

THE COMMERCE OF OMAHA.

A Magnificent Exhibit of the Business of the Year Just Closing.

THE BANKS AND THEIR BULLION.

One Hundred and Fifteen Million Dollars Pass Over Their Counters.

NINE MILLIONS ON DEPOSIT.

The Product of Factories Worth Over Twenty-Five Million Dollars.

FIVE THOUSAND MEN EMPLOYED.

The Wholesale Trade Reaches the Enormous Sum of Twenty-Nine Million Dollars and Still Growing.

BANKING.

The advantages Omaha enjoys as a commercial and financial center are shown by her superior banking facilities. Nearly all the banks in Nebraska and the territories west of the Missouri and many banking houses in western Iowa keep their accounts in Omaha and obtain their supplies of currency and exchange through Omaha banks.

Table with columns for Year, Clearings, and Deposits. Rows include 1884, 1885, and monthly breakdowns for 1885.

COMPARE CLEARINGS.

Table comparing weekly and monthly clearings for 1884 and 1885 across various categories.

One of the largest wholesale firms in this city is that of Miles Rogers & Son, who handle stoves and tinners' stock. The business of 1885 shows an increase of from 10 to 15 per cent over the year 1884.

There are three firms in Omaha engaged in the jobbing of crockery and glassware. W. L. Wright, Samuel Burns and Bliss & Isaacs. No line of business shows a brighter prospect.

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volume of trade and number of firms increased largely to the fact that prices on nearly all kinds of produce are higher here than in eastern markets which, as a matter of course, brings not only shipments from the west, but even from points far east.

The demand for sporting goods has increased during the past year to a great extent, this is especially true of all goods pertaining to athletic sports. There appears to have been a sort of revival of such sports as running, boxing, etc., which has served to make business very good in that line of goods.

There are no less than five firms engaged in jobbing millinery goods exclusively. I. Oberfelder & Co. Trade in this line of business during the past year has been very good. The sales of this house alone aggregated \$300,000.

While all the grocery houses and the soap mills handle teas, there are two houses in this city who devote their entire attention to the tea trade. Wilson & Larison and Parrotte & Sweeney. By reason of the business being divided among so many different houses that are handling other lines of goods, it is impossible to present an exact statement of the amount of teas handled.

The wholesale business of this city in hats and caps is represented by W. L. Parrotte & Co. Although this line of business is conducted by only one house, it is one of the largest in the city, and has many other branches of trade. The trade is pushed throughout western Iowa, Nebraska, the territories, and even into Kansas.

The wholesale boot and shoe trade is conducted in this city by W. M. Rogers & Son, and Reed Jones & Co. The whole territory tributary to Omaha is covered by these two firms, whose sales aggregate a million dollars.

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to twelve to fifteen men during the busy season; wages paid to employees, \$8,000; paid for coopers, butters' tubs and egg packages, about \$9,000. Of the butter 500,000 pounds were shipped to California, 150,000 pounds were shipped to Liverpool, England, 600,000 pounds were shipped to New York and Boston, and the balance to other markets.

Omaha is justly proud of her wholesale furniture business, which is conducted by Dewey & Stone. No house in the country carries a finer stock of goods or a more complete line.

While the coal business has had to contend against the disadvantages of excessive railroad rates which have held it back to a great extent, on some lines it has grown rapidly on improving and increasing in volume.

The cigar trade during 1885 has been very prosperous. The trade is so divided now that the amount of goods that handle other lines of goods that it is an impossibility to give an exact statement of the entire volume of the business.

The handling of pyrotechnics in a jobbing way is a new business for Omaha. In former years the manufacturers have sent their goods to the wholesale dealers in the city.

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wholesale dealers in wall paper and window shades. Their sales for the past year amount to \$125,000 as against \$90,000 for 1884.

The same wave of prosperity which has swept over the leading business interests of the city has not neglected the drug business. The Goodrich Drug Co., and the H. T. Clarke Drug Co., report a largely increased business for the year 1885, amounting to a million dollars.

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lition they have pushed forward their business and have made sales aggregating \$100,000.

That Omaha is destined, in the near future, to become a great live stock market has already been proven by the experience of the year past. Omaha has natural advantages for the maintenance of packing houses and stock yards that few cities can equal, by reason of her location near the ranges and of the vast resources of the surrounding country for the feeding of countless numbers of cattle, hogs and sheep.

The Union Stock Yards company was organized during the year 1884, having authorized capital of \$1,000,000. The officers of the company are: John A. McShane, president; W. A. Paxton, vice president; J. C. Sharp, secretary and treasurer; J. E. Boyd, superintendent of the yards; Thomas M. A. Paxton, J. A. McShane, Thomas Sturgis, J. E. Iler, J. F. Boyd, B. F. Smith, Joseph Frank and J. M. Woodworth.

Table with columns for Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, and Horses. Rows show received and shipped quantities for 1885.

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There were 15,519 head of cattle sold this fall and distributed throughout this state and west of the leading.

The establishment of the stock yards and the increased facilities for the receipt of live stock has had an invigorating effect on the grain trade in Omaha.

With the increased acreage of corn and small grain which has been harvested in Nebraska the past fall, it is not surprising that the grain trade of Omaha should continue to increase.

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Omaha has made very gratifying progress during the past year as an industrial center. Her large manufacturing establishments are prosperous, and quite a number of small factories have recently been established.

Omaha now boasts the largest silver smelting works in the world, a distillery, the fourth in magnitude in the United States—shipping alcoholic spirits to over a hundred legs a day—which are shipped in great quantities to San Francisco, and even exported to Japan, and the largest in the United States.

The machine shops of the Union Pacific railroad are the most extensive mechanical establishment in the city of Omaha. They cover an area of over thirty acres, and are the most complete and best equipped railroad shops in the west.

During the past year the average number of men employed in these shops was 1,334. The total amount of their pay roll was \$2,126,573, or an average of \$81,700 per month.

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Vertical advertisements and notices on the right margin, including 'THE OMAHA DAILY BEE' and various business notices.