

the Woods,¹ and would include a considerable portion of what we purchased in the Territory of Louisiana; so that, in any way in which the language of the act could be carried out, Wisconsin would have for her western boundary a line of at least one thousand miles in length;" and Mr. Vinton thus showed that, "according to the phraseology of the proviso, Wisconsin would embrace not only all the residue of the old Northwest Territory, but a great deal more." And so the proviso was killed. The Douglas bill then passed the house, and subsequently the senate, the enabling act being approved on the 6th of August following.

In the constitutional convention which opened in Madison, October 5, 1846, ex-Governor Doty, who had been so prominent in insisting upon the "ancient limits" of Wisconsin, was made chairman of the committee on boundaries and name. The committee very naturally reported an ordinance insisting on the "birthright" of the proposed state and that all boundary questions in dispute should be referred to the supreme court of the United States. It soon developed in the convention that the people in the St. Croix valley, who had settlements at St. Anthony's Falls, Fort Snelling, Stillwater and other points, were extremely desirous of casting loose from Wisconsin and embarking their fortunes with the proposed Territory of Minnesota, beyond the Mississippi. They claimed that they were far removed from southern and eastern Wisconsin, the centers of population west of Lake Michigan, and had neither social nor commercial interests in common with the latter. Of course there was political ambition also, at the bottom of this desire, and it had been fostered by the proceedings in congress, above reported. William Holcomb of St. Croix county came down to the convention as the representative of this idea, and fought for separation with much persistence and parliamentary skill. The provisions of the enabling act did not go far enough to suit him. He sought to have a line drawn from the headwaters of the Montreal river to Mount-

¹ The map issued by the general land office at Washington, in 1885, shows that Lake Itasca is exactly on the meridian which touches the extreme northwest corner of the Lake of the Woods.