

came the chief commercial highway for most of the products of Wisconsin.¹

Among the exports of Milwaukee for 1843 were 2,200,000 pounds of lead and 250,000 pounds of shot.² The Albany (N. Y.) *Argus* of March 30 makes an earnest plea for the return to the Erie canal tolls of 1840-41, urging that the increased rates would result in the loss of the newly-acquired trade of Wisconsin.³ Among the evidences of a growing trade in lead and shot, are the newspaper advertisements of 1843, in which retail merchants offer to take them in exchange for goods;⁴ and forwarding and commis-

salt and merchandize, which under these circumstances can be obtained from the east to better advantage than from any other quarter."

Buffalo *Patriot and Journal*, quoted in *Wis. Enquirer*, July 16, 1842: "The Lead Trade.—This is yet in its infancy, in fact it is only of two years growth, but it will soon become an important item in the business of our port. The great market of the lead of the Upper Mississippi country is to be found in the maritime cities of the northern and middle states, and thither nearly all that is sent down the river to New Orleans eventually finds its way. If there were any easy water communication between the ports on Lake Michigan and the Mississippi, by far the greater portion of the mineral products of that region would seek a market via Buffalo. The amount received here up to the 22nd inst. from ports on Lake Michigan, chiefly from Milwaukee, was 6,763 pigs, or 453,410 lbs.—the pigs averaging about 70 lbs.—and 402 kegs of shot. * * * The lead is brought across the country to Lake Michigan in wagons drawn by oxen, at a cost of about \$10 per ton or half a cent a pound. The teamsters find it a profitable business, as they get loading both ways, carry their own provisions, and the prairies afford all they want for their oxen by day or night."

¹ The activity of private and public enterprise in attempting works of internal improvement may be seen from the list of such enterprises given in Lapham's *Wisconsin* (ed. 1846), pp. 42-47.

² Milw. *Courier*, Jan. 18, 1843.

³ Cited in *Grant County Herald*, Apr. 29, 1843.

⁴ Adv. in Milw. *Courier*, July 19, 1843: "Westward Ho.—New Store and New Goods. All kinds of produce, lead, shot, and also cash taken in payment. R. Jennings & Co."

Adv. in *Id.*, Apr. 5, 1843: "Weeks and Miller of Center Store, Milwaukee, offer their goods in exchange for most kinds of Country Produce, Lead, Shot, Furs, Peltries, &c."