

# THE CITY OF LINCOLN NEBRASKA

Just forty years ago this spring three men, commissioned by the infant state of Nebraska to locate a capital site, established the original metes and bounds of what is now Lincoln. Omaha had been the capital of Nebraska territory, but upon admission to the sisterhood of states it was determined to establish the capital nearer the "center." The fact that the capitol commission established this "center" only fifty miles from the Missouri river is an indication of what even Nebraskans of that period thought of the state as a whole as an agricultural area. Today there are a half-dozen cities in Nebraska west of Lincoln that are larger than Omaha was when the territory became a state.

When the site of Lincoln was laid out there was not a house or even a dugout within five miles of where the city hall now stands. Perhaps one reason for selecting the site was that just west of the city were some salt springs, and here the earlier settlers, the Indians and the wild animals of the plains gathered to secure their salt supply. This promised to make it "quite a business center" in time, for the early settlers expected this to be the center of the republic's salt industry. This dream has never been realized. The name Lincoln was given to the new capital in an effort to prevent it from being removed from Omaha. The fight over the question of removal was bitter, and finally one of the opponents of removal from Omaha moved to christen the new capital "Lincoln," thinking that the name would prevent some still unreconstructed "copperheads" from voting for the removal bill. The scheme did not work.

From nothing save a name, Lincoln has grown in the short space of forty years to be a city of 45,000 people, with more than 100 miles of paved streets, sixty miles of street railway, a municipality owned water plant worth \$2,000,000, a municipally owned electric lighting plant, a splendid city hall, splendid theatres, beautiful residences fronting wide streets lined with trees, fine business blocks and a rapidly growing manufacturing section. It is the seat of the University of Nebraska, with its College of Agriculture and within fifteen minutes ride of the heart of the city are such immense educational institutions as Wesleyan University at University Place, a Methodist school; Bethany University at Bethany, a Disciples of Christ school; Nebraska Military Institute, and the university at College View maintained by the Seventh Day Advents, the largest educational institution maintained by this organization. It is also the location

of the Nebraska State Prison, the Home of the Friendless, and the Nebraska Hospital for the Insane. At Havelock, a suburb within twenty minutes' ride of the postoffice, is located the Burlington shops, the largest shops of the Burlington system, employing from 1,000 to 1,500 men. Lincoln is one of the largest railroad centers west of Chicago, and numbers among its inhabitants upwards of 10,000 people engaged in the railroad service or dependent thereon. More than 200 freight and passenger trains arrive in and depart from Lincoln every twenty-four hours. Its railroad service is such as to give it a strategic position, and because of this its wholesale business is growing by leaps and bounds. In the one matter of distribution of agricultural implements Lincoln ranks third, possibly second, among the cities of the country not manufacturing the same. Practically every branch of wholesaling, with the exception of dry goods is represented in Lincoln. The volume of the grocery and drug business is immense.

As a manufacturing city Lincoln is making rapid strides forward. It is manufacturing marine engines and shipping them to all parts of the world. It is a milling center, and the product is standard the world over. It supplies an immense territory with structural iron and steel; its confectionery industry is becoming immense, and its manufacturing chemists are to be listed among the big ones of the country. The cement industry, too, is assuming immense proportions. It has two large and prosperous garment factories, the outputs of which have achieved wide favor. In the printing and publishing lines Lincoln takes front rank, more than 1,200 wage earners being engaged in these lines. The wage earners of Lincoln and suburbs receive upwards of \$6,000,000 a year in wages.

Lincoln offers peculiar inducements to those looking for locations for manufacturing industries. Its railroad advantages are superb; its environment appeals, and it is the center of a huge territory that is developing at a marvelous rate. The Lincoln Commercial Club stands ready at all times to give intending investors full and complete information concerning Lincoln's advantages in every direction. W. S. Whitten, the efficient secretary of the organization, makes it his especial business to supply all inquirers with the real facts.

Lincoln is a city of homes. Perhaps no other city of its size in America has as many wage earners who own their own homes. This gives stability to the labor market. No other city of equal size is

better equipped with churches or has a better public school system. Lincoln is now expending \$350,000 in the erection of a new high school building and additional ward school buildings. It boasts of the two largest and best equipped hotels between Chicago and the Pacific coast, with several other hotels equally good and only inferior in the point of size. It has an auditorium capable of seating 3,500 people, three fine theatres, a park and boulevard system that is being developed at a splendid rate, and efficient fire and police forces for the protection of the life and property of its people. There is no better city in which to rear a family, for it has every educational and religious advantage, a splendid moral atmosphere and is recognized as a center of music and art.

## LINCOLN COMMERCIAL CLUB.

The greatest factor in the commercial life of Lincoln, and one of the great factors in the upbuilding of Nebraska and the northwest, is the Lincoln Commercial Club. This organization has a membership of nearly one thousand, comprising the live business and professional men of the city. It is now erecting a handsome building to cost \$80,000, and which will be one of the handsomest buildings of its kind in the country.

The Lincoln Commercial Club is constantly at work securing good things for the city. It seeks to further the business interests of those already engaged in business, as well as to secure new establishments that will employ more people and further increase the volume of trade. Intending investors need but to write to Walter S. Whitten, secretary, to be supplied with full and exact information concerning Lincoln and the territory of which it is the natural center—a territory so vast and so rich in potentialities as to be an empire within itself.

## OFFERED IN EVIDENCE.

In 1898 there was held in Omaha the third largest exposition ever held in the United States—the Trans-Mississippi exposition. It had to compete with the Spanish-American war, yet it achieved a record. It was the only great exposition ever held in the United States that came anywhere near paying out. It repaid to its stockholders and subscribers 95 cents on the dollar. It broke all records up to that time for architectural beauty of its buildings and brilliance of its electric lighting.

These few facts are offered in evidence to prove that the Nebraska spirit is equal to every occasion—and then some.