

ADVANTAGES OF GAYLORD AS A MANUFACTURING POINT

The gradual transition of the pathless forest into first a lumbering district, then into a farming and manufacturing country, has been effected in our county in a remarkably short time. The demands of the pioneer are few, and easily satisfied, but with the influx of population, and the diversity of occupations attendant upon an older settled country, the demand is constantly for the more modern necessities and luxuries of life. This demand must be met either by importation or local manufacture.

Gaylord has all of the advantages which would tend to make a town successful as a manufacturing center of products for which the surrounding country can supply the raw materials. Good transportation facilities, advantageous location, an abundance of the raw material, entire absence of friction between the productive forces – capital and labor – cheap fuel and cheap living, in one of the most healthful cities in Michigan.

Wood is now, and will continue to be, the most widely useful material for construction. In spite of all of the substitutes for it in the shape of metal, stone and other materials, the consumption of wood in civilized countries has never decreased, in fact, applications in new directions have increased its use beyond the saving effected by substitutes.

The great advance in the price of timber and timbered lands in the last few years has entirely revolutionized the destructive methods of lumbering and manufacture of wooden commodities of a few years ago. The progressive lumberman of today leaves nothing of value on the ground, and it is generally conceded, that under present conditions, to manufacture at a profit the factory must be located near the supply of timber, in order to save the large difference between the cost of transportation of the raw material and the finished product.

A conservative estimate places the amount of timber still standing in Otsego County at 600,000,000, feet consisting of hard maple, hemlock, elm, beech, basswood, birch, cedar and pine, the relative quantities of each varying in the order named, by far the greater part of the timber being maple. All of this timber is available from Gaylord, either by moderate sleigh haul or rail. The Michigan Central passing through Gaylord and the country north and south, and the Boyne City, Gaylord & Alpena, which will be completed to Gaylord in a few weeks passing through the county east and west. The main lines of these roads, with their many logging branches, reaches all the timber in the county, and a great deal in adjacent counties, making Gaylord the natural center to which the timber of the surrounding country can be most advantageously and cheaply shipped for the purpose of manufacturing into the finished product. The extent and importance of the timber interests here may be emphasized by the statement that **GAYLORD IS SITUATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LARGEST TRACT OF HARD MAPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY.**

The advantages of this location is appreciated by two large factories, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, which are at present located at Gaylord. **THE TIMBER SUPPLY IS SUFFICIENT TO KEEP SEVERAL LARGE INSTITUTIONS STOCKED FOR THE**

NEXT TWENTY YEARS, and the added railroad facilities make it certain that other industries will locate here in the near future.

The large amount of building in Gaylord and the country and villages, makes a brisk trade in lumber, sash, doors, and general builders' supplies, and we predict that in the near future we will have a factory of this kind, which will supply the local wholesale and retail trade with material manufactured here.

While timber interests are paramount in discussing the manufactures of Gaylord, there are other branches well worthy of consideration. Over a quarter of a million bushels of potatoes are shipped from our village annually, making it an exceptionally good location for the manufacture of any of the many products made from the potato. In the near vicinity of Gaylord are to be found valuable beds of clay and marl, which offer good opportunities for the manufacture of clay and cement.

The development of our county is in its infancy, and the opportunity for the man with capital who is looking for an investment, and the man with brawn, muscle and intellect who desires to work, is unlimited, and those who are looking for a location we invite to visit our village and investigate its unusual advantages. FRANK J. SHIPP.