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Omaha's position as a financial center is permanently established in the group of the first twenty cities on the continent. In the matter of bank clearings, Omaha ranked seventeenth in 1906 and thus far the present year has shown a constant and persistent increase from week to week that promises to place the city fifteenth or even better in the list of clearings house cities of the continent. Abundant capital, splendid banking facilities and a liberal accommodation policy, backed up by conservative financing have contributed to this. Equipped with ample loanable funds and imbued with intense patriotism and pride in the advancement of the city, the bankers of Omaha have exerted a wholesome influence and have been of inestimable assistance in the growth of industrial and commercial Omaha.

The best evidence of the extent to which the banks and financial institutions of Omaha have participated in the tidal wave of prosperity and business expansion is found in the record of the Clearing House association. This association was formed twenty years ago for the purpose of facilitating checks drawn upon one bank and deposited for collection with another. It is the best barometer, in any community, of the volume of business transacted and of the growth of business. The growth of the financial and business interests of the city are well illustrated by the following figures, showing the total of bank clearances for the years indicated:

| Year | Clearances |
|------|------------------|
| 1897 | \$243,888,798.57 |
| 1898 | 319,561,528.61 |
| 1899 | 297,432,370.36 |
| 1900 | 315,135,196.06 |
| 1901 | 329,043,688.91 |
| 1902 | 361,511,775.77 |
| 1903 | 392,880,920.88 |
| 1904 | 398,985,212.35 |
| 1905 | 444,219,027.22 |
| 1906 | 504,388,764.90 |

| City | 1906 | 1905 | Increase | Per cent. |
|----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| Omaha | \$504,388,764 | \$444,219,027 | \$60,169,737 | 13.5 |
| Milwaukee | 493,415,885 | 426,472,741 | 66,943,144 | 15.6 |
| Seattle | 485,902,021 | 301,609,202 | 184,292,819 | 61.1 |
| St. Paul | 419,466,276 | 342,761,284 | 76,704,992 | 22.3 |
| Buffalo | 396,288,181 | 350,567,605 | 45,720,576 | 12.9 |
| Indianapolis | 366,024,538 | 345,387,373 | 20,637,165 | 5.9 |
| Denver | 349,774,100 | 327,557,695 | 22,216,405 | 6.8 |
| Salt Lake City | 288,175,913 | 211,597,740 | 76,578,173 | 36.1 |
| Portland, Ore. | 281,170,790 | 228,492,712 | 52,678,078 | 23.1 |
| St. Joseph | 255,494,124 | 232,592,810 | 22,901,314 | 9.8 |
| Memphis | 247,584,435 | 232,537,587 | 15,046,848 | 6.4 |
| Spokane | 228,452,196 | 164,099,942 | 64,352,254 | 39.2 |
| Tacoma | 209,773,523 | 164,555,042 | 45,218,481 | 27.5 |
| Helena | 45,015,396 | 35,494,842 | 9,520,554 | 26.8 |

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