

agreed among the members that Michigan should have the northern peninsula. To be sure, Michigan did not want it, but it was prophesied that she would eventually be satisfied with the enforced exchange.

The same Ohio boundary bill came again before the senate judiciary committee, the following session; for though the senate had passed it the previous year, the house had not acted. On the 1st of March, 1836, the committee once more reported in favor of Ohio, Mr. Preston having reiterated his views regarding the Michigan-Wisconsin boundary line. The committee, in its report, after disposing of the question actually before it, went outside of its topic and submitted this suggestion to the senate:¹

“If Michigan be not sufficiently large, it is easy to remedy that objection; and if the ordinance [of 1787] is to remain unchanged — *as it must, unless the state of Virginia will consent to an alteration of it* — so immense a tract of country as Wisconsin presents ought not to be formed into a single state. Whatever disadvantage may arise from connecting with Michigan a portion of country west or north of the lake, is, we think, not to be weighed with the inconvenience of subjecting, forever after, to the jurisdiction of a single state, all the inhabitants who may reside in the region west and north of the lake.”

About this time the state constitution adopted by the people of Michigan in 1835 was, together with a message from the president on the Ohio-Michigan boundary dispute, referred to a select senate committee, of which Thomas H. Benton was chairman and John M. Clayton, chairman of the judiciary committee, a member. This committee reported March 22, 1836, a bill to establish the northern boundary of Ohio as Ohio wanted it, and also a bill to erect Wisconsin Territory. This latter measure laid down the northeast boundary line of the new Territory as Mr. Preston had suggested and practically as it exists to-day.

When the Wisconsin bill was before the house, in committee of the whole, Elias Howell of Ohio offered an amend-

¹ *Senate Docs.*, No. 211, 24th Cong., 1st sess., vol. iii.; also *Reports of Coms.*, No. 380, vol. ii., 1835-36.