

### Bonds Interest Real Burden to Taxpayers Here

Douglas County Paying for  
Courthouse Torn Down  
Years Ago—Easy to Put  
Issues Over.

By PAUL GREER.  
There is nothing easier than to issue bonds. An election is called, some booster organization takes the field, and on the appointed day a scattering minority of the citizens goes to the polls and puts the issue over. Many property owners do not trouble to vote, and taxpayers in general may be said not to look before they leap.

It is easy to sell bonds for public purposes, but it is hard to pay them off. Nebraska is full of ambitious communities that are groaning at meeting the interest and have scarcely begun to pay off the principal.

The magnitude of these operations is glimpsed in the statement that each man, woman and child in Omaha owes \$122.62 as his share of the city, county and school bonds outstanding. This obligation is divided among the divisions of government in the following way: City bonds, \$39.96; school, \$43.33; county, \$19.33. This is exclusive of bonds for the water and light plant, which are to be redeemed from earnings and not by taxation. There is a small amount of money in the other's treasury for bond redemption purposes, although the school board is the only body actually laying up a definite amount toward the day of maturity.

Condition is General.  
The same sort of thing is going on all over the country—they all call it passing to posterity its just share of the cost of permanent improvements. Very often it amounts to this, although Douglas county is still paying off the bonds on the old courthouse which was torn down years ago, and there are other instances in which the actual object has disappeared before the bill comes due. This year Douglas county will pay off \$268,000 of bonds that were first issued in 1870, and which even then represented only the consolidation and refunding of debts contracted in the earliest days of organization.

The per capita debt of New York city is greater than our own, reaching to the imposing amount of \$182, and that of Pittsburgh is \$107. To come closer home, Des Moines citizens owe about half as much as those of Omaha, \$56.36; Denver, \$34.99, and Salt Lake City, \$86.45.

It is flattering to know that the bond buyers consider the obligations of Omaha to be gilt edged. The total outstanding is \$22,294,288, with \$2,500,000 worth soon to be sold for the building of schools. The confidence that the people of Omaha will meet their bond bill is due to the fact that the city is growing steadily in population and wealth. If population gains faster than bonds henceforth are issued, the per

**SECOND PRICE CUT**  
Of the Season  
**STARTING NEXT WEEK**  
**ADMISSION 25c**  
Includes Tax  
Except Saturday and Sunday  
**All Drinks 10c**  
Nothing Higher  
All Tables Free

**EMPRESS RUSTIC GARDEN**

**EMPRESS** NOW SHOWING  
HAMLIN & MACK  
ALEXANDER & FIELDS  
"The Two Records"  
"Two in the Lid"  
WINTON BROTHERS  
HAP & MARY HAZARD  
"On Time"  
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**Strand**  
At 11-1-3-5-7-9  
Held Over for Three Days

**Norma Talmadge**  
Smilin' Through  
Matinee Until 6:15, 35c; Nights, 70c  
Seats, 40c; Main Floor, 50c; Boxes, 80c

**ROADSHOWS**  
TODAY at 1-3-7 and 9  
Prices 50c; a few, 75c; boxes, \$1  
**WALLACE REID**  
**ELSIE FERGUSON**  
in the Paramount Picture,  
**"FOREVER"**  
The greatest story of love the screen has ever known  
**ALL SEATS RESERVED**

**SUN** LAST TIMES  
**"Foolish Matrons"**  
TOMORROW  
**"Cardigan"**

capita debt will shrink. To put the matter in strong words, Omaha would be practically bankrupt if it kept on issuing bonds at its present rate without growing in size and wealth.

**Figures Show Growth.**  
A table will show how the bond burden is growing. The following figures give the amounts of funds required by the county, city and school district to redeem bonds and pay interest, first in 1917, then last year, this year and the following two years:

1917	\$ 850,395
1921	1,155,100
1922	1,476,798
1923	1,526,581
1924	2,003,135

Of course, other bonds will be issued in the future, but the tabulation concerns only the issues now outstanding. In certain cases bonds can be issued without a vote of the citizens. At the present time there is some question whether under a recent act of the legislature, the school board can issue on its own responsibility, bonds up to the amount of \$5,000,000. It is only fair to say that the board is not contemplating the use of this provision. The city council, on its part, is authorized by law to issue bonds without a vote of the people up to the value of \$100,000 a year for parks, playgrounds and boulevards, \$30,000 for an engine house, \$50,000 for public comfort stations, \$100,000 for police stations and up to \$500,000 for sewers.

This is aside from the financing of ordinary street, sidewalk and sewer improvements. Last year special taxes levied, due in installments over a 10-year period from benefited property holders, amounted to \$1,239,593. The sum taken in through these special assessments covering levies made in previous years was \$638,947.

**Marble Halls Unpaid For.**  
Omaha may have set the pace for Lincoln and the rest of the communities of Nebraska, for most of them are in the same race. Many county seats look with pride at an ornate new courthouse, but most of these marble halls have not been paid for. In some instances, as in Clay county, the people have paid by taxation as they built. In others, as in Colfax and in Platte, after attempting to pay as they went, the citizens finally resorted to bonding. Those old-fashioned citizens who see a quiet dignity and good taste in the

**Opera House**  
Last Two Times  
**MATINEE TODAY, 2:15**  
Early Curtain  
**TONIGHT at 8**

**William Gaxton** **Cameron Sisters**  
Emerson and Satevita  
**Ed Allen Presents TAXIE**  
Jack and Jessie Gibson  
**HARRY DELF**  
Leo Flinders and Genevieve Butler  
Tonight's Winner of Two Free Seats is Auto No. 9,974

**MOON**  
STARTS TODAY

**Ralph Connor's**  
"Cameron of the Royal Mounted"

**RIALTO**  
LAST DAY  
**Valentino and Dalton**  
in  
"Moran of the Lady Letty"

"OMAHA'S FUN CENTER"  
**Gaiety** Mat. and Nite Today,  
Good Res'vd Seats, 50c.  
CLASSY, CONSISTENT, CATCHY  
**BON TON GIRLS** MUSICAL BURLESK  
With JOHN BARRY and GEO. DOUGLAS.  
Chorus of Twenty Charms, Talented Steppers.  
LADIES' TICKETS, 12c-25c—EVERY WEEK DAY

**Empress**  
NOW PLAYING  
**MARY MILES MINTER**  
in  
"Her Winning Way"  
The story of a man who was painfully shy and a girl who was not.  
EXTRA ADDED ATTRACTION  
"Wild Men of Africa"  
Series No. 4,  
"The Land of the Pygmies"

plain brick courthouses such as sprang up from the virgin prairies are condemned by public opinion as mossbacks.

It is the day of the booster. Local pride calls villages to ape cities, and small cities to ape New York. The growth of local bonded debt has gone forward too rapidly in Nebraska—and this is going to be a fixed charge on taxpayers for a good many years.

The bond registry bureau in the state capital shows that a bond debt of \$69,520,000 is outstanding against the various subdivisions of government. Cities, villages, irrigation and drainage districts owe \$40,110,152; school districts, \$20,945,000; counties,

\$8,027,885, and precincts, \$428,000. This is double the debt in 1912 and three times that of 20 years ago.

**No Bonded Indebtedness.**  
The state of Nebraska itself stands almost unique among American commonwealths in having no bonded indebtedness for the payment of which taxes will have to be levied over a coming term of years. The new state capital is being built by a direct tax on the people. Instead of selling bonds, the state has bought more than a million dollars worth of bonds of other states, counties, school districts and municipalities, these representing invested school funds.

This clean slate gives the legisla-

ture of the future opportunity to make decided reductions in taxes by cutting off services it is now performing for the citizens. Many subdivisions are fixed quite otherwise, with payments coming due on bonds that will tend to keep the taxes high.

To forget for a time to issue bonds would mean a sacrifice, but citizens might well pause for a moment to get their breath. Unless the bonding, assessing and spending boards let up, taxes, instead of going lower, will go higher.

Petroleum production of the world during the past year amounted to 759,030,000 barrels, an increase of 9.2 per cent over the previous year.

**Barker Clothes Shop**  
**Makes Improvements**  
When improvements announced by A. E. Barker, president of Barker's Clothes shop, are completed, the new store will be the largest exclusive men's wear store in the city, he says. Leases on rooms formerly occupied by the Washington Shirt company on Sixteenth street, and the Henderson flower shop on Farnam street have been signed. These will be remodelled into a big L-shaped room with entrances on Farnam and Sixteenth streets. One of the features of the remodeling will be a shopping

lobby. Entrances to the second floor of the shop are to be built in addition to the elevator entrance already in use. The remodeling is expected to be finished in about six weeks. New fixtures on both floors are to be installed. The shop on the second floor will remain open during the remodeling.

The Barker Clothes shop has occupied the second floor of the Securities building at Sixteenth and Farnam streets for the past six years. Growth of the business brought about the enlargement, Mr. Barker says.

Going to the theater? See what The Bee ads of theaters offer.

**Dresses, at \$15.00**  
Saturday, we offer smart new Canton Crepe Dresses, actually worth up to \$35.00, for \$15.00.  
**JULIUS ORKIN**  
1512 Douglas St.

**Wraps and Coats, at \$25**  
Saturday, we offer Wraps and Coats for Women and Misses, at \$25. Actual \$35 & \$39.50 values.  
**JULIUS ORKIN**  
1512 Douglas St.

See the Beautiful  
**Living Models**  
In Our Center  
Window Tonight

# Orkin Bros.

CONANT HOTEL BLDG.

Your greatest  
Saturday  
Opportunity

## Now comes a timely sale of Spring and Easter Coats - Wraps - Capes

A sale involving 700 fine Spring Coats, Wraps and Capes that we contracted for weeks ago, before normal demand had stiffened prices. Today, at present quotations, many could not be bought at wholesale at Saturday's sale price, a price representing values that will create profound amazement.

<b>\$69.50</b>	<b>\$65.00</b>	<b>\$59.50</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>
Values	Values	Values	Values

**Styles:**

- Tailored Styles
- Wrappy
- Effects
- Sport
- Models
- Plain or
- Fancy Capes

33

**Materials:**

- Marvaline
- Bolivia
- Pandora
- Veldyne
- Spongeen
- Crepongee
- Camel's Hair

**Colors:**  
Include every new shade and combination, with scores of Blacks, Navy and Brown

There are plain and irregular, deep fringed, braided or embroidered Capes, Coats with large mandarin sleeves, wrappy Coats, shawl collars, patch pockets, metal belts, long tassels, in fact every new style touch is included in this wonderful offering of fine Coats, and priced at only \$33.

Involved are quite a number of higher grade—one or two-of-a-kind  
**"Sample" Coats, Wraps, Capes**  
But for these you must come early.

Involved are quite a number of higher grade—one or two-of-a-kind  
**"Sample" Coats, Wraps, Capes**  
But for these you must come early.

**First Floor**  
**Saturday Specials**  
**Spring Blouses**  
From 9 to 12 Saturday morning, you may have your choice of over 200 very smart light and dark color spring blouses; sizes 36 to 46; unbelievable values for  
**\$1.59**



**First Floor**  
**Saturday Specials**  
**Spring Skirts**  
Plain and fringed home-spuns and tweeds, pleated prunellas, in novel colors and newest combinations, remarkable values at  
**\$4.95**