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BUSINESS.

Nebraska City contains a population estimated at about twelve thousand: it may be five hundred more or less than twelve thousand.

It numbers among its industries the Argo Starch factory which converts between two and three thousand bushels of corn into starch each twenty-four hours, and runs without interruption ten months to eleven months each year. The starch of this factory is used in all parts of the world and is in such universal demand because of its superior quality that the output is marketed in advance of its production.

More than two hundred men, women and boys are profitably employed in the starch factory and at such wages that in the nine years of its operation there has never been "a strike" or any serious differences between the management and the operatives. There is no better or more perfect "plant" for starch-making in the United States.

The Chicago Packing & Provision Co. has a large hog-killing establishment in Nebraska City and employs about one hundred men. It is not unusual to slaughter sixteen hundred head of swine in an afternoon. All the best modern machinery for a packing house is in use. There is particular attention paid to the quality of animals purchased and only the best can be shown to death in these works. In 1898 between four and five thousand carloads of hogs were received, inspected, approved and slaughtered here and twenty-seven hundred cars of hog products shipped out. The industry is prosperous and growing.

The Nebraska City Cereal Mills converts more than ten thousand bush-

els of corn and oats into grits and meal every twenty-four hours, and has a reputation for pure and wholesome goods, true to name, all over the United States and in Great Britain. The Cereal Mills give constant and remunerative employment to more than one hundred persons. The relations between employers and employees are of the kindest and most cordial character. No strike or symptom of a strike has ever been known during the twelve years of the operating of the Nebraska City Cereal Mills.

The Nebraska City Canning factory is a newer but not less successful and promising manufacturing establishment. It is famous for the excellent quality of its canned corn, tomatoes, apples, etc. The output of the establishment this season is one million, two hundred thousand cans. This is a shortage of its full capacity, which is one hundred thousand cases, of twenty-four cans each. This shortage occurs because of a lack of acreage of sweet corn which will not again in all probability be experienced.

THE CONSERVATIVE mentions these manufacturing establishments of southern Nebraska and Nebraska City with great satisfaction and a year hence hopes to present the general public with another review of the material prosperity of this community. It is enough now to tell the fact that in the year 1898 Nebraska City received from the Burlington system alone thirteen thousand and forty-four loaded cars and freighted out over the same lines ninety-eight hundred and sixty-nine cars. That is to say that Nebraska City handled and loaded and unloaded from the Burlington in the year 1898 twenty-two thousand nine hundred and thirteen cars. What other town of similar size in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois or any other state can make a better showing? This is business. This is thrift. This is industry. This is prosperity.

HISTORICAL.

NEBRASKA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The article of Mr. R. M. Rolfe upon ante-railroad transportation, west of the Missouri river, was prepared at the urgent request and importunity of the state historical society. It is a most valuable, truthful and interesting paper. It plucks from oblivion many of the methods and details of the commerce of the territory of Nebraska. Mr. Rolfe has the thanks of the society.

FIRE INSURANCE. On January 1st, a new Nebraska fire insurance company will begin business. It will have in paid down and paid up cash, gold standard money, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. D. E. Thompson of Lincoln will probably be called to the presidency of the new company.

CHRISTMAS TREES. Mutilation and destruction of the young pine forests growing up in various sections of the republic, for the purpose of getting Christmas trees, will soon open a new campaign in favor of drouths, blizzards and infertility.

Millions upon millions of the straightest, most symmetrical and vigorous hemlocks, spruces, pines and balsams, will soon be aboard freight cars and going towards cities to be put into homes for Christmas trees, which shall bear tin bells, dolls, bon-bons, glass bulbs and all sorts of jimcracks for the amusement of children.

The generations following will want for lumber which these Christmas trees would have made. The birth of Christ could be celebrated with more common sense than by depriving the human families which will follow us of the material out of which to construct and embellish their homes.

WHY?

The Douglas County World-Herald of Sunday, the nineteenth of November, eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, contains a leaden editorial of great stolidity, headed: "Why an increased standing army?"

Why an increased police force for Omaha in 1899 over the police force of Omaha in 1859?

Why make a gigantic idiot of yourself, running away from the standing army hobgoblin, screaming like a sixteen-to-one orator, that "the plain people" are about to be crushed and masticated, finely, between the monstrous molars of the military?

How could a large standing army harm anybody with a sixteen-to-one commander-in-chief at its head? And is not William—the colonel who resigned, while the transport which was to convey "his trupes" to Cuba whistled "all aboard"—to be our sure-enough president in 1900? Can the Douglas County World-Herald fear an increased army commanded by the game and bellicose friend of "the plain people?"

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