

prairies of Fond du Lac. But none of these circumstances prevented the most extravagant expectations of the immediate growth of a populous and flourishing city at Sheboygan. Milwaukee was then a small village. The settlers of Sheboygan believed that, situated as they were, about midway between Green Bay and the southern boundary of the Territory, their town would soon outgrow Milwaukee, and that it was destined to become the metropolis of Wisconsin. A number of framed dwelling-houses and stores were erected during the fall and village lots rose rapidly in value. A lot which two years afterwards could not have been sold for as many shillings, was considered a bargain at five or six hundred dollars. At the same time, there was not a farm in the county; not twenty acres of cultivated land within forty miles. But this was no obstacle to building a western city in 1836. No one stopped to consider that in order to establish commerce, to sell merchandise, to ply the various mechanic arts, there was a necessity for a productive class in the vicinity. Everybody was expecting sudden affluence from the rise in the prices of wild lands. There was a temporary show of prosperity, while they were patronizing one another, which continued during the time they were fitting up their houses, and getting settled in them. This was very encouraging while it lasted. But, all on a sudden, it was discovered that everybody was out of money and that nobody had anything to do. This was in the winter of 1836-37. F. M. Rublee, now of La Crosse, then a young man in his twentieth year, taught the first school in the county that winter. Provisions were extravagantly high as well as scarce. Salt pork was a luxury before spring, which few could obtain. All provisions had to be brought by lake. During the winter months, when navigation had closed, there was no communication with the outside world, except by an Indian trail, over which, once a week, the mail was carried by a footman. Still the people kept up courage. With the opening of navigation, they were confident the good times would return. A new influx of immi-