

link in a continuous line that reached from Baltimore to St. Louis, "then the longest stretch of railroad track in the world." The completion of the three lines making this route—the Baltimore & Ohio, the Marietta & Cincinnati and the Ohio & Mississippi—was the occasion of a great railroad celebration. The first train over the road was a "Celebration Train," which was filled with railroad and government dignitaries and was greeted with much bunting and noise at all the towns along the way. The event was so notable as to call forth a good-sized illustrated book descriptive of the trip, which volume can be found in the State Library. Among the immediate influences of the railroads should be mentioned the first State fair, held at Indianapolis in 1852. The convenience of transportation afforded by them made possible something larger than the local fairs that had previously existed. The 1,365 entries in this fair came from all over the State, and some of them from other States, and they presented an industrial exhibit such as the westerners had never seen before and such as was hardly possible under the old systems of transportation.

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#### FIRST CANAL SURVEYS.

SINCE our article on early canals (published in September issue), we have learned from a gazetteer of 1826 that at that early date a letter of instruction had been issued from the United States Engineering Department for the survey of four canal routes in the State of Indiana, as follows: 1. To unite the waters of Lake Michigan with the Wabash river, by the way of the St. Joseph river valley. 2. The uniting of the Wabash and White rivers by way of the Mississinewa or the "Poucanpicheax" valley. 3. The uniting of the rivers at Ft. Wayne with the Ohio river by way of the Whitewater valley. 4. A canal "to turn the Falls of the Ohio near Jeffersonville." In accordance with these instructions, the engineers, says the gazetteer, "commenced their examinations on the Whitewater route on the 8th of July, 1826." Whether anything was ever done on surveys 1 and 2 we have not learned. The letter, as indicating a canal movement at that date, adds an item to the history of the subject.