

large number of emigrants were secured, of whom the majority were from the forest lands of Bavaria, and settled, perhaps five thousand in all, along the Wisconsin Central railroad, from Stevens Point to Ashland. Many were induced to come by the fact that there was plenty of work, with excellent wages, to be had in the lumber camps of the northern regions. By this means a man could soon earn wages sufficient to enable him to buy land and build him a home. If he bought an uncleared farm, moreover, the wood that he felled could be sold for a good price: sometimes sufficient, it is said, to enable him to pay for the land. A letter to the board of immigration from a German at Weimar, at this time, shows what conditions the Germans were in search of in America. He asks:

"1. Is there homestead land to be had, with large timber suitable for building?

"2. Can employment be found?

"3. Is there any other way except by water, of bringing timber to market?

"4. What are the prices per acre?

"5. How large are the taxes?

"We should prefer a large tract of land near a navigable river, and well adapted to stock-raising."<sup>1</sup>

For the benefit of settlers, special provisions were made by the Wisconsin Central railroad. In Medford, a house was provided to accommodate from seventy-five to one hundred people free of charge, for two weeks, with the use of a large cooking-stove.<sup>2</sup>

There have been other influences instrumental in attracting German settlers to this region. A Milwaukee law firm, Johnson, Rietbrock & Halsey, owned a large tract of land in the western part of Marathon county. The town of Black Creek Falls was the result of their enterprise. About 1870 they laid out streets and built bridges, stores, work-shops, and mills, and induced a large number of

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<sup>1</sup> *Bienn. Rep. State Board of Immigration, Wis.*, 1883-84.

<sup>2</sup> *Der Staat Wisconsin, Seine Hilfsquelle und Vorzüge für Auswanderer.* Von K. K. Kennan (Basle, Schweiz, n. d.).