

So that at this moment, probably, not less than three hundred thousand people are within the boundaries of the old Milwaukee Land District, and who, more or less, contribute to the commercial interests of Milwaukee.

Will Milwaukee continue to grow? I answer, yes; surely and rapidly. There are difficulties in the way. I cannot stop now, nor is this the time, to consider them. They are difficulties that are shared in by the State at large, and forebode trouble, but I trust to the intelligence, the good sense, and the patriotism of our people to provide a timely clearance. I say again, Milwaukee will advance surely and rapidly.

Our railroads, already, within our own State, draw the products from twenty-eight thousand square miles. This cannot be diverted from us. This extent of country is capable of sustaining, at a moderate rate per square mile, more than two millions of people. Other avenues are to be opened and new regions are to be reached. And beyond the boundary of our own State shall they who there dwell, come and establish their commercial relations with us on the shores of this blue sea. The foundations for this relation are now being broadly and firmly laid.

Champlain, Marquette, and Hennepin commenced to advertise to the civilized world this great basin to which I have alluded, more than two hundred years ago. At first the march of empire was slow. But now it moves on, and its tread is as the voice of thunder. Through this magnificent gateway, whose history and whose destiny we are considering to-night, and over which we stand sentry, already hundreds of thousands of men and women have passed out and taken possession of those fair plains, and stand beckoning on other millions who remain behind. These other millions are coming, and will take possession of this basin and plains beyond. And the time comes rapidly on, when these teeming millions shall dictate laws to the entire continent!

Gentlemen and brother merchants, you have met here to-