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NEBRASKA'S SHARE OF PROSPERITY

Thirty Millions of Dollars the Sum Represented by
Industrial and Commercial
Organizations Which Have Incorporated in the Past Year

If the articles of incorporation filed with the secretary of state during the past thirteen months are any indication, the state of Nebraska has entered upon a great era of industrial and commercial expansion.

Thirty millions in thirteen months! That is the record of paper investment in Nebraska since the first day of January, 1901. In itself this gigantic array of capital signifies an era of unexcelled prosperity in every line, for the investments include every field of mercantile and manufacturing ventures.

Besides this railroads incorporated during this period to the tune of over three hundred millions—to be exact, the amount was \$395,925,000.

Strange as it may seem over twelve millions has been invested in manufacturing processes of various sorts. Mercantile ventures come next on the list with an incorporated investment of \$6,453,000. Sixteen mining companies operating in the west but capitalized and directed by Nebraska men swell the investments by \$3,307,200. Large cattle and land companies operating in the west and northwest occupy a sum of \$2,632,000. Twenty-five telephone companies doing business in the smaller towns throughout the state are rated at an aggregate of \$1,546,540. Real estate firms claim \$1,103,000, irrigation companies assert ownership over stocks amounting to \$1,054,500, guaranty companies need \$813,000 and eleemosynary institutions can issue stock to the total of \$155,000.

In the matter of forming companies all sections of the state are fairly represented. Roughly estimating Douglas county has as much capitalized stock as all the rest of the state. Wholesale houses, manufacturing firms, mining companies, cattle firms and a suburban railway scheme claim the state metropolis as their home. Lincoln is next on the list.

As a whole capital is pretty evenly distributed. Irrigation, of course, flourishes along the Platte. Cattle companies invest their capital in the North Platte and as a general thing west of a line extending due north from Lincoln. Several large grain companies have been organized in the larger cities. But no definite rule can be fixed or any generalization formulated without its exceptions. For instance there is a mining company with a capital stock of \$100,000 incorporated from Holdrege. Money is being freely invested everywhere and the whole state is sharing in the onward march of prosperity.

Firms incorporated as manufacturing plants do more or less wholesale business and perhaps they should be considered as mercantile in their nature in a great majority of cases. In Omaha there are several companies making a specialty of farm implements, gasoline engines, scrapers, carriages and other implements demanded by the farmers. Much of their stock is made

in the east, but the merchandise is in many cases worked over to meet the demands of the western consumer. These concerns are in reality embryo factories and are steadily drifting in that direction.

Tents and awnings, drugs, overalls, packing house products, cigars, fresco materials, beet sugar, brick, milling products and tin cans are all made in abundance. One Omaha firm has a million dollars invested in a plant for supplying pile drivers and the necessary material for their use.

Ice manufacturers by the artificial process are represented by two small plants. Taking care of the natural product is a different proposition, however, and there are large companies in various sections of the state. At Grand Island, there is a concern with a capital stock of \$200,000. Railroad companies and packing houses usually preserve their own ice.

In mining Omaha companies have \$1,800,000 of the capital stock. Lincoln comes next. New York city has \$350,000 and Holdrege and Friend each have \$100,000.

Out in Laramie, Wyoming, is the greatest cattle company in the state, the capital stock being \$1,500,000. One hundred thousand is invested in sheep, but with the exception of a couple of horse importing companies cattle seems to be the favorite purchase of the live stock men.

Two real estate firms have been organized during the past year with \$400,000 each. There are a score of lesser firms and their locations are sprinkled liberally in all sections of the state.

Irrigation has marched proudly onward during this period of investment. A Platte river company has incorporated with stock amounting to \$900,000. In a Burwell corporation \$40,000 more

and Papillion, Stockville, Ponca, Craig, Belgrade, Liberty, Benedict, Battle Creek, Humphrey, Burwell, Norfolk and Dawson.

Eleemosynary institutions have been provided with capital. Fraternal societies, lodge halls, churches, charitable organizations and one art gallery are all represented in the articles of incorporation filed. The Lininger art gallery of Omaha has been incorporated and the capital is named at \$10,000. Pictures are displayed and the gallery is open to the public at stated times, there being no admission charges.

Railroads have swung into line and the result is amazing. The Union Pacific is recorded on the books in the office of the secretary of state with a capital stock of \$100,000,000. The C. E. & Q. has a like sum. The Missouri Pacific is represented with \$45,000,000. The Chicago & Northwestern claims a capital stock of \$60,000,000.

One railroad has been organized within the state. This is the Atkinson, Niobrara & Missouri Valley line. The termini of the road are designated as Atkinson in Holt county, and Butte in Boyd. The capital stock is placed at \$425,000. In all the total railway capitalization is \$395,925,000. The great lines reincorporated, but the Atkinson line is purely a state venture. Another railroad, the Niobrara & Missouri River, was organized with a capital stock of \$300,000, but a dissolution notice was sent out in a short time. Some interested in this move lived in Camden, New Jersey. It was thought that the project was planned as a counter move on some plan of the Chicago & Northwestern.

Nebraska has one inter-urban trolley railway planned after the type of the suburban railways of the east. Five hundred thousand dollars is the capital stock of this company. It is called the Omaha Suburban Railway & Traction company. Termini have been planned for South Omaha, Blair and Fremont.

The Omaha, Kansas & Gulf railroad has been mapped out with a capital stock of \$50,000. So far it has been planned south through eastern Nebraska to the Kansas line.

Down at Nebraska City J. Sterling Morton and others have interested themselves in a crematory. Ten thousand dollars is the capital stock. The incorporators are A. B. Ginn, H. N. Shewell, J. W. Shinehart, and A. T. Richardson.

These ventures show unwonted activity in nearly all lines. It is hard to find an industry not represented in some form in this state. Mercantile, manufacturing, cattle, irrigation and telephone companies seem to be prime favorites.

And the illegitimate are also represented. There are "tontine" companies with their articles of incorporation so

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TRADE EXPANSION IN NEBRASKA

Manufacturing	\$12,232,900
Mercantile	6,453,000
Mining	3,307,200
Land and cattle	2,632,000
Real estate	1,103,000
Irrigation	1,054,500
Guaranty companies	813,000
Telephone	438,540
Eleemosynary	155,000
Total	\$28,189,140

Gas companies have invested considerable capital. One item in the latter is that of the Lincoln gas company, which has increased its capital stock to the extent of \$2,250,000. One acetylene gas plant has \$35,000 invested.

In the mercantile branch the liquor and cigar men have been making many ventures throughout the past year. Concern after concern has been capitalized, varying from \$5,000 to \$100,000 in stock. A liquor men's protective association without capital has been organized also and issues a paper in the interests of the members.

Grain men have hazarded \$250,000 in various companies. A New Jersey firm has been incorporated for \$1,000,000 in this state and will do a jobbing business in teas and coffees. Hastings has an automobile house with a capital stock of \$60,000. Patent medicine vendors are thick in all parts of the state. As a general thing they have formidable capitalizations, but there is no way under the sun of determining how much stock is paid up.

has been invested. The aggregate amount in this line is over a million dollars.

Insurance companies and building and loan associations are not incorporated under the supervision of the secretary of state, but are examined into by the state banking board and the insurance auditor. Advances in these lines are not included in the estimate of total investments given in this article.

Municipal telephone companies have increased at a rapid rate. In all they number twenty-five. A line has been organized for service between Ponca and the Black Hills and has a capitalization of \$100,000. At the other towns the amount of stock varies from \$2,000 to \$50,000. The total investment in this line foots up to \$1,546,540. During the past year the following places have been provided with telephones for the most part under private control: Neligh, Hooper, Republican City, Bassett, Arlington, Cook, Aurora, Albion, Bradshaw, O'Neill, Brady's Isl-