

UNION STOCK YARDS AT SOUTH OMAHA

The story of the founding and growth of the Union Stock Yards at South Omaha reads like a tale from the Arabian Nights, so wonderful it is; so magnificent it is in its conception and in its fulfillment.

Scarcely more than a quarter of a century old, this great live stock center has grown to be the third largest in the world, and around it has been builded the world's third largest packing industry. Doubtless its founders dreamed great dreams and saw great visions of its future, but even in their most enthusiastic moments they never conceived that the institution they created would grow to its present size.

It was in the brain of "Uncle Bill" Paxton that the idea was born. Smoking his old cob pipe "Uncle Bill" saw in the smoke wreaths a picture of a great live stock market upon the western banks of the Missouri river. And "Uncle Bill's" pipe didn't go out, either. He knew that upon the ranges of Nebraska fed hundreds of thousands of cattle; that in her feed lots were hundreds of thousands of hogs. He saw these cattle and hogs transported from five hundred to a thousand miles to be sold upon the Chicago market. "Why not establish a live stock market right here?" asked "Uncle Bill" of some of his business associates.

"Well, why not?" they replied. "But we've got to have packing plants," said someone.

"They'll come when we establish the stockyards," said "Uncle Bill," stoutly, "because they'll come where they can get the kill."

Thus it was, that after talking it over for a long time, that William A. Paxton, John A. Creighton, Alex Swan, Thomas Swobé, Peter E. Iler, J. A. McShane and other enterprising men got together and organized the Union Stock Yards Co. They did not know it then, but it was a case parallel to Aladdin and his wonderful lamp.

Of course Omaha was the logical point for the establishment of the stockyards. It had the railroad facilities, it had the freight rates, it was the natural gateway between the producing section and the consuming section. Having organized their company these pioneer business men selected the site for the yards—the Drexel farm, five miles south of Omaha. Part of it was a cornfield, but most of it was wilderness of brush and weeds. When the first scarpful of dirt was wheeled South Omaha was born, and South Omaha was very much like Minerva. You will remember that Minerva sprang fully equipped from the brain of Jove.

Of course a lot of wiseacres stood around with their hands in their pockets and worried themselves to death, almost, because Paxton and his associates were bankrupting themselves backing a visionary scheme.

There is always plenty of such follies to stand around and "backap."

But the members of the company kept right on. They had their hands in their pockets a good share of the time—reaching for money. In good time they repeated the operation of thrusting their hands into their pockets—but it was to put money in instead of to take money out.

Finally the yards were built, and in August of 1884 they were thrown open for business. It was slow work at first. A great stock market is not builded in a day, and for a considerable time the Union Stock Yards remained merely a feeding station for stock en route from the west to the east. But as the volume of stock stopping at the yards increased, it began drawing buyers and dealers just as honey draws the bees. First came the speculators and traders, some of them being shippers themselves. Then came men who wanted to buy feeders—farmers and countrymen looking for sheep and cattle for feeding purposes. Then came the buyers from the packing houses.

Then, finally, and best of all, the packers themselves came.

One by one the packers began estab-

lishing packing plants in South Omaha—and the dreams of Paxton and McShane and Iler and Creighton and others came true.

Today it is the third largest live stock market in the world, and the third largest packing center in the world. And South Omaha's live stock market and packing industries have made the name of Nebraska famous around the world.

South Omaha is one of the best horse and mule markets in the United States, having handled as many as 3,667 animals in one day. There are two large firms engaged in the horse and mule business at South Omaha exclusively, namely, L. C. Gallup and the South Omaha Horse and Mule Company. The horse market may be said to be divided into two departments, range horses and native horses. The range business starts in June of each year and lasts until December. The native trade continues throughout the year, but is most active from about the first of the year until June.

out in single file, and allowed a scant ten feet for each animal. It would make a procession of live stock 174,834 miles long—more than seven times around the globe! And four-fifths of



E. BUCKINGHAM
General Manager Union Stock Yards Co.

all this live stock was fed and fattened in Nebraska!

The largest day's receipts of cattle by the Union Stock Yards was on September 5, 1910—15,663 head. Of

of cattle about the yards; double alleys built to relieve congestion during heavy runs; new elevated walks have been erected for the convenience of patrons of the market, and many minor improvements made in the interest of better facilities for handling the business of this department.

Without any regard to the economic advantages accruing to the Nebraska farmer and stockman from a market as accessible to him as is South Omaha, that market is a distinct asset to the state. The South Omaha market with its allied interests brings within the state a great industry which is bound to make for its advancement commercially and the larger it is permitted to grow the greater the benefits to be derived from it by the people of Nebraska. Therefore those having the best interests of the state at heart can very becomingly support and assist in building up this great industry in Nebraska.

Every shipment of live stock to the South Omaha market by a Nebraska

If one year's product of her farms were loaded in standard freight cars and the cars made into one train, the train would reach from St. Petersburg, Russia, to a point in the Pacific ocean nearly a thousand miles due west of San Francisco, crossing the Baltic sea, the English channel, England, Ireland, the Atlantic ocean and the United States.

She has nearly a million acres in alfalfa, and the acreage is increasing at the rate of 10 per cent a year.

She has more than eight million dollars worth of interest bearing securities in her permanent school fund, and school property, including school lands, worth \$40,000,000.

She has 49,000,000 acres, three-fourths of it fertile and less than two-fifths of it under cultivation.

She has a climate unsurpassed, a soil more fertile than that of the valley of the Nile.

She offers more opportunities to the honest and industrious home-maker than any other state or territory—and she isn't doing a blessed thing to make the fact known.

SHOE MANUFACTURING.

There may be many reasons why Nebraska is not at the forefront in the matter of manufacturing shoes, but the indications are that the chief reason is a failure of westerners to appreciate the fact that Nebraska can and does manufacture shoes equal to the product of any factory in the east. Few people realize the enormity of the penitentiary shoe output in this country. There are no shoes made by convict labor in Nebraska, yet in 1910 Nebraska shoe factories turned out upwards of \$1,000,000 worth of shoes—as good as the best and better than most. All of these shoes were made by well paid men and women who are building homes and maintaining families in Nebraska, thus adding to the prosperity of the state. It is a sad commentary on the loyalty and good judgment of Nebraskans—that the largest share of the output of Nebraska's shoe factories was sold in other states.

There are four large shoe factories in Omaha, employing perhaps 750 skilled workers. These factories turn out every kind of shoe from the patent leather dress shoe to the laced boot used by cattlemen and other outdoor workers. The greater portion of the output is the medium grade shoes that sell everywhere. Despite many drawbacks the industry is growing at a gratifying rate. Will Maupin's Weekly is of the candid opinion that as soon as Nebraskans realize the foolishness of shipping green hides east by the million to be tanned into leather and made into shoes, then buying the shoes back, thus leaving all the wages in the east, Nebraska will see a wonderful growth of shoe manufacturing industry. Then we will employ hundreds of Nebraskans in the industry of tanning the millions of hides taken from Nebraska cattle, and thousands in the manufacture of shoes from that same leather.

THINGS WE ARE PROUD OF

Nebraska has more things to be proud of than any other state. She ought to be making every one of them known to all the world. Nebraska is remiss in her duty to herself when she fails to advertise her resources and possibilities to the remotest corners of the earth. Nebraska has some mighty big things, thank you.

She has the largest creamery plant in the world.

Her largest city, Omaha, is the greatest butter market in the world.

She has the third largest packing center in the world.

She has the second largest smelter in the world.

She is the third largest corn producer.

She is the third largest dairying state, and promises to be the largest inside of ten years.

Her annual egg output is worth more than the gold output of any state or territory.

Her annual butter, egg and poultry output is worth more than the gold and silver output of any two states or territories.

Her annual output of corn and wheat is worth more than the nation's annual output of crude petroleum.

Her annual output of grains and grasses is worth more than the coal output of Pennsylvania.

Her annual corn output is worth more than the nation's annual output of copper.

In the meantime let loyal Nebraskans cultivate the habit of demanding Nebraska made shoes. They will find them equal to any made, and every time a Nebraskan buys a pair of Nebraska made shoes he is giving employment to Nebraska labor and keeping Nebraska money at home where it will do Nebraskans and Nebraskans the most good.

THE GOOCH MILLING COMPANY.

Elsewhere in this number will be found a brief review of the milling industry in Nebraska, together with some idea of its magnitude. One of the milling concerns contributing largely to the tremendous volume of Nebraska milling output is the Gooch Milling Co. of Lincoln. This is one of the largest flouring mills in the west, and was erected less than three years ago. It is a model mill in every respect. By virtue of the excellence of its product this mill has become known throughout the country. "Gooch's Best" is a synonym for the best there is in flour. This company is adding largely to the volume of Nebraska's business, and its payroll is a big factor in the industrial life of Lincoln.



MUTTON CHOPS EN ROUTE



IN THE FEEDER DIVISION

In 1910 South Omaha received 88,849 cars of live stock, a gain of nearly 17,000 cars in ten years and an average of nearly 300 cars per day for the market year. Out of this number received, only 837 cars were not actually sold on the South Omaha market, some of which were feeders stopped in transit to feed and rest going to feed lots east, so that it will be seen that more than 99 per cent of the stock shipped to the South Omaha market in 1910 was sold there. Aside from the gain in the receipts over previous years, this is a remarkable demonstration of the growth and stability of the market. During the last three years the market has broken all its records in yearly receipts of cattle, hogs and sheep. The appended statement shows the receipts by years of live stock at South Omaha since the establishment of the yards:

A summary of the receipts of live stock at the Union Stock Yards, South Omaha from the year 1884 to the year 1910 inclusive, will be interesting, and the totals will be staggering. Here they are:

Years.	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.	Mules.
1884	85,603	3,636	5,593	489
1885	116,963	152,524	19,484	2,027
1886	148,515	447,019	41,490	2,099
1887	239,377	1,056,524	79,422	3,344
1888	353,923	1,262,647	172,138	5,271
1889	473,994	1,224,691	152,517	7,550
1890	615,337	1,702,723	153,873	5,069
1891	601,002	1,537,387	169,865	8,751
1892	755,053	1,613,384	188,588	14,113
1893	852,456	1,406,451	252,273	12,284
1894	821,512	1,932,677	243,945	8,294
1895	586,103	1,186,726	204,870	7,077
1896	586,578	1,218,370	258,005	9,347
1897	810,949	1,610,981	627,160	6,572
1898	812,244	2,101,387	1,055,136	10,392
1899	837,563	2,216,482	1,086,319	34,255
1900	828,204	2,200,926	1,276,775	59,645
1901	818,003	2,414,052	1,314,841	36,391
1902	1,010,815	2,247,428	1,742,539	42,079
1903	1,071,177	2,231,067	1,863,763	52,829
1904	944,192	2,299,627	1,754,365	46,845
1905	1,026,382	2,293,956	1,970,502	45,422
1906	1,079,373	2,393,551	2,165,116	42,269
1907	1,155,716	2,253,652	2,038,777	44,020
1908	1,036,625	2,424,851	2,105,949	39,998
1909	1,124,618	2,135,493	2,167,014	31,711
1910	1,223,533	1,894,314	2,984,870	29,734
Total	20,022,826	45,460,576	26,225,189	603,741

A grand total of 92,312,432 head of live stock handled in twenty-seven years! Your mind isn't big enough to grasp that total. No man's mind is. But perhaps it can be put in a way that will enable you to grasp it. Suppose we trailed all that live stock

the older pens; nearly the entire cattle division has been paved with concrete, replacing wooden plank and brick flooring; new scale houses added; new branding and dehorning chutes built; three concrete subways constructed to facilitate the movement