

AS A STOCK MARKET

Record Breaking Year for the Union Stock Yards.

HANDLED A QUARTER OF A MILLION CARS

Daily Average of Forty Trains of Twenty Cars Each.

FINE INCREASE IN EVERY DEPARTMENT

Many Extensive and Costly Improvements and More Coming.

THIRD PACKING CENTER IN THE WORLD

Important Additions to Packing Houses—Big Increase in the Product—Many More Employees—New Industries—Bright Prospect for 1893.

The liberal management of the Union Stock Yards company of South Omaha has been all that the record breaking year required. The expenditure, during 1892, of \$800,000 in enlarging and improving the yards was only deemed necessary for the future growth and needs of the stock business at this point. But with this immense sum of money, judiciously handled, so rapid has the growth of business been that the improvements have scarcely kept ahead of the needs.

The ninth annual report of the Union Stock Yards company published, shows that 1892 was a record breaking year in every particular. The figures are as interesting as the facts are creditable. In the receipts of cattle 1892 shows an increase from 995,929 in 1890, the banner year, to 738,185 in 1892 or 20.96 per cent. The increased receipts of hogs were from 1,673,314 in 1890 to 1,705,087 in 1892 or 2 per cent. The increased receipts of sheep were from 170,849 in 1891 to 185,347 in 1892 or 8.66 per cent. The increase of horses and mules received was from 8,262 in 1891 to 14,183 in 1892, or 65.97 per cent. The increase of cars received was from 54,283 in 1890 to 58,644 in 1892, or 8.03 per cent. The increase of the percentage of slaughtering of the stock received in 1892 over 1891 is as creditable to the local packers as it is gratifying to friends of the yards and beneficial to the stock raisers of the great Missouri valley and northwest. Of the 23,044 cattle received in 1891 there were slaughtered 23,600, or 54.56 per cent, while of the 738,185 received in 1892, there were 462,113 slaughtered, or 62.91 or 29.91 per cent a gain of 144,145 in the receipts and 129,453 in the slaughtering; of the 1,492,423 hogs received in 1891, 1,216,576 were slaughtered or 81.52 per cent, while of the 1,705,087 hogs received in 1892, 1,428,281 were slaughtered or 83.78 per cent, an increase of 208,705 or 77.42 per cent, a gain of 243,964 in receipts and 243,864 in the slaughtering; of the 170,849 sheep received in 1891, there were 80,960 slaughtered, or 47.39 per cent, while of the 185,347 received in 1892, there were 95,443 slaughtered, a gain of 14,603 in receipts and 19,483 in the slaughtering.

When it is remembered that nearly all the smaller packing houses of Iowa and Nebraska and Indiana, Boston and other eastern markets have resident buyers here, it will be conceded that neither words, facts nor figures could speak better for a market than these do for this market and the local packing houses.

The Organization.

The Union Stock Yards company was organized only nine years ago and commenced operations in August of 1884. The growth of the business was gradual till 1890 when the enormous receipts of stock called for the attention of the local packers and interested in stock to this point. Extensive improvements and enlargements were commenced in 1891, and were more than doubled in 1892.

Officers.

The Union Stock Yards company and the Union Stock Yards Railroad company have the same officers, as follows: John A. McShane, president; William A. Paxton, vice president; J. C. Shumy, general manager; W. N. Babcock, general manager. The board of directors consists of Messrs. W. A. Paxton of Omaha, John A. McShane of Omaha, John C. Shumy of Omaha, C. Foster of Omaha, Milton Rogers of Omaha, E. A. Cudaly of Omaha, B. F. Smith of Omaha, M. Keith of North Platte and P. A. Valentine of Chicago.

Capacity of the Yards.

The daily capacity for live stocks: Cattle, 12,000; hogs, 25,000; horses and mules, 1,000; sheep, 10,000.

Improvements.

Of the 230 acres of grounds owned by the company thirty-seven and a half acres were covered by stock pens at the first of last year, twelve acres being allotted to hogs, twenty and one-half acres to cattle and five acres to sheep. Fifteen additional acres have been graded this year at an expense of \$15,000 in removing 60,000 yards of earth, and have been covered with pens. Of these five acres are for hogs and ten acres for cattle. Many of the new pens have been paved with vitrified brick, which will make the yards among the finest in the country. Every pen in the yards has ample supply of good pure water. The supply is received through two eight-inch mains, two miles long. A standing eighty feet high, the contents of which are pumped into the pens.

Additional Features.

Two additional features for weighing stock have been added, making six in all. A storm water main 12 1/2 inch and 4,000 feet long has been constructed during the year at a cost of \$40,000. Connecting as this does with the sewerage system of a tunnel 6 1/2 and 1,700 feet long, containing 22,500 feet of sewer pipe through every alley and connecting with every stock pen in the yards, at a cost of \$25,000; and the sewer two miles long to the Missouri river, make the sewerage system absolutely first class.

Stocks Inspected.

Stock inspectors, Claude H. Talbot and Mark H. Beckham, report receipts of cattle from Colorado, Wyoming and Montana by months and range years, as follows:

than a year for the horse and mule department has been in operation only ten months, while nearly half of that time was spent in preparation for the promised business.

The sheep pens burned last summer are being rebuilt and will cost \$5,000.

Another sewer 1,000 feet long eight feet in diameter, is being constructed from the Exchange building to connect with the sewer at the south side of the G. H. Hammond company packing houses. This sewer will be circular, built of brick eight feet in diameter and will cost \$20,000.

A Feeder Market.

South Omaha has gained a standing among the very first as a feeder market. During the last year the average of every working day in the year, equal to forty-one trains of twenty cars to each train.

Magnitude of the Business.

During the year 255,500 cars were handled by the Union Stock Yards Railroad company, an average of 619 cars working every day in the year, equal to forty-one trains of twenty cars to each train.

Receipts.

The following tables set forth the steady yet marvelous increase of receipts of stock at the yards according to the years year, beginning December 1, since they were opened for business:

Table showing receipts of stock by month from Dec 1887 to Dec 1892. Columns include Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Horses & Mules.

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THE STORY OF A YEAR

Record of Omaha's Steady and Substantial Growth During 1892.

BANK CLEARINGS SUM UP \$295,619,720

An Increase of Nearly 40 Per Cent Over the Business of 1891.

BANK DEPOSITS OVER \$25,000,000

Wage Workers Have More Than a Million and a Half in the Savings Banks.

AGGREGATE JOBBERS' SALES \$49,710,000

The Product of Mills, Factories and Packing Houses Nearly Eighty Millions.

THE MAGNITUDE OF THE MEAT INDUSTRY

Nearly 10,000 Men and Women Employed in Omaha Manufacturing Establishments.

OVER \$9,000,000 IN SOLID IMPROVEMENTS

Miles of Pavements, Sewers and Water Mains

Nearly 1,500 New Buildings—A Splendid Showing in Every Direction—

Increase in Public Revenues.

Omaha has just closed a year that has been one of the most prosperous in the history of the city. While it has not taken on any of the characteristics of a boom, it has been one of unusual activity with the manufacturing establishments, with the tradesmen, with the financial institutions, with the wage-earners and with the city generally.

The city has a population of 145,000. Its corporate limits extend over 24 1/2 miles of territory, within which there are 14 1/2 miles of graded streets, 71 1/2 miles of paved streets, 128 7/8 miles of curbing, 102 1/2 miles of sewers and 44 1/2 miles of wooden and stone sidewalks. These improvements have been made at a cost of \$7,447,470, of which an amount of \$650,000 was expended during the year 1892.

The building record has been a surprise, and for the city of Omaha, figures prove that 1,372 new dwellings, stores, factories and other structures were erected at a cost of \$4,548,522. In addition to this, South Omaha invested \$511,543, Florence \$400,000 and Benson and Halcyon Heights \$62,200, making a total of \$5,542,265. In 1891 the city and its suburbs during the year that has passed away. The government has expended the sum of \$80,000 in the beginning of the new postoffice building, which, if added to the totals, would bring the gross investment up to \$5,622,265, which is \$2,500,000 in excess of the 1891 record.

Bank clearings have outstripped anything that has ever been experienced in the city, and during the year they reached \$285,619,720, or an increase of 38 1/2 per cent over \$206,104,200. Of the employees, 4,350 were males and 998 were females. This number of employees was an increase of 1,690 over the number of people employed at the beginning of the year 1892.

One year ago there were 152 wholesale houses in the city, and during the year 1891 their sales aggregated \$40,010,000. During 1892 the number increased to 169, with a capital of \$8,410,000. They did a business that amounted to \$47,710,000, which was an increase of \$7,700,000 over the preceding year. Schools and educational institutions kept pace with the growth and prosperity of the city, the enrollment increasing from 15,136 in 1891 to 19,750 in 1892.

Without an effort, Omaha has maintained her position as the third packing center in the world, being only outstripped by Chicago and Kansas City, and on the latter point she has made solid and permanent gains that promise to place her in second place before the end of the present year.

At the stock yards there were 255,500 cars of cattle, hogs and sheep handled during the year, an increase of 44,486 cars over 1891. The cattle slaughtering numbered 468,881, an increase of 129,453 over the previous year. The hogs that were received at the yards numbered 1,705,087, which number 1,282,075 were slaughtered and went into the year's pack. The number of cattle received was 738,000, an increase of 145,000 over 1891. The number of sheep slaughtered aggregated 190,000, as against 170,000 during 1891.

The sale of cattle known to the trade as feeders increased from 91,500 to 131,231 during the year, while the home market showed a gain of 5,500, there being 14,183 received and 9,245 sold on the market.

The aggregate sale of stock for 1892 amounted to \$45,160,885, or \$9,281,538 more than during 1891.

In the packing houses 4,346 persons find employment, their wages having amounted to \$2,345,450 last year.

The improvements in the yards in building houses, grading and putting in equipment aggregated \$1,300,000.

A summary of expenditures outside of stock yard improvements show the following results:

Table showing expenditures outside of stock yard improvements. Columns include Telephone, telegraph and electric, Railroads, Water works, Gas, East Omaha, Municipal improvements, Total.

Three More Wreck Victims. HONOR, Kan., Dec. 31.—Engine Stone, Brakeman Swearingen and Fireman Fuller, injured in the Rock Island railroad wreck at Troy Wednesday, are dead.