

channel of Lake Pepin and the Mississippi river, as prescribed in the aforesaid boundary."

On the 3rd of March, 1847, congress passed an act giving Wisconsin permission to change her northwestern boundary in accordance with the above proviso. But at an election on the first Tuesday in April the people rejected the constitution, and the boundary proposition thus fell to the ground with it. Had the constitution been accepted by popular vote, nearly the entire basin of the St. Croix river with its many thrifty towns and broad, fertile prairies, would have been lost to Wisconsin — the boundary sought being a continuation southward to the Mississippi, of the straight line that now runs only from the St. Louis to the St. Croix.

A second constitutional convention assembled at Madison on the 15th of December, 1847. Byron Kilbourn of Milwaukee, from the committee on general provisions, reported, December 23, a boundary article which accepted the conditions of the enabling act, but with this proviso: "*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 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 foot of the rapids of the St. Louis river; thence in a direct line, bearing southwesterly to the mouth of Rum river, where the same empties into the Mississippi river;¹ thence down the main channel of the Mississippi river, as prescribed in the aforesaid boundary."

This amendment, which was bitterly antagonized by the St. Croix-valley people, sought to secure to Wisconsin a large tract which embraces the whole of what are now the Minnesota counties of Washington and Ramsey, and considerable portions of Anoka, Isanti, Chisago, Pine and Carlton, with, of course, what is now the city of St. Paul.

¹ The Rum empties into the Mississippi at Anoka, about twenty-five miles up river, from St. Paul.