

One Hundred Years In Illinois

(1818-1918)

An account of the development of Illinois in the first century of her statehood, by a citizen born in the same year as the City of Chicago, whose grandfather moved into Illinois the year in which the State was born, and whose father was born on the same day and in the same year as Abraham Lincoln.

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CHAPTER XXX

THE PULLMAN OF TODAY

There is little semblance of the early glory of the model industrial community of the world in the modern industrial locality of the great City of Chicago which is still known as Pullman. The great Pullman shops are there; the library still flourishes as a fountain of water in a dry land; the bank continues to do business at the old stand, having become the stabilizing influence of the town in the generation in which its present head, Edward F. Bryant, has moulded its policies.

In addition to these there is another institution, new to the vicinity, the spirit of which harks back to the master builder whose dream of a model industrial city rose in steel and bricks and mortar on the shore of Lake Calumet. That new institution, with a purpose from the heart and brain of the man who conceived the model city which will carry on to generations yet unborn, is the Pullman Free School of Manual Training, endowed out of the bounty of George M. Pullman and opened to the children of the Pullman workmen in 1916.

Provision for this school was made in the will

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of Mr. Pullman, and it was left to the Board of Directors named therein to work out the plans for this lasting memorial. The original board consisted of Norman B. Ream, Robert T. Lincoln, John M. Clark, John S. Runnells, Frank O. Lowden, Charles E. Perkins and John J. Mitchell. Mr. Perkins died in 1903 and Mr. Ream in 1915; the former being succeeded by Mr. Chauncey Keep and the latter by Mr. James A. Patten. Mr. Clark died in 1918 and his successor has not yet been named. Mr. Duane Doty was the first secretary of the Board and served until his death in 1902. He was succeeded by Mr. Charles S. Sweet, who died in 1912. Since then, Mr. LeRoy Kramer, and Mr. E. S. Taylor have served in turn.

In 1908, a tract of land of forty acres, including the territory between 109th and 111th streets and South Park avenue and Indiana avenue, was secured to serve as a campus for the future institution. Governor Lowden, in his usual thorough way of doing things, secured the services of a prominent educator to make a study of similar institutions in this country and abroad, so that the most advanced ideas could be incorporated in the school. The person so employed was Dr. Laenas Gifford Weld, at that time dean of the graduate school of the State University of Iowa. He brought to his new position an educational experience ranging from that of a grade school

teacher to that which he acquired as director of the engineering school of the University of Iowa.

Mr. C. Frank Jobson, architect of the Pullman Company, made the plans for the buildings, and on September 26, 1914, the cornerstone of the main building was laid by Pullman Lowden (now Lieutenant Lowden, U. S. A.), son of Governor Lowden and only grandson of George M. Pullman. I had the pleasure of being present on that auspicious occasion, at which Dr. Weld presided, and addresses were delivered by Colonel Frank O. Lowden, Thomas Dunbar and Theophilus Schmid. The school was formally dedicated September 30, 1915, on which occasion addresses were delivered by Colonel Lowden, President Harry Pratt Judson of the University of Chicago, President Frank W. Gunsaulus of the Armour Institute, and Dr. Weld.

The purpose of the school is to furnish instruction, not only in the ordinary branches of elementary education, but to provide also specialized training in all the trades employed in the Pullman shops and in such other useful occupations as electrical construction and operation, plumbing, steam fitting, brick laying and other trades. Courses in domestic science, clothes making, fancy work, home decorating, graduate nursing and other subjects of interest to the home maker are available for the girls of the community. Children of the Pullman employees are admitted

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to the school without charge, and at the end of the second year young men who so desire are given employment in their chosen trades in the Pullman Shops, thus identifying it with the great industrial plant created by Mr. Pullman. In the main corridor of the central building is a tablet bearing this inscription:

George Mortimer Pullman

founded this school that the children of those associated with him in the Town of Pullman and its enterprises might be trained in the ideals of clean living, good citizenship and industrial efficiency, which were his own inspiration and through which alone the workman may hope to attain his true development.

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The Pullman Library was formally established on April 10, 1883, on which occasion the dedicatory address was delivered by Professor David Swing in the beautiful Arcade theater. The Library was opened in the quarters which it now occupies in the Arcade building, and, though standards have since changed, the original beauty of its setting is recalled by the rich woodwork, the stained glass skylights and the elegant but now obsolete fixtures with which the rooms are

Pullman is simply a locality, such as "Kenwood" or "Hyde Park," and territorially but a small part of the Ninth Ward of the City of Chicago.

"Generally speaking, about fifty per cent of the industrial population are what are usually termed 'Americans,' and the other fifty per cent includes people from nearly every country under the sun.

"Having been here since 1886, I have a good recollection of the "sympathetic strike" of 1887 and the great "Pullman strike" of 1894, and am fairly familiar with what few labor disturbances we have had; and, on the whole, I believe this has been one of the best industrial communities of the whole country, and the conditions of safety much greater here than might be expected."

The profound change which time has wrought in the life of Pullman is well illustrated in my own case. My surgical laboratory was built onto my home, which was located on the corner of Stephenson and 111th streets, in what was known in the early days as "officers row," just across from the big gate of the car works. The location was found very convenient for the surgical treatment of employees injured in the shops, and while there I performed about 35,000 operations, minor and major. When I left Pullman, I did not desire to have the bother of looking after my residence property there, so I arranged through the bank to sell it to a thrifty Italian. The little lawn around the house, which Mrs. McLean kept bright and cheerful with growing flowers and plants, was soon put into tune with the com-

mercial aspect surrounding it by the erection of a small building to be used as a store, from which the owner vended his wares to the men as they entered and left through the big gate. The Company now maintains a medical department consisting of a dispensary and hospital within the big enclosure, under the direction of Doctor Roy J. DeMotte, with an assistant surgeon and a nurse, where first aid is given those injured in the works. It is pleasant to reflect that I have been succeeded by an alumnus of my alma mater, Rush Medical College. Doctor DeMotte acquired his surgical experience as an interne in the Presbyterian hospital, which is not far from Rush college.

Having begun my story with an account of the achievements of the Scotch in America, it is fitting that I conclude with a specific illustration of the success of a Scotchman here, showing how America and Opportunity are synonymous, and how a man with the right stuff in him may carve out his own destiny in this great land of ours.

Six or seven years after I settled in Pullman, a Scotchman who had been employed as a ship carpenter in the great yards along the river Clyde came to Pullman and went to work in the wood working department. Among his children was a boy then about ten years old, who began at once attending the school in Pullman from which he was graduated at the age of thirteen into the big

shops, taking up the duties of material boy in the body building department. His close attention to his duties soon attracted the notice of his superiors, and he was taken into the general foreman's office as office boy. Learning that a position as stenographer was open, he qualified for the place by studying nights, and was shortly employed in the office of the general superintendent. From then on his promotions came with regularity, and he was in turn record clerk, chief clerk of the Calumet shops, mechanical inspector, assistant general foreman of the freight department, chief clerk in the engineer's office, assistant superintendent, until today, the boy from Dumbarton in Old Scotland, Francis Mackay Gunn, is superintendent of the great Pullman shops.