

We have here depicted the decisive turning-point in the Wisconsin lead trade, and later evidence will make it clear that during the succeeding years the process was simply one of expansion and development of those lines of communication roughly sketched out in 1842. The state of affairs in 1839-40, which was the result of the low stage of water in the Mississippi and its chief tributaries, leading to almost complete stagnation of trade, had compelled merchants and smelters alike to seek new markets to the eastward until those at the South were again accessible. The fact that both lead and flour are first mentioned as being brought to Milwaukee in 1839, is significant in this connection. In later years, when low water again interfered with traffic, or the ordinary channels of trade were inadequate to carry off the ever-increasing surplus, the route to the East was again and again followed till it be-

wards of 400 tons of bar lead and shot will be shipped to Buffalo from this place at the opening of navigation."

Wis. Enquirer, June 11, 1842: "Lindsay Ward, Esq. of the firm of J. & L. Ward, returned last week from a visit to the mineral region and from him we learn that for the balance of the season a very great portion of the lead trade will be turned, via Milwaukee, through the Lakes. In fact there has been received for shipping, since the return of Mr. Ward, about one hundred thousand pounds of lead and a considerable quantity of shot. * * * The Messrs. Wards have shipped during the spring 600,000 pounds of lead, 150,000 pounds of shot, and 20,000 pounds of copper. As will be seen by the advertisement, a large number of teams are wanted to haul lead from the mineral region to this place.—*Milwaukee Courier*."

Id., July 2, 1842: "The transportation of lead from the Mines to Lake Michigan, which has been extensively commenced this season, bids fair to become an important link in reuniting the interests of the two portions of the Territory. Heretofore the trade of the west and the east has sought different channels and no union of interest has been felt; but it will soon be otherwise. The products of our mines will seek an eastern market across the Territory and through the lakes, and the amount heretofore paid to Galena and St. Louis merchants will be kept within our own borders. Lead is now transported from the mines to the lake for \$10 per ton, and from thence to New York for \$9. The teams, which take it across the Territory, return laden with lumber, shingles,