

begun in 1853, and has been pushed with a spirit and success that has been surprising to all. The Milwaukee and Horicon begun in 1854, has quietly pushed its way to the northward, until it rests upon the Fox River, and thus connects with the great waterway with which that river blends. The Lake Shore road was commenced in 1854, and completed in 1855. In all, say 700 miles of road. Their aggregate cost cannot be less than \$25,000,000. Their construction, at a low estimate, has added to the common wealth of the State, above the value of the roads, more than \$67,000,000.

Our city has borne an important part in the construction of these great works, by the issue of her bonds. These have been taken in good faith by capitalists, and must, in like good faith, be met by our people, lest our honor become sullied, in which event our loss is greater than our gain.

I must leave the consideration of these historical reminiscences, which have been incidents along the way of our commercial growth and prosperity, and consider more carefully some of the causes which have produced a city of fifty thousand inhabitants in the brief period of twenty years.

If the cities of the Nile, the Bosphorus, and those along the shores of the Mediterranean sea, on account of their position, had great natural advantages, not less have the cities which are planted and are to be planted along the shores of the lakes and rivers which make up the magnificent basin of the St. Lawrence. If you take the shore upon either side of this great waterway, and pass along, as the old Canadian voyagers did, through its entire circuit, from the time you have left Quebec, at the head of the Gulf, until you return, you have made a journey of more than four thousand miles, and if you consider the natural elements of wealth, which a beneficent Creator has placed in this valley, to wit: climate, soil, timber and minerals, and judging of the value of these by the best standards which human experience has wrought out, where, I ask, upon this broad continent, and I had almost said upon this round