

ain island,¹ on the Mississippi river; the design being, to erect the country north of that line and west of the Mississippi — with the whole of the northern peninsula, if it could be obtained — into a state to be called Superior, commanding the southern and western shores of Lake Superior with the mouth of Green bay and the foot of Lake Michigan to the southeast. It was a bold scheme and had the merit of originality.

His first amendment to the boundary article was as follows: "Commencing at the headwaters of the Montreal river, as marked by Captain Cram, thence southwest to a point a half degree due north to the highest peak on Mountain island, on the Mississippi river; thence due south over said Mountain island to the center of the channel of the Mississippi river." This was voted down, fifty-one to twenty-nine. Filibustering ensued; and later, the same day, on motion of Mr. Strong of Iowa county an amendment to the same effect as Holcomb's was adopted, forty-nine to thirty-seven. The next day, however, the vote was reconsidered, and, after several calls of the house, the amendment negatived, sixty-eight to thirty-five.

After numerous amendments had been defeated, through a skirmish lasting some weeks, all of them closely allied in phraseology to the original article in the enabling act, Mr. Holcomb secured the adoption — ayes forty-nine, nays thirty-eight — of the following proviso, which was attached to the constitution as it went from the convention: "*Provided*, however, that the following alteration of the aforesaid boundary be and hereby is proposed to the congress of the United States, as the preference of the state of Wisconsin; and if the same shall be assented to and agreed to by the congress of the United States, then the same shall be and forever remain obligatory on the state of Wisconsin, viz.: Leaving the aforesaid boundary line at the first rapids in the river St. Louis; thence in a direct line southwardly to a point fifteen miles east of the most easterly point in Lake St. Croix; thence due south to the main channel of the Mississippi river on Lake Pepin; thence down the said main

¹ The Mont Trempealeau of to-day.