

move toward the realization of the Illinois and Michigan canal; and now Milwaukee, only a year later, is projecting a canal that ultimately becomes a railroad, connecting it with the Mississippi at Prairie du Chien.

The following remark of Lapham in 1844 is fully applicable to the earlier period we are now considering: "The great object which it is most desirable to attain by works of internal improvement in Wisconsin is the transportation of the thirty million of pounds of lead, copper and shot produced in the western counties to the shore of Lake Michigan, and the supply of that 'Mineral District' with merchandise by way of the 'Great Lakes.' This, and the transportation of the surplus agricultural products of the intermediate country to market, and the supply of goods to the interior population, it is believed can be best accomplished by means of a railroad from Milwaukee to the Mississippi river, a work entirely practicable. * * * For the want of this improvement, the products of the mineral country have been transported to the Mississippi river, and from thence by way of New Orleans and New York back to Milwaukee, within one hundred and fifty miles from where it was originally produced. * * * The cost of transportation of lead by waggons from Mineral Point to Milwaukee, in the summer, when the drivers can sleep in their waggons, and their cattle can find an abundance of feed on the open prairie, is about fifty cents per hundred pounds. * * * To bring the lead, copper and shot by way of the lakes, is an object of importance not only to Wisconsin, but to all the States bordering on the lakes,—and even the New England States will derive a share of the benefits, in the diminished prices which they will have to pay for these necessary articles."¹

The importance of the early shot trade of Wisconsin in developing lines of communication with the lake, overland across the State, deserves mention here. The Helena shot-tower passed from the ownership of Daniel Whitney in 1836, and was bought up by certain Buffalo capitalists.

¹ Lapham's *Wisconsin* (ed. 1844), pp. 48-51.