

Men and Institutions that Have Made the Capital City

By F. A. BARROW.

EVERY city in the country boasts of its business men, its business houses and those elements which working together make every town a real business town. However, it is left to Lincoln, Neb., a town which half a century ago did not even have a name to lead the west in the size of its business organization, the Commercial club. This club, with a membership of over 1500, has been a potent factor in the up-building of the business interests of the city and in keeping alive the booster spirit which seems to possess every member of the organization. Always a strong organization, it has advanced rapidly under the guardianship of its present secretary, W. S. Whitten, with the hearty cooperation of a set of officers always striving to boost Lincoln and bring to it the necessary material to make it the city it is.

Center of Business Life.

The Commercial club has recently completed its new building, situated at the corner of Eleventh and P streets. This home of the club is said to be, with two or three exceptions, the finest commercial club building anywhere in the country. It is a four-story building, the first floor devoted to business uses, while the three upper floors are given over to the uses of the club in its several departments. The building cost \$120,000 and is equipped with everything needed for comfort and pleasure. Its dining room alone will accommodate over 300 people and is a model of beauty.

Starting with the Commercial club as a foundation, and such a Commercial club as Lincoln has, it is easy to comprehend why Lincoln has made such strides in commercial development. With its railroads coming into the city from every direction, it has been able to draw from the large agricultural districts of the state that element of trade which counts so much for substantial gain.

Not to the Commercial club alone is due the magnificent success of the business interests of Lincoln. Its members individually have done their part toward bringing about success. Many of them have been in business in the city for many years, some of them away back when the city was nothing more than a country town, and in the growth of the city they have likewise grown in wealth and affluence.

Enterprising and Public-Spirited.
Take for example the large department store of Miller & Paine. Both J. F. Miller and Dr. R. L. Paine grew up with the town, so to speak, and have seen their little store at the corner of Thirteenth and O streets grow to a mammoth establishment several stories in height and covering many lots. They have been men who have not been afraid to invest the money they have made in Lincoln in improving the city. A few years ago they purchased the Lindell hotel, the old political headquarters, where many a senatorial fight had been fought and settled in years gone by. It was necessary that the hotel should go into the hands of men who would make it a modern af-



South Front of Capitol

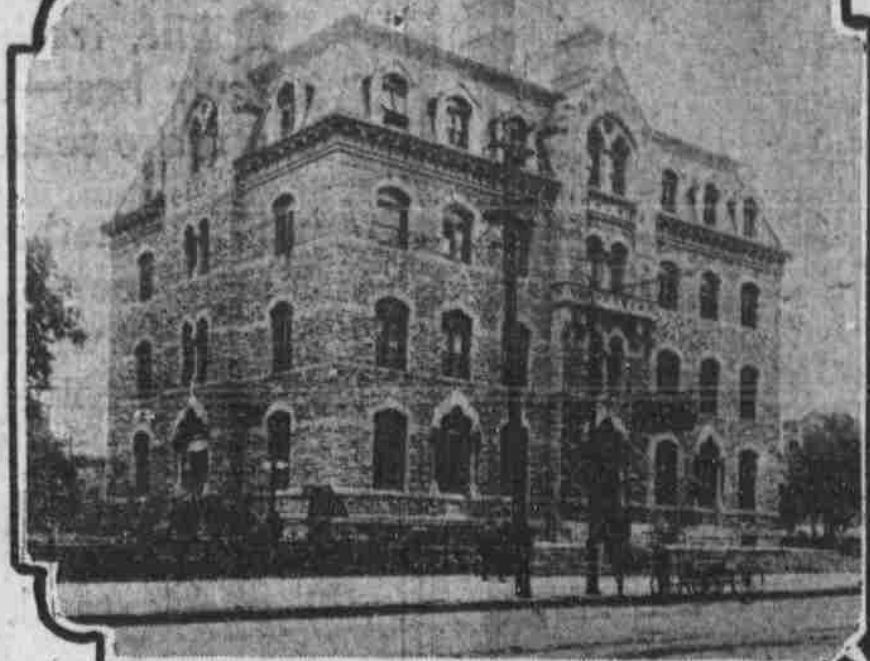
fair. Miller & Paine had little use for a hotel, but they saw the needs of the city and purchased the building. Immediately they began the work of making it a first-class hotel and over \$100,000 was put into the building, making it almost completely new. Then they began looking for a man who could make the hotel what it should be, a credit to Lincoln. They found him. Not only were Miller & Paine satisfied with their new manager, R. W. Johnson, but Mr. Johnson was well pleased with Lincoln that he purchased the hotel and is making it one of the best in the west.

Grew Up with Lincoln.

Rudge & Guenzel compose another firm which has started in when Lincoln was small and stayed with it until they have a department store at the corner of Eleventh and O, which would be a credit to a town of four times the size of Lincoln. Mayer Bros., who recently sold their fine establishment and retired from business are among those who have hustled for Lincoln when it needed hustling for. The Hardy Bros., most of them who had never seen the light of day when their father, ex-Mayor Hardy, recently deceased, started the little furniture store fifty years ago, and though Mr Hardy was compelled to retire from business because of age, the boys have carried on the business in the same get-there style of their father and their large establishment stands as a monument to the business ability of their pioneer parent.

"Dave" Thompson's Rise.

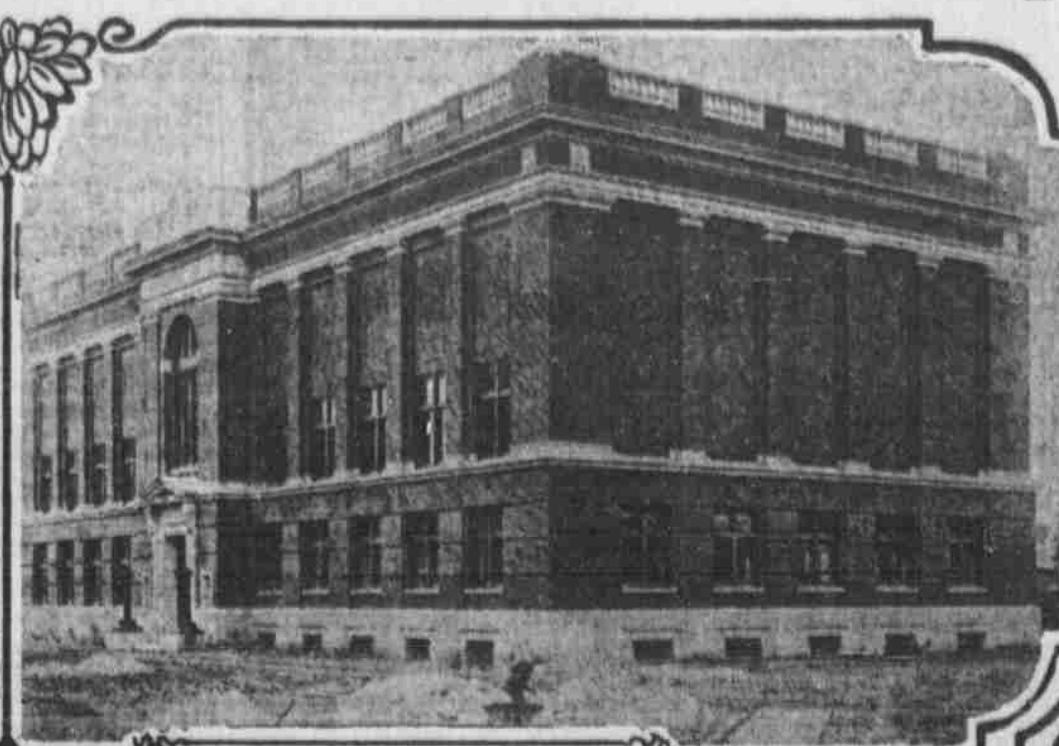
Hon. D. E. Thompson is another man that has been instrumental in assisting in Lincoln's prosperity and growth. Coming here a poor boy, he has risen step by



City Hall

step until he was recognized by his government and sent on a post of duty as its representative in Mexico. But for one of those slips which some times come in politics, he might have represented his state in the United States senate, but when almost within his grasp, like a will-o-the-wisp it fitted away, and his ambition to serve in the United States senate has never been realized. However, he has a monument which will ever stand as a tribute to his love for his

home city and his willingness to spend his wealth in building up its business interests. That monument is the Lincoln hotel, one of the finest in the city and the equal of any in the middle west. When Lincoln began to outgrow its short pants and hardly before it had begun to retrieve itself from the panic of several years ago, D. E. Thompson, recognizing the needs of the city, formed the Thompson Hotel company and began the building and development of the magnificent



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Federal Building

hostelry which bears the name of the Lincoln hotel. Among the men who have assisted Mr. Thompson in making the Lincoln what it is are E. B. Stevenson and C. D. Mullen, vice president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, and F. J. Richards, manager, and J. F. Walton, assistant. The improvements in this hotel have cost in the last eight years in additions and other things, nearly \$200,000.

"Bud" Lindsay's Career.

In speaking of hotels and hotel men, a

writup of the men who have helped to put Lincoln on the map would not be complete without a mention of L. L. Lindsay, familiarly known as "Bud." Lindsay came to Lincoln from the management of the Tremont house in Chicago in 1877 and took the management of the then Commercial hotel, now the Capitol. He has always been a prominent factor in politics and was known as one of the most successful political strategists of the early days of Nebraska's history.

"Bud" never went into the game for himself, but played it for the pleasure of the thing, and while holding positions as delegate to national and state conventions, he always seemed satisfied to let it go at that. "Bud" has helped to make and unmake men, but throughout his whole political career he was always known to be on the square and his word in politics was good as gold. Seven years ago he purchased a large building in Lincoln, entirely remodeled and built on to it at an expense of about \$50,000 and now has one of the neatest hotels in the city known as the Savoy.

Other Great Hotels.

Other men who have helped to make Lincoln a good hotel town are Folsom & Burkett, the building and loan men. A couple of years ago, when the old Royal hotel nearly went to the bad, these men went down into their pockets, and with I. W. Bratt, an experienced hotel man who had left Lincoln some years ago and always wanted to get back, took hold of the old hostelry and completely rebuilt it, making it modern in every way and one of the best in the city. About \$75,000 was spent on the building and other improvements.

These hotels, with the Central, the Capitol, the Delvan and the Windsor, the latter soon to undergo extensive improvements under the ownership of another Lincoln man, who cast his lot with the city years ago and has made it win, August Hagenow, with smaller hotels make the city of Lincoln well equipped to take care of the public.

Herpolsheimer's Growth.

Many years ago, when O street was considered the principal street and there was little prospect of any other street amounting to very much, there was one man with the foresight to believe that there was a future for Lincoln and that N street would develop. That man was H. Herpolsheimer, who owned a department store at Eleventh and O. Mr. Herpolsheimer had the nerve to go over to Twelfth and N and build what at that time was the largest store in Lincoln. He put in a beautiful plate glass front and made it the talk of the surrounding country. Many people thought he was foolish to go off of the main street and build such a mammoth store and equip it so beautifully. But time has shown the wisdom of Mr. Herpolsheimer's judgment, and while other department stores are paying high rents on O street he is doing a big business in his own big store, and the crowds go to the "Daylight Store," as he calls it.

Many Big Stores.

There are other big stores in Lincoln and more are being built. The Armstrong Clothing company is one of them. Mayor Armstrong has grown up with the business. His store is situated on the very busy main street at its very busiest point and is a model of neatness and equipment. Spier & Simon are another pair who cast their lot with Lincoln many years ago and have a finely equipped store at the corner of Fourth and O. Gold & Co., Fred Schmitt & Son and many other pioneers in the mercantile business

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

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