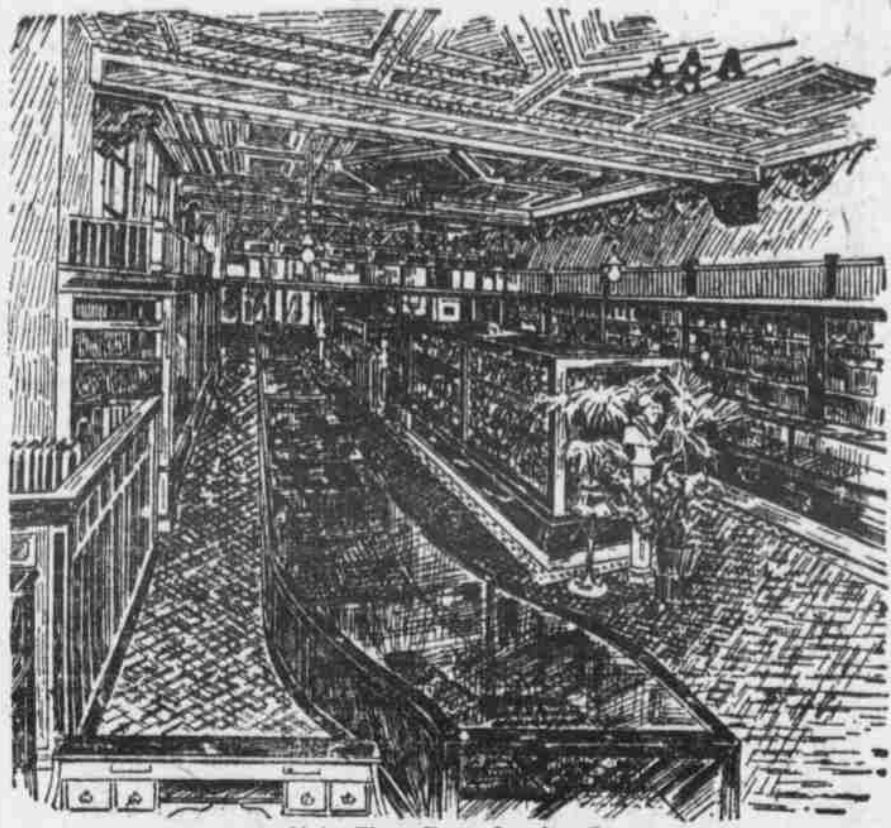




Address of Welcome TO WOOLGROWERS



To the sheep men of the United States who are now gathered in convention, the city of Omaha extends a hearty welcome. Regardless of party, creed or condition, the people of our community unite in extending their hospitable services to the visitors. This is not mere lip service, for Omaha is of the west, western. Its interests in all regards are bound up so closely with those of the great empire, to which it has long been the gateway, that to undertake a division would be to attempt the impossible. Our people are your people, and our homes are your homes. We have met you on the open range, with the blue canopy of Heaven stretching above, and God's great out-of-doors beneath to delight the eye. We have met you in the market places, where the tall buildings shut out the view, and the smoke from hundreds of factory chimneys dims the sunlight. We have broken bread with you by the camp fire, and have feasted you at the banquet board, and there is a bond between us and you born of the indissoluble tie of common concern, and friendship born from hardships endured; from dangers survived and difficulties overcome. And now again, we greet you as old friends. Your deliberations will hold for us an interest beyond the ordinary, because they have to do with the welfare of those in whom we are unselfishly concerned. Omaha is the natural headquarters for the men who have opened up the great northwest. It is here that the daring voyageur met the red man of the prairies. Here the trader bartered for the produce of the wilds. The hunter and trapper, the scout and the soldier, the aeronaut in search of the golden fleece, the pioneer pushing forward the borderline of civilization, all found Omaha the portal of the land of promise. It is the meeting place of East and West. Here men of all races commingle in efforts harmoniously directed to the carrying on of the great undertakings of which your industry is so splendid an example. This splendid city with its wonderful development of civilization, its schools and churches, its libraries, art galleries and theaters, all speaking the high regard for the brighter and better things of life; its banking institutions, its great wholesale houses, its magnificent retail stores, its stockyards, that are one of the wonders of the Western Hemisphere; its packing houses, emblematic of the tremendous industry of which they are a part; its railroads and other means of intercommunication, all stand as splendid testimonials to the foresight and courage of the men who built the west. We are proud of Omaha, and in that pride we bid you welcome. Our efforts will be to make your stay with us in all ways pleasant and profitable, so that when you return to your homes, it will be with the bonds that unite us made still stronger, and that when you think in future days of your visit to Omaha, memories of pleasant hours will kindle, and your hearts will turn to us as ours to you today. Again, we bid you welcome. LOUIS BERKA, Acting Mayor.



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