

## THE CHISAGO LAKES.

Excursion Yesterday—Opening of the St. Paul & Duluth Branch from Wyoming to Center City.

The St. Paul & Duluth railroad company yesterday celebrated the completion of the first eleven miles of the Taylors Falls & Lake Superior railroad—from Wyoming to Center City—by taking a large delegation of citizens of St. Paul to see the country along the new line, and to admire what will in good time be the best known and most frequented by families and sportsmen of all the summer resorts of Minnesota. The excursion party included Mrs. C. A. Nelson, W. M. McClure and wife, and H. J. Murdock and wife, of Stillwater; R. H. Hankinson and wife, of Minneapolis; the Misses Clark, of St. Louis, and the following, all of St. Paul: James Smith, Jr., wife and daughters, Rev. Dr. Conn and wife, Rev. Mr. Smith, W. T. Burr and wife, E. H. Judson and wife, T. Riley and wife, L. A. Gilbert and wife, R. S. Hair and wife, H. A. Castle and wife, J. J. Egan and wife, F. S. Christianson and wife, Miss Christianson, E. R. Otis and wife, George H. Smith and wife, Henry O'Gorman and wife; T. A. Prendergast and wife, H. H. Brown and wife, Frank Farwell and wife, Edward Ingham and wife, W. P. Murray, D. Schutte and wife, Frank B. Moore, J. W. Roberts, P. Keigher, H. W. Cory, S. Henry, John DeGraw and wife, Wm. J. Sleppy, D. F. MacCarthy, Charles MacCarthy, H. Swift and wife, and others whose names were not learned. At Center City the party was met by Col. J. P. Owens and Mr. Frank Combs of Taylors Falls, both formerly of St. Paul. Ex-Ald. Thomas Brennan, assistant superintendent of the road, had general charge of the trip, and, with Conductor Waterhouse, won good opinions from the excursionists for care of them.

The trip was devoid of unusual interest until on approaching Wyoming station the attention of all was attracted by the neatness and good style of the Twombly farm and residence grounds. Here the party was joined by the Messrs. Twombly and ladies. From here the branch road, following the necessities of railroad building, presents a succession of scenes too wild to suggest the fact that near by are old settled farms and villages and a prosperous people. Chisago City station is at an unsettled point in the woods, nearest to, but out of sight of the old town of that name. About here the road runs in sight of Green Lake and from this on one or more of the lakes are in sight all the way. Lindstrom's, so named for a resident farmer, is on one of the many arms of the Chisago lakes, with old Chisago City, lying between Green Lake and the Chisago lakes, in view, four or five miles away, across the water. Center City is about half a mile north from where the railway reaches the westernmost shore of the lakes and is romantically situated on a highland isthmus. It is the capital of Chisago county and has been until now a delightfully quiet and quaint village. The country all about is mostly occupied by foreign born citizens, farmers of few acres but thrifty and well-to-do. The coming of the railway has stirred them as if from sleep. It is likely to make them more adventurous but it cannot undo the teachings of a generation of slow but sure progress.

The Chisago lakes are certainly the most attractive of the inland waters of Minnesota. They are irregular beyond description—a group of lakes and ponds joined by wide deep channels—with many islands, capes and isthmuses, and bays and straits innumerable. Their shores are partly bordered by meadows and forests with here and there cultivated fields, lawns or orchards coming down to the gravelly beach. They abound in native fish of excellent quality. They afford such facilities for boating and their shores such abundance of picnic grounds, such choice of eligible sites for summer-houses, such chances for parks, drives and hunting, as cannot be found in any other region so happily surrounded and so accessible. There can be no doubt that hereafter thousands of people will visit these lakes every season and that the spirit of improvement now aroused will add rather than lessen the attractions of the lakes and their surroundings.

A store, an elevator and a hotel and lake-side park are already planned for Lindstrom's, and will probably soon be built.

The extension of this line to Taylors Falls—about ten miles beyond Center City—is assured for this fall by the grading being now nearly completed. The ultimate terminus of the road is supposed to be some point on the Montreal river or on Lake Superior near its mouth, where connection can be had with Eastern railroads as well as with the lake lines of transportation. But with the road completed only to Taylors Falls it will be an important feeder of the main road and it will bring a large trade to St. Paul which has till now gone elsewhere. It will furthermore give the St. Paul & Duluth company an excursion route with which no other in the West can be compared.

Of course the excursionists enjoyed their trip. The weather was all that could be desired; the arrangements for the trip perfect; the people of Centre City kindly hospitable; and the beautiful groves and lovely lakes only too much to be all enjoyed in a day.

En route home the excursionists voted to adopt and publish the following:

"The guests of the St. Paul & Duluth railroad company, on occasion of the formal opening of the Taylors Falls & Lake Superior railway to Centre City, this 21st day of August, 1880, in expression of their appreciation of the importance of the event and their enjoyment of the visit to Centre City, do hereby resolve:

1. "That the enterprise of the St. Paul and Duluth railroad company and the wisdom of its management in the building of this new line to the most attractive lake country in the State, and thereby inaugurating the building of a new route to the great lake, is a fresh evidence of the union of this company with the interests of St. Paul and Minnesota, which should be acknowledged as such by the business men of St. Paul.

2. "That our sincere thanks are due and tendered to Messrs. G. H. Smith and R. S. Hair, acting for the railroad company, and to the hospitable residents of Centre City for a day of unalloyed enjoyment."

To-morrow the people of Chisago county, to the number of six hundred or more, will have their celebration (they have already had their rejoicing) of the opening of the road to their county seat, in an excursion to St. Paul. They will arrive here about 10 A. M.