

THE ARGUS.

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By THE J. W. POTTER CO.

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Correspondence solicited from every township in Rock Island county.



Wednesday, May 8, 1907.

Rock Island

A City of Earnest Purpose and Honest Value

Rock Island is a city of earnest purpose and honest value. Located in the valley of the Mississippi midway between St. Louis and St. Paul, Chicago and Omaha and Kansas City, it is by nature, geographically, commercially, and industrially, the gateway of the west, northwest and southwest. Favored by situation on the Mississippi at the mouth of the Hennepin canal, connecting river and lake, it has the additional advantages of the main line of the Rock Island railroad, three branches springing from the stem at this point to the northwest and far southwest, while the main line goes on to the Pacific; the Milwaukee's Kansas City line, and the Burlington's St. Louis and St. Paul line with direct communication with Peoria and Springfield. It has three interurbans under way. It has miles of paved streets, beautiful parks, including the historic Black Hawk's Watch Tower, handsome churches, a Y. M. C. A. building, modern school buildings, a college and a seminary, flourishing factories and free sites for more. It has three first class hotels, three theaters, and a model system of rapid transit. It has six substantial banks, up-to-date business blocks and three more in course of erection, immense department stores and hundreds of other branches of mercantile pursuits. It is the location of the Rock Island arsenal, the greatest in the world. It has the head offices of the Modern Woodmen of America, the largest fraternal society in the world, housed in a quarter of a million dollar fireproof building. Its public buildings are a quarter of a million dollar court house, a city hall, a postoffice building in which are the offices of the government engineer corps in charge of upper Mississippi improvements. It has 25,000 population. It has an industrial commission that is boosting the town along legitimate and substantial lines—and everybody is helping.

Boost for Rock Island.

Boost, everybody boost.

Stick to your town. It's the best on earth.

If you can't boost, don't knock. If you can't lift, don't lean.

Boost for Rock Island. Contribute to the \$100,000 new factory fund.

A month ago, following the election, The Argus sounded the slogan "back to business—boost for Rock Island." The people have responded.

A Russian physician is authority for the statement that riding on cow-catchers of trains will cure consumption. All you have to do is to stand in front of an oncoming train and try to hop on when it gets near you. If you miss, you're cured.

Professor G. C. Edwards of the University of California has been granted a year's absence and will soon start on a tour of the world. He has served 34 years at the university, and it is owing to the fact that his health has not been up to the standard in the last few years that he has decided on the year's leave.

It has remained for Professor Lombury in the current Atlantic to summarize in a sentence the popular objections to spelling reform: "We simply like the spelling to which we are accustomed." Sentiment and old associations are the main bulwarks of the existing orthography. What was good enough for our fathers in the little red school house is good enough for us.

The state of New Hampshire will be the headquarters during the coming summer of two of the important foreign embassies, namely, the British and German. Ambassador James Bryce has leased Stonehurst, the interval estate of Rev. Daniel C. Merriman of Worcester, Mass., for the summer quarters of his embassy, while the Edward Frothingham estate in Dublin has been

rented by Baron Speck Von Sternburg, the German ambassador.

Boost for Rock Island.

Fifty of the representative citizens of Rock Island, business men, commercial men, professional men, manufacturers and others, took hold of the project to boom Rock Island at a meeting at the Rock Island Club last night in a manner that is bound to bear abundant fruit. Following up the meeting at the same place last summer which gave impetus to the formation of the industrial commission which through the efforts of its members and the particularly through the untiring labors of its industrial secretary Mayer Levi has already landed two new factories which are in prosperous operation in Rock Island, the gathering of last evening determined to back up the work of the industrial commission to the fullest extent to make Rock Island a great industrial center. In a word the substantial men of the city decided to go out into the world of competition for industries and bid for more factories, not only small ones but big ones.

It was determined to raise a fund of \$100,000 for this purpose. Adopting a plan which when crystallized by the industrial commission, will afford every citizen of Rock Island regardless of his resources of income, opportunity to share in the great undertaking and become just as much a factor as the man who gives thousands, those identified with the movement felt confident that they could rely upon the cooperation of the people who have responded so magnificently in the past. They remember the Columbian park proposition in which Rock Island joined with Moline a dozen of years ago on the condition that each city was to raise \$50,000, and that Rock Island quickly came up with its half and then went \$25,000 more while Moline fell short of a quarter of the amount and hence caused the failure of the undertaking. They remember how quickly the people of Rock Island raised what was necessary to build a new theater on the subscription plan. They recall how Rock Island went to the front to land the Woodman head office, and they remember numerous other instances in which the patriotic spirit of Rock Island has found response in the hearts of the people when appealed to do for the upbuilding of the city.

There will be no falling down on the \$100,000 proposition. The two great factories whose coming to Rock Island with employment for 1,000 people is contingent upon the raising of a large part of this amount might just as well be notified now to prepare to make the move. Rock Island will make good. It always has and always will. What Rock Island has done, Rock Island will do again. What any other city can do, so can Rock Island.

This is a city built upon the principle of substantial progress. It is a city of honest value. It owes its standing to not any particular portion of the people, but to what all the people have done.

And all the people are to be given an opportunity to boost for Rock Island.

The Automatic Farmer.

From the Washington department of agriculture has issued a bulletin on "Corn Harvesting Machinery," which is intended to throw light on the new methods for handling the corn crop of the country.

It is apparent from the revelations in this bulletin that there is no longer much romance in the business of corn raising. The days of hoeing corn and of husking by hand are rapidly passing. The old-fashioned husking bee is becoming lost in the mist of tradition. This being a practical age, when invention is rife, new methods and ingenious machinery are rapidly supplanting the old ways of handling the corn crop.

A few of the machines described in the bulletin are the corn harvester, corn binder, corn harvester and sheller, corn picking machine, and corn shredder. Handling a corn crop with the aid of such machines is as little like handling it in the old ways as can be imagined.

The invention of harvesting machinery is becoming the more important in view of the growing scarcity of desirable labor on the farms.

The value of the corn crop of the country is not generally understood. At present one-fifth of the area in improved land in the United States, one-third the area in crops of all kinds except pasture, and one-half of the area in cereal crops, is devoted to corn. While 35 per cent of the farmers of the United States raised wheat in 1899, 82 per cent raised corn. The combined yield of wheat, oats, rye, barley and buckwheat in the United States amounted in 1904 to 1,673,905,336 bushels, and the acreage was 79,649,720—these figures equaling two-thirds of the yield and four-fifths of the acreage of the corn crop.

The farm value of the corn crop for 1904 was \$1,087,461,440, while on the combined value of the other crops mentioned was \$877,129,785, or only 80 per cent of the value of the corn crop. In 1905 the yield of the corn crop was 2,708,000,000 bushels and the value \$1,116,700,000.

Press Dispatch: Four sons at once St. Paul, Oct. 5th, 1906. A silver from Mondovi says, "Mrs. Jno. Silverson gave birth to four boys." She's evidently a great friend of Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea. 35 cents. Tea or Tablets. Harper House pharmacy.

DAILY STORY.

A CONVICT'S SCHEME.

[Copyright, 1907, by P. C. Eastment.]

A rich man coveted a certain piece of ground belonging to a poor man. He wanted the land to get the poor man out of his neighborhood. The poor man refused to sell, and in his anger and chagrin the rich man made a felonious assault. This was squarely proved, and, although with his money he made a great fight of it, he was sent to our prison for two years. If he had come like other prisoners, it would have been better for him, but he came in a defiant spirit, began kicking at once and in a day almost had all the officials down on him. When he refused to work or abide by the rules and regulations, he was punished, and there was war between him and the warden for long months. There was sufficient outside influence to secure his pardon after fourteen months, and the man left the prison vowing vengeance.

He determined to get revenge for what he called his indignities. In prison he had but one friend, and that was the doctor. He made friends with the doctor because he lent the latter money. It was no secret in the prison that the doctor was given to drink. There were occasions when he was drunk for two or three days at a time. As a rule, such a man would soon have been fired, but in this case he was a friend of the governor of the state and had a political pull. When too much under the influence of drink to attend to business, his place was taken temporarily by a doctor from town. We got to know this substitute, of course, and he was allowed to pass everywhere, the same as the regular man. It was on this substitute that the rich man worked after his release. The town doctor was in pecuniary difficulties and was offered \$5,000 to carry certain plans through. What he did was to work upon the weakness of the prison doctor and keep him drunk more than half the time for three months. None of us had the least suspicion that anything wrong was going on. Convicts were treated in the hospital, in their cells, and the substitute made sanitary inspection of the kitchen and other departments. He made friends with turnkeys and with prisoners and was voted a good fellow.

It took him three months to perfect his plans, and but for a little slip he would have brought about the biggest mutiny and the greatest prison delivery on record. We then had in the prison over 600 convicts, and nearly 100 were lifers. Among the others were robbers, burglars and generally desperate characters—men who would not hesitate a moment to take life to get beyond the bars. We were short-handed, and every official had to exercise the utmost vigilance. One day in the chair shop I pulled a careless prisoner back from a saw that would have certainly inflicted a fatal injury. In return for this when he had recovered from his scare he asked to speak a few words to me in private that night. I managed it so that he was taken from his cell and brought to my room. I did not anticipate that the interview would amount to much. In any prison there are always a certain number of convicts looking to give something away for their own betterment, and their information is seldom worth heeding.

This man had not been talking to me five minutes when I felt my hair trying to stand on end. The substitute doctor had not only had false keys made to the several wickets, but had planned a general outbreak with the convicts. No one single convict had been left out. Those who had at first refused to join were forced in by being told that they would be killed. The revolt was to take place next morning as the men rose from the breakfast tables to march into the yards and to the shops. Fifty revolvers had been smuggled in for the convicts, and the leader was a highway robber under a long sentence. The officials were to be shot down or locked up, the convicts were to resume the citizen clothing stored away, and what loot could be found was to be evenly divided. The prison was then to be fired and the 600 men to scatter.

Once in possession of the particulars, you can believe I lost no time in notifying the warden. He in turn bestirred himself. The convicts had been locked in for the night. A guard of four men visited the cells in rotation, and they not only found the revolvers, but a great many other weapons. The rule of the prison was to search every cell every third day, but this had been neglected, and the substitute doctor knew that it had.

The convicts realized at once that the plot had been betrayed, and from that moment to daylight next morning there was yelling, screaming and cursing. There was no getting out of their cells, but they made the night hideous and acted like so many wild beasts. Their cells were not unlocked next morning, and neither did one of them have a mouthful to eat. As a matter of fact, they were kept under lock and key and without either food or water for forty hours before they gave in. Then they became humble, and order was restored. Even the leader of the plot was willing to answer all questions, and we soon had all the details, but it was too late to catch the town doctor. He had taken the alarm and fled. The prison doctor sobered up sufficiently to try to bluff it out, but his place was vacant after three days. The man who betrayed the plot had to be taken from among the prisoners to save his life, as suspicion at once attached to him, and a month later the governor pardoned him and gave him money to reach a distant state.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

Touching the Rock Island Tropical Plantation Company.

The company holds clear title to 12,000 acres of hardwood timber. This timber before it was purchased was found to contain more than 120 trees to the acre where it appeared to be of average and uniform density.

These trees will average over 2,000 feet of lumber per tree, which will amount to 240,000 feet per acre, or a total of 2,880,000,000 feet.

BUT SUPPOSE

That it will average only one-fourth of this amount; that will still mean 60,000 feet per acre, or a total proportion of more than 700,000,000 feet. This lumber includes a large proportion of such woods as mahogany, zapote, chicle, Spanish cedar, yague, and many other equally valuable varieties, some of them selling in the American market at \$250 per thousand.

It sells at the railroad in Mexico at \$60 to \$100 per thousand, or an average at American railroad markets at \$260 per thousand.

NOW SUPPOSE

That the cost of cutting, milling and marketing this lumber will amount to \$30 per thousand. That will leave an average profit of \$50 per thousand.

BUT SUPPOSE

That only one-half of this can be realized. There will still be a net profit of \$23 per thousand, which, multiplied by 700,000, gives a total profit of \$17,500,000.

This means a net profit of \$1,458.33 on every share of stock in the company, without even taking into account the considerable sums of money which may be realized from the sale of dye-woods, medicinal plants, wild rubber, and other gums abounding in the forest.

BUT SUPPOSE AGAIN

That only one-half of this can be realized; what then?

One share of stock is worth \$200 par value. One-half of \$1,458.33 is \$729.16, or more than three times the par value of the stock.

NOW SUPPOSE

That it will require 10 years to get this lumber out; this will still mean an annual average dividend of \$72.91 per share, or 36½ per cent on the par value of the stock.

In the meantime the land will be planted to rubber, etc. Side crops will be cultivated, which will materially increase the dividends. Other companies, capitalized at from

\$300 to \$500 per acre, have paid from 5 to 24 per cent annual dividends from such side crops alone.

BUT, FURTHER.

A developed rubber plantation is worth more than \$1,000 per acre, that price having been offered for a plantation almost adjoining our land—but the offer was rejected. Thus, while drawing these dividends, your capital has increased 500 per cent.

NOW THEN.

We are offering a limited amount of our stock for sale at a liberal discount for cash, and if you will come in at once, your investment will be even better than these figures would indicate.

TO SUM THE MATTER UP.

We have 2,880,000,000 feet of lumber in sight. To quiet your doubts, we call it only one-fourth of this, or 700,000,000 feet. This should net us \$50 per thousand, or \$25,000,000. We cut this estimate down to one-half of that, or \$17,500,000. This gives us a profit of \$1,458.33 on each and every share of stock, which looks so large that we cut it in two and make it \$729.16 per share, and still, basing our estimate on the proceeds from 1-16 of the visible resources, our average annual dividends will amount to 36½ per cent of the par value of our stock, even if every share were issued and outstanding.

BUT HERE IS ANOTHER POINT.

Only a small proportion of our stock has been sold, and it is more likely that we will never need to sell more than one-half of our stock. This will not only double our dividends, but double our holdings as well, since the unsold stock will be issued as stock dividends.

DOES IT PAY TO INVEST?

How have the rich become rich? Not through hard labor and patient saving—no, sir—through judicious investments. Through investments that have seemed too obscure to the uninitiated, but which have offered enormous possibilities to those who possess the knowledge and the courage to take advantage of the opportunity as it presented itself.

HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY.

The proposition may seem new to you; but, remember, the hunter who merely follows the beaten paths is not apt to find any game. Call at once, or address:

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302 Bengston Block, Rock Island, Ill.

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Are the best the market affords in Value for the Money.

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The Glorious, Gorgeous, Glittering Spectacle.

The Queen's Birthday

A Triumph of Exhibitional Skill. 300 People in the Ensemble.

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THE DOUBLE SOMERSAULT IN MID-AIR.

Free Street Parade at 10 a. m.

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Ladies' Misses' and Children's

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SHOES or OXFORDS

We can save you 25c or 50c a pair on anything you buy from us.

Our ladies' and gent's \$2.50 shoes equal any other's shoes at \$3. They are all solid leather, good looking, good fitters, and good wearers. Boys' shoes that can't be beat for wear.

Our children's slipper line is complete.

TRY US FOR GOOD SHOES.

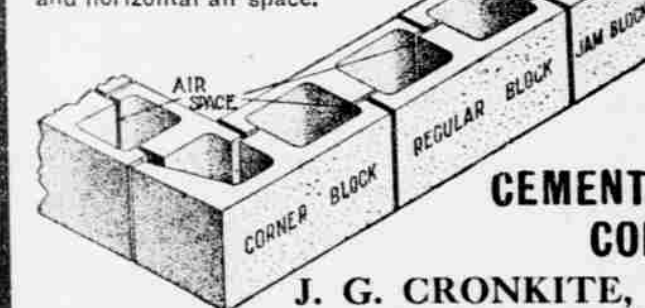
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