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University of Illinois

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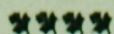
The
Commerce
Building

*Devoted to the Study of Economics, Commerce,
Public and Private Finance, Railway Ad-
ministration, Money and Banking, Business
Organization and Management, Accountancy,
Insurance, Statistics.*



THE COMMERCE BUILDING

The Courses in Business Administration



The University of Illinois showed an early interest in the training of business men. The first circular of information published in 1868 declared it to be one of the aims of the institution to prepare men "for the arduous and riskful responsibilities of the merchant and business man." The original nine departments of the University included one of "Commercial Science and Art," in charge of which was placed Captain Edward Snyder, subsequently Professor of German and Dean of the College of Literature and Science. In 1870, the University rearranged its whole curriculum, and the commercial department was thereafter called the "School of Commerce." Book-keeping, commercial calculation and commercial correspondence were the principal subjects of the course.

In 1878, an attempt was made to raise the standards of the School of Commerce by adding a second year's course, but there was little call for such a development, and on September 10th, 1879, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution to the effect that "the course of studies in the 'School of Commerce' is more extensive than is practicable to teach at the present time." On June 10th, 1880, the Board voted to discontinue the school. The attempt to construct a university school of commerce along the lines of a 'business college' had proved unsuccessful.

ful. The school had done little more than to prepare clerks and bookkeepers. It had not been realized that the function of a university school of commerce was to prepare for future leadership in economic enterprise, not for clerkships. Twenty-two years passed before interest in university commercial education was revived. The abandonment of the first school of commerce was an inauspicious event but, in reality, a beneficial one, since it put an end to the "business college" conception of university commercial education, and offered a clear field for the re-establishment of the work on its only proper basis, that of economic science.

About 1899-1900, several of the leading universities of the country had become convinced of the desirability of a more systematic organization of courses that should prepare students for careers in commerce. To place the University of Illinois in line with this movement, an appropriation was asked for. It was obvious to the Board of Trustees that an excellent foundation for such expansion had already been laid by the department of economics, and, accordingly, an appeal for funds was made to the legislature. An appropriation was made and, in 1902, the school of commerce was re-established under the title of "The Courses of Training for Business," Professor Kinley being appointed Director. Two additional professorships were established—one in commerce, and the other in industry and transportation.

The effect of the new policy was immediately apparent. The total number of registrations in courses in economics had been 253 for the two semesters of 1901-02. In 1902-03, this increased to 309, in 1903-04 to 735; by 1906-07, it had reached 1,143. This striking increase came about not only because a larger number of students elected

a full four-years' course in business, but because many sought some of the courses to supplement their other studies.

The success achieved by the courses led, in 1907, to an increase of appropriation, which enabled expansion to be made in the following groups of work: railway administration, accountancy, and industrial history. The continued interest of the general administration of the university in the work of business training had been insured by the election of Edmund J. James, at one time Director of the Wharton School of Economics and Finance at the University of Pennsylvania, to the presidency of the University, in 1904.

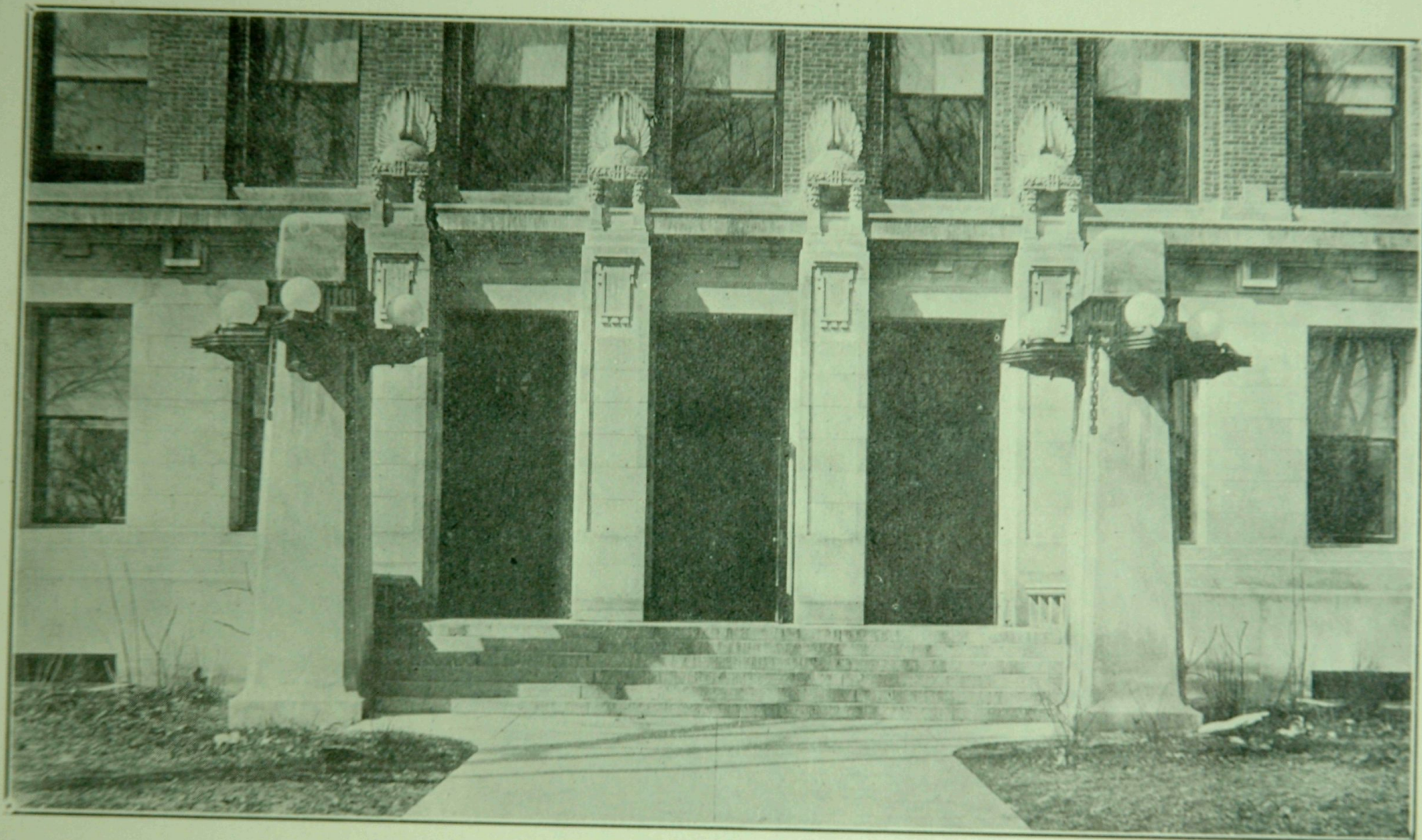
The growth in enrollment since 1907 has been marked. The registrations in the courses have increased to 2,125 for the year 1912-13, representing about 1,500 individuals, of whom 225 are registered for full four-year courses preparing specifically for business careers. The rapid increase in courses and students early brought into prominence the urgent need of special accommodation for the work in commerce. The business interests of the state soon saw that, to secure full service from the courses, a special building was required. With their help, the legislature was convinced of the necessity, and, though the amount requested by the Board of Trustees was not granted, an appropriation of \$125,000 was made, in 1911, for the erection of what will be known in the future as the Commerce Building. The building was sufficiently completed by February, 1913, to be ready for occupancy, and most of the work of the business courses was transferred to it.

The anticipated advantages of the new building are being fully realized. The students in business administration are beginning to feel an individuality previously

unknown, the professional character of their training seems to become more distinct, the instructors have been brought into more intimate touch with one another and with their students, much to the advantage of all concerned. The work in accountancy, statistics, banking, railway administration, commerce, and in other subjects is now capable of being developed, and will be developed, to a degree of practical efficiency unattainable in the past. And it is not an unpleasing thought to the citizens of Illinois, as well as to the members of the University, that, in developing its facilities for the training of men to fill positions of responsibility in both public and private administrations, the State of Illinois has placed itself in the vanguard of educational progress.

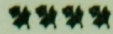
Much has been done, during the past eleven years, in the development of the courses in business administration, but much still remains to be done. There are already indications that the accommodations of the new commerce building will be inadequate to the demands that will be made upon it. It is not merely a case of the provision of recitation rooms. Modern methods of instruction in what may fitly be termed business technology call for generous provisions of museums, laboratories, instrument rooms, and so forth. To meet the actual needs of the business world, it will be necessary to expand the courses in accountancy, business organization and practice, commercial law, and other subjects, and new courses in such subjects as salesmanship, advertising, and secretarial work are being called for. Two years have elapsed since the building was authorized. The enrollment of students taking work in economics and commerce during these two years has increased forty per cent. Such progress shows a lively appreciation of the benefits of training in

business subjects, and throws a corresponding obligation upon the University and the State to see that this desire for economic efficiency on the part of the youth of the state is met by provision of proper and adequate facilities.



FRONT ENTRANCE

The Commerce Building



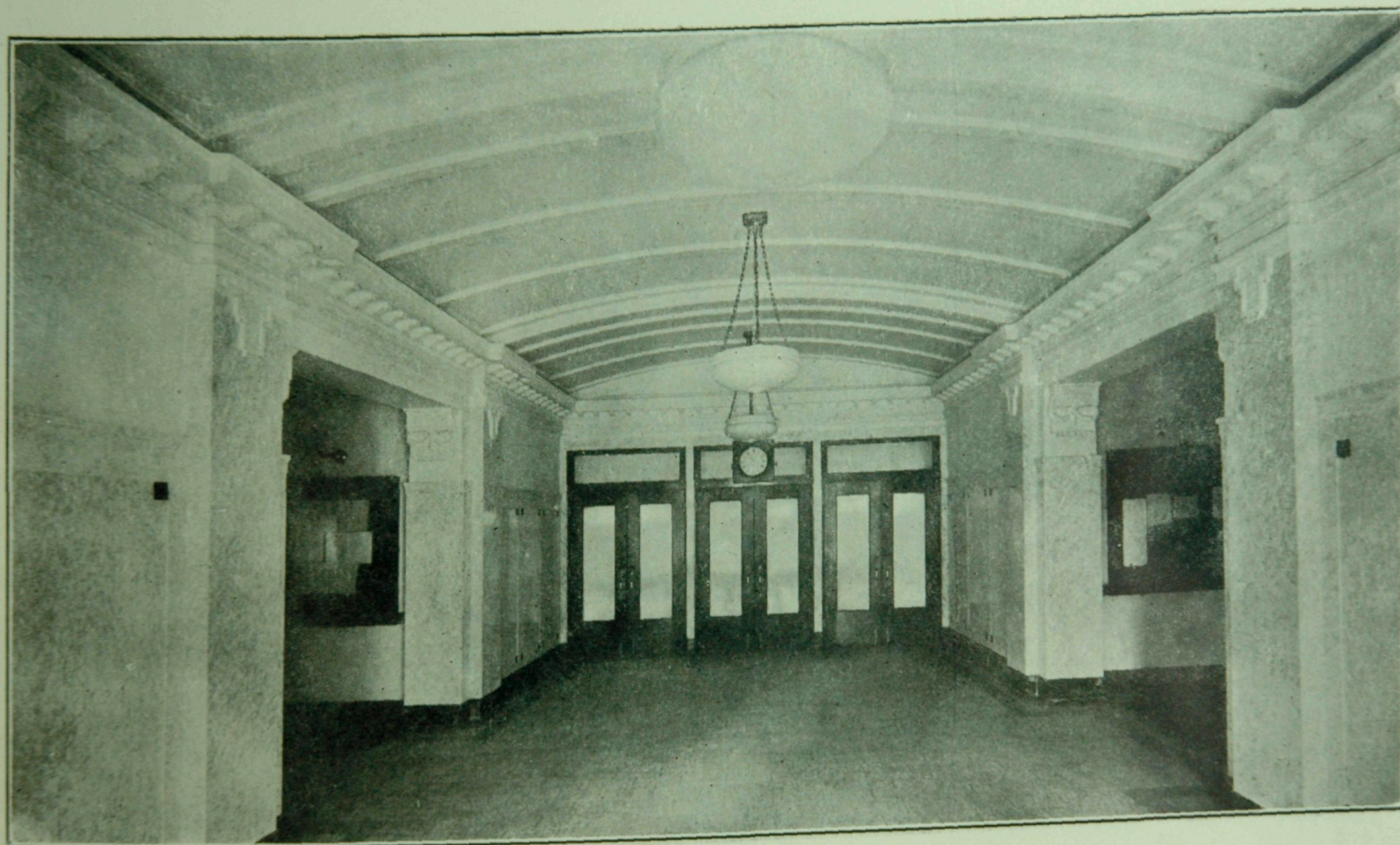
The new Commerce Building is centrally located on the University Campus, standing a little south of University Hall, and facing on Burrill Avenue. In its architecture, the building harmonizes with the other structures on the south Campus, though differing from them considerably in style. The first story and the cornice are constructed of white stone, while the rest is in brick of the type used in the adjacent buildings. The east facade is the only part of the present structure which will show when the building is completed. This facade is somewhat more elaborate in its detail than in the case of any other building on the Campus. Its most striking feature is the broad entrance, flanked by large stone pylons supporting massive bronze lanterns.

The spacious but simply designed entrance hall, with marble wainscot and low vaulted ceiling, leads directly to a large lecture room seated in amphitheater fashion, which furnishes comfortable accommodation for several large lecture courses. The room is well lighted and ventilated and will be equipped with the most improved type of lantern for stereopticon illustration. Corridors leading north and south from the entrance hall give access to two other large lecture rooms, to the offices of the Director and Assistant Director of the Courses in Business Administration, and to the stairways leading to the upper floors.

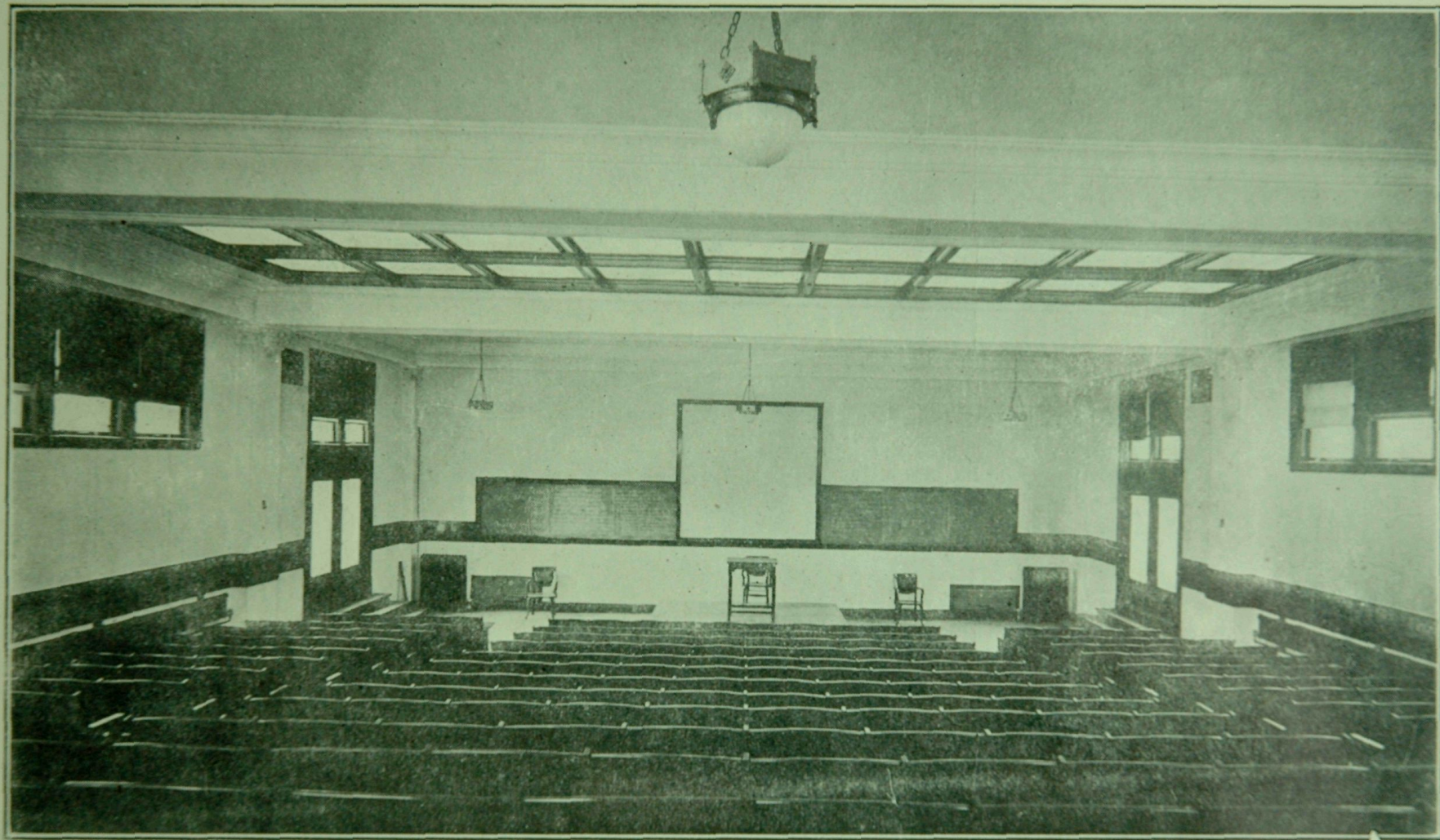
On the second floor are located the offices of the professors of railway administration and commerce, a large lecture room, seating about one hundred, and equipped with a lantern for the special use of the courses in commercial subjects, and two smaller class rooms for the use of advanced classes in business administration. The statistics and commerce laboratories and the commerce reading-room are also located on this floor. The statistics laboratory is being equipped with the machines, apparatus, and books necessary for the most advanced statistical investigation along all lines. The commerce laboratory is furnished with an extensive collection of commercial products, maps, charts, etc. In the reading-room, current financial and trade newspapers and periodicals, as well as general reference works in commerce, will be kept on file.

On the third floor are the accountancy rooms, additional class rooms, and the offices of the professors of industry and accountancy and of the instructors in the business courses. The rooms for the use of the courses in accountancy consist of a laboratory and a machine room. The accountancy laboratory, about eighty feet long and thirty feet wide, is the largest room in the building. It is furnished with large drafting tables for the use of students in designing accounting forms and handling the books used in the accounting courses. Eventually, the accountancy machine room will be more fully equipped with the various machines used in business and accounting offices. Many of these machines are electrically operated and the necessary connections have been installed in the room.

As a whole, the building is substantially constructed, simple in plan, and convenient and well adapted to the purpose for which it is intended.



VESTIBULE



LECTURE ROOM



ACCOUNTANCY ROOM



COMMERCE LABORATORY