

links in width, embracing a surface of 8,500 square miles¹ of exceedingly fertile soil, and numerous river and lake ports, many miles of fine water-power, and the sites of Chicago, Rockford, Freeport, Galena, Oregon, Dixon and numerous other prosperous cities.

Mr. Pope, in advocacy of his amendment, said² that his chief purpose was to gain for the new state a coast on Lake Michigan, and lake communication with Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York, thereby "affording additional security to the perpetuity of the Union." Illinois, he said, had practical control, along her southern and western borders, of the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi rivers, all of which flowed south; she was the key to the west; in the event of a disruption of the Union, it would be important that Illinois should be so balanced as to have no great leaning to any particular confederacy. If left entirely upon the waters of the great southern-flowing rivers, it was plain, Judge Pope argued, that "in case of national disruption the interest of the state would be to join a southern and western confederacy. But if a large portion of it could be made dependent upon the commerce and navigation of the northern lakes, connected as they were with the eastern states, a rival interest would be created, to check the wish for a western or southern confederacy. Her interest would thus be balanced and her inclination turned to the north."

¹ Appendix to *Council Jour., Wis. Terr. Legis.*, 1844, p. 8. By the terms of the treaty at St. Louis, August 24, 1816, between the United States and the Ottawas, Chippewas and Pottawatamies, it became necessary to establish the point where a line "due west from the southern extremity of Lake Michigan" would strike the Mississippi. The line was surveyed by John Sullivan in 1818. He erected a monument at its terminus, "on the bank of the Mississippi near the head of Rock island." This was said to be still visible about the year 1840. In 1833 Captain Talcott, while upon the Ohio-Michigan boundary survey, had been instructed, under act of July 14, 1832, to "ascertain the point on the Mississippi river which is due west from the southerly extreme of Lake Michigan." He established this point as being "about seven miles north of the fort on Rock island," and erected several monuments there and on the line east of that to the southern extremity of the lake.

² Ford's *Hist. of Ill.*, p. 22; Davidson and Struve's *Hist. of Ill.*, p. 295; *Annals of Congress* (1818), ii., p. 1677.