



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF PART OF BUSINESS SECTION OF OMAHA

## South Omaha, the Leading Stock Market of the West

A little more than twenty-five years ago the Union Stock Yards company was organized and entered upon the task of building up a live stock market. At the time of the organization of the company there was no South Omaha, that thriving city is now known throughout the entire industrial world, has grown up incidentally with the great market which now makes it famous.

The company naturally, therefore, took the name of Omaha and of course has continued the name, though the market is now generally known as the South Omaha market. The site selected for the establishment of stock yards is what was then known as the Drexel farm, about five miles south of the city of Omaha, part of it a wilderness of brush and bramble; in fact there was on the land a sort of lake or marsh which as the extension of the yards became necessary became a source of great expense.

Associated in the enterprise were some of Omaha's foremost citizens, the names of some of whom will continue to live in the history of the city's great benefactors, including such men as William A. Paxton, John A. Creighton, Alex. Swan, Thos. Swobe, P. E. Fay, J. A. MeShane and others.

These gentlemen had unbounded faith in Omaha and the West and were not afraid to back it with their capital and their energy in their day. They provided the necessary means for their city and state. In their optimism they were greatly encouraged by the stock raisers and shippers of Nebraska and the west, with whom they had wide acquaintance. The stock men were clamoring for a market for their cattle, hogs and sheep.

It may be remembered that at that time there was really only one market which could be called at all accessible to the stockmen and settlers in the west, namely Chicago, Chicago though considered a western market and the only market of importance at that time so far as the western shippers were concerned, was a long way from the range, and the settlers who were pushing westward to their homes to acquire cheap land were becoming factors to be considered in the live stock business.

The long journeys necessary to reach Chicago and eastern markets, for there were some shippers who marketed their stock in Buffalo, Cincinnati and even Jersey City, for those days, had become great hardships, and they longed for the time when they might be able to market their products of the range and feed lot nearer home.

Omaha, by reason of its accessibility, offered an ideal location for a live stock market, being the natural gateway between the consuming and producing sections. This importance of location has been more and more emphasized as the years have come and gone in the settling of the west. The yards were built and in August, 1884, were opened for business. It was slow work at first, the market did not build in a day, and for a time remained merely a feeding station for stock enroute to the east.

Being located on a natural route from the west to the east, the beaten trail, so to speak, of the stock men going to and from market, Omaha's natural advantages were easily advertised, and as the volume of stock which stopped at the Union Stock Yards for rest and feed increased, it at length began to attract buyers, as honey draws the bees.

First came the speculators and traders, some of them being shippers themselves; then feeder buyers, countrymen and farmers looking for cattle and sheep for feeding purposes; then buyers seeking supplies for outside packing houses and finally the packers themselves, one by one, to locate their plants at South Omaha, until today a great live stock market and pack-

ing center, third largest in the world, makes famous in the realm of commerce the city of South Omaha. This has furnished figures to make Omaha and Nebraska conspicuous in the commercial world.

This great live stock market boasts of four of the largest packing establishments in the west. These packing establishments, or manufacturers as they might properly be styled, together with the buying power represented on the market through order buyers, feeder buyers and exporters, are now furnishing an outlet for approximately six million of cattle, hogs and sheep annually valued last year at more than \$125,000,000.

The output of the packing houses alone last year reached a value of more than \$125,000,000. These are big figures and it takes big business to make them. It takes big capital to do this amount of business.

The stock yards and packing industries at South Omaha employ more than 8,000 people with an annual payroll of more than \$5,000,000. This money is all distributed right here in Nebraska. It goes, some of it into savings to build homes or is invested in real estate; some of it goes for rent, clothing and groceries; some for automobiles, theaters and dinners at fashionable restaurants; some for donations to churches, schools, orphanages, asylums and hospitals and toward the support of our city and state governments. It all goes toward the up-building and advancement of our city and state.

The growth of the city on the state is dependent upon the amount of profitable employment which can be offered to those who would become citizens. There are state organizations striving to encourage new settlers to come into the state.

There are in the cities business men's club and commercial associations whose objects are to build up their municipalities by adding to their factories and other industries new ones in order to provide additional employment for labor. Railroad companies offer certain concessions along new lines of road to induce settlement or stimulate traffic.

The growth of the South Omaha market has continued almost without abatement from the beginning, considerable immensity and the importance of the live stock business of the United States it is a great distinction and most favorable advertisement for Nebraska to be able to boast the third largest live stock market and packing center of the entire United States.

As an advertising medium the South Omaha market does more for the state of Nebraska than all printed matter ever sent out. Every day of the year great train loads of meats are shipped out of South Omaha, scattering to all parts of the civilized world. These meats and products carry the name of Nebraska, to every city and every country.

Only a few years ago it would have been folly for South Omaha to have attempted competition with the large markets of the country. Chicago then looked upon South Omaha as a friendly feeder to that big market. Today it is a rival and a keen competitor of the biggest live stock market in the world. Last year it made the best showing of any of the large markets.

In 1909, surprising as it may seem, South Omaha handled 250,000 more range cattle than did even Chicago the biggest cattle market of the country.

The splendid showing of the Omaha live stock market thus far in 1910 has attracted the attention of live stock interests in all parts of the west.

The stability of its prices and the readiness with which the heaviest receipts in the history of the market have been absorbed have likewise elicited much favorable comment from

those who have been in a position to note the steady advancement of the market, and has incited most optimistic predictions regarding its future.

Record-breaking events have been of such frequency on the Omaha market this fall that they have ceased to be sensational.

The showing which the Omaha market has been making is better illustrated by comparisons made with other markets or prominence, though comparisons in this instance may be odious (to the other fellow.)

Unofficial receipts for the year to October 18th, 1910, at the five principal markets, including Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, St. Louis and St. Joseph, as compared to same period of 1909, were as follows:

Cattle, 1910	6,408,000
Cattle, 1909	6,156,000
Hogs, 1910	10,187,000
Hogs, 1909	12,737,000
Sheep, 1910	8,815,000
Sheep, 1909	7,565,000
Gain, Cattle	252,000
Gain, sheep	1,050,000
Loss, hogs	2,612,000

The following were the receipts at South Omaha for the same period compared:

Cattle, 1910	962,998
Cattle, 1909	848,205
Hogs, 1910	1,602,853
Hogs, 1909	1,857,571
Sheep, 1910	2,298,198
Sheep, 1909	1,703,921
Gain, cattle	114,692
Gain, sheep	595,177
Loss, hogs	256,982

Thus it will be seen that of a total increase at the five markets of 252,000 cattle, Omaha's increase amounted to 114,692 head, or 46 per cent. In sheep receipts, the five markets showed a total increase of 1,050,000 head, while Omaha's increase was 595,177 head or 56 per cent of the combined gains at the five markets.

In hog receipts it will be noted that all of the markets mentioned have shown a marked falling off, the total loss in this department at the five markets amounting to 2,610,000 head, while Omaha's decrease amounted to but 256,982 head, or 10 per cent of the total of the five markets.

The significance of such a showing is that instead of Omaha getting a share of an extraordinarily heavy movement of live stock to market, Omaha has been handling more than 50 per cent of the total increase of the five principal markets, and is offering a most satisfactory outlet for the largely increased patronage of western shippers.

The Omaha market stands today the greatest feeder market in the world. Besides having established a new record in the distribution of feeder cattle it has so far this year sold to

country buyers for feeding purposes more than one million head of sheep and lambs, which are as many as the Chicago and Kansas City markets combined have sent into the country.

## Nebraska's Population

Nebraska has 1,192,214 people—about half as many as live in the city of Chicago. But this is 125,014 more than the state had ten years ago.

The following counties have lost in population: Burt, Butler, Cass, Clay, Cuming, Dixon, Dodge, Fillmore, Frontier, Furnas, Gosper, Johnson, Kearney, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Phelps, Polk, Richardson, Saline, Saunders and Washington. Some of the counties have lost more than 1,000 inhabitants. A county which loses people is struck a hard blow and every business in the county is injured thereby.

This is the reason the State Association of Commercial Clubs is waging an active campaign for intelligent immigration work and state advertising. To bring people out west of the Missouri river is the aim of the Western Land Products Exhibit to be held in Omaha January 18 to 28.

It is estimated that 250,000 people go across Nebraska each year to homes beyond. A very large per cent of them stop in Omaha and the show is well planned to catch the people who simply "must move" in the spring. The Nebraska exhibit at this show should stop a large number of people in Nebraska. It has been the work of Omaha men and the exhibits in Omaha which has caused Scotts Bluff county to show an increase from 2,555 in 1900 to 8,355 in 1910. The Western Land Products exhibit is going to bring some settlers to Nebraska if the Nebraska exhibit is what it should be.

## The Rev. Iri Hicks 1911 Almanac

The Rev. Iri R. Hicks Almanac for 1911, that guardian angel in a hundred thousand homes, is now ready. Not many are now willing to be without it and the Rev. Iri Hicks Magazine, Word and Works. The two are only one dollar a year. The Almanac is 35c prepaid. No home or office should fail to send for them, to Word and Works Publishing Company, St. Louis, Mo. 53-41-379

Remember the Dance. Opera House December 28th. By Daughters of Isabella. 53-21-377

## Omaha's Business Growth Reflects Development of the State of Nebraska

When the census bureau gave out the figures for Omaha a few weeks ago, he said 124,090.

A great many people had been led to expect the population would be larger than the figures presented by the census enumerators, but they were doomed to disappointment. The figures presented are the actual count—for twenty years Omaha has had the population figures added—now the census bureau has the exact number of people in the old city limits of Omaha, and its not half bad.

Ten years ago when the census showed Omaha to have a population of 102,000 there was every reason to suppose that about 5,000 names had been added. Since the laws have been changed and penalties attached for padding census returns, the population of Omaha shows an increase of about 26,000 in 10 years.

That's a good healthy growth especially when it is considered that every suburb of Omaha is a separate incorporated city or village. With Council Bluffs Omaha is doing business with about 200,000 people in a local way.

But the astonishing thing about the growth of Omaha is not in the population, but in business. The banks show clearings which can be considered a good index, and these figures indicate an increase of 247 per cent in business during the ten years just past.

Comparisons in all lines of business show a similar growth. During October Omaha broke the world's record for sheep receipts at the stock yards; in a little more than six years Omaha has become the second largest corn market in the world, the third and fourth in wheat. It is already the largest feeder cattle market and the greatest market for range sheep.

While these figures may be very complimentary to the city of Omaha, the real credit is due the state of Nebraska. A series of successful years in agriculture and the individuality of Nebraska farmers to market their products within the borders of their own state, has given Omaha its growth. There are some \$7,000,000 worth of businesses under construction in Omaha at the present time. When they are completed they will be occupied at once, of course, or they would not be built. And they will be occupied not by individuals, firms and corporations whose business depends on the people of Omaha, but on the state of Nebraska.

Omaha is a great city. Ten years ago there were 6,000 vacant homes in the city. During the past five years more than 1,900 homes have been erected each year—some 1,200 to 1,300 new places for people to live, will be erected this year when the figures are all in. Many of these homes are being occupied by people who are moving to Omaha from the state.

They have completed either their life work or a term of years out in the state and they feel opportunity calls them to a larger field. Their places are taken on the farms or in the banks and stores by sons and daughters, and they move to Omaha. Thus the city grows not of its own alone, but by reason of the resources of the state. Nebraska milk has made Omaha the greatest butter manufacturing city in the world.

In turn Omaha is making Nebraska an industrial state. It is usually classed as one of the great agricultural states. But Nebraska is more of an industrial state than most people apprehend. It is making large advances every year in industries by reason of Omaha's activity. In 1905 some \$80,000,000 was the capital invested in manufacturing. This was a gain of \$15,000,000 over the amount invested in industries in 1900. Since 1905 the increase has been much greater than in the five years preceding and while the statistics of 1910 are not yet available, it is known by taking an invoice of the new industries in Omaha alone, that the aggregate capital will be more than \$100,000,000.

The value of Nebraska's manufactured products in 1905 was \$154,918,000, a gain of about \$21,000,000 over 1900. Last year factories in Omaha alone made goods valued at \$192,000,000, the packing house products amounting to \$121,000,000.

Thus the work of Omaha along broad lines is doing much to develop Nebraska as an agricultural state because of the modest city furnishes. Besides Omaha is doing the work which makes Nebraska rank high as an industrial state. The business men of the metropolis are working systematically to induce capital and industry to come to the state. It matters not to them whether the industry locates in Omaha, so long as it locates west of the Missouri river. Omaha is willing to help secure it and to help foster it. Every man and every dollar brought to Nebraska benefits Omaha and the Omahans know it.

## State Engineer Reports

E. C. Simmons, state engineer and secretary of the state board of irrigation, recommends in his report that a commission be appointed to revise and codify the water laws of the state of Nebraska. Irrigation has become of great importance to Nebraska in the last few years and the many laws that have been passed at one time and another require codification. In his report he says in part:

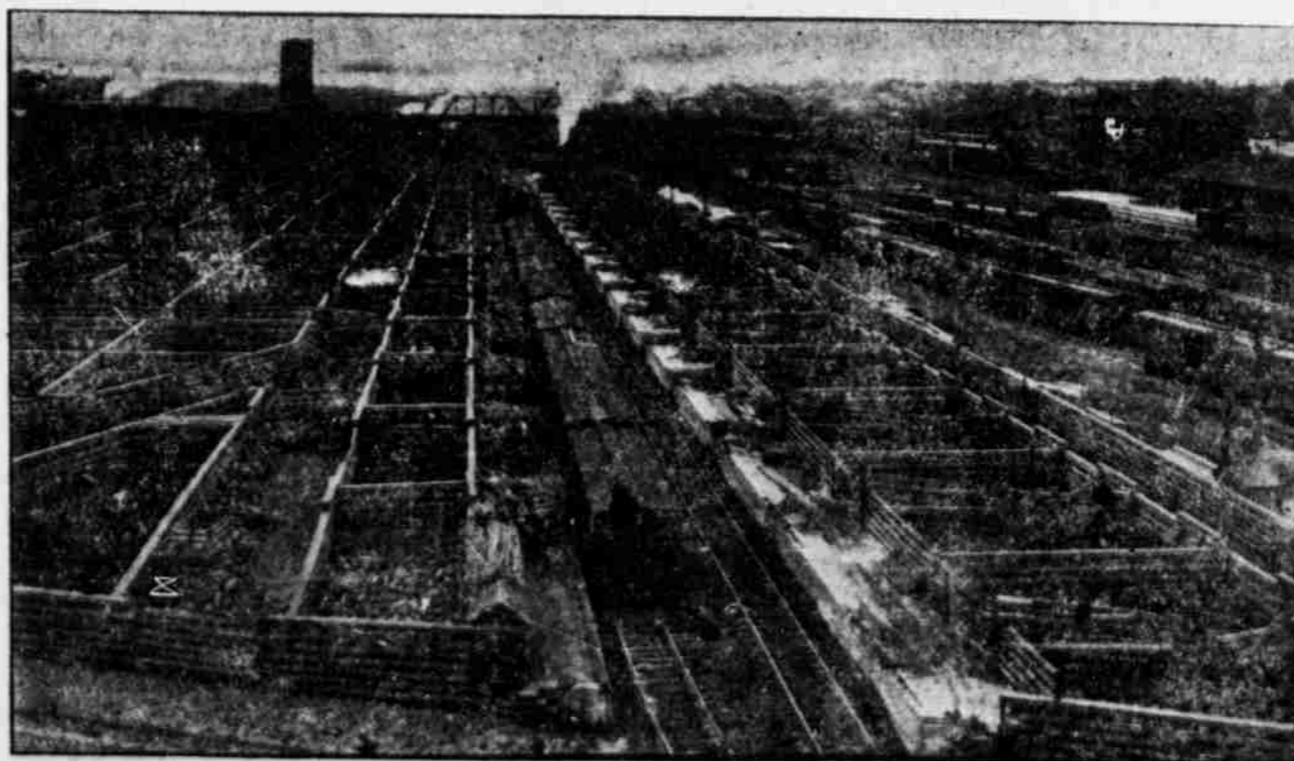
"Perhaps the most important amendment required by our present laws is made necessary by reason of the opinion of the supreme court in the case of Farmers' Irrigation district vs. Frank (72 Neb 136). In that opinion, Sec. 28, Art. 2 of the irrigation laws was construed to give a person or corporation to whom an appropriation had been allowed the exclusive right to irrigate the lands included in the appropriation.

"It is the opinion of many eminent jurists that this is essentially wrong, for it gives to the appropriator a vested interest in lands to which they have no title. The ownership of lands should be paramount and superior to the right to water the same.

"The present law, allowing the applicant to include in his appropriation large tracts of land without the knowledge or consent of the owners should be so amended as to give the owners a voice in the matter. Without a reasonable amount of land to be watered there cannot be much incentive to invest capital in a ditch; therefore, extreme care should be taken to frame such a law as will be just and equitable to all concerned."

## FOR DISTRICT SYSTEM

The district irrigation system, properly conducted, is the one that is most permanent and economical, and the one which, experience has showed will, in time, control most of the irrigation in this state. The system is based on the power of the district to borrow money and issue bonds. The law should be carefully revised, with special view to protect the territory within the district boundaries from exploitation and at the same time secure those who may purchase lands based upon the faith of the borrower."



UNION STOCK YARDS, SOUTH OMAHA