year later the little colony of palefaces had grown to 200 souls. Today it is a lively, bustling little city of more than 7,000 or more.

Reasons for Growth.

Few cities just grow of themselves. There must be some reason for building a city on any location. Some are based, like Los Angeles, on their climate. Some, like Des Moines, are simply huge farming communities. Some like Pittsburg, are great manufacturing centers. Some, like Chicago or St. Louis, or Kansas City or Winnipeg, are great distributing points. Some, like Duluth or New Orleans, are shipping points.

Has Them All.

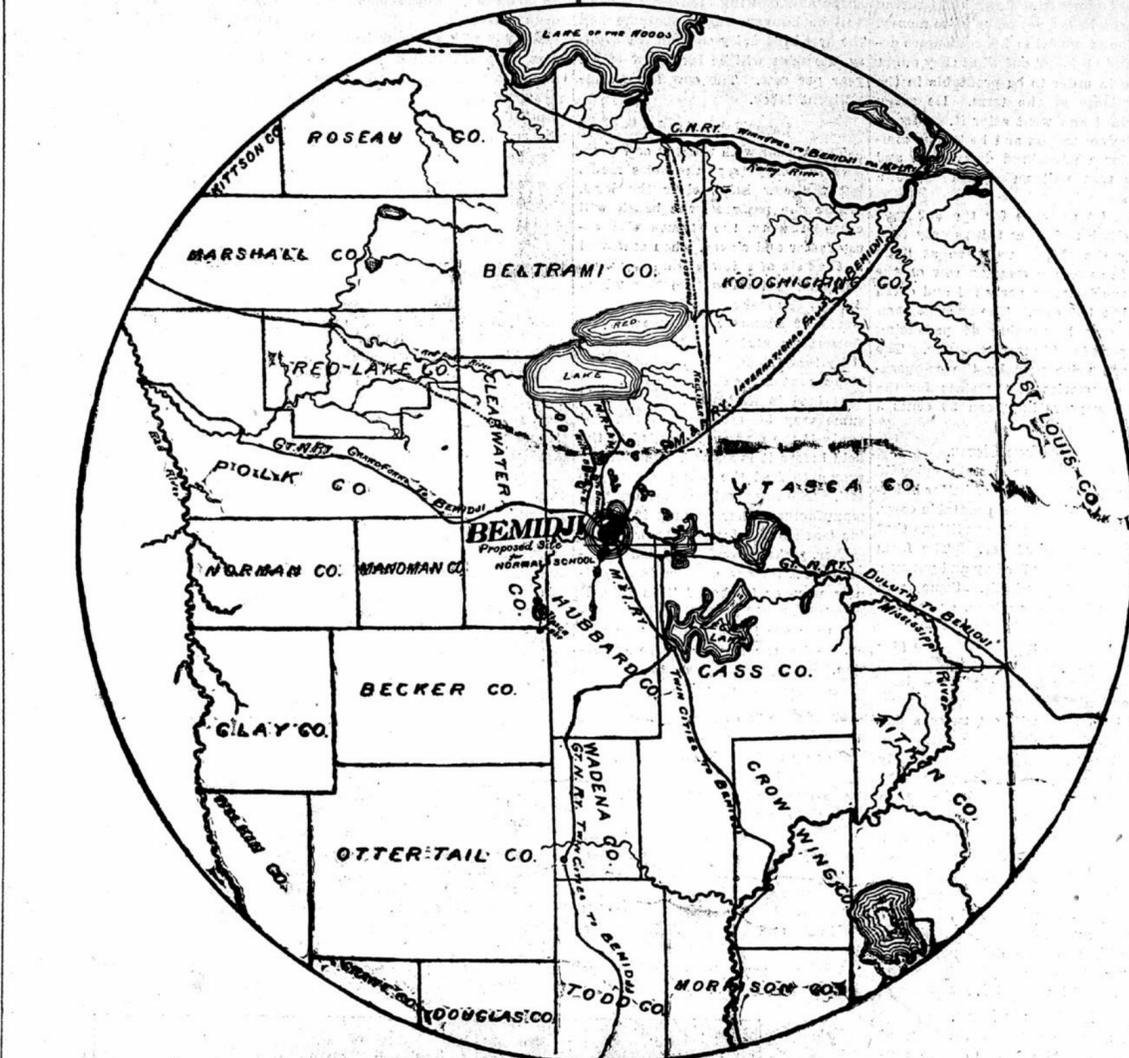
Bemidji has all of these reasons for being, unless it is possible the last mentioned one. It has the Northern Minnesota climate to begin with, and scoffers to the contrary, there is none better for lotus eaters and idlers. It is a vigorous, healthful climate for the full-blooded man who wants to do a day's work. The cool breezes of summer, followed by the long mild days of golden autumn, offer attractions that make those of California seem insipid. Ask any Minnesotan who has lived in California which he prefers. Added to the incomparable climate, is the most beautiful location any city can boast. Situated on the shores of the beautiful lake of the same name, it is indeed the city beautiful.

Thus climate and topography have made Bemidji above all else a livable city and that should be the first essential. Climate and topography can be capitalized, and Bemidji is capitalizing hers.

A Productive Soil.

Des Moines can claim no advantages over Bemidji as a center of an agricultural region. Surrounding Bemidji are 40,000 acres of undeveloped land. For centuries it has been enriched by forest wood until a rich black loam has accumulated above the clay formation soil. No more productive soil for diversified crops can be found, and the farmers of Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and Southern Minnesota are realizing that they can sell their high priced land, move to Northern Minnesota and for a fraction of what they realized, purchase just as much and just as good soil.

Every settler who moves to the rich farming district surrounding Bemidji, increases this city's importance as a distributing point. Its prestige as the center of this growing empire is already too well established to be taken away from it. Four great railroad systems centering in Bemidji give it this prestige. The Great Northern, the Soo, the Northern Pacific and the Minnesota, Red Lake & Manitoba. Bemidji was once a frontier lumber town. As the center of the great pine forest of Northern Minnesota, it had its reason for being in the lumber industry. There



BEMIDJI IS MECCA FOR MANY SETTLERS FROM ALL SECTIONS

Incorporated as a Village, May 20, 1896; First Settlers Appear in Spring of 1893.

NAMED IN HONOR OF OLD INDIAN CHIEF

Growth Combined Characteristics of the Oak With Those of the Mushroom.

Bemidji was incorporated as a village May 20, 1896.

The first meeting of the village council, of record, was held August 24, 1896 at which date Fred M. Malzahn was president of the village council, Edward Kaiser, recorder and George McTaggart, G. E. Carson and Guy Remore, trustees.

Good Trading Point.

The motive that prompted the first white men to settle in Bemidji was, that it was a good point at which to establish a trading post to barter with the Indians, who were at that time living on the south shore of what is now known as Lake Bemidji, and so it came to pass that in May 1890, M. E. Carson blazed his way and cut a wagon road through the primeval forests to the present site of Bemidji, from his trading post called Moose, twenty miles to the west. From that point he hauled in a wagon load of supplies with which he started in trade. In the meantime he had built himself a rude log house of small dimensions in the immediate vicinity of where his prospective customers were dwelling on the lake shore.

The building was located close to where the Mississippi river joins together Lakes Irving and Bemidji. It has long since ceased to be a landmark.

Settlers in 1893.

In the spring of 1893 the first settlers began to put in appearance. At that time Freeman Doud came here and settled at the north end of Lake Bemidji. He was closely followed by Thomas Joy, John Spaulding, Porter and Willis Nye, father and son, who came from near Fergus Falls. The Indians were peaceable and well disposed toward the whites. Chief Bemidji was at the head of a tribe of about fifty Chippewas, most of whom dwelt on the south shore of Lake Bemidji or between that and Little Bemidji lake as Lake Irving was then called. Up to their final removal to the Cass Lake reservation, Chief Bemidji and his tribe always retained friendly relations with the early settlers. To this fact, no little credit is due to the old chief, who at all times was found to be reliable and in every way trustworthy.

Died in 1904.

The present city of Bemidji is named in honor of the old chief who died in April, 1904, at the age of eighty-five years.

In 1896 Bemidji became the mecca for many settlers from all sections of the south and west and the tide of immigration has ever since surged this way, resulting in one season in the location on the present site of the city, a sufficient population to justify the organization of a village and later on incorporating as a city.

Much History.

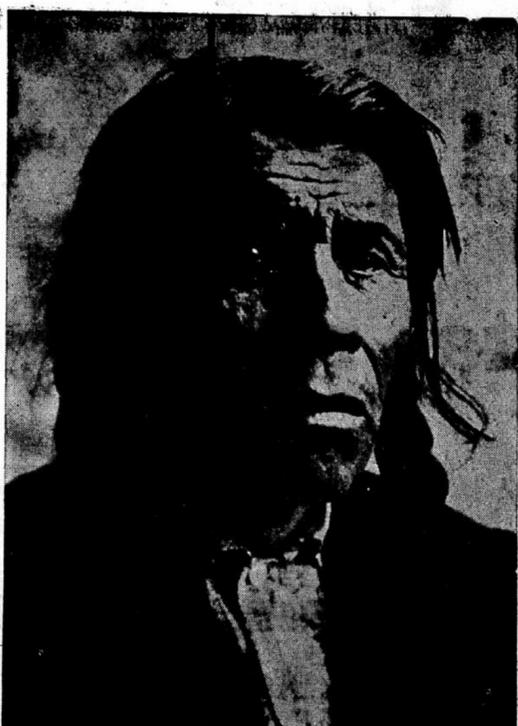
So much historical lore is associated with Bemidji that it would require volumes to properly depict it in all its elements of bravery, vigor, spontaneity, romance, richness and beauty. In nineteen years Bemidji has graduated to a fine first class city and one which has now unprecedented recognition for progressiveness and energy. In comparatively a few years it had won the nom de plumes of "The Hub City of the Northwest" and "The Magic City of the North."

West Shore of Lake.

Bemidji is situated on the west shore of the beautiful lake of the same name in Beltrami county. Briefly stated, it is 270 miles north from St. Paul and Minneapolis, 180 miles west of Duluth and 90 miles east of Crookston. A glance at the map

Why Bemidji Prospers

IT is located in the heart of one of the best undeveloped farming regions in America, with excellent railroad facilities, cheap water power, big saw mills and lumbering activities. It is a city with such natural attractions as to give it fame as a summer resort, a fame that will spread.



CHIEF BEMIDJI (Cha-now-ish-kung). In whose honor the City of Bemidji was named.

some 1,400 men. The list is growing every year, and it will grow more rapidly as the country develops and the markets widen. There are four newspapers, the daily and weekly Pioneer, Sentinel and the Herald.

Public Spirit An Aid.

Public spirit has played a big part in the development of Bemidji to date. The Commercial club is a splendid body of wide-awake men. The club occupies comfortable quarters where both social and business gatherings are held. The Bemidji Auto club is also a hustling organization, and these two associations have done much for civic betterment. The results of their work can be seen at a glance. Bemidji owns its own water plant, which furnishes the entire city with the best of pure water from artesian wells, and with fire protection through twenty-eight blocks of city mains. Bemidji has more than three miles of paved streets and many miles of good roads, thanks to the activities of the automobile owners, largely. It has an excellent sewerage system, some twelve miles of concrete walks, a fine city hall, a Carnegie library, a fire department unequalled for a city of its size, an efficient police department and schools and churches that are unsurpassed. These necessary adjuncts of a modern city but help to make it a lovable city. Three modern school buildings house the young people of the city, and every church denomination of importance is represented.

Is a Paradise.

Some reference has been made to Bemidji as a summer resort, but this feature deserves much more extended mention. It seems paradoxical that a live hustling community of 7,000 people, depending on manufacturing and distributing trade, can also offer attractions both as a summer resort and as a mecca for sportsmen and fishermen, yet such is the case with Bemidji. Bemidji is on the "height of land", the watershed between the Gulf of Mexico and Hudson's Bay. The altitude and the wonderful summer climate make it an ideal resort for the summer visitor. The natural charms of the northern Minnesota woods is still untouched in many regions about Bemidji. The summer tourist can get any kind of an outing he desires. If he wants a well kept, modern summer hotel where moderate prices are charged, he can

Continued on Page 13

Continued on Page 13