

been subsequently removed from the surface. The soil of Pierce county has been formed of decomposed rocks and crumbling ledges, which, washed by rains, constantly add their fertilizing elements to the lower levels, mixing with the clay and fine sand there accumulated, and possesses an unsurpassed strength and productiveness.

As we journey inland, the land rises moderately for twelve miles, until we cross the Trimbelle river, when the blue limestone is largely developed, and doubtless marks the limits of an extensive and dense forest of hard wood timber, which covers the interior of the county, some fifteen miles through, east and west, by twenty north and south. Beyond this forest, and some thirty miles east of Prescott, the sand-stones reappear, and still farther eastward, the primary rocks will be found in place.

It will thus be seen, how extensively limestones are developed throughout the county, and from a gentle rolling surface, how thoroughly every portion of its soil is impregnated with one of the most essential elements to profitable agriculture. In this respect, no portion of the West can claim a superiority.

Although the county has no interior lakes, it is by no means destitute of water and lake scenery. Lake Pepin borders it on the south—a sheet of water celebrated for its beauty. Its shores are rock-bound, often vertical, and rise to a height of from two to four hundred feet. “Lovers’ Leap” is a precipice of this description, on the eastern side, and near the center of the lake, which is thirty miles in length. The Mississippi river, with its deeply worn channel, winding its way amidst numberless islands, cannot be seen without awakening an enthusiasm in the breast of the beholder. And Lake St. Croix, deeply embosomed in hills, margined by sloping prairies and verdant groves, its bright waters flashing in the sunbeams, is an object of ever varying interest and loveliness. This lake, also, is thirty miles in length.