

INCREASING PUBLIC WORKS.

Over One Million Dollars Added in Permanent Improvements Last Year. TWENTY-TWO MORE MILES OF GRADING.

The Total in Paving, Curbing, Sewer and Other Public Works—The City's Finances and Government.

During the past year very material additions were made to the city's improvement of streets and thoroughfares. Of course there was an attempt to equal the immense amount of work done in 1890 when the material of paving, grading and improving the principal streets was commenced, but enough was done, which if continued each year, will easily maintain for Omaha the position of being the best paved and best graded city on the continent.

The paving was begun late in the season owing to a delay in having the work properly set out, but the continued fine weather in November and December enabled the contractors to make such progress, that but very little if any work will be carried over for completion next year.

The board of public works early in the season decided to discard wooden block pavement as far as possible and no contracts were let for that kind of work, the small amount appearing in the report being a part of a contract carried over from last year.

During the year 317,758 square yards of pavement of various materials were laid at a cost of \$96,480. The material used was brick 2.2 miles, stone 1.9 miles, asphaltum 4.7 and wood 4 miles.

Prior to 1890 there had been laid in the city 11.04 miles of asphalt paving, 15.69 miles of stone, 34.56 miles of wood and 7 of a mile of brick pavement at a total cost of \$1,152,059. This with the work of 1890 makes a total of 61.19 miles of pavement laid at a cost of \$1,248,549.

There were constructed during the year 131,453 lineal feet, or 19.2 miles of curbing at a cost of \$73,355. The material used was Berea and Colorado sandstone. In 1889, 19 miles of curbing had been laid at a cost of \$17,720, a saving in price \$4,635 on the same amount of work in favor of 1890.

There were constructed during the year 63,571 lineal feet of sewer at a cost of \$1,112,430. This makes a total of 58 miles of sewers in the city constructed at a cost of \$1,384,145.

An immense amount of grading was done during the year, the total work adding 22 1/2 miles to the 103 miles of streets already graded. This work cost \$257,500. The work of grading during the past year required the removal of 1,365,590 cubic yards of earth at a cost of \$38,255. This work was done to be done, as Omaha has 364 miles of sidewalks and 144 miles of alleys.

During the year 120,000 lineal feet—about twenty-two miles—of granite curbing were laid at a total cost of about \$90,000. This gives the city a total of more than 400 miles of sidewalk. Permanent stone sidewalks were constructed by private property owners at a cost of \$22,000.

THE CITY GOVERNMENT.

The Management of the Finances and the Assessment of Taxes.

The assessed valuation of the city for 1890, real and personal, for 1890-91 is \$20,000,170.30. The actual value of real property, leaving estimated at \$20,000,170.30, is \$19,999,999.99. The city levy is 4 1/2 mills the tax upon the market value of the property would not exceed 6 1/2 cents on the dollar.

THE YEAR'S BUILDING RECORD.

Number and Value of Building Improvements in the Two Omahas. MORE THAN SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS.

The Building, Municipal and Corporate Improvements Aggregate Ten and a Quarter Millions—The Showing in Detail.

During 1890 there were erected in Omaha and South Omaha 2,023 buildings, costing in the aggregate \$9,968,161. Of these structures were business blocks, mills, warehouses and factories, ranging in price from \$2,500 to \$50,000; 574 were residences, tenement blocks, etc., ranging in value from \$2,000 to \$30,000, and 1,282 were cottages and residences, costing less than \$2,000 each, and miscellaneous buildings of all kinds.

The figures of the building improvements have been tested by various methods and will be found reliable. The records of the building inspectors have been found incomplete, in so far as the cost of the improvements is concerned. The builders are only required to give an estimated cost of the structure, and as the amount of the building inspector's fee is regulated by the cost of the structure, the estimate is almost invariably very much below the actual cost of the completed structures.

The plumbing a very material item of cost in large buildings is not considered in the building inspector's estimate. In many cases, where a careful test has been made, the actual cost ranges from 25 to 75 per cent greater than the estimated cost as shown by the building inspector's record. The figures given in this showing were obtained from the owners and architects of the important buildings and from various reliable sources and have been fully verified.

Business Blocks, Factories, Etc.

Following is a list of the more important of the business blocks, stores, factories, etc., erected during the year:

Union passenger depot, stone and brick, 12th and Farnam, \$50,000. City of Omaha, 3-story stone and brick, city hall, 15th and Farnam, \$37,000. A. J. H. B. Co., 2-story brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. Carter wheel lead company, stone and brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. Frederick Delone, 3-story, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. Omaha Pacific railway, brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. J. H. B. Co., 2-story brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. J. H. B. Co., 2-story brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000.

FIRE AND POLICE.

The Work and Management of Two Important Departments.

The management of the fire and police departments in Omaha is vested in a board of fire and police commissioners composed of two republicans and two democrats, with the mayor as ex-officio chairman. The board was organized in 1887, with the adoption of Omaha's new charter, and is at present constituted as follows: Mayor C. C. Cushing, chairman, and members L. M. Bennett, George I. Gilbert, H. B. Smith and C. Hartman.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The police force comprises 100 men and is organized as follows: W. S. Parker, chief; Thomas Cornack and Patrick Moxey, captains; A. L. Stewart, first sergeant; Michael Whalen, second sergeant; J. J. O'Grady, third sergeant; H. P. Haze, chief detectives; four assistants; Patrick Hinchey, sanitary commissioner; Albert C. O'Brien, sanitary commissioner; four mounted officers, two jailers, two patrol conductors, two drivers and eight patrolmen. The average monthly payroll of the department is \$12,000.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Douglas county, including Omaha, South Omaha and a number of small incorporated villages, has a population of 160,000. The following are the names of the officers: Sheriff—John F. Boyd. Treasurer—Adam Snyder. County Attorney—T. J. Mahoney. Register of Deeds—E. P. McGeach. County Clerk—J. O'Malley. County Judge—George W. Shields. County Surveyor—E. House. Coroner—Dr. C. P. Harris. Superintendent of Instruction—W. T. Matthews.

THE YEAR'S BUILDING RECORD.

Number and Value of Building Improvements in the Two Omahas. MORE THAN SEVEN MILLION DOLLARS.

The Building, Municipal and Corporate Improvements Aggregate Ten and a Quarter Millions—The Showing in Detail.

During 1890 there were erected in Omaha and South Omaha 2,023 buildings, costing in the aggregate \$9,968,161. Of these structures were business blocks, mills, warehouses and factories, ranging in price from \$2,500 to \$50,000; 574 were residences, tenement blocks, etc., ranging in value from \$2,000 to \$30,000, and 1,282 were cottages and residences, costing less than \$2,000 each, and miscellaneous buildings of all kinds.

The figures of the building improvements have been tested by various methods and will be found reliable. The records of the building inspectors have been found incomplete, in so far as the cost of the improvements is concerned. The builders are only required to give an estimated cost of the structure, and as the amount of the building inspector's fee is regulated by the cost of the structure, the estimate is almost invariably very much below the actual cost of the completed structures.

The plumbing a very material item of cost in large buildings is not considered in the building inspector's estimate. In many cases, where a careful test has been made, the actual cost ranges from 25 to 75 per cent greater than the estimated cost as shown by the building inspector's record. The figures given in this showing were obtained from the owners and architects of the important buildings and from various reliable sources and have been fully verified.

Business Blocks, Factories, Etc.

Following is a list of the more important of the business blocks, stores, factories, etc., erected during the year:

Union passenger depot, stone and brick, 12th and Farnam, \$50,000. City of Omaha, 3-story stone and brick, city hall, 15th and Farnam, \$37,000. A. J. H. B. Co., 2-story brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. Carter wheel lead company, stone and brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. Frederick Delone, 3-story, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. Omaha Pacific railway, brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. J. H. B. Co., 2-story brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000. J. H. B. Co., 2-story brick, 15th and Farnam, \$17,000.

FIRE AND POLICE.

The Work and Management of Two Important Departments.

The management of the fire and police departments in Omaha is vested in a board of fire and police commissioners composed of two republicans and two democrats, with the mayor as ex-officio chairman. The board was organized in 1887, with the adoption of Omaha's new charter, and is at present constituted as follows: Mayor C. C. Cushing, chairman, and members L. M. Bennett, George I. Gilbert, H. B. Smith and C. Hartman.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The police force comprises 100 men and is organized as follows: W. S. Parker, chief; Thomas Cornack and Patrick Moxey, captains; A. L. Stewart, first sergeant; Michael Whalen, second sergeant; J. J. O'Grady, third sergeant; H. P. Haze, chief detectives; four assistants; Patrick Hinchey, sanitary commissioner; Albert C. O'Brien, sanitary commissioner; four mounted officers, two jailers, two patrol conductors, two drivers and eight patrolmen. The average monthly payroll of the department is \$12,000.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

Douglas county, including Omaha, South Omaha and a number of small incorporated villages, has a population of 160,000. The following are the names of the officers: Sheriff—John F. Boyd. Treasurer—Adam Snyder. County Attorney—T. J. Mahoney. Register of Deeds—E. P. McGeach. County Clerk—J. O'Malley. County Judge—George W. Shields. County Surveyor—E. House. Coroner—Dr. C. P. Harris. Superintendent of Instruction—W. T. Matthews.

RESIDENCES, TENEMENTS, ETC.

The following is a list of the principal residences, tenements, etc., erected over \$2,000 each, that were erected in the city during the year:

H. T. Clarke, 2-story brick tenement, 24th and Cass, \$2,500. East Omaha Land Co., cottages in East Omaha, \$4,000. Pacific near 34th, \$4,000. J. H. Van Custer, 2-story brick tenement, 13th and Leavenworth, \$4,000. The Olsen, 2-story brick tenement, 13th and Leavenworth, \$4,000. J. E. Curtis, 2-story double brick, near 24th and Lake, \$3,000. Mead Investment Co., 2-story brick tenement, 24th and Cass, \$3,000. Joseph Garneau, Jr., 2-story brick, 30th and Chicago, \$2,500. J. V. Vere, 2-story brick, Clifton Hill, \$2,500. Mrs. C. E. Luce, 2-story double frame, 15th and Farnam, \$2,500. M. Van Horn, 2-story frame, Orchard and 40th, \$2,500. C. H. Thompson, 2-story frame, 30th and Farnam, \$2,500. Cass, \$2,500. W. F. Lorenzen, 2-story frame, 15th and Farnam, \$2,500. C. W. Downs, 2-story frame, Lowe ave. and First, \$2,500. A. J. H. B. Co., 2-story brick, 15th and Farnam, \$2,500. E. C. Tompkins, 2-story frame, 30th and Farnam, \$2,500. William Malzer, 2-story frame, 24th and Fort, \$2,500. Richards and Ruggles, \$2,500. R. A. Mackintosh, 2-story frame, 19th and Farnam, \$2,500. Ida B. Lawrence, 2-story frame, 25th and Farnam, \$2,500. W. W. Weyburn, 2-story frame, 31st and Mayne, \$2,500. H. M. Mulholland, 2-story frame, 35th and Farnam, \$2,500. Frank S. Payne, 2-story frame, 36th and Howard, \$2,500. J. H. B. Co., 2-story frame, 31st and Farnam, \$2,500. J. H. B. Co., 2-story frame, 12th South and 16th, \$2,500. A. J. H. B. Co., 2-story frame, 35th and Farnam, \$2,500. Howard, \$2,500. Z. S. Potter, 2-story frame, 25th and Farnam, \$2,500. William DeWitt, 2-story frame, 24th and Farnam, \$2,500. John T. Shannon, two 2-story bricks, 24th and Farnam, \$2,500. Samuel Corbin, two 2-story frames, 24th and Leavenworth, \$2,500. J. H. B. Co., 2-story frame, 24th and Leavenworth, \$2,500. J. H. B. Co., 2-story frame, 24th and Leavenworth, \$2,500. J. H. B. Co., 2-story frame, 24th and Leavenworth, \$2,500. J. H. B. Co., 2-story frame, 24th and Leavenworth, \$2,500.

THE OMAHA POSTOFFICE.

No branch of business is more indicative of the great growth and prosperity of a growing city than its postal service. When the present government building was completed in 1871 it was supposed to be large enough for the wants of this city for all time to come. The present postoffice department is so crowded as to be unable to handle the vast volume of business satisfactorily, and before the new building can be erected either an addition to the present building must be made or the basement fitted up for the use of a temporary postoffice, so as to relieve the main room from the present pressure.

Forty-five carriers and thirty-five clerks are now employed in the office, which is the regular business of the office, which it will be seen is very large, over nine hundred letters being received daily. The Omaha office and over three hundred money order offices send their surplus to this office. Thirty-eight mails arrive and depart from this office in a single day, bringing 120 pouches weighing over three thousand pounds.

The following schedule will give an idea of the amount of mail matter handled by carriers at the office in 1890 and of the number of carriers employed and salaries paid. The schedule, however, does not include the general delivery mail, which is handled by a force posted in the office for transmission to other points.

Table with columns: Carriers make, Deliveries—this daily, Collections—this daily, Letter makes, etc.

INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE.

The Internal Revenue district of which Omaha is the headquarters is the largest in point of area in any of the United States. The district includes Nebraska and the two Dakotas and shows a wonderful increase in business over the record of last year. The receipts from Omaha for the year 1890 are nearly as large as the combined collections from the rest of the district. The largest revenue is collected from the manufacture and sale of spirits, and the next largest from the firms of the city are large contributors to the revenue fund.

There are seven district deputies under the direction of the Omaha office. One, John Peters is the collector with General J. B. Dennis as chief deputy, Byron Brenbath as deputy and cashier, and John McMahon deputy collector. The following table shows the total collection for 1890 and the increase over last year's work.

Table with columns: Penalties, Beer stamps, Neg stamps, Tobacco tax, etc.

THE PARK SYSTEM.

The City's Possessions and Their Management and Improvement.

Very much has been done during the past year to improve and beautify the attractions and loveliness which nature had bestowed upon the city, and now owned by Omaha and used as public parks. Years ago the city obtained title to a beautiful tract of ground in the south eastern part of the city, and while the city was in the process of proving it, laid waste for the time and grew up a veritable tangled wildwood. The land, which was owned by the city, was purchased by J. H. H. Co. and J. G. McGeach. In honor of one of the donors it was christened Hanson park. It is a delightful spot—if so large a tract were not owned by the city, it would be sought after by rest and recreation seekers for a pleasurable retreat from the cares of office, shop or home.

RECAPITULATION.

Business blocks, factories, etc., \$3,362,937. Cottages and other buildings, 1,362,937. Foundations commenced, 20,000. Total buildings, \$5,025,874. Public improvements, \$1,727,417. Grand total of all improvements in Omaha proper, \$6,753,291. South Omaha corporate improvements, \$251,431. Total of building, municipal and corporate improvements in Omaha and South Omaha, \$7,004,722.

THE OMAHA POSTOFFICE.

No branch of business is more indicative of the great growth and prosperity of a growing city than its postal service. When the present government building was completed in 1871 it was supposed to be large enough for the wants of this city for all time to come. The present postoffice department is so crowded as to be unable to handle the vast volume of business satisfactorily, and before the new building can be erected either an addition to the present building must be made or the basement fitted up for the use of a temporary postoffice, so as to relieve the main room from the present pressure.

Forty-five carriers and thirty-five clerks are now employed in the office, which is the regular business of the office, which it will be seen is very large, over nine hundred letters being received daily. The Omaha office and over three hundred money order offices send their surplus to this office. Thirty-eight mails arrive and depart from this office in a single day, bringing 120 pouches weighing over three thousand pounds.

The following schedule will give an idea of the amount of mail matter handled by carriers at the office in 1890 and of the number of carriers employed and salaries paid. The schedule, however, does not include the general delivery mail, which is handled by a force posted in the office for transmission to other points.

Table with columns: Carriers make, Deliveries—this daily, Collections—this daily, Letter makes, etc.

INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE.

The Internal Revenue district of which Omaha is the headquarters is the largest in point of area in any of the United States. The district includes Nebraska and the two Dakotas and shows a wonderful increase in business over the record of last year. The receipts from Omaha for the year 1890 are nearly as large as the combined collections from the rest of the district. The largest revenue is collected from the manufacture and sale of spirits, and the next largest from the firms of the city are large contributors to the revenue fund.

There are seven district deputies under the direction of the Omaha office. One, John Peters is the collector with General J. B. Dennis as chief deputy, Byron Brenbath as deputy and cashier, and John McMahon deputy collector. The following table shows the total collection for 1890 and the increase over last year's work.

Table with columns: Penalties, Beer stamps, Neg stamps, Tobacco tax, etc.

THE PARK SYSTEM.

The City's Possessions and Their Management and Improvement.

Very much has been done during the past year to improve and beautify the attractions and loveliness which nature had bestowed upon the city, and now owned by Omaha and used as public parks. Years ago the city obtained title to a beautiful tract of ground in the south eastern part of the city, and while the city was in the process of proving it, laid waste for the time and grew up a veritable tangled wildwood. The land, which was owned by the city, was purchased by J. H. H. Co. and J. G. McGeach. In honor of one of the donors it was christened Hanson park. It is a delightful spot—if so large a tract were not owned by the city, it would be sought after by rest and recreation seekers for a pleasurable retreat from the cares of office, shop or home.

RECAPITULATION.

Business blocks, factories, etc., \$3,362,937. Cottages and other buildings, 1,362,937. Foundations commenced, 20,000. Total buildings, \$5,025,874. Public improvements, \$1,727,417. Grand total of all improvements in Omaha proper, \$6,753,291. South Omaha corporate improvements, \$251,431. Total of building, municipal and corporate improvements in Omaha and South Omaha, \$7,004,722.

THE OMAHA POSTOFFICE.

No branch of business is more indicative of the great growth and prosperity of a growing city than its postal service. When the present government building was completed in 1871 it was supposed to be large enough for the wants of this city for all time to come. The present postoffice department is so crowded as to be unable to handle the vast volume of business satisfactorily, and before the new building can be erected either an addition to the present building must be made or the basement fitted up for the use of a temporary postoffice, so as to relieve the main room from the present pressure.

Forty-five carriers and thirty-five clerks are now employed in the office, which is the regular business of the office, which it will be seen is very large, over nine hundred letters being received daily. The Omaha office and over three hundred money order offices send their surplus to this office. Thirty-eight mails arrive and depart from this office in a single day, bringing 120 pouches weighing over three thousand pounds.

The following schedule will give an idea of the amount of mail matter handled by carriers at the office in 1890 and of the number of carriers employed and salaries paid. The schedule, however, does not include the general delivery mail, which is handled by a force posted in the office for transmission to other points.

Table with columns: Carriers make, Deliveries—this daily, Collections—this daily, Letter makes, etc.

INTERNAL REVENUE OFFICE.

The Internal Revenue district of which Omaha is the headquarters is the largest in point of area in any of the United States. The district includes Nebraska and the two Dakotas and shows a wonderful increase in business over the record of last year. The receipts from Omaha for the year 1890 are nearly as large as the combined collections from the rest of the district. The largest revenue is collected from the manufacture and sale of spirits, and the next largest from the firms of the city are large contributors to the revenue fund.

There are seven district deputies under the direction of the Omaha office. One, John Peters is the collector with General J. B. Dennis as chief deputy, Byron Brenbath as deputy and cashier, and John McMahon deputy collector. The following table shows the total collection for 1890 and the increase over last year's work.

Table with columns: Penalties, Beer stamps, Neg stamps, Tobacco tax, etc.

THE PARK SYSTEM.

The City's Possessions and Their Management and Improvement.

Very much has been done during the past year to improve and beautify the attractions and loveliness which nature had bestowed upon the city, and now owned by Omaha and used as public parks. Years ago the city obtained title to a beautiful tract of ground in the south eastern part of the city, and while the city was in the process of proving it, laid waste for the time and grew up a veritable tangled wildwood. The land, which was owned by the city, was purchased by J. H. H. Co. and J. G. McGeach. In honor of one of the donors it was christened Hanson park. It is a delightful spot—if so large a tract were not owned by the city, it would be sought after by rest and recreation seekers for a pleasurable retreat from the cares of office, shop or home.

RECAPITULATION.

Business blocks, factories, etc., \$3,362,937. Cottages and other buildings, 1,362,937. Foundations commenced, 20,000. Total buildings, \$5,025,874. Public improvements, \$1,727,417. Grand total of all improvements in Omaha proper, \$6,753,291. South Omaha corporate improvements, \$251,431. Total of building, municipal and corporate improvements in Omaha and South Omaha, \$7,004,722.