

tion for their increasing product. The following communication expresses the general sentiment among that class of producers: " We have been so accustomed to dilate upon the superior advantages of the western part of the state (for we are now a state) that it is extremely unpleasant to open our eyes on our real condition. The prevalent opinion has been that the mining region contains within itself the means of never-ending prosperity and independence. We have an unequalled soil, and the mining interest will always be able to consume and pay well for all the products of that soil. The farmer has only to go fifteen or twenty feet into the bowels of the earth to find a liberal market for everything he can raise on its surface. Such used to be the talk; but it is now manifest that the producing and consuming classes have not maintained the anticipated equilibrium. The capacity of production has satiated and overpowered the capacity of consumption. Such has been the increase of farms and farmers that the mining interest does not furnish a market for a tithe of the agricultural product which a liberal and reliable price would call forth. * * * The desperate struggles evinced by our leading towns for county seats is a sure indication that their resources are drying up, and that they keenly feel the gnawings of internal famine. * * * We need a reliable, liberal market for our increasing agricultural products. This is the thing. It is melancholy to see the noble-hearted, toil-worn farmer point to his granary and tell you it is full but not a cent of cash can he get for his grain. Labor ought to be rewarded. If a farmer wishes to get a few dollars, he must watch the moment when a tavern-keeper is out of oats, or peddle eggs, butter, bacon, and hams to the diggers. The merchants will not give him cash for anything. Western Wisconsin has reached a crisis; it must retrograde unless we can have a liberal market, paying a fair price for the products of the whole agricultural community. * * * It is evident our state has reached a crisis. We need annexation to the lakes; some access to the