

"On the 12th ult. 12,000 lbs. of Mississippi Lead arrived at Detroit from Green Bay. It was transported by water the whole distance, with the exception of the short portage between the Fox and Ouisconsin rivers."<sup>1</sup>

The earliest shipments of shot made at Helena were to Galena and to Fort Winnebago, at the portage of the Fox and Wisconsin.<sup>2</sup> There was, of course, good reason for the early shipments by the Green Bay route, for the shot tower, during 1831-36, was owned and operated by Daniel Whitney, a Green Bay merchant, and consequently interested in turning trade in that direction. Still, as the Missouri shot probably controlled the markets of the Mississippi valley, the Wisconsin product could not be sent elsewhere.

In 1834 the Portage Canal Company was incorporated by the Michigan Legislature (March 10).<sup>3</sup> Its operations at the portage<sup>4</sup> under the superintendence of John Wilson will later be referred to in another connection.<sup>5</sup>

In 1839 the Green Bay *Democrat* contained the following article on steamboats on the Fox river: "There is now a strong probability—nay a certainty—that this long talked of enterprise is about being effected. The necessary amount of stock for two steamboats has been taken and the building of them, we are informed, will be immediately commenced. When completed, one is to be placed on the lower end of the Fox, and will be engaged in the towing of Durham boats from Green Bay to Grand Kakalin<sup>6</sup>—the other is to be placed on the upper Fox, and will be similarly engaged from the head of the rapids to Lake Apuck-away, a distance of but sixteen miles from the Portage.

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<sup>1</sup> *National Gazette* (Phila.), Oct. 19, 1822.

<sup>2</sup> I am so informed by Milton D. Persons, of Dodgeville.

<sup>3</sup> The original stockholders were Daniel Whitney, Charles R. Brush, Daniel Jackson, John P. Arndt, H. G. Soulard, N. Goodsell, and John Lawe.

<sup>4</sup> The site of the present city of Portage.

<sup>5</sup> See *post*, "Chronicle of the Helena Shot-Tower;" also, Lapham's *Wisconsin* (Milw., 1844), p. 48.

<sup>6</sup> The Kaukauna of our day.