

postoffice addresses of European friends and relatives of the inhabitants of their respective districts, that information in regard to Wisconsin might be sent to them. For some years Bernhard Domschke, a German editor in Milwaukee, was a member of that board. German pamphlets were again distributed. One issued in 1868 describes the German life and industries of Milwaukee with some detail. Speaking of the liberal government of the state, it says: "The laws of Wisconsin are more favorable for immigrants than those of any other American state."

In 1871¹ the board was abolished, and a state commissioner of immigration was provided for, the office to be elective, and the term of service two years. The commissioner was to reside in Milwaukee, and he was authorized to appoint a local agent for Chicago. The duty of the commissioner was to prepare and distribute pamphlets giving the resources of the state, and the amount of government, state, and railroad land available for settlement.

Ole C. Johnson (Shipness), of Beloit, a Norwegian, held this office from 1871 to 1874. He announced it as his policy to give a reliable statement of Wisconsin's resources and to direct his efforts chiefly to European countries, for the reason that the state is heavily-timbered, and not being so easily cultivated as the prairies it needs the "hard-working yeomanry of the old world," who are able and willing to fell huge trees.² Agents were appointed at Chicago and Quebec. J. A. Becher, of Milwaukee, was at that time in Germany, and under his supervision, co-operating with Commissioner Johnson, a large number of German pamphlets published by the latter were distributed by consuls and steamship agents. In 1874, M. J. Argard was appointed, but the powers of the commissioner were at that time restricted, and in 1875 the office was abolished.³

In 1879 the experiment of a board of immigration was

¹ *Laws of Wis.*, 1871, p. 241.

² *Immigration Report, Wis.*, 1871.

³ *Laws of Wis.*, 1874, p. 549.