

### World's "Greatest Eccentric Genius" Had Dazzling Career in Omaha

#### George Francis Train's Autobiography Says He Was Most-Talked-of Man in America.

By A. R. GROH.  
The anniversary of the death of George Francis Train, "the greatest eccentric genius the world has seen," calls for attention to this oddly brilliant character, who had so much to do with building Omaha.

A strange mixture of boastfulness and modesty he was. Here is what he has to say in his autobiography regarding the Union Pacific railroad: "I organized and built this railroad. It was the fruit of my effort, energy, and I also organized the railway that connects the eastern states with the great mid-west, the Atlantic & Great Western railroad."  
He published a summary of one of his trips around the world thus: "I bulldozed the milkado in Japan; frightened out of their wits the Chinese at Hong Kong; bewildered the Malays at Singapore; ran over the Singalese in Ceylon; drove the Arabs crazy at Aden; astonished the Italians, French, English and Irish in turn in a rapid rush through Europe and returned to the United States."  
And finally, when this astonishing man was spending his latter years in New York city, living on a slender remainder of the millions he had made and spent, he wrote a "sketch" of his life in this modest paragraph: "Born at No. 21 High street, Boston, 1829; residence, Continental hotel, at present; generally in some jail; color, octoroon; sex, male; height, five feet, 11 inches. My father was born in Boston, my mother at Waltham, Mass. My room, bed, desk in our homestead, 200 years old, still shown to visitors. Married in 1851. My wife is dead. My education was had in three months at a winter school. I am strictly temperate; I never tasted liquor; I have three grownup children."

#### Was Omaha Builder.

This astonishing man played an immense part in the building of Omaha. But this was too small a "propensity" to occupy much of his busy life. He tells how, when he came to Omaha to break ground for the Union Pacific, December 3, 1863, he invited a number of prominent men to breakfast with him at the Herndon house. Service was not satisfactory, and after breakfast, Train, in about an hour, bought the lot across the street for \$5,000 and engaged a contractor to build a hotel costing \$60,000, to be completed in two months. It was, and he named it the Cozens hotel.  
Train showed an almost childish love of prominence, and his autobiography bristles with such expressions as "I was the first man to—" and "I was now the most talked-of man in America." But he had a right to be dazzled by his own great deeds. Big things, any one of which might have been enough for an ordinary lifetime's accomplishment, followed, one after the other, in his life.

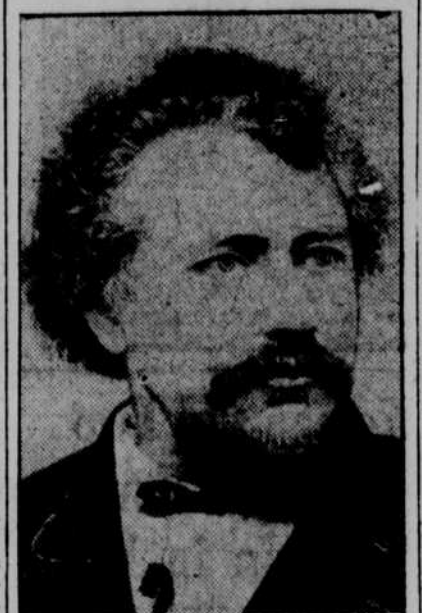
#### Started as Shipbuilder.

Among the things he did were these:  
He was a shipbuilder in Boston at the age of 20, building the biggest ships of the day and selling them at big profits.  
Became partner in a Liverpool house at 21 and was the intimate companion of dukes and earls.  
Received a partnership interest in an Australian house at 22, which paid him \$15,000 a year.  
Offered presidency of the Australian republic at 25. Declined.  
Opened branches of his house in China, Japan and other parts of the world.  
Became the intimate friend of Emperor Napoleon III, and the empress, and moved in the court circles of Paris when he was 30.  
**Pea Before Rich Queen.**  
Conceiving the idea of building a railway in the eastern United States, he went to Queen Maria Christina of Spain, "whose fortune was the great-

est then possessed by any woman in the world," he naively explains, and got her interested.  
Then, in true Train style, this astonishing man held numerous meetings along the proposed line, bought thousands of tons of rails and put in motion all the other gigantic details. This came to grief in a panic, which, says Train, "taught me the insubstantiality of the great world of finance. It is built upon straw and paper. Its 'Napoleons' have nothing but what is called 'bluff.'"  
Followed various adventures in Russia, India, Palestine, China, and in 1862 he had a big part in raising the preliminary millions for building the Union Pacific. He tells how, at a meeting in Boston, he outwitted the New York Central financiers and how he shouted at the millionaires: "You stand on the corners of Wall street again and call me 'a damned copperhead,' but don't forget that I kicked \$200,000,000 worth of you into the street."  
Participated in the French commune in 1870.  
Organized the Credit Foncier and owned 500 acres of land in the heart of Omaha, which cost him \$175 an acre. The 5,000 lots were worth at one time \$30,000,000.

#### Three Races Around World.

Made three spectacular races around the world in 87, 87 and 60 days.  
Train adds this terse comment on his life: "Have been in 15 jails without a crime."  
"Built Train Villa at Newport in 1868; daughter's house at 156 Madison avenue, New York."  
"Ran for presidency against Grant and Greeley in 1872. Cornered lawyers, doctors, clericals by quoting three columns of Bible to release Woodhull-Clarke from jail in '72. Now lunatic by law, through six courts."



George Francis Train

"Now living in Mills Palace (New York workmen's hotel) at \$2 a week against \$2,000 a week at Train Villa. (Daughter always has room for me in country.) Played Carnegie 40 years ahead. Three generations living off Credit Mobilier. Author dozen books out of print (vide Who's Who, Allibone, Appleton's Cyclopaedia)."  
In 1904 this remarkable man died. Train school is named for him.  
**Clarinda Merchant Will Open Store in Red Oak**  
Red Oak, Ia., Jan. 31.—F. H. Speery, Clarinda merchant, will open a combination store in this city on March 1, according to announcement made here this week. The store will handle everything for the home but furniture. The new firm has leased the building on Reed street formerly occupied by the Bon Ton bakery.  
**Fontenelle Park Meeting.**  
The Fontenelle Park Celebration association will meet in the city hall Monday night at 8. Secretary G. H. Fuss requests all members to attend. "Let's all get behind the twelfth annual celebration," the notices read.

### Cotner College Drive for \$1,000,000 Making Progress



Today is Cotner college day in Christian churches in Douglas county. Cotner college, a Christian church school at Bethany, Neb., is making a drive for \$1,000,000 for endowment and equipment, and all of the Christian church pulpits in this county will be occupied by members of this crusade force.  
President Charles Elliott Cobbley will occupy his old pulpit in the First Christian church Sunday morning, bringing a message on Christian education.  
Cotner college is the church school for the disciples of Christ in this area and ranks second among the Christian colleges in the United States in receiving the services of the newly-created department of endowments of the national board of education of Christian churches.  
**Leaders of Drive.**  
Dr. Harvey H. Harmon, who for 18 years was pastor of the First Christian church of Lincoln, is national secretary of this department. Associated with Dr. Harmon in the direc-

tion of the Cotner crusade is Mrs. Dora T. Winter, former dean of women at Cotner.  
Simultaneously with the Cotner crusade, Dr. Harmon is conducting or opening crusades for Phillips university at Enid, Okla.; Drake university, Des Moines; Hiram of Ohio; Spokane of Washington, all of these to be conducted this year.  
The story of Cotner college is interesting. It has run true to type of other church schools and the early history of Harvard, Yale and many of our larger institutions has been duplicated in the history of this Christian college on the plains of Nebraska.  
**Able Leadership.**  
The school has been fortunate in its leadership. Strong men with spiritual vision have always been at the helm, and it seems that a new day is to dawn for Cotner college. Under the leadership of Dr. Cobbley, who succeeded Dr. Harmon as head of the institution a little more than two years ago, the enrollment has grown

until the capacity of the school is taxed to the limit.  
The output of this small college has been remarkable and its contribution to the church is the greatest, proportionately, of any institution in the brotherhood. Cotner has given six college presidents, four of them now serving as heads of Christian colleges; 53 missionaries, 300 Christian ministers, three national secretaries, 38 college and university professors, 84 school teachers carrying A. B. degrees, 471 men and women engaged in some special religious work.  
Cotner's resources include buildings and grounds valued at \$373,000, general equipment \$84,150, productive endowment \$118,975, nonproductive endowment \$35,000, annuities \$15,000. There were 341 students enrolled in 1924.

### Prowling Washington With Nebraskans

By JACK LEE.  
Invitations are going out to 500 Nebraskans in Washington to attend the first meeting of the Nebraska association during this session of congress. There are more than 300 Nebraskans who belong to the association. Congressman Robert G. Simmons of the "big six" district is president.



Jack Lee

### HOUSE SPLIT OVER POSTAL BILL ROW

Washington, Jan. 31.—Congress was split into two legislative camps today in a clash between the senate and the house over the constitutional power to initiate changes in postal rates.  
A finish fight appeared certain as a result of the senate's action in passing the Moses omnibus postal bill Friday, providing a \$68,000,000 wage increase for postoffice employees, but raising postal rates to furnish the necessary revenue. This latter phase of the bill provoked universal condemnation from house members as an invasion of the house's constitutional function to initiate revenue measures.  
Supported by both republican and democrat leaders, the house ways and means committee was to meet today to consider a resolution denouncing the bill and the senate's action as "unconstitutional" and directing the speaker to return the measure to the senate without further consideration. If this is done, it will kill all chances for enactment of the postal salary increases at this session of congress.  
If this threat is carried out it will be the first time in a decade that the house has gone on record repudiating acts of the upper branch as "unconstitutional."

**CHIROPRACTIC MEANS HEALTH**  
The following prominent members of the Omaha Atlas club are continually telling the public with printers' ink what Chiropractic has and can do for suffering humanity:  
Dr. R. W. Allen, 6104 Military avenue. Phone Walnut 2563.  
Dr. Felix Bevers, 302 Arthur building. Phone Atlantic 5624.  
Dr. C. N. Burgess, 1720 Military avenue. Phone Walnut 6526.  
Dr. Frank F. Burhorn, 418 Securities building. Phone Jackson 5347.  
Dr. A. N. Carlson, Boyles College building. Phone Atlantic 9747.  
Dr. Lee W. Edwards, 266 South Twenty-fourth street. Phone Jackson 3445.  
Dr. W. H. McNichols, 369 Karbach block. Phone Atlantic 3285.  
Dr. Ethel T. Malby, 201-3 Bankers Savings building. Phone Jackson 3072.  
Dr. J. A. Markwell, 205 Paxton block. Phone Atlantic 9244.  
Dr. Mort Mortensen, 2419 Ames avenue. Phone Kenwood 3886.  
Dr. R. L. Sheeler, 2411 Broadway. Council Bluffs, Ia. Phone 4570.  
Dr. Thomas, 1712 Dodge street. Phone Atlantic 1293.—Advertisement.  
When the winds of winter blow, snuff it daily to and fro—keep your blood a chance to flow—Make your own complexion glow.

### CHILD LABOR LAW DRIVE RENEWED

Washington, Jan. 31.—Plans were drawn up here today for a renewed drive for ratification of the child labor amendment.  
Officials of the organizations associated for ratification of the child labor amendment conferred on ways and means to secure reconsideration in the 13 states where there have been adverse votes on the proposal.  
Mrs. A. C. Watkins of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, who presided at the meeting, later issued a statement declaring the ad-

vocates of the amendment were working against a "monstrous campaign of organized misrepresentation."  
She refused to recognize rejection of the amendment by one branch of a state legislature as a rejection by the state.

#### Fowl Stealer Paroled; Must Avoid Pool Halls

Laurel, Neb., Jan. 31.—Ingar Neilson, young man who was convicted of chicken stealing here and bound over to the district court, has been paroled to his father for two years on condition that he attend school, help at home and keep away from pool halls.

### MAGNUS FIGHTS FOR SENATE SEAT

Minneapolis, Minn., Jan. 31.—Formal action to contest the seat in the United States senate of Senator-elect Thomas D. Schall, republican, of Minnesota, on grounds alleging violation of the corrupt practices act, have been instituted by the defeated farmer-labor senator, Magnus Johnson, it was learned today.  
Preliminary petitions of contest are scheduled to be filed with the secretary of the United States senate and to be served on Schall in Washington by Monday or Tuesday.

## All Unsolicited This Friendly Letter Came in Friday's Mail

Jan. 28, '25.

Mr. C. R. Belden, Thompson-Belden Co. City.

Dear Mr. Belden:

Every once in so often I am delegated to buy some household necessity, or article of feminine apparel. This used to be "some task" for yours truly, until I found out that Thompson-Belden's was "The Best Place to Shop, After All." Now I go about this formerly unpleasant task with a will. You have such a nice assortment of stock, so tastefully displayed and such courteous salespeople that a mission of this kind, even for a man, is a pleasure.

I have also been complimented by the family on my good taste and purchasing ability, but my sole rule so far has been to state my needs and take the first thing offered.

Yours truly,

FRANK J. CAREY.

521 Park Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska.

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At the time of purchase, one need pay only one-fourth. The balance is due at your convenience on or before September 1.

There will be no charge for the summer storage of furs purchased in this manner during our Final Clearance.

**Hudson Seals \$245**

(Dyed Muskrat) 45 to 48-inch lengths of fine quality skins; collar and cuffs of natural squirrel or of skunk; up to 295

**Muskrat \$145**

Smart youthful models in 48-inch length; silk lined throughout. Other muskrats are now priced up to 195.00.

**Brown Caracul \$245**

A luxurious coat in the new golden brown shade called chestnut caracul. The collar is of fluffy fox. Others 295.00.

**Sealine \$95 to \$145**

(Dyed Australian Coney)—The best qualities obtainable with squirrel, skunk, or self trimming; 48-in. length.

**Opossum \$275**

An excellent coat for general wear is this model of fine Australian opossum in 48-inch length. Silk lined.

**Raccoon \$295**

Clear, dark skins in 45 to 48-inch lengths; beautifully lined. These are the most popular sport coats of the season.

**Jackets--Scarfs**

An exquisite short coat of Chinese mink with fluffy brown fox collar. \$295

Brown caracul, 30-in. jacket, with red fox collar, now— \$125

Stone Marten scarfs of natural dark skins, are excellent values, now \$39.75

Large fluffy fox skins in new brown shades are now \$39.75

A clever model of natural dark muskrat is inexpensive, now \$89.50



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