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WITHIN the confines of the political division of the United States known as Minnesota are headwaters leading to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to Hudson Bay, and to the Gulf of Mexico. With such a continental location, the economy of any commonwealth having even average natural resources is predestined to contribute greatly to the well-being of regions far beyond its borders. Historical and economic analyses of the development of commonwealths thus located have many ramifications and have far more than local significance.

In successive stages, the fur industry, lumbering, wheat and flour, and "contented" cows have been basic to the economy of Minnesota. Each has resulted from the utilization of natural resources, and each has contributed not only to the development of the State but to that of far-away regions as well. Although hitherto little realized, the lumber industry converted vast forest resources to the uses of man; it provided him with the materials for homes and farm buildings, schools and churches, and commercial buildings; it provided the ties for the railroads that linked community with community and region to region and afforded rapid access to national and even world markets.

The lumber industry also developed business experience and capital that built other industries of importance in the Upper Mississippi Valley.

A century ago some 38,000,000 acres (70 percent) of the total land area of Minnesota was covered with magnificent forest. By far the most important of the trees in this forest was the white pine, the *Pinus Strobus*. Some specimens stood 200 feet high with a diameter of 5 feet. A more usual height was 160 feet, and many reached only 120 feet. For at least five decades the white pine dominated the lumber industry in Minnesota.

In this study no significant aspect of the economic, technical, and social history of the white pine lumbering industry in Minnesota is slighted or neglected. The subject is introduced with an over-all and interpretative view of the State's "forest treasure." The technical operations of logging, driving, and milling are then delineated in detail and according to stages of development and geographical areas. The functioning of the business operations involved in the lumber in-

dustry is analyzed. As the marketing methods were basic to the economic success of the industry, they are considered in detail. The economic importance of the industry is duly interpreted.

The chapter captioned "Life in the Woods" is a noteworthy contribution to American social history. Here the lumberjack's day, dress, food, and recreational activities are described. His tall tales and songs are discussed and examples are given. The famous Paul Bunyan tales are not mentioned and the reason is obvious. The author found no authentic evidence that these tales were told in the camps during the heyday of the industry, and as a historian she ignored the controversy concerning their authenticity as actual tales told in the lumber camps. The discussion of the lumberjack's speech concludes with a glossary. The hazards of the logger's life and the medical care he received are considered. Even the efforts of the "sky pilots" to help the lumberjacks spiritually have a place in the account.

Specialists concerned with land use programs and policies will be especially interested in the chapters on the operation of the national and State land laws in the pineland areas. As early as 1880, General Christopher C. Andrews began to urge the introduction of scientific forestry and forest conservation, and the failure of Minnesota to heed his warnings is a significant and typical episode in the history of the exploitation of the country's natural resources. The retrospective summary and interpretation of the contributions of the white pine industry in the development of Minnesota also serve to underline the importance of constructive and intelligent land use programs.

This study may well be taken as a model in comparable undertakings. The pages show evidence of conscientious and time-consuming research. Every type of pertinent source has been gleaned for data. Interviews with old timers of the industry and trips to see its remnants in operation have contributed to the reality of the account. Analyses of the economic processes involved and interpretations of findings are outstanding. The writing is objective, dispassionate, and crystal clear. The illustrations are excellent.

Everett E. Edwards