

## Chapter 3 – King Wheat

**1850s** – During that decade, Wisconsin was second largest producer of wheat.

**The Grain Exchange Building** – A beautiful Milwaukee building where farm products (commodities) were bought and sold.

**surplus** - extra *When farmers have **surplus** corn, the price of corn usually drops.*

to **covet** - to want somebody else's stuff that you don't have

to **dredge** – to clean out the bottom of a river using a machine.

**docks** platforms on river banks where boats and ships are tied.

**back-breaking labor** - very, very difficult **manual** work

**harbor** - a sheltered part of a river or lake, a place for boats to dock.

**Railroads** in the 1850's in Milwaukee were "*the arteries of commerce.*"

- Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad (1850)
- LaCrosse & Milwaukee Railroad

Other cities in Wisconsin:

- **Wauwatosa** - small city west of Milwaukee, connected by the first train
- **Prairie du Chien** a small city on the Mississippi (the big river)
- **La Cross** - a small city on the Mississippi, north of Prairie du Chien
- **Kilbourn City** - now called Wisconsin Dells

**Land grants** = state tax money given to cities for projects, such as railroads.

**railroad bonds** – financial shares in the railroad. (In 1856, Kilbourn gave bonds to politicians in exchange for votes that would protect the interests of the railroad owners.)

**to bribe** - to illegally offer money in return for a favor

**to slander** - to intentionally destroy the good name of another with disinformation

**corruption** - dishonesty in business or government

**Kilbourn** had a "cast iron conscience" and an "uncanny ability to alienate people."

**During the 1850s**, there were:

- 7 daily newspapers
- 50 churches
- gaslights, the telegraph
- pollution, crime and corruption

**Factories** turned raw materials into finished products.

**Trains** transported products to the west.

**Ships** transported products on the Great Lakes to the east.