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TRADE IN LINCOLN

Business is dull in Lincoln. There is no denying it. But there is nothing in the local situation to occasion any alarm, and on the other hand there is much real encouragement to be found in existing conditions. A COURIER interviewer was this week assured by a number of merchants that they are doing as much business as they usually do in August, and those who report a falling off state that a slight increase was noticeable in the last few days. In very many cases dealers, particularly in groceries, meats and drugs, have adopted a cash basis, and while the sales under this system are not quite as large as heretofore, the merchants have the satisfaction of receiving their money when it is due. All merchants have curtailed credits, and this of course, has had its effect on the volume of business.

July and August are always the duller months of the year in Lincoln, and business is generally quieter from Aug. 1 to 25 than at any other time. One reason for this is the absence of students. Business men often speak slightly of the colleges and schools as factors in the commercial life of the city, but a little consideration will make it apparent that these institutions are of substantial benefit. There were pretty close to 4,000 students from outside of the city in attendance upon the various educational institutions of Lincoln last season, and they averaged to spend, including tuition, about \$5 per week, making a total of \$20,000 per week that is brought from outside and spent in Lincoln. Of course Lincoln merchants must be greatly benefited by this considerable expenditure of money. Many of the students, particularly in the normal colleges, do not get away until the latter part of July or the first of August, but in this month they are nearly all away, and local business men are losers for the time being.

The state fair is another important factor in opening up fall business. This year it will open early in September, and as the effect of the fair is always observable about ten days prior to its commencement, business may consequently be expected to receive an impetus about August 25. Following the fair comes the influx of students, and the middle of September invariably sees business in prime condition. This year will be no exception. The educational institutions are recruited mainly from the farmers and farming communities, and as these have been very lightly touched by the business depression, there is no reason to suppose that there will be any material falling off in the estimated attendance. Nearly 1,500 students are confidently expected at the state university; the two normal colleges expect to have between them 2,500 or 3,000 students, and the total will be swelled by the Wesleyan university, Cotner, Union college, Worthington Military academy, the conservatory of music, the business college and the numerous small schools.

But Lincoln's main dependence is on agriculture, and the crop prospects continue excellent. The yield of corn per acre will not be so heavy as in some years, but the acreage is unusually large.

Whatever depression there may be in business in this city is very largely the result of groundless fears and imaginary troubles. There are no factories with large numbers of employes suddenly thrown out of employment. Building is quiet; but there are comparatively few men out of employment; so that there is no real reason why there should be any particular dullness at this time. It should be remembered that Lincoln's prosperity is founded, not on this industry or that, but on agriculture, which, broadly speaking, can be said to never fail.

Altogether the outlook is very encouraging. Within two weeks a marked improvement will be noticed, and September is sure to see business gratifyingly active.

Perhaps the chief reason for the present lull in business in Lincoln is the scarcity of actual money, due to the unwarranted withdrawal of deposits from the banks for the purpose of hoarding. The people who are hoarding their money when it ought to be in the banks and in circulation, are doing more to retard business than all other influences combined. And nothing could be more foolish than this drawing of money out of the banks, where it is earning interest, and hiding it somewhere where it is not only unproductive, but is liable to be

stolen or destroyed by fire. The banks of Lincoln are absolutely safe—that is so long as the people keep possession of their senses. The only possible danger which threatens the banks is a scare among the people. And there is nothing and can be nothing now to warrant a scare. Every bank in the city has materially reduced its loans, and is abundantly able to meet any legitimate demand, and money deposited in them is infinitely safer than it is stored away in an old sock, or buried in the cellar, or carried around in the pocket. Nothing would so quickly restore business in this city to its normal condition as the placing in the banks of the money that is now held in private receptacles. And the sooner depositors realize this the better it will be for Lincoln.

"DAISY BELL."

Everyone in London is either whistling or singing "Daisy Bell." The news-papers often speak of it as the "manes" national anthem." Katie Lawrence sings it in about four music halls every night, and the "house," of course, joins in the chorus, English fashion. Here is the chorus:

Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer, do;
I'm half-crazy, all for the love of you.
I won't be a stylish marriage,
I can't afford a carriage,
You'll look neat on the seat
Of a bicycle made for two.

OBSERVATIONS.

The subject of the state's representation at the great fair, seems to be still one of interest to the majority, judging from the amount of general discussion and adverse criticism it receives. And this interest was not lessened by the amusing attempt made recently by one of the employes of the Nebraska building on the fair grounds to say a word in contradiction of their own recorded conduct, and in defense of the commissioner. The people are thoroughly familiar with the circumstances surrounding the case, and the discussion between the commissioner and the auditor of public accounts is still fresh in the minds of all readers of the state papers, as well as some outside publications. Almost unanimously the press sustains the auditor in the course he has pursued, and how could it be otherwise?

The people felt wronged and indignant at the miserable expenditure of the funds appropriated for the purpose of representing the state, and charge one individual with the reckless and wholesale disbursement of state funds for personal pleasure, or at least, useless purposes, but the indignation was justly increased, when upon visiting the building, residents of the state, because belonging to the class known as "the common people," were treated in a manner not only ill-bred, but outrageous, considering the fact that they, as taxpayers, had contributed to the fund that made the exhibit, such as it was, as well as the one that paid the salaries of those engaged to do the honors of the building. True, the charge has been denied, but being brought by numbers exceeding many times the one denying it, we must acknowledge the old adage "some fire where there is so much smoke," contains some truth.

The reference to Mr. Garneau as a "first-class commissioner with a second-class appropriation," caused a smile to flit across many faces. The writer of the "defense" either is in ignorance of the facts, or else forgets that fifteen states in the union have erected buildings and made exhibits out of smaller appropriations than Nebraska, any one of which is "a thing of beauty" when compared with the Nebraska effort, and many of which are especially admired and commented upon by the press and people all over the country. No wonder the question arises, and gravely demands explanation, where is the money? Possibly to the same ignorance or forgetfulness may be attributed the fault from whence arises the later criticism.

And then comes another question which has been asked many times. Why were not the people represented and welcomed to their own building in the "White City" by a matron of prominence? There are certainly within our borders many women of long years residence, wide acquaintance, and equally in need of the compensation received for services rendered, who would gladly have accepted the position, been a credit to the state, and left with strangers a good impression of Nebraska people by her courteous manner to all callers. It has been suggested that this branch of the state's effort is on a par with the best of the commissioner's work, and bears the inevitable ear marks of personal favoritism without consideration of the people to be represented, another charge of the falsity of which it would be hard to convince those giving the subject any attention.

THE BIG SHOW

WHITE CITY, August 10, 1893.—[Special COURIER Correspondence.]—One half of the time allotted for the Columbian exposition has passed, and if the first half is a basis of calculation, the fair will not be a financial success, unless some immediate means are reached to bring people here. That the crowd is not large, seems to be due to a combination of circumstances, one of the most prominent being the financial depression throughout the country. The reports that everything was expensive here, were not confined to our own country, but found their way into foreign newspapers, and people of moderate means have been afraid to come.

The people of Chicago and managers of the fair made a great mistake in warranting these reports to go out, and to be generally published. They have greatly overdone their desire to make money. The result is, everything sold upon the grounds, is at a price far above what it should be and the reason is given that such a large per cent is exacted by the management, that to make a profit themselves, they must sell at high prices. This is done to such an extent that a very small number buy lunches or dinner inside the grounds, but nearly everyone carries a lunch put up outside, and people get their dinner in the evening after they leave the grounds.

The longest faces, however, are to be seen on the people who are running hotels, restaurants, and renting rooms. Their plans indicate that they expected tremendous crowds daily, but they are disappointed, and many of the hotels have closed, and prices for accommodations have been reduced. It is expected that the railroads will make reductions in rates, and that many more will be enabled to visit the fair. Those who come now, will find accommodations outside the grounds at rates far below those announced at the opening of the fair. It is to be hoped that many more will come; for the fair offers an education which ought to be taken advantage of if possible. To state the most interesting features of the fair, would be impossible, for all are not interested alike. The electricity building is one of the most attractive buildings in the evening. It shows all the appliances for lighting and heating, and the many beautiful designs are lighted in the evening. One is a head of Columbus outlined with incandescent globes; another a high column covered with tiny globes and lighted with different colored effects. Machinery is here in operation which illustrates the methods of electrotyping electroplating, gliding and nickeling; a complete system of the telephone is shown with all recent improvements, and a great many devices recently applied by electricity. The cinematograph, an instrument which transmits scenes to the eye as well as sounds to the ear is here shown. The study of this department is very interesting and some time could be spent profitably. The transportation building is one of leading interest. Numerous magazines and papers have printed cuts of its main entrance or "Golden Door," but no adequate idea of its impressive splendor can be acquired from either picture or name. The exterior arch overhead consists of many receding arches overlaid with gold leaf, having the appearance of heavy covering, and is decorated on either side with allegorical figures and groups in bas-relief. It is officially stated that tens of thousands of dollars were expended in gold leaf for the ornamentation of this one entrance. Combined with a beautiful shade of light green, the effect is magnificent beyond description. On either side and a little above the arch are appropriate inscriptions which printed in large gold letters upon the terra cotta surface of the structure, are easily read on the opposite side of the lagoon. Upon the left are Bacon's words and upon the right the immortal Macaulay has concisely summed up the subject to which the interior is devoted.

Directly beneath one inscription appear the ancient modes of travel—in original studies of bas-relief—while upon the other our more modern and palatial methods are illustrated in a similar manner. But no more attractive is the magnificence of this entrance, than the wonders and completeness of the wonders found inside. Every mode of conveyance by land and water known in the world from the very first to those of the present day, is here illustrated. Models of steamships, and boats of all kinds, cars, etc., are attractively exhibited. A model of the warship Victoria, recently lost in the Mediterranean, attracts a great many. The boat used by Grace Darling in her

heroic efforts to save life, is here, and the wonder of everyone is how any woman could manage such a large boat and do such wonderful deeds. The fisheries building shows every kind of fish and many interesting facts about them, and has its share of daily visitors. No one should fail to make a tour of inspection of the government building. The display is well arranged, and much of it is of historic interest, among which are articles owned and used by George Washington and others of first prominence in our country. The Smithsonian exhibit is to be found in this building. Here is also a collection of articles sent through the mails, and which found their way to the dead letter office. There are among the list axes, bricks, eggs, a lamp chimney, large baskets, a bag of wedding cake, dolls, rings and all kind of jewelry.

I shall reserve a further mention of interesting exhibits until my next letter, and will here offer a few suggestions to those who intend visiting the fair. It is well to take a trip around the grounds on the Intramural road, which, with the aid of a guide book, will give one a very clear idea of the location of the building, so that time can be saved in getting to them. A good view of the building is also obtained by a ride upon the lagoon. This is especially attractive if in the evening when the buildings are lighted. A ride upon the ferris wheel affords a view of midway Plaisance, where are a few things worth seeing, but so me, the Plaisance with its noisy fables, gives the fair an air of cheapness and common-place-ness which independent of the Plaisance is entirely wanting.

W. T. K.

HIGINBOTHAM'S DRESS SUIT

The Higinbotham episode is thus discussed by a writer in *Vogue*, who is a bit late in coming to the front:

"I am utterly at a loss to understand the ridicule that has been lavished upon Mr. Higinbotham for having appeared in evening dress at a ceremonious, and in a measure official, luncheon party given at Chicago in honor of the Spanish Infanta, some few weeks ago. Although Mr. Higinbotham modestly disclaims any extensive knowledge of the conventional laws of society, owing to his having spent his youth as a cowboy on the plains, yet according to etiquette and usage on the continent he was distinctly right in appearing thus garbed at the entertainment, and those who are so ready to smile at his "break" are merely displaying their own ignorance of the requirements and customs of court and official life in the old world. The luncheon at which this alleged solecism of Mr. Higinbotham took place was one undeniably an official function, tendered to the princess in her official capacity. In fact, it was expressly stipulated that all hospitalities offered to and accepted by the Infanta at Chicago should be regarded in that light. This being the case it was Mr. Higinbotham's duty to appear in what the French would call the *habit de grande ceremonie*—that is to say, if he had been an European official he would have appeared in uniform, unless expressly requested to do otherwise by the Infanta or by her chamberlain. Mr. Higinbotham not having a uniform, and the evening dress being regarded at all the European courts as the American equivalent to an official uniform, Mr. Higinbotham was just as right to array himself therein as was your ambassador, Mr. Bayard, who, on the occasion of the Duke of York's wedding and at the breakfast that followed at Buckingham Palace, appeared in full evening dress. Moreover, I have attended court functions at Vienna and Berlin which occurred prior to 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and at which the American envoys and diplomatic representatives were always arrayed in evening dress with a white tie.

It is only a few years since that the custom has been abandoned on the continent of Europe of making early in the day ceremonial social calls in evening dress, and even to this day when any great nobleman in France, Austria or Germany has occasion to pay some ceremonial visit, such as, for instance, when asking the parents of his son's prospective wife for their daughter's hand, he invariably dons evening dress, and it was thus arrayed that the Duc de Noailles, one of the grandest nobles in Europe, a perfect type of grand seigneur, and a man who is descended in a direct line from the Crusader King of Jerusalem, called before noon upon the Dowager Duchess of Luynes to request her permission to present an offer of marriage from his son, the Duc d'Ayen, to her daughter Yolande."

W. A. Coffin & Co., grocers, 143 South Eleventh street.

A BIG PROJECT

SAN FRANCISCO, August 9.—[Special COURIER Correspondence.]—Lieutenant Humphreys, formerly of the United States military engineer corps, is at the Occidental on his way to Washington. The lieutenant has just returned from Central America, where he has been detailed for the past two years on a topographical survey of the several Central American republics, together with defining the most feasible route for the proposed railroad which is to connect the United States, Mexico, Central America and the lands of the Southern Cross.

"The expedition," said the lieutenant, "was divided into two parties. The one to which I belonged was given the northern division, while the other took all points south of Panama.

"We commenced at a point on the confines of Mexico and Guatemala, called Aequahocita, midway between the Pacific ocean and the Gulf of Honduras.

"The mountains of the Guatemala are principally cone shaped and run in no definite manner, so we had only to shift along as best we could keeping as closely as possible to the more inhabited portions of the country, while at the same time bearing in mind the future development of the less frequented portions.

"The grade for the main part was easy, averaging from four to six and one-half feet to the mile at the highest, while in some places there is nothing to be done but to lay down the track. We crossed the Rio Dulce somewhere about fifteen degrees north and ninety west, where some stout bridging will have to be done, as the river rises as high as sixty feet in the rainy season.

NO SLOPING CURVES.

"Unlike our United States railroads there is no necessity for sloping curves in Guatemala. The soil is so firm that a straight cut is all that is necessary for all general purposes. Dipping slightly to the west we came on Guatemala City, where we were treated royally by the citizens of that progressive capital. Once more diverging gradually east we crossed into Honduras midway between Gracias and Santa Barbara, after which the country became wilder and less inhabited as we progressed.

"West of us lay San Salvador, which is the most thickly populated of all the Central American republics, having as many as seventy persons to the square mile. We could not, however, very well lean toward it, as it would necessitate too much zigzagging in order to get into Nicaragua on the eastern slope of the mountains, which here rise to a considerable altitude.

"After crossing several minor mountain streams we came successively to the towns of Comayagua and Tegucigalpa, the latter being a place of 40,000 people. As at Guatemala, we were well received there, and if we availed ourselves of half the invitations tendered us we might be there yet. Leaving Tegucigalpa we crossed the Choluteca river within thirty miles of Ocotal on the Nicaraguan frontier, where there is very much of a grade, owing to the sharp spurs which run east from the main ridge. The Cocos river was the next important thing which crossed our path. From being a tiny rivulet in summer it swells to a roaring torrent in winter, and carries along rocks, trees, debris, and occasionally a native hut by way of change. Matagalpa, the scene of the late unpleasantness between ex-President Sacasa and his revolutionary subjects, was next in line. Here was experienced some of the most difficult work of the whole survey. After thoroughly exploring the eastern range we found it impossible to find a way out except by hugging the eastern shore, where a living being can scarcely exist, owing to the prevalence of mosquitoes and centipeds. They actually put our party to flight on several occasions.

WHERE THE BOA THRIVES.

"Here is the home of the constrictor and the iguana, the latter being sometimes found as long as twelve or fourteen feet. The country is low lying and sickly, and with the exception of a few bands of native Indians it seems wholly deserted.

"Retracing our way we bent toward Leon, the second largest town in Nicaragua, where the heat is so oppressive that we were glad to get out of there at the first opportunity. Leaving Leon we skirted Lake Managua on the west, where the grade was almost even until we reached Managua, the capital city of the republic of Nicaragua.

"From an engineering point of view the route east of Lake Nicaragua is far

the most preferable, but owing to the narrow limits of the valley between the lake and the mountains, it would be of no possible use from a commercial standpoint. We took considerable pains to look over the canal route, and came to the scientific conclusion that with six or eight locks the flow of the currents can be regulated to all requirements throughout the entire length. The currents seem to set from the Pacific side, and become stronger during the rainy season owing to the immense bodies of water which find their way into the lake.

"There will necessarily be considerable bridge and trestle work in this vicinity, but not of a nature requiring any extreme feats of railroad engineering.

INTO COSTA RICA.

"From Nicaragua we crossed into Costa Rica, which we cut in two, until we reached San Jose, the capital, which is one of the prettiest little cities in all Central America. With the exception of a couple of big cuts the way was easy, and safe throughout this entire section. The natives in the country districts treated us most courteously and made it as pleasant for us as circumstances permitted.

"At best, however, surveying in those countries is something not to be envied by the average American citizen. From San Jose we kept to the westward of the mountain until we reached Burica, on the Panama frontier, where all traces of civilization seemed to desert us, and thence on we had to trust to our rifle and provisions for the necessities of life. Provisions could not be kept fresh by any means, so as we were towards the end of our undertaking, we cast loose and trusted to luck and ingenuity to carry us through. Santiago lay directly in our path. There we found the population principally composed of Indians who could not understand by any means what new-fangled tricks we were up to. Soon after we struck the Gulf of Panama's around the horse-shoe curve, of which we toiled until we came to the deadly Chagres river, which rises to a height of 100 feet in the rainy season.

"The mountains in Nicaragua narrow down to a sharp ridge, so that we had to keep a reasonable distance between them and the shore all the way. Talk about your ruins, ancient and modern, but the wreck of the Panama canal, such as it is, beggars all possible description. The vegetation here is so active as to have completely covered up three-fourths of the entire displacement. The soil is so treacherously unstable in this vicinity that we found that there would have to be considerable piling in order to make a solid roadway, and together with the changeable nature of the river bed this will be the most difficult part of the entire route. Here we met the other division coming north, so therefore our part of the survey ended."

The lieutenant has a great many trophies with him and a vast quantity of curios of the different places of note through which he passed. His maps and views being virtually the exclusive property of the United States government, he is chary about giving information about them.

He will pass through here again in October on his way to Japan, where, with several other members of the corps, he is to make a complete mineral and topographical survey of that country in the interests of the Japanese government. The undertaking will, he conjectures, take all of three years to complete.

A NEW PAPER.

J. G. P. Hildebrand Launches a New Craft on the Troubled Sea of Newspaperdom.

The latest Lincoln publication to bid for popular fame is the *Western Investor*, issued monthly by J. G. P. Hildebrand. As its name implies, this new paper is to a certain extent a class publication. It is devoted to the financial interests of the state, containing information for the bankers and investors. The first number contains much that is of genuine interest, and reflects credit upon the editor, who is a gentleman of wide experience in business affairs. There is clearly a field for the *Western Investor*, and Mr. Hildebrand's paper deserves to succeed.

Hall's Hair Renewer is pronounced the best preparation made for thickening the growth of hair, and restoring that which is gray to its original color.

June the caterer, Thirteenth and O streets is anxious to serve all parties, picnics and festivals with ice cream, cakes, etc., and will appreciate a call from all intending entertainers.

For Sunday dinner supplies call at Halter's market, opposite Lansing Theater. Phone 100.

Something good, "White Loaf Flour" \$1.40 per sack. Miller & Gifford.