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OMAHA.

Annual Review of Her Commerce, Manufactures, and Industrial Development. Building Statistics - Railway Traffic - Educational and Benevolent Institutions. Facts and Figures Concerning the Metropolis of the Missouri Valley.

Omaha, the metropolis of the Missouri Valley, founded in 1828, has developed into a city of 33,000 inhabitants. What Omaha is as a commercial and industrial center, and what she has accomplished toward the establishment of educational and benevolent institutions may be ascertained by a perusal of the accompanying carefully compiled statistics.

The commerce of Omaha extends from the Missouri river westward through our own broad State of Nebraska, through Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, to Montana, to Nevada and clear to the Pacific coast, as far north as Oregon.

Omaha's commercial growth is practically exhibited by her wholesale trade which shows aggregate sales during 1880 of \$12,152,500, exclusive of the sales of commission houses.

The large banking interest of Omaha has always attracted the attention of, and surprised persons from abroad. Other towns of inferior importance can excel us in startling figures of fictitious value, which do not justify the time spent in evolving them.

She has rail works that turned out over 40,000 kegs of nails; white lead works that exported 2,000 tons of white lead; a linseed oil mill that manufactured 225,000 gallons of oil and 200 tons of oil cake during the year 1880.

Omaha brewers and distillers manufactured 1,400,000 gallons of alcohol and 30,286 barrels of beer during the past year.

The establishment of a shot factory and the organization of a company that proposes to erect glucose works are among the many industrial enterprises in which capitalists are about to embark in Omaha.

The contract entered into by the city with responsible Omaha capitalists last summer assures the completion of a substantial system of water works on or before the 1st of July, 1881.

The establishment of water works will be followed by the construction of a system of sewers and other public improvements that will furnish employment to thousands of laborers and mechanics; an ample water supply will moreover stimulate and foster many industrial enterprises that would not otherwise be undertaken.

RAILROADS.

Omaha is the most important railroad center west of Chicago and north of St. Louis. She occupies the gateway at the eastern terminus of the only trans-continental railway between the Atlantic seaboard and the Pacific coast.

Three trunk lines—the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, Chicago & Northwestern, and the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific—have Omaha with ample facilities for reaching the east.

Two trunk lines—the Valley, St. Louis & Pacific, and the Kansas City, Fort Worth & Denver—give Omaha competing lines to St. Louis and the South. By the extension of the Omaha & Northern Nebraska and its consolidation with the Chicago, St. Paul & Omaha railway, Omaha secures direct connection with the Minnesota and Wisconsin lumber regions.

The Burlington & Missouri River railway, with its various branches, connects Omaha with southern, southwestern and central Nebraska, and northern Kansas.

The Omaha extension of this line insures for Omaha a direct connection with the Colorado and New Mexico, with a fair prospect of a competing line to the Pacific coast.

The headquarters of the Union Pacific railway have been maintained at Omaha ever since the road was projected. In 1876 the company purchased the property known as the Union Pacific Hotel, north of the Ninth and Farnham streets.

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For all Divisions—T. McAlpine, chief operator Lincoln office.

The B. & M. has expended in local improvements in our city during the year just closed, the sum of \$12,000. Its total length of road in Nebraska is 865 miles and six tenths, 200 miles having been constructed during 1880.

Three firms monopolize the wholesale trade of Omaha, viz., Kennard Bros. & Co., Chas. F. Goodman and Ish & M. Mahon. Their sales for 1880 aggregated \$280,000, an increase of over fifty per cent. over 1879.

There are several wholesale grocery firms in Omaha, namely: Steele, Johnson & Co., Nave, McCord & Brady, Paxton & Gallagher, F. C. Morgan, Meyer & Raapke, J. Brown & Co., and J. B. Fennell & Co.

The wholesale liquor trade is carried on by the following firms: Her & Co., Stuebendorff & Co., Chas. Gering, Adler & Heller, W. W. Newman, J. Kilby & Co., and J. E. Blake.

Omaha lumber trade is carried on by five firms, viz., Foster & Gray, Chicago Lumber Company, George A. Houshagen, C. A. Wakefield and John Bradford.

Omaha hardware and iron trade is carried on by the following firms: W. J. Broughton, Irwin & Ellis, and Lee, Friel & Co.

Omaha clothing trade is carried on by the following firms: M. Hellman & Co., Chas. E. Jones, and J. B. Fennell & Co.

Omaha shoe trade is carried on by the following firms: W. J. Broughton, Irwin & Ellis, and Lee, Friel & Co.

Omaha agricultural implements trade is carried on by the following firms: W. J. Broughton, Irwin & Ellis, and Lee, Friel & Co.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

The wholesale trade of Omaha is very extensive, covering not only the entire state of Nebraska, but extending to the Rocky mountain states and territories to the Pacific slope.

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THE NAIL WORKS.

The Omaha Nail Works company was organized in the spring of 1878, and during that year a building was erected and machinery to the value of \$14,000 was put in, and then owing to a lack of funds, further operations were suspended until early in the spring of 1879, when additional capital was secured and the company was reorganized.

It is estimated that 12,000,000 bricks were made in Omaha during the year 1879. There are nine yards in operation here, and owned by the following persons: Withnell Bros., Baily & Olsen, Itiner Bros., Henry Lacey, John Hunter, J. Potter, John Kewitt, Thomas Murray and Samuel Casty.

The Nebraska Gas Light company are gradually increasing their business. Last year their main was extended on Sixteenth street from Cumings to Lake's Addition.

The principal manufacturers of carriages and wagons are A. J. Simpson and Meadler & Dailey, who make a specialty of fine buggies, carriages, and light wagon work.

The Omaha Brewery, Fred King, proprietor, has been in operation for over five years ago. Last year Mr. John Vallien, a practical safe maker and nail builder, bought an interest in the business.

A company has been recently formed for the manufacture of grape sugar in Omaha, composed of John McArthur, Andrew S. R. R. E. T. East, Ezra Millard, S. R. Johnson, and others.

Henry Grebe manufactures his sweeps of a patent granted to him two years ago. Henry G. Richter manufactures ladies' and gentlemen's hats and gloves.

Marhoff & Co. and Wirth & Ghormley manufacture artificial stone. The Omaha Fence and Box Co. manufacture line fencing, boxes and refrigerators.

Patrick Qualey manufactures soap. Ernest Krebs and Geo. H. Haarmann manufacture vinegars. Gatz & Freeman have manufactured during the year crackers to the amount of \$100,000.

PORK PACKING.

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GRAIN ELEVATORS.

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MACHINE SHOPS AND FOUNDRIES.

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