

Visit of Prince of Wales in Chicago in 1860

By J. Seymour Currey

In the fall of 1860 the prince of Wales, afterward King Edward VII, paid a visit to Chicago. The visit was made while John Wentworth was mayor of the city. The prince was then nineteen years of age, making a tour of Canada and the United States, he and his party being under the charge of the duke of Newcastle. The Canadian authorities were opposed to the extension of the prince's tour into the United States, and Mayor Wentworth, hearing of this, went to Montreal with a committee of citizens to give assurances for his safety, as there were fears that disturbances might arise especially in Chicago where large numbers of foreigners were residing. Mr. Wentworth assured the duke that he had only to make his arrangements through the British consul in Chicago and he, as mayor of Chicago would see that all of them were carried out.

The prince was storm-bound while passing through Canada and remained at Toronto for nearly a week, from the 8th to the 13th of September, probably the same storm which prevailed over a large extent of the west when the "Lady Elgin" was lost on Lake Michigan. On the 15th he arrived at Niagara Falls, where he saw the celebrated Blondin cross the Niagara gorge on a tight rope with a man on his back. He continued his journey in the United States as Baron Fenwick. On the 21st he and his party arrived in Chicago on a special train over the Michigan Central railroad from Detroit and were driven to the Richmond house, the largest hotel in the city, along the streets lined with an immense concourse of citizens. The second floor of the hotel, which was situated at the northwest corner of Michigan avenue and South Water street, was reserved for the royal party. The next day after his arrival the prince made his appearance on the balcony of the hotel and was greeted by a large number of people who had assembled in the street.

The reception committee consisted of the mayor, ex-Mayor W. B. Ogden, William Bross and E. W. McComas, who presented him with an address of welcome which was acknowledged by Lord Lyons, the British minister, who accompanied the party. While here the prince was taken to the court house and bravely ascended the three hundred or more steps of the tower (there were no elevators in those days), ably supported by the strong arms of the mayor at his elbow, to obtain a view of the city from that eminence. The irrepressible Fernando Jones was designated by the mayor to be his conductor, and presumably to entertain him with a few stories; and as he had expressed a desire to see the grain elevators at work he was taken to the top of one of them while a vessel was lying in the slip loading with a cargo of grain. While watching the operation the prince was told that this particular cargo was intended as a present to his royal mother, Queen Victoria, as a souvenir of his visit. George P. Upton, then city editor of the Tribune, in later years wrote of the occasion as follows: "Some of the city authorities went to the hotel and have much to say; in fact, the lords who were with him wouldn't permit him to say anything. I went to the hotel but none of the newspaper men were granted any audiences or interviews. He was not much more than a boy in manner." In later years it will be remembered that Richard Somers, who was formerly a resident of Evanston, became proprietor of the Richmond house (in 1866) but two years afterward the house failed completely and the building was sold for business purposes.

The next day the prince went down to Dwight to see a large grain farm there and he also engaged in the

sport of prairie chicken shooting, and while there he is said to have planted a tree supposed to be still standing. While at Dwight he was accompanied by Frederick Sparrestrom as a member of the hunting party. Sparrestrom had formerly been a life guardsman for the king of Sweden and had a reputation as a fine horseman and successful hunter. He lived in Chicago for many years afterward, finally going to Colorado, where he died. Another day the prince visited the mayor's "Summit farm," and the prince at a later time sent him a pair of Southdown sheep from the queen's herd in England as a present, together with a large portrait of himself. Mr. Wentworth himself superintended all the arrangements, and so entirely satisfactory were they to their guests during their stay that on the return of the party to England the duke of Newcastle wrote the mayor a special letter of thanks. The prince thereafter showed a marked preference for Americans, and by some of his friends his house in London was nicknamed the "white house." His policy in this respect, it was said, "had much to do with furthering the union between the countries which his mother had aided in cementing and in making Americans feel that they were welcome in England."

Mayor Wentworth, then holding the office of mayor for the second time, took a great pride in the absolute control exercised by him over the police and fire departments of the city. He was, indeed, one of the most popular mayors the city ever had, known familiarly as "long John" because of his great stature, six feet and six inches. At the time of which we are writing great events were impending. The country was in the throes of a presidential campaign with Abraham Lincoln as the candidate of the republican party, while the air was ringing with the threats of the slave-holding states to secede from the union in the event of his election. The country, indeed, was rapidly drifting toward the opening of the tremendous drama of the civil war, the great conflict of arms even then sweeping upon it "like an approaching eclipse," as Horace White phrased it. Chicago had a population of 109,206 souls, according to the census of that year, and was fast becoming the greatest grain market in the world. "Such a flood of golden grain as poured into Chicago on every transportation line from the west in 1860 was never seen before in any primary market on earth," says C. A. Taylor in his history of the board of trade. In that year William H. Bissell died while governor of the state and was succeeded by Lieutenant Governor John Wood. At the fall election Richard Yates was elected governor, henceforth known as the great "war governor of Illinois."

ADD PROFESSOR TO N. U. FACULTY

An associate professor of economics and marketing has just been added to the faculty of Northwestern University school of commerce. He is Dr. Fred E. Clark. Dr. Clark has already arrived in Evanston to take charge of this department. He has specialized in marketing, selling policies and foreign trade and will lecture both on the campus in Evanston and in the school of commerce in Chicago.

This is the first time that such courses are being offered at the University.

Professor Clark is a graduate of Albion college, Michigan. His graduate study was done at the University of Illinois, where he received the degree of Ph. D. Since then he has been a member of the faculty of the

University of Michigan, where his courses were very popular. Great interest has already been shown by the students in the courses to give in the school of commerce this year. Dr. and Mrs. Clark expect to take up their permanent residence in Evanston early in September.

Parasol a Mark of Honor

It was not until the eighteenth century that the parasol became distinctly an article of feminine costume. Large and elaborate parasols have from time immemorial been a mark of honor and official dignity in the Orient. In India, in 1887, when

the then Prince of Wales made his famous tour, he was compelled, that he might properly impress the natives, to ride upon an elephant and have over his head a parasol with

a frame of gold, and with a covering stitched with precious jewels.

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