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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1885.

Annual Review of Her Commerce, Manufactures and Industrial Development.

Building Statistics—Railway Traffic—Educational and Benevolent Institutions.

Facts and Figures Concerning the Metropolis of the Missouri Valley.

Omaha, the metropolis of the Missouri Valley, founded in 1854, now contains a population of more than 50,000. A fair conception of the architecture of her public buildings, banking houses, school buildings and factories is conveyed by the sketches we produce in this paper. That Omaha is destined to no distant day to rank with the leading commercial and industrial cities of America is clearly manifested from this carefully compiled and exhaustive exhibit of her wholesale trade, banking business, railway traffic and manufactures.

The commerce of Omaha extends westward through the entire region traversed by the Union Pacific and Burlington and Missouri river railroad systems, including Nebraska, Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Montana, Idaho and clear to Oregon. That her commerce will keep pace with the development of the trans-Missouri region, becomes evident by a glance at the map which shows the superior facilities afforded by Omaha as a railway and trade center. The merchants and manufacturers of Omaha are however by no means confined to the country west of the Missouri river. Issued in 1884. Year's day, 1876, Omaha's wholesale trade for the year 1875 aggregated \$7,957,530. In 1879, the wholesale trade of Omaha, including hardware, \$1,700,000; liquor, \$1,400,000; bread and confectionery, \$800,000; paints, glass and oils \$750,000; cigars and tobacco \$350,000; furniture \$750,000; hats and leather \$800,000; illuminating oil \$200,000; and other goods \$5,500,000, lumber \$2,700,000, agricultural implements \$1,800,000, hardware \$1,700,000, liquor \$1,400,000, bread and confectionery \$800,000, paints, glass and oils \$750,000, cigars and tobacco \$350,000, furniture \$750,000, hats and leather \$800,000, illuminating oil \$200,000, and other goods \$5,500,000.

The clearing house established during the past year by the six National banks of Omaha, enables us to present a fair index of the business transacted by the banks which have made this the leading financial center west of Chicago, this side of San Francisco.

Manufacturing in Omaha, which has its infancy in the early '50s, has assumed vast proportions. Her silver smelting and refining works are the largest and most complete establishments of this kind in the west. In 1884, the value of the products of the past year exceeds \$20,000,000. Omaha has the largest Linseed Oil mill in the United States, and the largest in process of completion. Her white lead works, shot factory, barb wire mill, safe factory, carriage and harness factories, breweries and scores of minor industrial concerns afford employment to thousands of working men and are steadily increasing their trade.

The establishment of the Union Stock Yards for Omaha, quite apart from the vast interests that have been centered in the city, is a proof of a great live stock market. Omaha is soon to become one of the most extensive meat packing centers in the United States. When the Union Stock Yards are in process of completion, begin their operations during the present month from three to four hundred head of cattle will be packed daily for export, and thousands of sheep and swine will also be slaughtered, cured and packed. Pork packing had already been a leading industry in Omaha and this new departure will doubtless cause it to assume enormous proportions.

\$128,000, 30 school buildings cost \$1,175,000, 117 stores cost \$1,100,000, 10 hotels cost \$1,200,000, 10 fire buildings cost \$1,200,000, 10 dwellings \$1,720,520. To this must be added \$346,500 expended upon the Douglas County Court house, hotel enlargements, additions to stores and dwellings.

These facts and figures are not magnified in the least. They demonstrate beyond a doubt that Omaha has made more solid investments and has shown more substantial growth than any other city in America of the same population.

BANKING. Omaha has for many years been an important financial center. Banks in nearly all the states and territories west of the Missouri river and many banking houses in Western Iowa keep their accounts in Omaha and transact their business of currency and exchange.

The banking business of Omaha is carried on by six national banks, one savings bank, and one private bank. The fact that the two national banks established within the past year were successful in securing a heavy profitable business, is clearly evidence of the superior advantages Omaha enjoys as a commercial and financial center.

On October 23, 1884, the Omaha Clearing House Association, a clearing house for the six national banks. This was a much needed institution, and its practical working gives entire satisfaction to all its members.

LIVE STOCK TRAFFIC. Omaha is destined within a very few years to become the greatest live stock center and cattle market west of Chicago. Located at the head of the great cattle trail, with its vast resources for the raising and packing of stock, Omaha enjoys natural advantages for the maintenance of a large live stock trade. The few other cities in America possess, the cattle feeding and meat packing industry in Omaha is the most important within the past year, by the establishment of the Union Stock Yards, and the erection of a large stock yard.

WHOLESALE TRADE. The wholesale trade of Omaha extends not only over the entire State of Nebraska and the western half of Iowa, but ranges also through the states and territories west of the Missouri river. Omaha is the leading commission house for the entire trans-Missouri region, and has for many years been the leading financial center west of Chicago, this side of San Francisco.

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MANUFACTURES. Omaha is now the most important manufacturing center in the Missouri Valley, with a fair prospect of becoming the leading industrial city west of Chicago. Her manufacturing industries have recently developed within the past ten years, and their marvellous growth promises to continue for many years to come.

Omaha now boasts the largest silver smelting works in the world; a distillery—the fourth in magnitude in the United States—shipping alcoholic spirits to France and Russia; and works that turn out four hundred kegs a day of saltpeter, and a large quantity of saltpeter to San Francisco, and even exported to Japan, and linseed oil works that rival in magnitude the largest in the United States.

THE UNION PACIFIC MACHINE SHOPS. The machine shops of the Union Pacific railroad are the most extensive mechanical works in Omaha. They employ over 100 men, and are engaged in the repair of all the machinery of the road, including engines, boilers, and rolling stock.

During the past year 7 engines have been rebuilt at Omaha. The general overhauling of the engines of the road has been completed, and the machinery of the road is in excellent condition.

THE BRIDGE STOCK YARDS. Established in 1878 by C. Schaller, captain, twenty-three car of cattle and thirty-five of horses are packed daily. The business is carried on in a large building, and the stock is packed in a large number of houses which will be built there.

THE WILLOW SPRINGS DISTILLERY. The Willow Springs Distillery is in every respect one of the most complete establishments for the manufacture of fine spirits in America. The company do all their own work in the way of rectifying and refining, and the distilling machinery is of the best.

THE GREAT CEREAL PROCESSING. The great cereal processing of Nebraska is carried on in Omaha. The three principal cereals, wheat, corn, and oats, are raised in the State, and are processed in Omaha for export.

THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD. The Union Pacific Railroad is the largest and most important railway in the Missouri Valley. It extends from Omaha to the Pacific coast, and has for many years been the leading financial center west of Chicago, this side of San Francisco.

BAKERY CRACKER FACTORY. One of the most prosperous manufacturing concerns in Omaha is the Bakery Cracker Factory. It employs over 100 men, and produces a large quantity of bread and crackers for the market.

FRED KRUG'S BREWERY. There is no better indication of the improvements made in Omaha during the past year, than the new Brewery of Fred Krug. It is one of the most extensive and complete breweries in the West.

THE HARRIS FACTORY. The Harris Factory is one of the most extensive and complete manufacturing concerns in Omaha. It produces a large quantity of machinery and hardware for the market.

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RAILROADS. The extensive network of railway lines in Omaha is a proof of the city's importance as a commercial and financial center. The Union Pacific Railroad is the largest and most important of these lines.

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