

How the Omaha Trade Boosters Spent First Week in the Northwest

PORTLAND, Ore., June 8.—(Sunday.)—One week of the famous trade excursion of the Omaha Commercial organization, which is the most extensive ever undertaken by any commercial body in the world, has been completed, and the individual members of the boosters are beginning to recapitulate and speculate as to what has been accomplished in that time, with ten days more of the boosting operations in view. The results have been surprising from every standpoint and the boosters are absolutely elated at the work accomplished and the receptions given at each and every place reached, with the possible exception of Seattle.

Although the primary object of the excursion is to become acquainted with old customers and to meet new prospective customers, the boosters have been unable to refrain from taking orders for goods for future shipment from the market town as such orders have been actually forced on them without solicitation. One representative of an electrical supply house has sold four cartons of goods during the week, and large orders for Omaha products have been taken by many other participants.

One of the features of the excursion has been the most cordial welcomes extended at practically every city visited no matter whether the time spent was long or brief. Many cities provided brass bands, some of doubtful harmony, for welcoming the boosters and automobiles and carriages have been liberally provided to show the Omahans over the cities. As soon as the boosters alight from the train hundreds of residents have invariably rushed to extend the glad hand of good fellowship and have indicated their pleasure in making the acquaintance of the boosters in manifold ways. The excursionists have been regaled with banquets, dinners, receptions, gifts of fruit, wine and provisions for the extended commissary department, but the most gratifying feature has been the expressions of good will and welcome given and it is plainly evident that the Omahans have left a trail of good impressions that will redound in the future to the aggran-

horoback in the west, and at the dance given at the Sheridan County club it was found that the cowboys and cowgirls were members of Sheridan's exclusive "K."

Last Tuesday morning at Edgewood it was found that another member had been added to the excursion, who left with reluctance. This member was a tramp who had hidden the car trucks during the entire night from Sheridan and was forcibly removed from his comfortable perch, showing the Omaha excursion has proven popular with all classes.

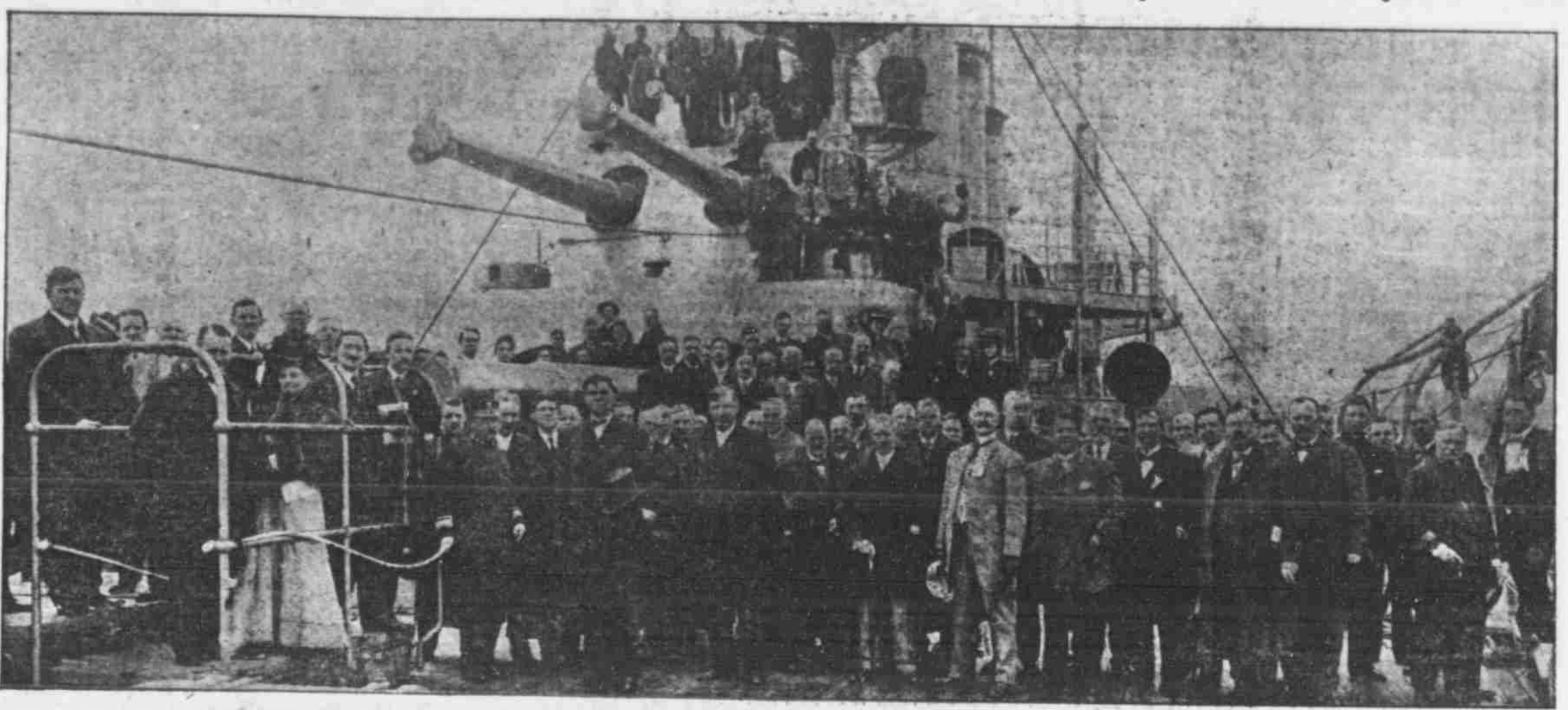
Souvenirs of the Occasion.

As soon as the train left Omaha souvenirs of the trip were distributed by the excursionists, and each member seemed to have a gift of some sort. Omaha buttons, bearing the inscription "For Omaha," were freely distributed, and it is safe to say that 50 per cent of the small fry of each city visited are now wearing Omaha buttons. The representative of Klapp & Bartlett Printing company gave fine fountain pens to each member, who was escorted to a drawing room and requested to try a pen with his hands resting on a copper plate. As soon as the fingers of the victim touched the plate a button was pressed which gave the candidate an electric shock. Governor Sheldon received his pen after he had tried to jump through the car roof when the button was pressed, and the victims kept the initiation a secret until each and every booster had fallen a victim to the electric shock.

The development of the western states has been a constant source of wonder to the Omahans, and the scenic wonders enjoyed have been one of the most pleasant features of the excursion. This was particularly true at Spokane, which is a city of about 50,000 population.

Welcome at Spokane.

Of all the entertainment offered the hundred Omaha boosters on their trip to the Pacific coast in behalf of a Greater Omaha that given at Spokane, the power city, to the representatives of Omaha, the market town, was the most elaborate and E-N-



GOVERNOR SHELDON, GOVERNOR MEAD AND THE OMAHA BOOSTERS ON THE BATTLESHIP KERRICK AT THE RECEPTION WHARF YAKA



GOVERNOR SHELDON AND GOVERNOR MEAD WAITING FOR THE PERRY-BOAT AT LAKE COEUR D'ALENE.

ment of the commercial interests of the market town.

Governors' Feature.

The presence of Governor Sheldon has been a material factor in the success of the excursion thus far, as the chief executive of each city and state visited have all done honor to the visitors, and Governor Mead of Washington became so attached to the boosters and Nebraska's chief executive that he accompanied the train while it was within the confines of his state.

Credit must be given the management for the able manner in which the excursion has been managed, as a small daily paper giving the news of the trip has been given to the boosters each day, and the cuisine on the dining car has been given great praise. The boosters have been in uniformly good health, although the attentions of the official physician, Dr. Kelly, have been necessary on two occasions.

Among the many pleasing incidents of the trip has been the numbers of former Nebraskans met at nearly every city, and it would appear that the population of several states visited was composed principally of Nebraskans of the sturdy, corn-fed type, forming the backbone of this great western country.

The first elaborate welcome given the Omahans was at Gillette, Wyo., where a dozen Sheridan citizens met the train and accompanied it to Sheridan, where the boosters were given the freedom of Sheridan Inn last Monday night. Here pictures were first taken of the entire party. Sheridan Inn, by the way, is the product of one of Omaha's architects, Thomas R. Kimball. Picturesque cowboys and cowgirls mounted on bucking bronchos assisted in the welcome at Sheridan, for everybody rides

patron is now under construction. A swimming tank is filled with heated water and is liberally patronized in the summer. Louis Bestwick, the Omaha photographer, took a picture of the boosters and Spokane reception committee on one of the many fine lawns in the park, which contains trees of great size, and he also took a picture of the chief executives of Nebraska and Washington embracing one of the tame bears in the Zoo.

After leaving the park a ride was taken through another part of the city abounding in beautiful homes and parks and the boosters were then shown through Davenport's cafe, one of the finest extant. Davenport started in business fifteen years ago with a capital of \$40 in a tent on the ruins of the fire-devastated city and now has the most costly restaurant in the entire country, according to the estimates of Spokane citizens and others.

Business Mixed with Pleasure.

From noon until 3 p. m. the Omaha excursionists were busy visiting their customers, present and prospective, and were then taken on a trolley ride over the Inland Empire Street Railway company's lines to Coeur d'Alene City and Hayden lake in Idaho. The cars ran through a highly fertile valley with irrigation along the Spokane river and stops were made at Coeur d'Alene City to view the lake, which is the headwater of navigation into the Coeur d'Alene mining district, many large steamers plying the lakes and tributary rivers.

Hayden lake is one of nature's most beautiful spots and was enjoyed to the utmost by the boosters. The lake is of rare beauty and is filled with speckled trout. Picturesque log cabins are maintained for rental to campers and sportsmen and many Spokane families spend the entire summer on the high banks of the lake. Pictures of the Omahans were taken by the official photographer of the excursion and the return trip was made in time for the banquet given at 7 p. m. at "The Silver Grill" at the Spokane hotel.

Given an Elaborate Banquet.

With an elaborate banquet in anticipation

and only thirty minutes in which to dress, the private cars of the boosters were turned into "hives of industry and a grand rush made to the hotel upon the completion of hasty toilette. The arrangements for the banquet were admirable, as each Omahans was placed between two strenuous Spokane boosters, but not to the disadvantage of the Omahans, who more than held their own in the boosting warfare. The tables were richly decorated with flowers and streamers of the colors of his majesty, King Ak-Sar-Ben, and it was most appropriate that the very decorative features of the room, which was in moorish effect, were of these colors.

The banquet was in ten courses, with wine freely provided, and, on account of the early departure of the Omaha special for Seattle, the addresses were interspersed throughout the banquet, together with songs by the Eiks' quartets of Omaha and Spokane. The Omaha singers made one of the hits of the evening and were recalled for encore time and again.

F. E. Goodall, president of the Spokane Chamber of Commerce, presided as toastmaster and introduced Mayor C. Herbert Moore, who delivered a most felicitous address of welcome to the Omaha boosters, and was followed with a response from Governor Sheldon, who spoke on "Golden Rod, the State Floral Emblem." An address exploiting the resources of the market town was then given by J. F. Carpenter, who is the representative of the Carpenter Paper company, and A. W. Jeffers, editor of the Spokane Spokesman-Review, spoke on the theme, "The Great Northwest."

Addresses were also made by Jay P. Graves of Spokane on "Resources of the Inland Empire and Their Development," and Dr. H. W. Allen on the subjects, "E-N-Kops and Ak-Sar-Ben."

Dr. Allen told of the bond of interest existing between the E-N-Kops of Spokane and the famed Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben of Omaha. The E-N-Kops are an allied body of representative citizens of Spokane or-

ganized in 1884, to prove that graduates of the high school were not handicapped in life's competitions, by reason of the time spent in the school, while the majority of the children of their age were learning business and trade by actual experience.

Still more recently it has been urged that the high school is "the rich man's school," because the children of the poor are compelled to leave school at the completion of work in the eighth grade and become wage-earners. If this be true Omaha's school patrons are increasing in wealth at a remarkable rate, since the increase in high school graduates in ten years is more than 100 per cent, a rate of increase out of all proportion to the increase of school population or wealth of the city.

From the first graduation in Omaha High school to the present year, the number of graduates are as follows:

Year	Graduates	Year	Graduates
1878	11	1892	128
1879	12	1893	132
1880	13	1894	136
1881	14	1895	140
1882	15	1896	144
1883	16	1897	148
1884	17	1898	152
1885	18	1899	156
1886	19	1900	160
1887	20	1901	164
1888	21	1902	168
1889	22	1903	172
1890	23	1904	176
1891	24	1905	180
1892	25	1906	184
1893	26	1907	188

The records of the school board extend back only to 1884, but during the administration of Superintendent Henry M. James some of the earlier records were in possession of the board, and from them Mr. James compiled a list of the names of all graduates to that year. From that time until 1895 and 1896 the names appear in each annual report. They are missing for these two years, but for 1897 were found in the office of the superintendent, while for 1898 they were taken from somewhat incomplete records at the high school.

Showing the increased popularity of the high school, the figures of enrollment since 1893 are interesting:

Year	Enrollment	Year	Enrollment
1893	128	1903	212
1894	132	1904	216
1895	136	1905	220
1896	140	1906	224
1897	144	1907	228



'BOOSTERS' LINED UP IN TWO SECTIONS FOR THEIR PICTURES AT SHERIDAN ON THE FIRST DAY OUT.



OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1907, WHICH WAS GIVEN ITS DIPLOMAS ON FRIDAY EVENING.

Omaha High School Growth Shown in Figures

Increased attendance naturally brings an increase in cost and the Omaha High school is no exception to the rule. The cost previous to 1894 is not of record, but since that year expenditures for the high school are as follows:

Year	Expenditures	Year	Expenditures
1894	\$ 7,127.85	1904	\$ 25,254.47
1895	17,128.15	1905	26,257.28
1896	28,288.82	1906	31,187.58
1897	31,288.56	1907	36,096.40
1898	32,000.23	1908	40,239.19
1899	34,188.22	1909	43,594.47
1900	37,615.75	1910	47,011.19
1901	38,514.47	1911	50,427.91
1902	37,860.79	1912	53,844.63
1903	40,000.00	1913	57,261.35
1904	44,500.00	1914	60,678.07
Total	\$1,058,585.09		

In connection with the larger increase of enrollment at the high school, all the larger in comparison with the total enrollment an analysis of the increased cost may be of interest. In 1884 the high school used a little more than 4 1/2 per cent of all expenditures for school purposes, while in 1906 the percentage was in excess of 14 per cent. While this is true, the per capita cost of the high school has been reduced from \$11 in 1884 to a little less than \$6 for 1906. The total expenditures by years is as follows:

Year	Expenditures	Year	Expenditures
1884	\$165,968.51	1896	\$407,541.93
1885	221,618.40	1897	477,729.69
1886	248,822.57	1898	561,096.56
1887	290,474.82	1899	650,258.14
1888	448,114.26	1900	748,167.81
1889	567,650.16	1901	854,564.34
1890	664,554.19	1902	969,451.03
1891	776,215.43	1903	1,092,720.79
1892	898,568.82	1904	1,224,744.11
1893	1,031,941.00	1905	1,366,245.74
1894	1,176,212.00	1906	1,517,441.00
1895	1,331,200.00	1907	1,676,212.00

regarding colleges, and the superintendent felt called upon, in 1884, to prove that graduates of the high school were not handicapped in life's competitions, by reason of the time spent in the school, while the majority of the children of their age were learning business and trade by actual experience.

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since the members of the first class were given diplomas in 1878—the centennial of the Declaration of Independence.

That the largest class for nine years was graduated in Omaha High school's first commencement exercises proves that the men in charge of the educational work of the city had waited until the time was ripe before introducing the high school system, and that the patrons of the schools were gradually outgrowing the idea that the duty of the state to the child ended with the inauguration of the rules governing the "three R's."

Omaha had schools almost as soon as it had a name, but these schools were of the "select variety," that is, the teachers selected their pupils from among those families able to pay tuition, and this form of school maintained life until the latter part of the 70's, when it died before the growth of the public school and the parochial schools. The old reports show that before the high school had proved its right to exist a number of people brought against it the views held by Horace Crosby