

Roads Make Many Improvements in Year Just Ended

U. P. Spends \$12,500,000 for New Equipment—Burlington Installs New Shops—Many Other Advances.

Railroads serving Omaha have made many improvements during 1922.

The Union Pacific, which maintains headquarters here for its entire system, announced in a statement issued yesterday that it has spent \$12,500,000 for new equipment during the year.

These new equipment purchases include 4,500 freight cars, 25 baggage cars, 20 coaches, 45 locomotives, 30 cabooses and 100 tank cars.

The road spent \$49,000 in the construction of a 500,000-gallon steel tank and \$44,000 in track improvements in Council Bluffs, \$41,000 for oil cellar, \$42,000 for track improvement, \$152,000 on the Tenth street viaduct reconstruction, and \$40,000 on telegraph line improvements.

Branch Lines Completed. The Union Pacific also states it spent \$1,800,000 on 175 miles of rail improvements, of which 111 miles were in Nebraska and Wyoming.

It rebuilt 154 miles of telegraph line in Nebraska at a cost of \$230,000, and completed the North Platte branch extension from Halg to Cottler at a total cost of \$3,500,000, of which \$550,000 was expended during 1922.

The Burlington, which maintains general offices in Omaha for its lines west of the Missouri, reports the installation of large new shops at Denver, now about 20 per cent completed, involving an expenditure of about \$2,500,000.

Large modern power plants have been installed at Havelock, Plattsmouth, Lincoln, McCook, Alliance and Denver by the Burlington and new modern cooling stations have been or are being installed at Red Cloud, Fairmont, Benkleman and Bridgeport. New depots have been built at Riverport, Franklin, Mitchell, Minatare, Neb., Fort Morgan, Colo.; Lodge Grass, and Hardin, Mont., and Thermopolis, Wyo., replacing structures that were no longer capable of accommodating the great increased business.

Beet Line Constructed. A 12-mile line has been constructed north from Hardin, Mont. Thirty-two Mikado heavy fast freight engines and eight new mountain type fast passenger engines were purchased during the year by the Burlington and an order for 50 new Mikado engines to be delivered early in the spring has been placed. Among other equipment purchases are 1,500 new box cars of latest type, 1,050 refrigerator cars, 500 single deck stock cars, 2,000 steel coal cars; 500 steel underframe automobile cars, 42 coaches; 22 mail and baggage cars and 10 80-foot dining cars.

The Burlington has laid in Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming a total of 115 miles of new heavy rail and approximately 22 miles of second hand rail. Its 1923 budget calls for the laying of 150 miles of new rail and 75 miles of second hand rail, in addition to many other improvements.

1922 Breaks All Previous Chicago Building Records

Chicago, Dec. 30.—All building records in Chicago were smashed when the building commissioner's office closed its books for 1922. A total of 12,596 permits for buildings valued at \$229,168,500 were issued, exceeding by nearly \$100,000,000 the best previous annual record. Permits issued in December alone totaled 719 for an aggregate expenditure of approximately \$30,000,000.

One of the largest single projects will be the erection of the world's largest hotel, a 20-story brick and stone structure on South Michigan boulevard, just south of the Blackstone hotel, by the Stevens interests, owners of the Hotel LaSalle, for which a permit for expenditure of \$9,023,500 was issued today.

Brandeis Restaurants to Be Open New Year's Day

Brandeis restaurants will not be open for New Year's eve. "Inasmuch as New Year's eve falls on Sunday this year, and owing to the fact that the Brandeis restaurants have never been opened on Sunday I decided that it would not be fair to the faithful employees of our restaurants to ask them to give up their holiday," explained George Brandeis yesterday.

"Our restaurants will be open on New Year's day and New Year's night, which we feel will amply take care of our patrons. Everyone likes a rest on Sunday."

Receipts Record in Office of County Register Broken

The past year was a banner one for Harry Pearce, registrar of deeds. Receipts of \$34,985.05 were the largest in the history of this office. In 1921 the office receipts were \$28,223.30.

County Treasurer Shows Balance of \$996,923.19

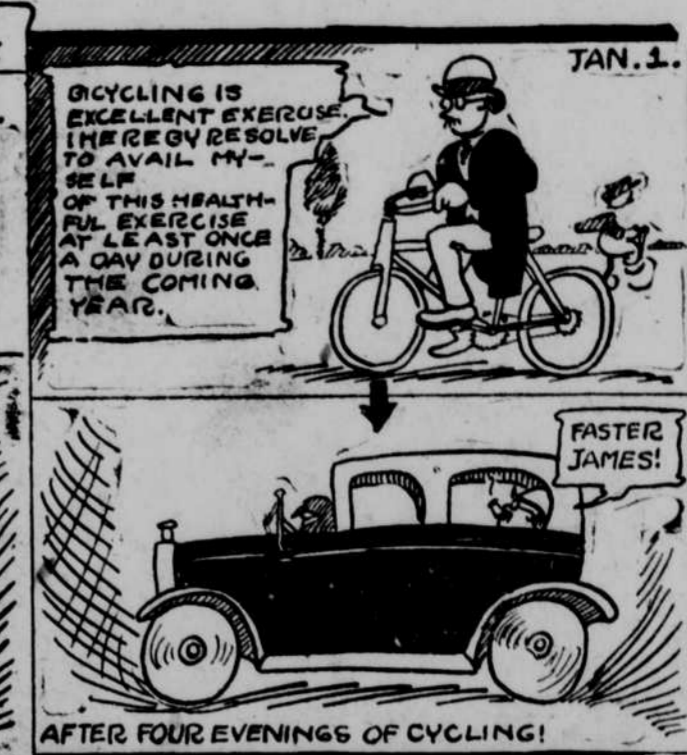
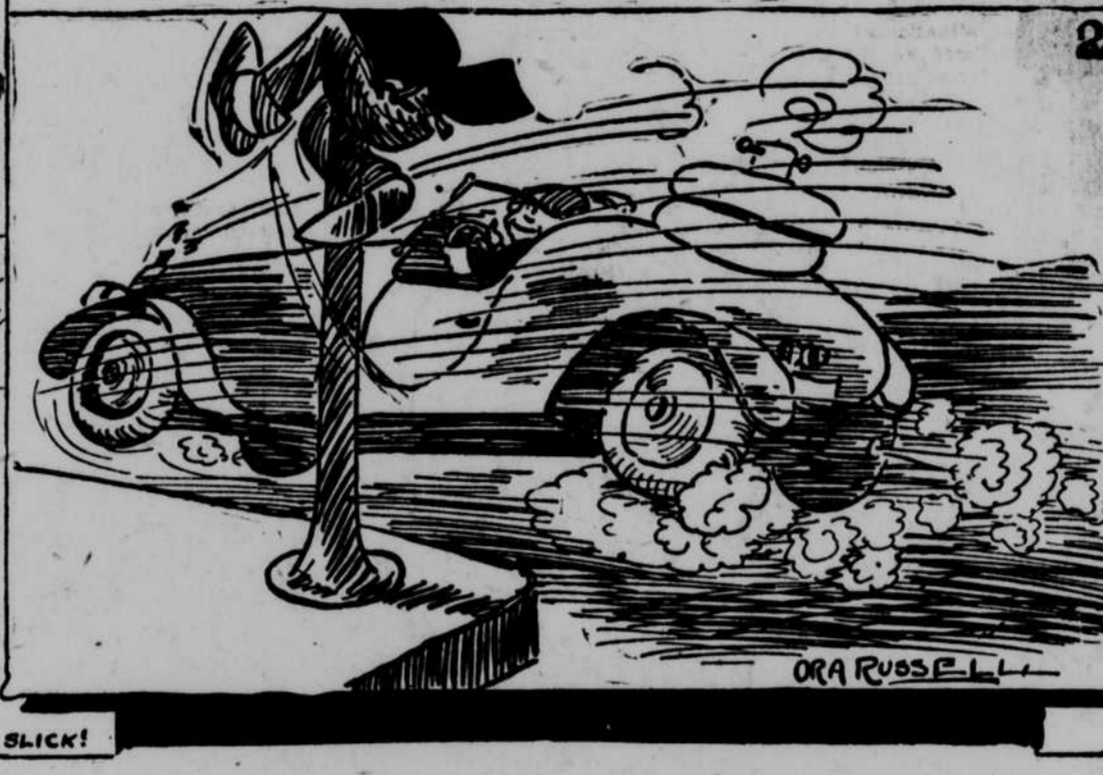
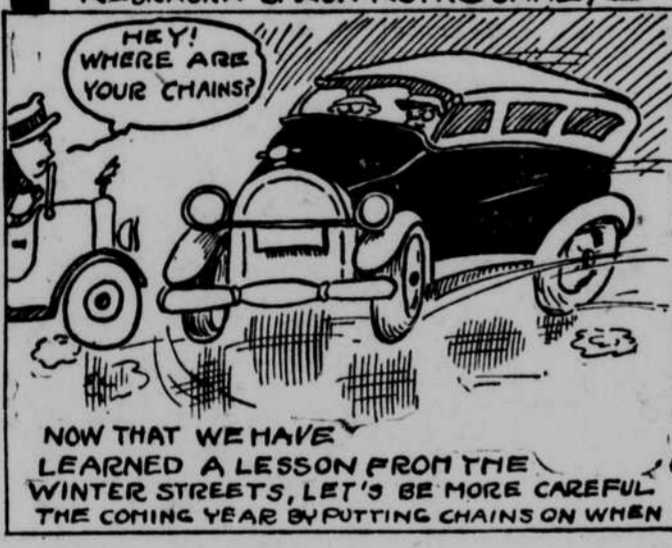
M. L. Endres, county treasurer, in his annual report shows a balance on hand December 1 of \$996,923.19. Total automobile collections for the past year are \$415,056.24.

More Than 602 Families Aided by County in Year

County citizens have been in a better shape financially the past year than in 1920, according to A. C. Harte, superintendent of county charities, who filed his annual report with the county clerk.

Sunday New Years Figures 3,466 Civil Suits Filed.

According to a report of Robert Smith, clerk of the district court, 3,466 civil cases were filed here during the past year, a decided increase over 1921.



Marriages and Divorces Both Show Decrease

Only 2,718 Licenses Issued in Douglas County in 1922 Compared with 3,038 in 1921.

Although 1,351 petitions for divorce were filed in Douglas county the past year, but 941 decrees were granted by the nine district judges, a 25 per cent decrease over the previous year.

Perhaps the poorest business in the court building the past year was in the marriage license department conducted by Herbert Stubbendorf, known to thousands as "Danny Cupid."

2922 Extraordinary Year from Weather Standpoint

The year 1922 was extraordinary, Meteorologist Robins of the local weather bureau reports. With a mean temperature of 62.9, it was the warmest year ever recorded here with the exception of 1921 which had a mean temperature of 64.4.

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Omaha Business in 1922

Table with 3 columns: 1922, 1921, 1920. Rows include Bank clearings, Bank deposits, Grain receipts, Grain shipments, Building permits, Manufacturing, Jobbing, Real estate transactions, Packing house output, Smelter output, LIVE STOCK RECEIPTS (Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Horses, Bushels).

perature reached zero or lower, the lowest being 5 below on December 17. On four days it was 100 or higher, the highest being on August 24, with 102.

Gotham Is Place to Chuck Your Bluff

By O. O. MINTYRE.



New York's four hundred leaps from the silken coverlets every week or so to learn that another price has become a quince.

Some are found out—but the majority escape detection. These royal flushers are not skilled in deception. They are recruited from the ranks of the illiterate, which makes it all the more ludicrous.

Volume of Mail Shows Increase Over Year 1921

Over 156,000,000 Letters Handled by Omaha Postoffice in 1922—8,935,450 Parcel Post Packages.

The Omaha postoffice handled more than 156,000,000 letters during the year 1922. A total of \$8,935,450 parcel post packages were received and delivered.

Money orders issued in 1922 totaled 250,170 to the amount of \$2,292,594. In 1921 they totaled 204,163 to the amount of \$2,149,675.

Welfare Board Handles 2,422 Cases in Year

Collection Department Disposes of 788—392 Domestic Tangles Go Through "Repair Shop."

During the year the board of public welfare handled 2,422 cases in the legal, collection, domestic relations and negro work department and in other activities.

52,029 Books Loaned by Omaha Library

Fifty-two thousand and twenty-nine Omahans borrowed books for home use from the public library during the year of 1922, according to the statistical report of the librarian.

Dividend of Six Per Cent Voted by Loan Association

The board of directors of the Omaha Loan Building association declared a 6 per cent dividend of \$49,182.31 for the six months ending December 31, at the annual meeting last week.

20 Per Cent of Profits Paid Yellow Cab Employes

Employees of the Yellow Cab company who have been with the organization for six months or more will participate in a distribution of 20 per cent of annual profits of the company in 1922, according to an announcement by Sam A. Houser, president.

Half Million in Foreign Goods Cleared in Omaha

Charles W. McCune, collector of customs at the port of Omaha, collected \$152,548 in duties in 1922, compared with \$127,538 in 1921.

Children Kept Out of Courts

Juvenile Court Records Show Most of Work Being Conducted in Homes.

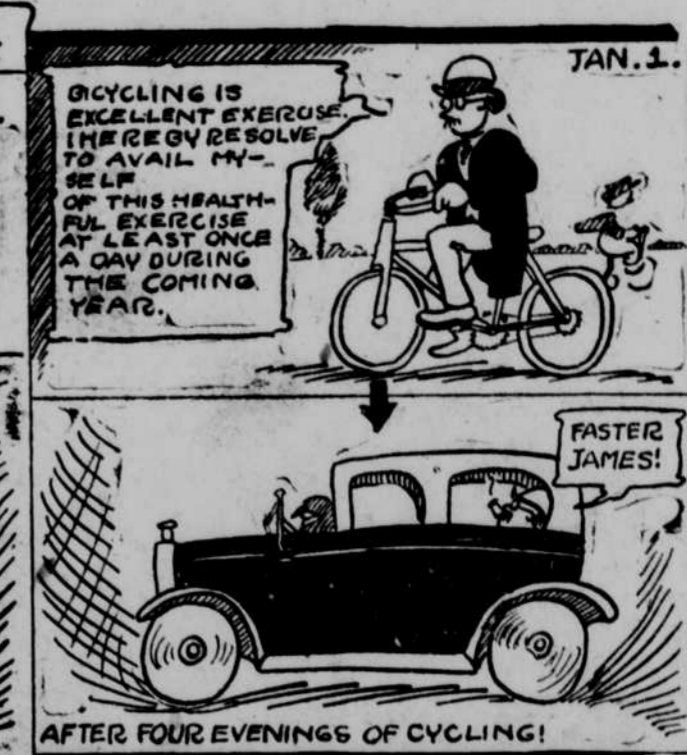
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Total Income of Water District Is \$3,274,180

Average of 25,000,000 Gallons Pumped Per Day—1,389,193,900 Feet of Gas Sold.

Total gross income of the municipal water, gas and ice plants for 1922 was \$3,274,080.55, according to a report by R. B. Howell, general manager of the Metropolitan Utilities district.

Net profit in 1922, \$332,115.96; 1921, \$424,859.82.

Mr. Howell's statement contains this information: During the year 1922 approximately 2,125,000,000 gallons of water were pumped to consumers.

This was a daily average of about 25,000,000 gallons, or 125 gallons, which is one-half ton of water, per person a day. In 1921 the total was \$1,125,000,000, an average of 22,000,000 gallons a day, or 111 gallons daily per capita.

This water is pumped twice—first from the river into the settling basins, and then into the big mains supplying the city. A portion of it is then pumped the third time, from the Walnut Hill or Poppleton avenue pumping stations.

1,389,193,900 Feet of Gas. The total metered sales of gas in 1922 amounted to approximately 1,389,193,900 cubic feet, or a daily average of 3,806,911 cubic feet. The total sales of gas in 1921 were 1,344,261,000 cubic feet, or a daily average of 3,682,907 cubic feet.

The gas plant has a daily capacity of 6,000,000 cubic feet. Sales of ice for 1922 totaled 58,295 tons, compared with 53,701 tons in 1921.

More than 14 miles each of water mains and gas mains, or a total of over 28 miles, were laid in 1922, as compared with 18 miles in 1921.

In January, 1922, the gas department service charges were abolished and free maintenance of gas appliances authorized. This is estimated as saving the gas consumer approximately 1 1/2 cents per 1,000 cubic feet of gas used.

A reduction of 10 cents per 1,000 cubic feet of gas was made early in 1922. This is the third reduction in the price of gas since the city took over the plant in 1920.

Filter Being Built. A filter plant at Florence, to cost \$600,000, and which will have a daily capacity of 50,000,000 gallons, and insure an adequate supply of clear, pure water for Omaha, was authorized and the work started in 1922.

Construction is progressing favorably and it is expected to have the filter plant completed and in service by the middle of the coming summer.

This filter plant is of the most modern construction and when completed will be the last world in water filtration. It is designed so that an additional 50,000,000-gallon unit may be added when necessary requires it.

Another 20,000,000-gallon pump, costing \$40,000 was installed at the Poppleton avenue pumping station, to replace the old 8,000,000-gallon pump which had become inadequate.

The new pump was put in service September 14, 1922. Other improvements in 1922, in addition to the filter plant, included the installation of a 257-horsepower boiler and boiler house at the gas works, and the re-setting of a 200-horsepower boiler, in order that tar, a by-product of the plant, could be burned more economically.

Two new pumps, each having a daily capacity of 50,000,000 gallons, one a high service and the other a low service pump, have been authorized for the Florence plant, but have not yet been installed.

"All the additions and improvements enumerated have been and will be worked under. Further revenues of the district, without the voting or issuance of any bonds whatever," Mr. Howell said.

Children Kept Out of Courts

Juvenile Court Records Show Most of Work Being Conducted in Homes.

Figures compiled for the year by juvenile court show that most of its work is done in homes instead of hauling delinquent children into court.

In 1921, 15,239 juvenile court cases were handled in court, while but 1,594 children were handled in court.

In 1921, total visitations to homes were 12,104, while 1,353 children were brought into court.

In 1921, 83 children were placed in private homes; in 1922, 101. Thirty-eight boys were sent to Kearney Industrial school this year, compared with 61 last year. Twenty girls were sent to Geneva, compared with 40 during 1921.

"The past year clearly shows that children are getting better," said Miss Johnson and District Judge Sears who presides over this court.

"We are trying to settle most of the cases in the home instead of having to bring the children into court. Our investigations also show that school-attendance is better than last year."

Half Million in Foreign Goods Cleared in Omaha

Charles W. McCune, collector of customs at the port of Omaha, collected \$152,548 in duties in 1922, compared with \$127,538 in 1921.

The value of foreign merchandise cleared through this port in 1922 was \$54,920, as against \$379,188 in 1921, an increase of \$167,232.