



Printing and Pullicity



ALL DOWN TOWN HAS NEW SURFACE

Streets in Business Section Are Repaved as Part of the Improvement Campaign.

ALL ARE BRICK AND ASPHALT

Central Part of City Gets Some Special Treatment.

CREOSOTE BLOCK IS COMING IN

Agitation for New Material on One Busy Thoroughfare.

GOOD ROADS TO THE COUNTRY

Many Paved Highways Run Out from City into the Farming District and Help Out the Local Trade.

Ten miles of new paving is the stupendous contract Omaha is seeing carried out on its streets throughout the business section and beyond it at the present time. The wide-spread work and facility with which it is being done at times when the material is at hand marks the size and effectiveness of Omaha's paving industry.

Ten miles of new paving is a contract far greater than the city has ever let before for that sort of work. It means the paving of 200,150 square yards of ground. It means an expenditure of approximately \$385,000.

Several hundred men are employed in the labor of laying the new paving over Omaha streets. Several asphalt plants are giving full time to the outputting of that kind of material for just a portion of the local work. The output of brick blocks, which is the kind of material which is most used here by far, is not fast enough, by reason of recent labor troubles, for the Omaha contractors. Brick is coming in better than they were some time ago.

There are three large contracting concerns in the paving business here and several outside firms occasionally dipping into the great demand of the city. Omaha's soil, of the nature that brings the Nebraska agricultural production to a bumper volume, conspires to give paving contractors lots of work. It is of the kind which does not sustain traffic where it forms natural, unpaved roads. Therefore most of the streets in and leading to the city of necessity must be paved.

This makes Omaha a thriving place for contractors in the light of the fact that Denver and certain other cities are blessed—or cursed—with a hard soil that makes almost perfect roadways without more than superficial shaping of and surfacing.

In the local industry about \$100,000 is invested. Though 300 men is the average number employed, that mark is passed and under the present situation of abnormal activity.

Brick were scarce. The present big municipal paving undertaking was launched in March of this year, and though it dragged for the first few

months owing to the failure of the supply of brick from Illinois, the contractors say their work will be completed by the end of the year. Other great contracts are expected for the ensuing years. It is commonly known that all the districts of the metropolis are seeing an agitation among property owners for paved streets, which is likely to be followed in due time by many petitions for the work.

The big contract which is now under way was brought about directly by a recent act of the legislature which gave the council power to let lump paving contracts for work within a radius of 4,000 feet of the city hall without submitting the question to the property owners. Before that much delay was caused and considerable raggedness in the letting of contracts experienced through the necessity of getting up a petition with a majority of property owners signed upon them before the contracts could be let. When the general downtown contract came up before the council several other districts took the opportunity of putting their petitions into action and the result was a single order upon the paving men for ten miles of new surfaced streets.

Under normal conditions the paving concerns keep their men at work nine months of the year, the contracts being dropped only during those months in midwinter when the paving work would be impossible.

More Next Year. It is generally expected in paving circles that the contracts for city paving next year will reach nearly 300,000 square yards in extent. The allowing of next year's intersection fund of \$100,000 will give a great stimulus to the work. This appropriation was entirely drawn from the present year's work.

Besides the main streets and thoroughfares to be paved, a number of alleys are to receive paving operations next year. The alleys will be paved with stone block. There will be about 1,000 square yards of the stone block paving in alleys accomplished this year.

From the property owners' standpoint, popular favor has been given by a wide margin to brick blocks as material for city streets. According to the apportionment of the work under way now, asphalt is vastly behind its competitor to an extent that makes it insignificant as a street material.

The paving was apportioned for the two kinds of material with the following figures: 200,330 square yards of brick block, \$1,780 square feet of asphalt.

Wood blocks do not figure at all in the present operations, though a movement was on foot for awhile to have Sixteenth street paved with that material.

The cost of paving with the popular brick blocks averages about \$2.10 per square yard. The other materials do not vary in cost far from that figure.

Experienced Contractors. The present contractors have been in business here for the most part dating from twenty years ago, though several changes and trades between them have marked the history of the industry. The principal contractor entered the field on a strong basis twenty years ago, and after a few years sold out to the National Construction company. Later he re-entered the field on a vastly increased financial basis and has remained in the industry while the outside corporation has almost entirely dropped out of it.

It has been found that present day paving methods with the use of any of the various materials, by reason of the great improvement, insures absolutely level streets and as durable ones as possibly can be devised. Omaha demands the best there is to be had

OMAHA HONORS ITS DEAD

No Place Has Better Facilities for Caring for the Departed.

CENTER OF MONUMENT INDUSTRY

Woodmen of the World Give Orders for 4,000 Monuments Last Year—Nine Concerns in Omaha.

Fourteen undertakers, nine monument builders, twenty florists and one casket company are taking care of Omaha's dead. The grim cavalcade of departing souls is ushered to the various resting places in the cemeteries with the ceremony and skill that attends an advancing and improving business.

Despite the fact that the burying business is fairly prosperous for those directly engaged in it and those who have an attendant share in its phases, conditions are reported marked by notable increases in the cost of supplies and labor. For instance, it now costs generally more to embalm a body than the undertaker is paid for that task. Yet, by reason of the fact that the public has become educated into luxury even relating to burial and more of those accessory services and fixtures of the death room are required, undertakers find life eminently satisfactory from a business standpoint.

Several local undertakers have not hesitated to say that the single phase of embalming is non-lucrative. It is explained that the state law fixes the price for embalming a body at \$35, whereas as the undertaker is sometimes put to an expense of \$50 for the work. He makes up for his loss through supplying the accessories to the funeral and the services.

As a matter of fact, the embalming incident of the undertaking business is but a small one. Local members of the trade say that Omaha patrons now use more high quality and gorgeous furnishings for their dead than ever before has been the case. Twenty years ago caskets were used prevalent, but they were discarded to a great extent in the succeeding years until recently. Now nothing is too good for the undertakers.

If it were a matter which could be tastefully mentioned in the category of Omaha's development, it might be said that this city ranks among the foremost in the country for the sumptuousness of its burials and the expertise of its funeral directors.

Omaha, on the other hand, ranks as having the smallest percentage of deaths annually of any city in the country of its population. The rate is eight deaths to every 1,000 of population each year.

Monuments come in for a large and growing portion of funeral expense. Nowadays nearly everyone who dies gets a memorial in the form of a monument.

Omaha has become a headquarters of the industry of monument makers. The Woodmen of the World organization of this city, through the abiding place of its main offices and through that channel about 4,000 monuments are ordered every year. It is a law of the order that a monument costing not less than \$100 shall be erected to the memory of every member.

All such deaths in the ranks of the Woodmen, all over the world, cause orders for the prescribed memorials to go through the local office.

R. E. McKeely, who has direct charge of all the Woodmen monuments, has reported to the Omaha office that he has erected in foreign lands during the last year.

While no monuments are purchased by the fraternal organization from firms in this city outside of what is directly required for local deaths, the influence of the organization is great by reason of the large demand it makes for shafts from all dealers in general.

From the rime monument producing establishments in the city it is learned that an aggregate business reaching the volume of \$175,000 annually is done in Omaha. The prices of the monuments range from \$25 up to \$100 and the tendency has steadily been toward the more elaborate and costly kind. The individual firms turn out an average of 400 orders a year. The time required on individual orders ranges from twelve hours to twelve months.

Omaha, like all other cities of the middle west, is compelled to send hundreds of miles for its monument material. There is absolutely no stone produced in the state and material for the most part must be gotten from Vermont, Minnesota or the extreme southern states. Barre granite, from Vermont, is used most prevalently.

Foreign labor in an almost exclusively in the department of monument carving of the local establishments. It is declared the workmen from Germany, France and Italy are by far the most skilled as stonecutters. There are a number of the most expert stonecutters in the country employed in the Omaha concerns.

Though there are sixty-five monument establishments throughout the state of Nebraska, Omaha fills by far the most contracts. This city is looked upon as the most satisfactory producing point in the state by reason of its large volume of business and the better facilities enjoyed by concerns here than those in other cities. The local establishments keep in stock a large supply of shafts of every description, and are in readiness to deliver one completely finished in half the time required by the smaller concerns of the state.

Prices have gone up in this industry in the same proportion as increases have visited the other industries during the past five years, but the tendency toward a reduction in freight rates probably will be brought about in the near future, the monument dealers are hopeful of being able to reduce their schedules. Skilled labor is a considerable expense to the dealers also, but increasing system in the direction of their work is now giving increased value to the employers.

Omaha monument builders are prepared on any occasion to deliver a monument carved completely by the chief of one man. No matter how rushed the concern may be, it has become a rule never to let two men work on one monument, as each carver has his own style of carving and

WHOLESALE LUMBER CENTER

Omaha Ranks Fourth as Distributing Point for Lumber to Western Points.

With approximately \$10,000,000 invested in the lumber business and with an annual distribution of between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000 worth of lumber, Omaha holds a leading place among the lumber distributing cities of the world. It is generally conceded that this city has the greatest lumber distributing railroad yards in the country.

The local industry gives it attention exclusively to the distribution of lumber. Into this city is shipped the finished product of the forests in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Michigan and the northern coast states.

There are five large wholesale lumber concerns in Omaha carrying on the distributing work. A score of retail concerns supply the local needs, and the whole territory of the country is supplied by the Omaha concerns in general. The establishments maintain elaborate offices in the business section of the city and large lumber yards at the switching points. Each railroad has found it profitable to establish special shipping yards of large area for the lumber shipping business. Probably nowhere in the world is the system of assembling different sorts of lumber in special cars and distributing the supply from a central point carried on to such an extent as in Omaha. Wood of every sort, including yellow pine, fir, western pine, cedar and redwood is to be had from the yards of Omaha.

The particular advantage offered by the city's industry is that of supplying retail dealers who cannot afford to lay in a large supply of lumber for future needs themselves.

Lumber may be obtained from the mills direct, but the small dealers find it considerably more convenient to buy in small quantities as their needs arise from the wholesaler.

Omaha is the only city on the Missouri river that through its wholesale lumber concerns, maintains an unlimited supply of lumber for all demands. The smaller towns cannot hazard the expense of handling the wholesale stock of the commodity on their ground and reload it to suit the demand that reaches them.

In this respect Omaha transcends even St. Joseph, and Kansas City, which metropolises make more of a pretense at lumber business than this city does.

Omaha, from all sources of information, ranks easily fourth in respect to the lumber industry of the country. The order of the cities in relation to their importance as lumber concerns are St. Louis, Kansas City, Chicago and Omaha.

Omaha loses considerable of its deserved prestige in lumber reports when compared with other cities from the fact that what is known as "office business" is carried on to an enormous extent in other cities, whereas the real business of handling lumber is done in this city. The sales are not only made in Omaha, but the lumber is obtained at this point and actually shipped out to purchasers. The shipments receive handling at this point to the extent that they are unloaded from the cars, assembled systematically and reloaded for their ultimate destinations.

BUILDING OPERATIONS GOOD

Omaha Stands Twenty-Seventh in the List of Cities of the Country, and Still Grows.

Omaha's building operations in 1909 made a good showing and the indications are for a considerable increase this year.

Omaha stands twenty-seventh among the large cities in the amount of building done in 1909, according to government statistics, recently issued by the Interior department.

Salt Lake City is twenty-fifth, Cincinnati twenty-sixth, Indianapolis twenty-eighth and Jersey City twenty-ninth. Kansas City stands well up in the line, being fourteenth, two places ahead of Minneapolis. St. Joseph is away down, being sixty-eighth, and Toledo (about the same size as Omaha) is seventy-fifth.

South Omaha has just enough to get into the list, ranking as the 125th, and Council Bluffs is the 126th.

Omaha stands well up in the percentage of increase in building for 1909. The average of the 127 cities is 34.34 per cent, but in Omaha it is 54.93 per cent.

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS MADE HERE

Three Firms Do Big Business in Substituting Limbs for Misfortune on Misshap.

It isn't a possession of which you hear people boasting much—vaudeville humorists and the funny paper artists have used the subject too often as a jest—but it is a possession of vast importance when it becomes necessary to find a substitute for the one nature gave you, the artificial limb. Omaha has three firms which give their attention to the manufacture of these substitutes made necessary by mishap or misfortune. Like the other local industries they supply a large territory.

Liberty is represented by a female, but the suffragette is firmly convinced that the facts are all to the contrary.

Some men are loved for the enemies they have made, but more are loved for the dollars they have collected.—Chicago News.

ENGINEERS OF HIGH RANK

Omaha Has Consulting Engineers Who Are Called All Over for Important Work.

Omaha consulting engineers, although perhaps they are few in number compared with other cities of similar size in the United States, find that they are called upon to work out engineering matters for practically the entire state of Nebraska.

In the towns and cities of Nebraska, the decision upon the erection of any structure requiring the services of a consulting engineer they do not need to send to the great cities in the east for their men; they are to be found right here in Omaha.

The work of the consulting engineer is becoming more and more important every year. As a civil engineer, as the growing industry of the country, and particularly that of Nebraska, and this part of the middle west, increases, the demands become greater for more public works, more huge buildings, more difficult great engineering tasks. With all this growth the work of the consulting engineer becomes more complex and he must be a man of both brain and brawn to meet and overcome the problems which come before him. And, with all these things in view, Omaha's engineers are holding their own and are keeping abreast of the times.

When a municipality votes to construct a new water works system, highway drainage or sanitary sewerage system in which reliable advice and technical skill is needed, Omaha furnishes the consulting engineers, with the possible exception of a contract being let directly to some construction company which maintains its own engineers.

When a large water works, remodeling or enlarging it is Omaha which produces the consulting engineer.

When a consulting engineer is called to a city to inspect a plant he determines whether or not it can be practically rebuilt with a larger capacity, or whether it is entirely new system is necessary. The engineer looks over the ground, submits his report, and if chosen as consulting engineer for the project he becomes responsible for the work which is done in accordance with the report he has made. At other times when merely technical advice is needed he is consulted in the same capacity as would an attorney or physician. This is frequently done in the instances when some public work is being planned or constructed and the opinion of a prominent engineer is deemed advisable.

The Omaha directory shows that this city has three consulting engineers, A. C. Koenig, G. J. S. Collins and A. C. Arnold. Mr. Koenig is known over the state as one of the most prominent engineers in the west. He is chief engineer for the Nebraska Power company, and in his private work makes a specialty of designing water works and sewerage systems. He is thoroughly familiar with Nebraska conditions and is one of the best authorities procurable on Nebraska rivers, of which he has made a special study.

Recently Mr. Koenig was honored by having his preliminary report accepted for the proposed \$5,000,000 power plant at Columbus, Neb., which it is planned will supply a great part of Nebraska consumers with electricity. This report was submitted after fifteen other engineers, the most prominent in the United States and Europe, had prepared similar reports. Following the acceptance of Mr. Koenig's report he was procured by the backers, who are Swiss bankers, as consulting engineer, and he is now working in that capacity. If constructed, this will be the greatest engineering feat which has been accomplished in Nebraska since the building of the railroad, and in the end will bear no less importance in the business future of the state.

In spite of the fact that Omaha is in strictly an agricultural state, the engineering talent found here is in the first rank. Omaha engineers have built the city and are building the state.

Drinking Water at Meals. If the Hookerfeller institute has done its job, its findings will be that drinking water at meals is healthful food sufficient to embalmize it in the minds of many persons. From time immemorial the mass of physicians have told people to take water at meals, but never while the gastric juices are at work.

It will be remembered by some of the older generation that fifty years ago water was seldom if ever given patients suffering with fever. There was a lot of fixed rules which seem to have gained authority, but which were based on nothing but fallacious notions. In these days of research every dictum is being investigated and a lot of the most sacrosanct ideas have gone down before the iconoclasts.—Boston Herald.

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