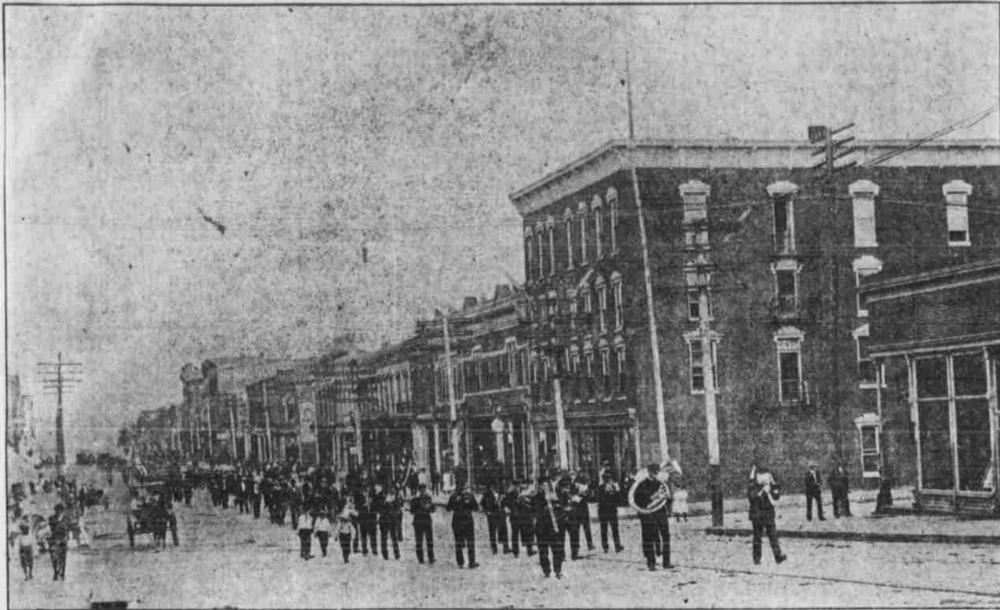


OTOE COUNTY AS A FACTOR IN NEBRASKA'S PROSPERITY

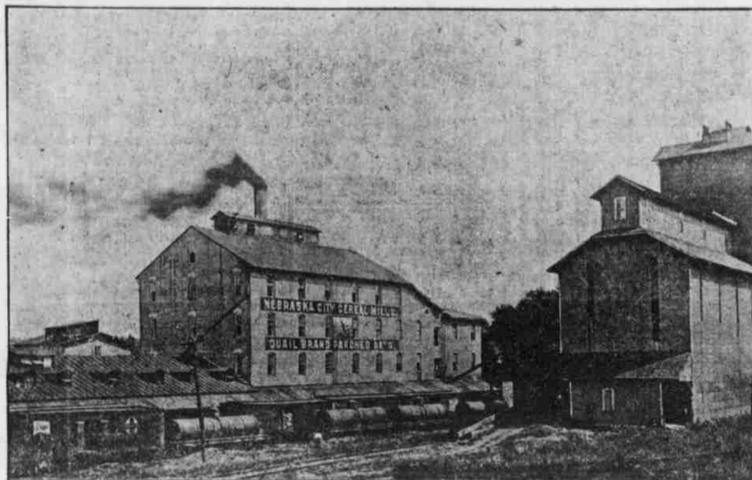
Nebraska City, a Self-made Town and the Fountain Head of State History, is a Thriving Center of Busy Industry and Commercial Activity in Its Later Days of Life.



MAIN STREET, NEBRASKA CITY, AT PRESENT DAY.



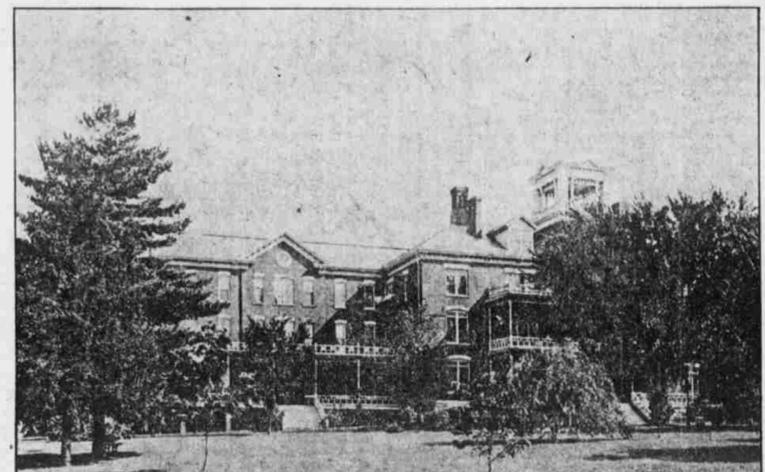
MAIN STREET, NEBRASKA CITY IN 1858—FROM A DRAWING OF THAT TIME.



CEREAL MILLS, NEBRASKA CITY.

of foreign capital has been a factor in its existence or its growth; its buildings are owned by its own people, its banks are capitalized by home money, its large factories have been built and are operated with home dollars and home talent; the merchants have grown up with their town and today present an unbroken front of growth and prosperity that will compare favorably with any city of its size in the Missouri valley. Every factory in the city has grown from diminutive size and primitive business until they rank among the best and most prosperous in the state. Fortunes have been made and liberally expended in the building up of the city. The founders builded more wisely, perhaps, than they knew. There are those living yet who can point out landmarks that hold sacred memories; log houses and fur traders' cabins. Primitive buildings have been cleared away, but sentiment still lingers about the spot and is a connecting link between the past

and present. This is a day of business expansion and rapid development, and those who are slow to grasp opportunities are soon left in the background. For many years Nebraska City, like Topsy, "just grew," and quite naturally its growth was along the lines of least resistance. As a consequence it was only within recent years that the people of the city awoke to the fact that mere natural progress was not all that might be desired. A city does not grow within itself and out of its own resources. There must be a cause for a city, a country back of it. Trade must flow naturally to build a city as water flows into a lake. Where all these conditions are favorable the building of a city is certain as the growth of a plant. Commerce, like force, follows the line of least resistance, and it is commerce that builds every city. Trade and manufacturing are the industries that bring together a large population. Nebraska City is in touch with a large circle in the Missouri valley. The farmer's produce, the dairyman's butter, the cattleman's beef, the sheep raiser's mutton and wool, the great amount of pork produced, all, in fact, that the county produces, is directly or indirectly in touch with the whole valley.



STATE INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND, NEBRASKA CITY.

THE story of Nebraska is only the story of a mighty pilgrimage. Every state has a story, in the telling of which there are two distinct methods. One includes only its resources; the things that are present today and will increase or decline tomorrow. The other is misty, intangible, historical, a hovering phantom whose presence is not visible, but which is nevertheless always there, an influence not to be avoided.

The great motive in men's affairs that entered Nebraska more than half a century ago was to pass through the state over the shortest practical trail. Twenty-five years later it was represented by the homestead and stock ranch. The romance of the Nebraska pioneer is one of the most thrilling in history. Men are living who took part in it, yet it has gone into history as a distinct romance but ill to be spared from the story of western progress. The first occupant of Nebraska, the trapper, was a destroyer and not a builder. He made neither a past nor assured a future for this new empire. He was no broader than the Indian trail that he traveled and subsisted largely on the buffalo; he was a lumberer of the earth and spelled no progress whatever. This was his farm and he reaped its harvests of fur where no man sowed or tilled.

Tales of the Trail

Along their trail in after years the great emigrant wagons dotted white the limitless plain to the foot of the Rocky mountains, and the emigrants left their toll by the trail in nameless mounds on the prairie. Yet their splendid achievements have proved that the white man's footsteps were surely not on the wrong trail. Out of the west came the message of infinite space; into the west rode the men of a conquering freedom. They found the ring of the Indian tepee still warm where his little fire had burned till the day of their inroad. The coming of the railroad broke the silence of the plains and it did more; it marked the beginning of the end of the wilderness.

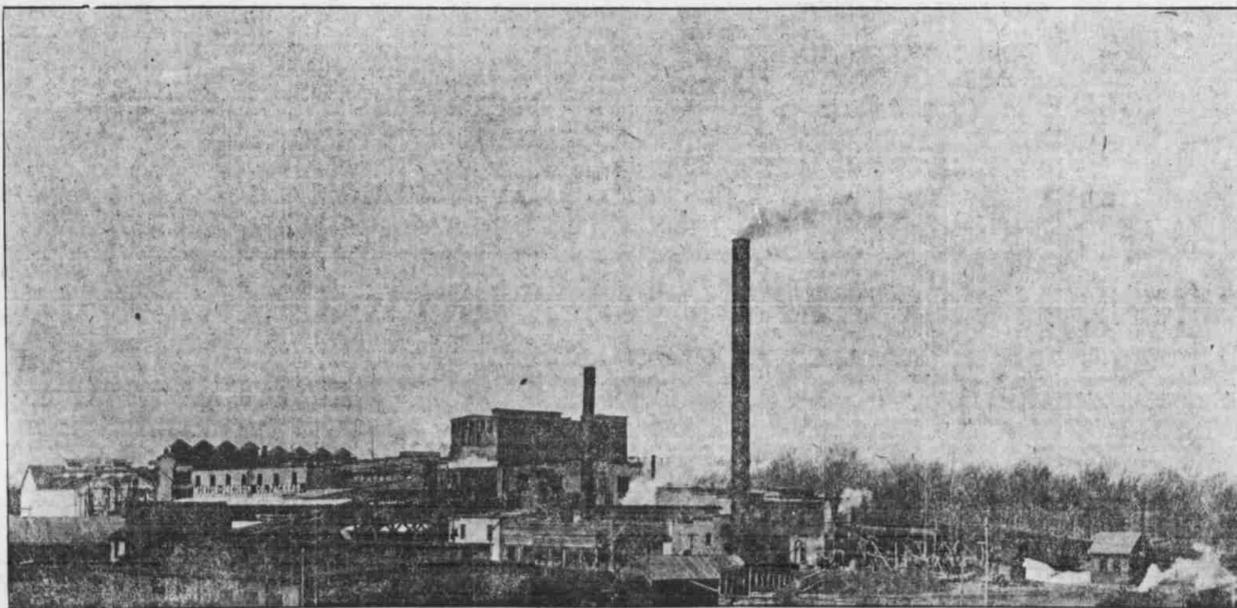
In the early settlement of the state Nebraska City plays a most prominent part. It was here that the first ground was broken for agricultural purposes; it was here that the first state fair was and in the address delivered by J. Sterling Morton from a farmer's wagon many of his predictions have been fulfilled. Mr. Morton was not only prominent in every step taken in the development of Nebraska, but he was prominent in national affairs as well. He was the originator of Arbor day and a prominent cabinet officer. The name of J. Sterling Morton and Nebraska City are inseparable. It was here at Nebraska City that the government for many years transferred the great stores of army supplies from the Missouri river steamers to the hundreds of freighters that supplied the army posts far to the west.

Mother of Nebraska History

In fact, Nebraska City seems to be the mother of the early history of Nebraska. It has sent out many of its best sons and daughters to all parts of the state, and they are acting a prominent part in its development.

Travel and transportation have always been the prime factors of civilization. Just before the advent of the railroad, from 1855 to 1860, there were fifty-nine steamboats on the lower river and 300 steamers arrived in one season at Lawrence, Kan. It was the golden era of steamboats on the Missouri river.

Nebraska City is strictly a self-made town. Not a dollar's worth



MORTON-GREGSON PORK PACKING PLANT, NEBRASKA CITY.

Jonathan Chapman Was a Pioneer Orchardist and Loved to Do Good

JONATHAN CHAPMAN, better known as Johnny Applesseed, was born in Boston, Mass., in 1775, and those pomological societies which do honor to his memory have agreed on January 15 as the day of his birth, although the records do not establish the fact with certainty. Swedenborgian missionary, hermit and lover of his fellow man, Johnny Applesseed's life was one of usefulness.

The first trace found of him in history records him as being in the territory of Ohio in 1801 with a horseload of apple seed, which he planted on and about the borders of Licking creek, the first orchard thus originated by him being now within the boundaries of Licking county. For the next five years Chapman drops entirely out of sight. He is next heard of in 1806, when he descended the Ohio river with two canoes lashed together, both canoes being loaded with apple seed from

the orchards of western Pennsylvania. With these two canoes thus burdened Chapman passed down the Ohio river to the mouth of the Muskingum. He passed up the Muskingum to the mouth of White Woman creek, thence up the Mohican into the Black Fork to the head of navigation in the vicinity of those counties which are now called Ashland and Richmond.

It appears that this canoe voyage was the only one in which Chapman made use of this means of travel, for all the rest of his trips were made on foot. The seed he obtained for nothing from the cider presses of the orchards of western Pennsylvania and he carried it in leather bags over the old Indian trail that led from Fort Duquesne to Detroit.

In personal appearance Chapman was small and wiry, with long, dark hair, a scanty beard that was never shaved and keen, black eyes. Gen-

erally, even in the coldest weather, he went barefooted, but would occasionally make himself a pair of sandals, deeming even moccasins too much protection from the elements.

His dress was generally composed of cast-off clothing which he had taken in payment for young apple trees, but during the latter half of his life he came to the conclusion that all clothing beyond that demanded by the dictates of decency was superfluous and wore only a coffee sack, with holes cut in it for his arms and his head.

Among the Indian tribes he frequently met with in his wanderings Chapman was treated with the courtesy and consideration always shown by the red men for those they deemed mentally afflicted or, as they phrased it, "under the care of the Great Spirit."

His diet was as meager as his clothing. He believed it a sin to kill any creature for food and

Nature is not only bountiful, but beautiful here, also. It would seem hard to find a more attractive panorama than the city and the river as they appear from the tower of the State Institute for the Blind, which crowns one of the hills, and there are few who have viewed its beauty from this eminence who will not concede this to be one of the fairest of cities. The city itself spreads in a valley before you, showing its solid qualities by well built blocks, its beautiful homes, trees and shrubbery. In the distance the chimney stacks tell the story of industry.

Morton-Gregson company's meat-packing establishment is one of the prominent institutions of the city. It has a capacity of handling 1,500 hogs per day and its annual output is about 300,000 head, and they employ from 300 to 400 men. The Union Stock yards is one of the busy points of the city. The Great Western Cereal company also employs about 200 men and manufacture a large variety of cereals. When we add to these two large establishments the two large flouring mills, the Nebraska City Vinegar Works and the Nebraska City Canning company, and many other smaller establishments, it can readily be seen that this is a manufacturing city.

Otoe county has 616 square miles and a population of more than 27,000. It is one of the richest agricultural sections of the state, as the assessed valuation of the land was the highest of any county in the state. The entire assessed valuation of the county is \$43,000,000. Of the 125,000 farms in the state Otoe county has 2,500, with an average of 160 acres to a farm. The present season the county produced 123,000 acres of corn, which averaged about forty bushels per acre. The farmers marketed last year 33,000 head of hogs, while the present season they harvested 37,000 acres of wheat. The county originally was known as Pierce county. Its present name was taken from an Indian name signifying Lovers of Pleasure. The first permanent settlement was about 1854. The county has ten thrifty villages, among them Syracuse, with a population of 2,000. The last season has been one of unusual prosperity and the farmers and business men go into another autumn with a feeling of contentment and satisfaction.

in his brotherhood with all created life was a worthy disciple of St. Francis, carrying the doctrines of Emanuel Swedenborg to a length no other disciple of the mystic has advocated. He claimed to have frequent conversations with angels and spirits and always carried with him a few volumes of the Swedish teacher's works.

As he had no tract society to furnish him with literature and no private means with which to buy many books, he hit upon an original plan for the spreading of the Swedenborgian teachings. His few books he divided each into several pieces, which he left with people he interested in his mission. On his next trip he would collect the portions left on the former trip and distribute other portions, thus endeavoring to spread the knowledge of Swedenborg's writings as widely as

(Continued on Page Four.)