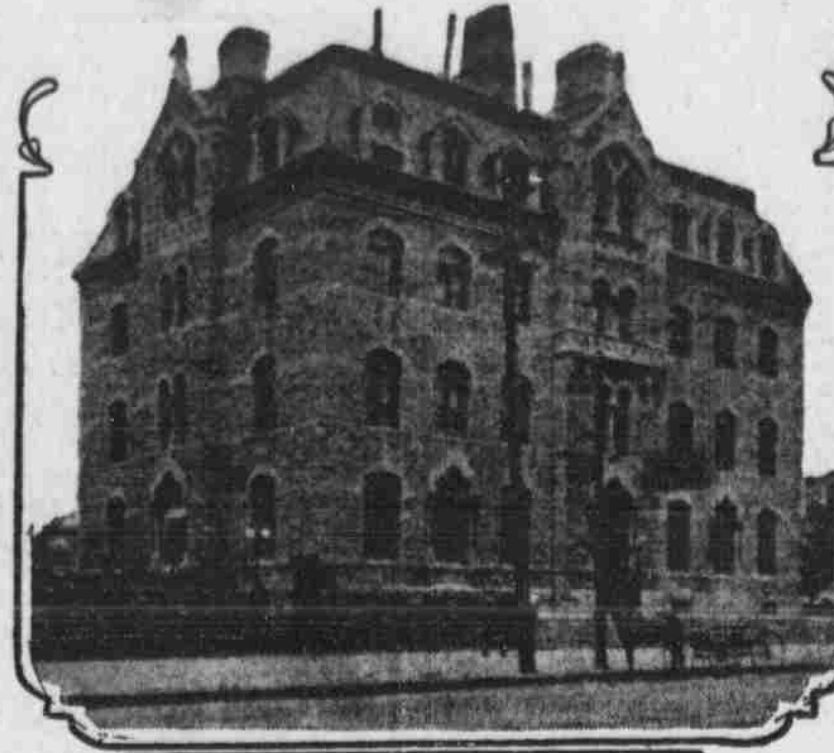


Lincoln: A City that Believes in Itself



Postoffice, Federal Court house and Customs House in Lincoln, which is being greatly enlarged to meet the demands of the continually growing patronage.



City Building, Located on Federal Square, in which the several departments of city government are housed.

By W. S. WHITTEN,
Secretary Lincoln Commercial Club.

THREE things there are which insure a city possessing them a future of prosperous growth and exceptional stability. These are its desirability as a city in which to do business, in which to make one's home and in which to educate one's children. For these are the three things—live, to love and to learn—which most concern the normal man because they lie nearest to his heart and his desire.

Because of its location in the heart of the great wheat, corn and grass growing and meat making country and of the network of railroads which connect it with all of the rich farms and great ranches of the west, the city of Lincoln, Neb., is

assured of a volume of commerce measured only by the enterprise and talent of those who engage in business within its borders.

Because of its fine, wide and shaded streets, its grassy parks, its paved boulevards, its well built homes, the absence of slums and the presence of a population composed of those elements that enter into the making of an alert and progressive people, it is a home city of unusual attractiveness.

Because of its great universities—five in number—its business and musical colleges and its compact and up-to-date school system it offers to all who seek the foundations of a liberal education or the finish of the profession an opportunity to select and secure what they will.

Numbered within the city and its environs are 6,000 people, men, women and children, who have come within the space of a few years to engage in business, to build homes and to equip themselves with a rounded education.

metropolis, the people offered large subsidies or proceeded to build connecting lines themselves. Out of this writer of little and poorly-built roads there have been evolved five great modern railroads which serve the city, forming arteries of trade that bring vast commercial territories within the reach of its business men.

Early in its life as a city, Lincoln developed into a jobbing center, and as the state increased in population, as the railroads were extended and as agriculture multiplied, this form of commerce, linked with manufacturing in dozens of lines, became a dominant factor in its growth. As the capital, the city became and remains the political center of the state. The University of Nebraska followed shortly after the selection of Lincoln as the capital, and its growth has run far and fast ahead of that of the state itself as individual wealth piled up and the belief in a strong educational system grew. The dominance of agriculture as the great business of the state early led to the founding close to the city of a great agricultural college and school, where hundreds of boys from the farm are taught everything there is to know about their business. To insure the stability of its educational institutions a large part of the agricultural domain was early set aside as school, university and agricultural lands. From sales and rentals a fund, invested in bonds and amounting now to \$10,000,000, has been collected—and there yet remain thousands of acres as the inheritance of the educational system of the state.

Neither is Lincoln set down upon a flat and cheerless plain. To the west is the valley of the Salt, wherein are the greater part of the railroad yards and around which cluster the larger manufacturing and warehouses. On the gently undulating rise from this valley is the business district, which thrusts its way to the east, spreading fanlike as it goes, to be checked by the slightly elevated plateaus around the Antelope and that border the Salt on the east. Thus it is that after passing the ramparts of the flat buildings, apartment and rooming houses that surround the business section of every city, building sites, ideal and attractive, are found upon which thousands of Lincoln people and other Nebraskans have built comfortable and cozy homes.

giant cliffs up which one must toil to reach the haven of home—just easy grades that make riding upon the boulevards a pleasure and that make possible the giving to each home a setting of lawn and shade that doubles its attractiveness.

The great agricultural west, in its real development, is scarcely more than a generation old. The first citizens of Lincoln were men and women with their fortunes to make. They labored so well, not so much with respect to themselves personally as for the city of their adoption, sacrificing and working so that those who came after them might be better fitted to make the city what in their dreams it had been to them, that today one of the strong "pulls" of the city is that which it exerts upon the other residents of Nebraska. Within the last ten years hundreds of men who had made modest fortunes upon the farms and in the smaller towns of the state have come to Lincoln to live. These are men whose \$10 and \$20 land has become \$100 and \$200 land; merchants whose thrift and labor have given them a surplus that fills their every physical need; bankers who have garnered rich sheaves from the wheat fields of fortune; lawyers and other professional men who had made so good a start outside that they felt they could safely challenge the competition of the city field. Some of these newcomers had made all the money they desired and have retired, but most of them retain the interests where their fortunes first rooted.

superior educational facilities, this immigration has given to the population a tone and to its civic life a flavor that raise it above the dead level of a mere home town. A condition like this makes for a democratic community, since it raises the average of education and experience, the sources of real learning, and thus elevates the general level, whereas in most cities the tendency is towards an aristocracy of wealth on one hand and a communism of poverty on the other—the big house on the hill and the thatched cottage in the lowlands.

While the cultural advantages of Lincoln as a residence city have been emphasized in its development, there has been no neglect of the material side. Completely encircling the city, but within its borders, runs a paved boulevard, interlaced with dozens of other equally well-surfaced streets, that accommodates a constantly increasing automobile pleasure traffic. Leading out from the city in other directions are other boulevards, paved part way and tapering off into well-graded and well-graded dirt roads. These lead out to and past a dozen parks, including amusement resorts, grounds attached to state institutions and municipal recreation grounds.

an effort made to meet the conditions. Instead of seeking to combat a situation that has its basis in economic conditions, the school management has substituted practical studies for the theoretical. Not only are the boys and girls in the grades being taught things, the knowledge of which will become of practical value to them just as soon as they leave school, but they have been organized into a Junior Civic and Industrial League, whose 2,000 members are periodically shown through the great industries of the city and made acquainted, through talks and illustrations, with how industry is organized, what each one offers in the way of pay and opportunity and what problems and chances they face. In similar practical ways are they taught how they are governed through the state, county and city administrations.

To add attractiveness and interest to the task of gaining an education 1,200 home and school gardens are cultivated; there are fully equipped playgrounds in twelve buildings; three summer recreation centers are maintained and domestic science and manual training given unusual prominence in the curriculum. In the hours when the city plant is not running, pre-vocational and night schools occupy the buildings, and at other hours they are made use of as social centers.

In addition there are high-class private and parochial schools, a military academy with a nation-wide reputation, two splendid business colleges, several conservatories with staffs recruited from the best known musical centers of the world, and other colleges where concert singing, dramatic art and oratory are taught. A dental college is also an adjunct of a practical nature.

As An Educational Center

Lincoln is the leading educational center of the west, and has a student population during the school year of 8,000. Here are its leading educational institutions:

- University of Nebraska, embracing seven colleges, including the college of agriculture, which has a separate plant located two miles east of the main university.
- Nebraska Wesleyan university, the central college of the Methodist Episcopal church in the west.
- Cotner university, founded and maintained by the Christian church, a strong denomination in this section.
- Union college, headquarters in the west of the Seventh Day Adventists.
- Nebraska Military academy.
- Two large business colleges.
- Three thriving conservatories of music.
- Private finishing school for girls and boys.

All this has been accomplished in a little more than a generation, much less than fifty years. In 1869 the present site of the city of Lincoln was occupied by the small village of Lancaster, a sleepy little inland town where had gathered some hardy souls intent upon pioneering an unknown country. The conflicting ambitions of (then) better situated towns within the state and the inability of a majority of the people to favor one city above the other, led to the selection of Lancaster as the capital, located on the rolling prairie overlooking the valleys of two small creeks, and the renaming of the place as Lincoln.

Made Quick Start.

As the capital of a young but fast growing state, Lincoln at once became the mecca for hundreds of ambitious young persons, and within a few years foundations had been laid for an enduring civic structure. Railroads backed by home and foreign capital sprang into being as though by a magician's wand, and where one already within the state's borders showed signs of hesitating about reaching out across the prairies to the new

Municipal Growth.

Within the eight square miles of territory are to be found sixty-three miles of paved streets, sixty-five miles of street railways, and ninety-five miles of sewers. It owns its own water plant and its own street lighting plant. It has also branched out into commercial lighting, and through the competition thus given has possible consumers the lowest electric rates possible in a city of any considerable area. Its street car system maintains up-to-date cars upon schedules faster than those of other cities of its size, and by reason of the compactness of the business district and the spreading character of the residence sections few homes are beyond a fifteen minutes' ride to business and a few cars are overcrowded.

City's Pulling Power.

It is difficult in a paragraph to sharply picture to the imagination the effect upon the character of the population that this sort of migration has had. Few persons move to a large city because they prefer it as a place of residence. The pulling power of a big city lies in what it can offer in the way of work for those who are yet seeking the bubble fortune or in the way of increased advantage for those who are already well established in a line of business. It is from this source of supply that a city gets its vigor and its hustle, but that which differentiates one city from another, which makes one more attractive than the other, is its power to draw from other strata of society.

With Lincoln, which draws the major portions of its population gains from the same source as other large cities, there has also rested this advantage, that it has also been gathering the cream skimmed off other sections of the state. Taken in connection with the fact that already the city had built better than the average commercial center by also weaving into its structure the strong fiber

of superior educational facilities, this immigration has given to the population a tone and to its civic life a flavor that raise it above the dead level of a mere home town. A condition like this makes for a democratic community, since it raises the average of education and experience, the sources of real learning, and thus elevates the general level, whereas in most cities the tendency is towards an aristocracy of wealth on one hand and a communism of poverty on the other—the big house on the hill and the thatched cottage in the lowlands.

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As a Political Center

Lincoln is the political center of a larger area than any other city in the United States, due largely to the fact that it is the home of Hon. W. J. Bryan, secretary of state, who was thrice honored as a democratic nominee for the presidency.

At Lincoln are located:

- The state capital.
- The State Historical society building.
- The state penitentiary.
- The State Orthopedic hospital.
- The state fair.
- The governor's mansion.
- The State Hospital for the insane (one of three).

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