

After an existence of fifty years the Terre Haute House passed into the control of a company formed for the purpose of giving Terre Haute a hotel equal to all modern requirements. It was extensively and expensively improved, to the amount of \$100,000. Judicious and liberal outlay made it equal to well-known and elegant hotels. The kitchens and cellars, the soul, as it were, of a successful house, had a little fortune spent on them; \$4,000 was put into china and silverware; the dining rooms were transformed by rich and tasteful changes and embellishments. Every vestige of old times was torn out as far as possible, and elegant marble, fresco and stucco, wood carving, rich draperies, crystal, bronze, silver plating and cut-glass adorn the building which is a model of elegance within its neat and simple exterior.

The National House, at Sixth and Main streets, like the Terre Haute House, was built ahead of the times and long before the trade was ready to leave Second and Third streets, where the old houses were. The National House was opened in 1857, and when the city grew up to it, became a permanently popular and successful house.

The year 1889 will be remembered as the year when Terre Haute struck oil. In 1866, a well was drilled to the depth of 1,965 feet, at the rear of the Terre Haute House, at a cost of \$25,000, to secure flowing soft water. At 1,312 feet oil was struck, but the oil was shut off and the drill continued until it reached a flow of sulphur water of remarkable medicinal properties and a very permeating odor. It was used for a time at a bathhouse near by, and then stopped up. Another well drilled in the old canal bed near Cherry street produced a considerable quantity of lubricating oil. The yield declined to a few barrels daily; the price was very low at that time, and this well was also plugged up. Still another well sunk near the river in 1868, at a cost of \$15,000, yielded Artesian water of beneficial, medicinal and magnetic qualities which has been used for years by invalids with some very remarkable results. In this year (1889) an extensive and finely equipped bathhouse has been erected by the Artesian Well Company, and as the water is undoubtedly equal in its curative properties to that found at celebrated resorts, it will attract hither people from all parts of the country. Again a well was sunk to the depth of 2,400 feet, south of the Artesian well, yielding a copious supply of sulphur water. The fifth well within the city was drilled near the site of the one which had yielded oil. On May 6, 1889, an

abundant flow of heavy lubricating oil spouted forth at the rate of a barrel a minute, and in a week the oil fever was raging throughout Terre Haute with great violence, and enchanting visions of future greatness and rise of values appeared to even the most conservative.

The business aspect of Terre Haute prior to the oil era may be briefly sketched as follows: The city, being located on a coal field and surrounded in all directions by extensive beds of coal, is naturally a center for railroads and manufactures. Its railroads, nine in number, as naturally contribute to its jobbing business, consequently large manufactories and extensive wholesale houses have grown up here with the growth of population, from 8,000 in 1850 to 40,000 in 1889; retail business has had a corresponding increase. It is noticeable in some branches, dry-goods, for instance, that business is concentrated in comparatively few hands, with the result that establishments are large and elegant, rivaling those of the great cities. The factories rank among the largest of the country.

Great rolling mills, tool works, car-shops, foundries, nail works, flour and hominy mills, and brewing and distilling plants, support thousands of people and ship their products all over the Union and to foreign lands. The manufacturing and wholesale business of Terre Haute amounts to \$25,000,000 annually.

As a city to live in Terre Haute claims exceptional advantages, and its citizens show a placid satisfaction in its privileges and superiority, which nothing can shake. As has been said before, it is a beautiful place. Its broad, regular, well shaded streets, the universal neatness and respectability of the buildings, the almost entire absence of squalid or decaying tenements and the pervading air of comfort and thrift do not fail to impress at first sight. There are but few residences in blocks, for the majority of dwelling houses stand alone in a lot of forty to one hundred feet front. If there are not many palaces, there are as few abodes of poverty. There is great freedom from ostentation, and quiet elegance marks the style and habits of the well-to-do. Fortunes have not been made with very great rapidity, nor by luck, which accounts for the absence of extravagance, since "easy comes, easy goes," does not apply. The society of the city can be called cultured, marked by education and taste for art. Knowledge of music predominates, for nowhere can be found so many in proportion to the population who excel in vocal and instrumental