

Re-discovering ILLINOIS

by LESTER B. COLBY
ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

(Illinois Chamber of Commerce) We come to Galesburg. There is a familiar trade name, branding a railroad, the "Burlington Route." Had those who burned that name deep in the nation's industry foreseen clearly—that system, doubtlessly today would be called the "Galesburg Route" instead. To the glory of an Illinois city!

Galesburg is the hub of the Burlington and the railroad, by all odds, is the most important industrial unit in Galesburg. But Galesburg has other things—

When you start out to know your Illinois you must learn of the educational institutions, the manufacturing plants and all the other factors which have built up a city of 38,207 persons on the very ridge of that broad uplift between the Illinois and Mississippi rivers. But, first of all, it's a story of railroads; transportation.

Center of Eleven States

The Burlington road radiates in six directions from Galesburg. From these lines tracks branch off, like twigs from a tree limb, a network invading eleven states. And Galesburg is the center; what the heart is to the blood stream.

Should you travel to Chicago via the Burlington from Paducah, Ky., from St. Louis, Mo., Omaha, Neb., Denver, Colo., Deadwood, S. D., or Billings, Mont., you will pass through Galesburg. Each twenty-four hours here 62 passenger trains and an average of 117 freight trains.

It is at Galesburg where freight movements, great overland trains, are collected, broken up and the cars re-routed. For this work the system has at Galesburg 160 miles of track and a great "hump" switching system where cars are moved by gravity. These yards handle from 5,000 to 7,000 freight cars daily, shuttling them back and forth in the work of remaking trains.

Artificial Lake

When the Burlington system wanted a plentiful supply of soft water for its boilers it built an artificial lake just out of Galesburg. That cost about \$500,000. When that wasn't big enough it built another. It has a shore line eleven miles long. A country club has been developed on each lake. The road wanted a plant for rebuilding steel cars. It tossed in another \$500,000 and already has plans for an enlargement of the plant this year.

The Burlington has a tie treating plant at Galesburg, said to be the largest in the world. Often a million ties will be in the yards. Each year Galesburg gives a picnic to the railroad's officials, inviting them to the city for the day—and it is its pride that it never asks anything of the officials when they come.

Galesburg is also on the main line of the Santa Fe which has a double track from Chicago to the Pacific.

It is a transfer point for freight between the Burlington and Santa Fe systems.

However, do not get the impression that there is not plenty of worthwhile things other than railroad in Galesburg. They are merely the base upon which the city is built. The Rowe Manufacturing company owns a patent farm gate; output 250,000 a year. It makes ladders, 2,000,000 feet a year; a patent wall used for hurry-up corners. Much corn this year—results, two-and-a-half miles of this cribbing wall each day, men working three 8-hour shifts.

Other Industries

Here also is the Pioneer Creamery company, capitalized at \$25,000 in 1902; today, \$2,000,000. Its output, 5,000,000 pounds of butter a year; 500,000 dozen eggs; 500 buying stations in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Indiana.

Pancakes, too. The Navaho Milk company, using buttermilk, by-product of the Pioneer company, makes a powdered milk. It is now used nationally as an ingredient in "quick rising" pancake flour.

Then there's the Galesburg Horse & Mule Co. Five years ago it took over properties equipped for livestock barns. Today? An auction business, horses and mules, running \$2,000,000 a year. Sellers and buyers gather here on sales days from all over the nation.

Once Galesburg had numerous brick manufacturing plants owned variously. Today they are one group, consolidated as the Purington Paving Brick company. Output is 75,000,000 brick yearly; 650 employees. The brick industry has made its imprint on Galesburg; 42½ miles of brick paving within the city limits, 20 miles of brick highway in Knox county outside the city.

Brick Making Town

Galesburg, downtown, has many solid brick blocks; farther out, good brick homes. You can tell a brick-making town by the solid look of it. Galesburg bricks go to far places. Some went into the Panama Canal.

A plant in Galesburg makes 500 brooms a day; another casket hardware running \$100,000 a year. Three or four plants, recently consolidated, make overalls and work clothes. Some of Galesburg's plants are old. The Frost Manufacturing company, boilers, doing a national business, goes back to '51.

The Galesburg Malleable Castings company makes 300 tons of malleable castings monthly. The Willis Manufacturing company makes fireproof window frames, doors, etc., using for them up to 700 tons of steel a year. The Winslow Boiler & Engineering company, specializing in an oil burner, output \$2,000,000 a year. There are other plants.

Galesburg has five banks and four loan associations, combined assets \$24,000,000. It will shortly vote on a \$600,000 sewer extension project. Here is the home of the Western Illinois division of the Illinois Power & Light company. It has just completed a \$1,000,000 "high line" from Keokuk where the giant dam across the Mississippi is the source of power. Unlimited in matter of electric power, cost low, Galesburg is developing into an electrified city. The Burlington shops are switching over

from steam, other large plants are planning to; mostly the smaller plants have already.

Galesburg has other distinctions—a city of 7,500 telephones it is to be a city without a telephone pole. Every wire is being put underground; even the wires from alley to basement. No other city in the world, I was told, has such a plan so far along. Engineers come from distant cities to study the plans.

Another distinction, in Galesburg was born the first corn-planter which walks down the road of history side by side with the plow and the reaper in the work of disenslaving the world from fierce toil in the fields. It was invented and patented by George W. Brown. When he died the business died and that is that.

Founded by Idealists

In its beginning, 1837, Galesburg was founded by a group of idealists. They came from Oneida, N. Y., home of community evolution and social sagas. They talked of a model city, never any liquor, never vice or crime. In the old stage coach days the drivers used to warn their passengers, some rough diamonds, then, not to swear or smoke or spit in passing through.

The idealists began by founding Knox college. A few years later Lombard college came. And finally Galesburg became more typical of American cities. Waves of New Englanders swept in, then waves of Swedes and Irish and Germans, finally all of Europe flocking here. Yet today, they tell me, the blonde Nordics from Scandinavia predominate; perhaps 20 per cent of all.

Galesburg is still stout in education. Its student enrollment is: Knox college, 639; Lombard college, 561; Brown's Business college, 105; St. Joseph's academy, 340; Corpus Christi Lyceum, 107; high schools, 1,500; grade schools, 3,000.

That means out of a population of a little more than 28,000 that 6,250 are in its educational institutions, not counting the four conservatories of

music. Of course, it is admitted that the colleges get students from the outside. But it does show what Galesburg, practical business city of the open country of Illinois, is doing to imprint its thoughts and ideas of human life on future Illinoisans.

And now for the thing that perhaps has given Galesburg more real pride than any other single thing—

Edward Bok, the famous author and editor, once picked Galesburg as one of the four American cities nearest reaching his ideal; one of the four most desirable cities in which to live in this great nation; nearest the ideal in its opportunities for real living for men, women and children.

a ton less than it now costs, if the proposed waterways projects are carried out.

Illinois has constructed more than 5,000 miles of hard or permanent roads since 1912.

More than 20,000 persons in Illinois own securities of the telephone systems of the United States.

Every home in Illinois having a telephone can be connected, through long distance service, to more than 15,800,000 stations embracing every section of the United States from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Deposits in the banks of Illinois aggregate in excess of \$2,000,000,000. In the last four years they have increased nearly a billion dollars.

Sterling has the largest gladioli farm in the world. Last year the 1,600,000 bulbs which were produced there were sold to buyers in every state in the union and in many foreign countries.

Eleven per cent of the farms in Illinois have electricity and 54,000 farmers have installed modern heating systems. Only one out of seventeen, however, has complete plumbing systems.

Belleville leads the country in the manufacture of stoves. It is also America's largest airship port and is credited in banking circles with being one of the richest cities per capita in the nation.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THIS STATE

GATHERED FROM ALL SIDES

Statistics Regarding Various Activities and Industries of Illinois In Brief Form Given

Major Rufus W. Putnam, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A., estimated that between 6,500,00 and 7,000,000 tons of freight will pass through Chicago by water, annually, at a cost of 50 cents



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