40 cts. each, and common tobacco at about $2.00 per pound.   So
much flour was made at Prairie du Chien at this time, that in
1820 Joseph Rolette contracted with the Government for supply-
ing the two companies of troops at Fort Crawford with it, they
preferring the coarse flour of the Prairie which was sweet, to the
fine flour transported in keel-boats in the long voyage from Pitts-
burgh, which would be sour on its arrival.

Prairie du Chien is generally spoken of as an old settled town.
It is true that the Indians inhabited it many years since; and
about the year 1737 the French established a trading post there,
and built a stockade around their buildings to protect them from
the Indians, and from that day until a few years since it continued
to be a trading and military post, and occasionally a worn out
voyageur got married, and settled down on a piece of land.   But
what advantages were these old trading posts to the settlement
and development of the country—such as Detroit, Kaskaskia,
Cahokia, Vincennes, St. Louis and St. Charles?   All these places
remained stationary for many years, until the Americans emi-
grated to them, and took hold of them with their enterprise, when
they at once improved, and most of them became places of business
and importance.

Indian traders, as a class, possess no enterprise, at least none
that is of any advantage to the settlement and improvement of
a country.   They are enterprising in going into the unexplored
Indian country to traffic, and collect furs and peltries; but I have
never seen a man who made money in the Indian trade, apply it
to the ordinary improvements that foster and encourage the growth
of a country—they have made money in a certain routine of busi-
ness, with which they are acquainted, and fear to invest it in some
other business with which they are not familiar.   Such has been
the case with Prairie du Chien, so long noted as a trading post and
garrison.

The land about Prairie du Chien was not purchased from the
Indians; and none surveyed, except the private claims on the