

# OMAHA—Metropolis of the West

By E. V. Parrish, Manager Bureau of Publicity, Omaha Commercial Club.

Situated in the very heart of the great corn, wheat and alfalfa belts of the United States, and surrounded by millions of acres of the most fertile lands known, with railroads affording facilities for easy ingress and egress, with the finest climate in the world, and with all other things that go to make up a good business city and an enviable home city, Omaha, the metropolis of the great state of Nebraska, and of the entire Missouri valley territory, is a city which can and will in the near future be one of the greatest cities in the United States.

Omaha combines all the things which go to make a great city—un-

The fourth primary grain market of the world.

The largest range market for feeding sheep in the world.

The largest creamery butter producing center in the world.

And it has the largest bank clearings, per capita, of any city in the United States, with the exception of Chicago and New York.

Omaha boasts the largest refinery of fine ores in the world, the annual output being thirty million dollars, while as a manufacturing center it takes rank with the leaders in this respect.

Though thirty-second in population, Omaha is sixteenth in bank clearings, a remarkable showing considering the cities for which it makes the pace. The total clearings for Omaha banks in 1914 were \$887,580,782, or a

as the clearing house for this rich territory.

Today, ten trunk lines of railroads center in the city, three on the west and seven on the east. Eight thousand miles of railroads are operated in Nebraska and twelve thousand in Iowa with Omaha as the focal point. Practically all of the freight, passenger, 20,000 miles is organized with respect to the interchange movement that passes through Omaha.

#### Fourth Primary Grain Market.

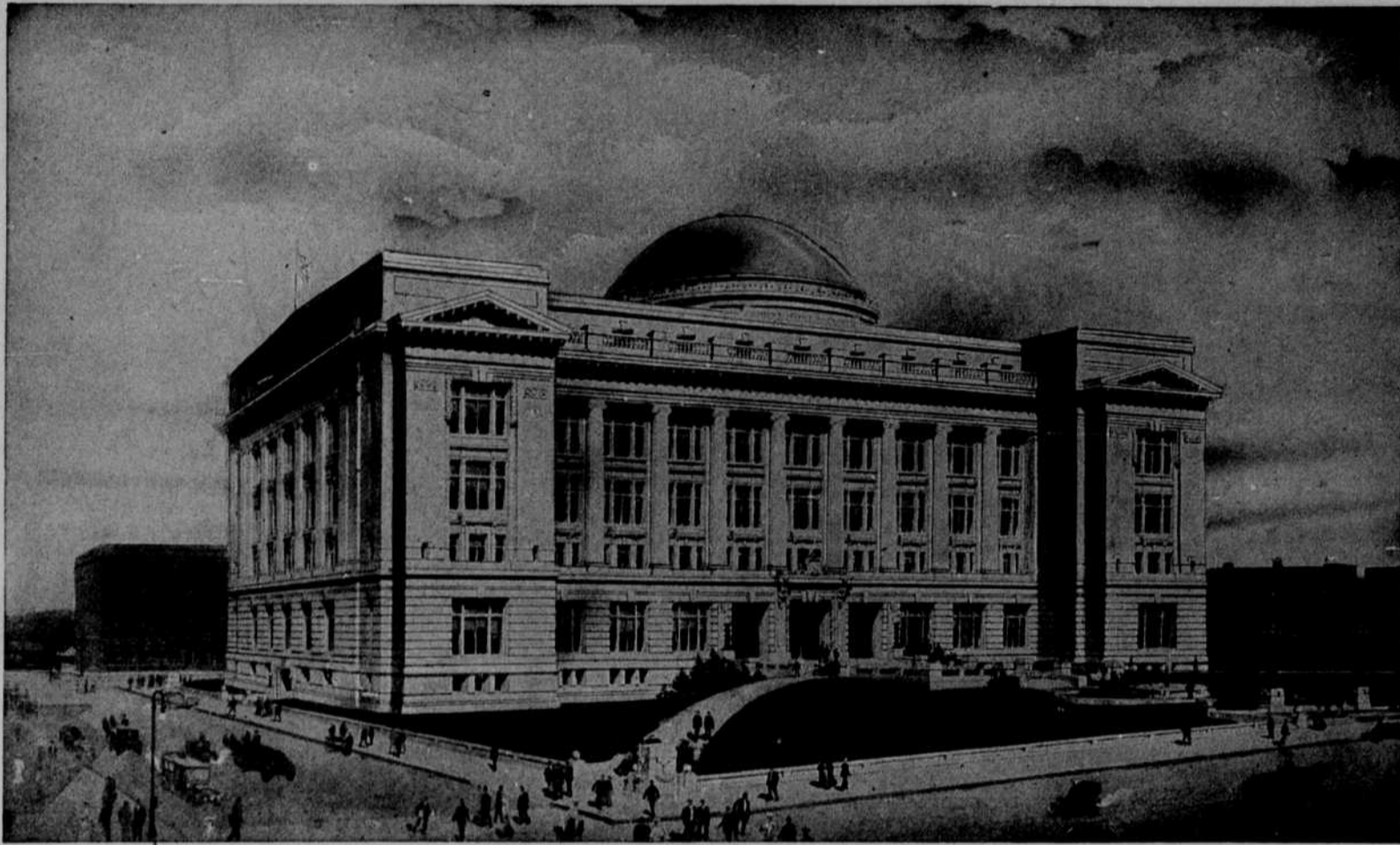
Due to the large outputs of corn and wheat, which are cleared through Omaha, the city takes rank as the fourth primary grain market in the world. In 1914, 66,983,800 bushels of corn, wheat, oats, rye and barley were shipped into Omaha. Omaha's record on individual grain is second

Not in the least of Omaha's improvements by any means is the system of parks and boulevards. Fourteen parks with a total acreage of 1,000 acres and twenty-six miles of boulevards and park drives compose the present system which, when completed, will be the mark for more pretentious cities to follow.

#### A City of Comfortable Homes.

Omaha is a residence city—a city of comfortable homes. No slums serve as a blot on the city. From one to the other the home of the working man is neat and substantial; the home of the clerk, artisan and small tradesman is modern, though unpretentious, while the homes of the more successful in worldly ways are imposing and handsome.

Omaha has no so-called tenements; it has a small proportion of flats and



Douglas County Court House.

usual facilities and opportunities for business, which in turn make possible a great home city, the acme of ambition of all public minded citizens.

Omaha is located near the geographical center of the United States, and not far from the center of population—some 200 miles—with the latter center slowly but surely making its way westward, and it will be but a comparatively few years until Omaha will be the very heart of the population of the United States.

Omaha is today a city of intense commercial activity and beautiful homes and with all the appurtenances which are necessary to make life worth while.

#### Omaha Is Great For Its Size.

Located on the Missouri river, midway between the Kansas and South Dakota lines, Omaha has an area of 24.5 square miles and a population of 124,096 according to the 1910 census. Conservative estimates place Omaha's present population at 205,000, due to natural increases and consolidation of suburbs, showing a remarkable growth, which, if not so substantial, might be classed as spectacular. Though thirty-second in population, Omaha is:

The largest live stock and packing center in the world.

per capita of \$5,074, nearly twice as much as Denver, Memphis, St. Paul, Louisville, Seattle, Portland and Milwaukee, cities twice and thrice as large in population.

#### Omaha Is a Banking Center.

The annual deposits of Omaha's banks vary from \$45,000,000 to \$60,000,000, of which practically two-fifths are sent here for safe-keeping. On virtually \$45,000,000, Omaha does an annual business of nearly \$1,000,000,000. Western financiers show their confidence in Omaha and its banks by sending immense sums for safe keeping, a tribute to the aggressive, yet safe methods of the men who have made Omaha a center.

Omaha's annual manufacturing and jobbing business amounts to \$35,000,000, these figures including the output of its packing plants located in South Omaha.

#### Clearing of Big Territory.

As a live stock market Omaha draws from twenty-six states, but shipments from Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah and South Dakota dominate. Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio and even Pennsylvania contribute their consignments and as industries develop in the states, so will Omaha develop

in corn, fifth in oats, fifth in barley and fourth in wheat. The receipts for 1914 were more than 30,000,000 bushels of corn, 18,925,200 bushels of wheat, 16,950,700 bushels of oats and 518,800 of barley.

#### But All Is Not Business in Omaha.

Business only makes possible that home life which all good citizens seek. In Omaha they find everything necessary to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Omaha has a public school system deemed one of the best in the land. Thirty-four ward school buildings, ranging in cost from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and a central high school sitting proudly on Capitol Hill and overlooking the very heart of the city, costing \$1,500,000, compose the system which teaches and directs 22,000 school children in the ways of good government. A teaching force of 526 instructors is necessary to develop the future citizens of Omaha.

Omaha's public buildings and eleemosanary institutions represent gigantic cash outlays. Omaha is without exception, the best hospital city in the west. Eleven hospitals with property valued at \$1,700,000 are available for the sick and needy. During 1914 more than 12,000 patients were cared for.

apartment houses, but the vast acreage of the city makes possible substantial homes with spacious lawns for every one. This is one of the reasons why Omaha is third lowest of the cities of the United States in mortality.

All in all, Omaha stands out as a beacon light to the investor; as a haven of rest for the homeseeker.

#### OMAHA—THE BEACON LIGHT OF PROSPERITY TO THE WORLD,

Where to Go—What to See—How to Get There.

The visitor to Omaha has an opportunity to study the greatest commercial city in the world—the city, which in times of business depression has stood out as a beacon light of prosperity to the world—the city, which destroyed in a night, rebuilt itself in a day.

Omaha's business men invite you to study this city and the method's by which they have developed it. Omaha's citizens invite you to inspect their homes, schools, churches, parks, and boulevards and municipal institutions. You will then realize why Omaha is the best city of its size in the world.

Omaha is the ideal American city,