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man of the board. The board meeting lasted two days, appropriations amounting to less than a thousand dollars were voted and the board adjourned. Each member and the clerk drew four dollars for the session and a few cents mileage for walking to the meeting.

In 1857 a bid of \$1,895 for the building of a new courthouse was accepted and the courthouse was built, although the ultimate cost was somewhat greater. The structure served the county until the erection of the present building in 1876, and is still standing on East Fourth street, where the lower part serves as the office of Dr. E. L. Bradbury and the upper part is the residence of Victor Lee.

Neillsville remained under the Pine Valley government for nearly thirty years. When it was platted in 1855 the entire settlement contained four buildings, O'Neill's mill and residence and Sam Ferguson's blacksmith shop and residence. The next building to spring up was, of course, a saloon, erected by one Robert Roix. A wagon shop, a store building and a few more residences appeared before the year had gone by.

Built Bridge In 1856

In 1856 the town had progressed to such an extent that two lawyers, Richard Dewhurst and G. W. King, appeared in the city, and James Hewett began building a bridge across O'Neill Creek. The street crossing the present bridge bears his name. Two more blacksmith shops and a furniture store added to the cluster and Roix' tavern became a hotel.

The people in the southern part of the county began to fear that unless they could obtain a new courthouse at Neillsville (the old one being sadly out of date by this time) the county seat might actually be moved.

By 1874, when the county had attained the age of 21, a resolution providing \$10,000 for the erection of a courthouse at Neillsville was introduced in the county board. The board at that time consisted of 18

members; John Dore, Grant, chairman; Alonzo Brooks, Lynn; William Darton, Beaver; W. D. Eastman, Fremont; James Hewett, Pine Valley; A. Muir, Washburn; S. H. Pickett, Unity; R. J. Horr, Colby; H. W. Renne, York; John Salisbury, Sherman; Herrison Saterlee, Levis; A. F. Sands, Mayville; John Sufficool, Weston; M. B. Warner, Eaton; William Welch, Loyal; H. N. Withee, Hixon; Orrin Wilson, Mentor; and T. J. LaFleshe, Sherwood.

When the motion was voted on a tie was the result. All the supervisors in the north opposed it and all in the south except Mr. Renne of York favored it. The resolution was presented in a variety of forms, the north was promised an equal sum for the building of roads and bridges, but the deadlock was not broken.

Amount Reduced \$5,000

The amount asked was reduced to \$5,000, but still the supervisors from the north remained adamant in their resolution not to permit the anchoring of the county seat at Neillsville. Finally, on November 28, two weeks after the controversy began, the supervisors from the south hit upon a plan.

They introduced a resolution appropriating \$10,000 toward the erection of a courthouse and \$1,000 to be turned over to the town of Mayville. Whether Mr. Sands felt that \$1,000 was worth more to his township than the ultimate erection of a courthouse at Greenwood, whether he thought that some other township would profit by the bargain if he refused, or whether he had become tired and disgusted with the entire battle is not known. At any rate, the deadlock was broken and the erection of the present courthouse was begun.

Its present value is estimated in the neighborhood of \$100,000, including the county jail building, and although Neillsville is forty miles distant from some sections of the county, since the coming of the automobile the possibility of moving the county seat to any other town has become a remote one.

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**TIMBER INDUSTRY
GAVE CITY START**

Neillsville, April 12—An interesting story of the lumbering industry of Clark county is contained in the book, "Clark County, the Garden of Wisconsin," printed by Saterlee, Tift and Marsh of Neillsville in 1890.

The article, written especially for the book by George L. Jacques, for-

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ures of the great industry which had already passed its hey-day at that time, 42 years ago.

"The pine timber," he wrote, "brought the first settlers into the county back in the fifties, and from that time up to within a few years ago the cutting and removal of same has been the leading industry."

It is interesting to remember when reading this account that it was written just about half-way between the days when the white man's axe bit into the first of the millions of logs later to be floated down the Blark, and the present time, when the sawmill has given way to the milk plant.

Great Wealth

"The great wealth stored in the pine of this country," wrote Mr. Jacques, "has been the means not only of the much earlier development of this county, but has been the means of building the city of LaCrosse, with her 30,000 inhabitants, and contributing largely to the building up of other towns along the Mississippi.

"The logs have been cut and floated down the river and manufactured in other places, so that a great portion of the labor on the ~~product has been done outside~~ county, and also the profit of the business has remained outside the county, and this item alone amounts to several millions of dollars.

"Had the pine growing in Clark county been manufactured here, she would be today second in wealth only to Milwaukee county, and have a population of upwards of 50,000 people.

"The cut of pine on Black river and its tributaries for the past 10 years has been nearly 200,000,000 feet annually, and of this probably over 140,000 feet annually has been cut in Clark county. The cut in Clark county on the Eau Claire river has been 20,000,000 feet per annum, and the cut on the Yellow river in Clark has been about 5,000,000 feet per annum.

"The cut of various sawmills on the railroads in the county has been about 25,000,000 feet annum in pine. The total average cut in pine in the county per annum for the last ten years has been in the neighborhood of 190,000,000 feet. On this timber there has been expended in this county about \$4 per thousand feet in labor, representing a total outlay of money in this industry of about three-quarters of a million dollars. However, large

each spring in hundreds of thousands."

Much Hardwood

The writer placed great faith in the future of Clark county because of its hardwood timber, which he estimated would "cut" in the neighborhood of 1,225,000,000 feet and would be manufactured within the county, being too heavy to float down the streams. Furniture factories and spoke and stave mills, he believed, would spend an average of \$15 a thousand on this material for labor alone, adding:

"This means an expenditure of nearly or quite a million dollars a year for labor in this industry, allowing 21 years to work the timber up. Besides this, the work being both summer and winter work, the tendency is for laborers in this industry, almost without exception, to make their homes here, and this being the seat of manufacture the capitalists engaged in the business are locating here, and the profits of their business, unlike that of the pine industry, will stay in the county to make Clark fortunes, and thereby contribute to her wealth and prosperity for all time."

Mayor Hewett



Sherman F. Hewett, better known as Frank, is the eighteenth of a line of mayors of Neillsville that began with his father, James Hewett, just 50 years ago. Mr. Hewett was re-elected to his third term of

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around it becoming known as Hewetville. The mill burned down in 1886. The main street of Neillsville and a township nearby bear his name. After the city was incorporated, 50 years ago today, he became its first mayor.

The present mayor, who has been county surveyor since 1909, is also a farmer, actually operating his own farm, which is within the limits of the city. It is doubtful whether any city in the United States with a population of more than

2,000 can claim a farmer as its chief executive.

Mayors who served the city of Neillsville between the terms of office of the Hewetts, father and son, were F. D. Lindsay, H. N. Withee, Charles F. Grow, L. B. Pennock, M. C. Ring, W. G. Klopf, W. L. Hemphill, S. H. Esch, Carl Rabenstein, Kurt Listman, William Huntley, Fred Seif, W. C. Thoma, J. L. Kleckner, R. W. Monk, V. W. Nehs.

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Not Everyone Knows

James O'Neill, the founder of Neillsville, died on March 28, 1882, the day on which the act to incorporate the city was passed by the Wisconsin legislature.

James Hewett, the first mayor of the city, was the father of Sherman F. Hewett, its present mayor.

Neillsville was governed by the town board of Pine Valley township for nearly 30 years and never had a village president or board of trustees.

A barrel of whiskey on the north bank of O'Neill Creek is said to have diverted the vote which would have made Weston's Rapids, now extinct, the county seat in 1854.

A bill to divide Clark county so that another county seat could be set up in the north passed the Wisconsin legislature and was defeated in the senate only by the deciding vote of the presiding officer.

An appropriation of \$1000 to the town of Mayville changed the vote of its chairman in 1874 and broke a two week's deadlock in the county board, resulting in the erection of

the present courthouse in Neillsville instead of Greenwood.

The first white men known to have set foot in Clark county were French-Canadian trappers and the first building in the county was erected by Mormons only 88 years ago, near the present site of Neillsville.

The first marriage of white people in Clark county occurred at Neillsville in 1846 and the first white child in the county was born there in 1849.

There were but four buildings in Neillsville when it became the county seat of Clark county.

The first house in Neillsville was washed into O'Neill creek within a year of its building and the entire settlement was nearly washed away by a flood in 1847, its sawmill being carried downstream.

Eight billion feet of pine lumber, which at \$12.50 per thousand, was worth \$100,000,000, have floated down the Black river past Neillsville, to say nothing of millions of feet of hardwood.

NEILLSVILLE TOOK PART IN CIVIL WAR

City Contributed Nearly Entire Company; Many

described in what is probably the oldest history of the county in existence, published in December, 1881, or four months before the incorporation of the city in 1882. Parts of this old account follow:

"In 1861 came the war, and Neillsville was not behind in her donations of money and offer of recruits. Meetings were held in the courthouse at which James O'Neill, B. F. French, Chauncey Blakeslee and