

GOOD FEELING NOW PREVAILS

Ready to Take Hold of Future Work with Renewed Vigor.

ALL OF THE BUSINESS MEN ARE HOPEFUL

Passage of the Exposition Bill Leads Them to Believe that an Era of Prosperity is About to Set In.

The first emotion that prevailed in Omaha when the news of the passage of the exposition bill came over the wires was one of unbounded gratification. People were content to know that the first great obstacle had been surmounted and for some time they were too excited and enthusiastic to ask themselves exactly what was to follow. They have now had time to digest the satisfaction and every eye is turned around to see where the first tangible benefit is going to strike.

It may be safely said that ninety-nine men out of every 100 have figured out the problem. The conservative business man does not expect that a boom will follow the act of congress, but he does believe that this is the wedge that will bring other results in their natural order. It is not difficult for the average business man to see how he is going to reap the benefit of a movement that he believes will at least be prolific of confidence in the future of Omaha, not only on the part of the citizens, but of those who have investments here. The effect of this feeling is everywhere apparent. There is a better tone noticeable in all kinds of business, born of the simple fact that men believe that Omaha has taken a step in the direction of renewed prosperity. They realize that the hardest battle is yet to be fought and that when Omaha men are asked to go down into their pockets and raise the sum that must be furnished at home to carry on the exposition, they will naturally be ready to invest here. The effect of this feeling is everywhere apparent. There is a better tone noticeable in all kinds of business, born of the simple fact that men believe that Omaha has taken a step in the direction of renewed prosperity. They realize that the hardest battle is yet to be fought and that when Omaha men are asked to go down into their pockets and raise the sum that must be furnished at home to carry on the exposition, they will naturally be ready to invest here.

The business men who have handled the project during its infancy have special cause for gratification. They have seen that which was not long ago regarded as visionary by a certain element take form and substance. And this success that has been achieved so far leads them to believe more firmly than ever that the Transmississippi exposition of 1897 is second only to the great fair at Chicago. No definite plans have been made as yet by the Transmississippi Exposition association beyond those previously announced. The next step will naturally be to prepare to raise the additional funds that will be required to go ahead with the work, and in this particular the association will ask the advice of the citizen and business men generally.

President Wattles said yesterday morning that until a public meeting was held the steps would be taken. The meeting would in all probability be held next Monday night, and it was expected that there would be a full attendance of citizens. It would be asked to suggest ways and means for raising the necessary funds. The fair association would have its hands full with these matters, and the citizens of Omaha must step in and furnish the money. After consulting the general sentiment of the city the next step would be to complete the organization by the appointment of an organization of the various bureaus. That accomplished the active work of preparing for the exposition would begin, and if the people received the liberal financial support that it deserved its success was assured.

ARCHITECTS ARE ENTHUSIASTIC

Express the Opinion that New Buildings Will Now be Erected.

One of the classes most vitally interested in the success of the exposition are the architects and the building trade. In Omaha means that the building trade that has been almost at a standstill for the past two or three years will again become active. No one anticipates that a building boom will suddenly start up on the strength of the passage of the exposition bill, but in the general opinion of the leading architects of the city that the circumstance will be a potent factor in bringing about a gradual revival of building operations. The architect of the city said yesterday that it was certainly a matter of much importance to the building interests. "It does not pay to speculate," he continued. "We are not going to wake up in the morning and see big new blocks that have risen up, mushroom like, at night. But I firmly believe that the passage of the exposition bill will do more to start the ball rolling than anything else that could be suggested. Capitalists are not going to build blocks on the strength of it. They are going to look the ground over, see what rentals they can be assured of and act accordingly. But they will have renewed confidence and while the result will be gradual, it will be a healthy growth. I do not think it would be wise to quote specific figures of buildings that are likely to be brought about by reason of the exposition. But I do know that it will have a material effect on men who are contemplating the erecting of buildings, and in fact, I know that it is responsible to a considerable extent for the idea of a \$100,000 block on East street that is now under consideration."

C. E. Heindorf was even more sanguine. He was enthusiastic over the bill, and declared that it would have a direct effect on the building interests. In fact, he knew that the news had already assured the erection of at least two structures. In one case the improvement was now practically assured and the plans would be drawn at once.

Charles Cleves of Cleves Bros. said that while he had not seen any of his customers since the bill passed, he was assured that it would have a good effect. It would inspire confidence in the future of the city and have a tendency to start them out of the rut. The results might not be immediate, but a material step had been taken toward bringing the building trade back to work.

Mr. Kimball of Walker & Kimball thought the bill meant everything to Omaha. The city was bound to grow. It had the location and the people and would eventually be one of the great cities of the west. The exposition would do much to hasten this result and the immediate effect of the passage of the bill would certainly be to revive confidence and eventually bring about a satisfactory situation in building circles.

REAL ESTATE MEN FEEL JUBILANT

They Look Forward to a Season of Great Prosperity.

Among real estate men there was great rejoicing over the passage of the bill. They have had a hard row to hoe for the past two years and they look forward to the exposition as an almost priceless boon. With the contemplated improvements to the streets and the proposed extensions and improvements of the local railway service and the certain erection of a number of large and handsome buildings, the real estate dealers feel that the day they have longed for has come. Therefore it will be some time before any decided effect is felt in the real estate world. But already we can feel that there is renewed confidence in Omaha and its future among all the people. Confidence is what we most need to-day, and I believe the passage of the exposition bill thoroughly establishes that confidence. We have no new buildings in prospect ourselves, but I understand there are several large ones proposed, work on which will be begun in a short time.

C. A. Starr said: "The great benefit the real estate men feel from the passage of the bill is no general stiffening of the market. There is no sudden land boom, but there is a feeling that the future of the city is secure and that real estate in this city now possesses some value. The effect on the real estate market will not be a sudden one with a painful reaction, but it will be a steady one, the market being strengthened more and more as the time of the exposition draws near. It will result in the completion of many real estate deals that have been hanging fire for some time and will cause many purchases of valuable lots to be made in the immediate future."

Ex-Mayor Bemis was feeling particularly happy yesterday morning over the passage of the bill. It was he who was instrumental in bringing the last meeting of the Transmississippi congress to this city while others declined to assist in the matter. The exposition he regarded as the outcome of the last session of that congress and he felt, therefore, no small amount of personal pride in the matter. The exposition will be the greatest thing that ever happened to Omaha," said he to a Bee reporter. "Its benefits to this city and the entire west are incalculable. Of course, Omaha will receive the greatest share of gain, but I do not think it well to scatter this opinion broadcast. The effect on the real estate market will be felt at once and will be a beneficial one."

H. H. Harder of the Fidelity Trust company, in reply to a query as to the effect of the passage of the exposition bill on the real estate market, said: "We are beginning to feel the good effects of it right now. Some time ago a man offered to sell me a good lot for \$10,000. If the exposition were an assured fact, Wednesday night he came in to say he was ready to complete a cash deal for it."

"We deal especially in residence lots and therefore I could not speak authoritatively about the buildings that are bound to be constructed down town. But there are many vacant lots and properties in the city that are now boarded up and are going to get their own homes, for they will want to entertain their eastern relatives and friends during the great exposition. From the conversation I had yesterday morning with several persons who have been in the office, I can see that there will be a strong movement in this direction."

Congratulations from South Dakota.

The following message was received by the exposition directory yesterday: "HOT SPRINGS, S. D., June 11.—John A. Watters, Secretary, Omaha, Neb.: Express to press and people of Omaha South Dakota's heartiest congratulations on passage of exposition bill. Vice President for South Dakota."

FAULT NOT WITH THE LAW

Retailers Take Another Turn at the Insurance Rate Question.

HISTORY OF VALUED POLICY MEASURE

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Insurance was once more the topic that interested the Omaha Retailers' association last night. It came up principally in the shape of a discussion over the valued policy law, which was precipitated by an address from Frank Ransom. Mr. Ransom, who had considerable to do with the ultimate passage of the law, proved to be its vigorous champion and gave his views of the true reasons for the insurance companies' opposition to it. The discussion was an interesting one, from the fact that the insurance companies have agreed to repeal the last 20 per cent raise in the rates on condition that the law is annulled. Mr. Ransom stated that the law in plain words compelled the insurance companies to insure property on the basis of its existing value, and furthermore compelled the payment of that value in case of total loss. "The desire of the companies was to insure property for a certain amount and in case of total loss to pay only so much as it had been worth in the opinion of some foreign adjuster, arrived at from an examination of the property," he said. Mr. Ransom then detailed the fight through which the bill was compelled to pass. "I was instrumental in bringing it in the legislature in 1881, when the legislature was largely composed of lawyers, who, in addition to their practice in country towns, were also engaged in insuring property. They were naturally in favor of the law, which it was feared would do more harm than the law would do good."

"It came up again in 1889, when the clause was added to the law compelling the insurance companies to pay the full value and costs if recourse had to be taken to the courts to collect insurance. It passed the senate, but met opposition in the house. It was referred to a special committee, which held secret meetings and for three days listened to arguments from insurance men without hearing the bill's champions. They for months in the committee were finally brought before the house after the sergeant-at-arms had forcibly taken the chair from the chairman of the committee under instructions of the house. Then, despite dilatory practices on the part of insurance men, it was passed. Governor Thayer signed it into law, and the insuring of the insurance men. Mr. Ransom stated that the members of the legislature were continually threatened and browbeaten by the lobbyists of the companies.

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MUST STICK TO PREACHING

Lutheran Ministers Debarred from Engaging in Any Outside Business.

MAKING THE CONSTITUTION SPECIFIC

If They Wish to Follow Other Pur-suits the Ministers Must Surrender Their Letters of Ordination to Conference.

The entire morning of the session of the Lutheran synod yesterday was devoted to considering the report from the Kansas conference in the case against Rev. Selcen, charged with engaging in the real estate business in addition to his ministerial duties. After a considerable discussion, which waxed warm at times, the case was referred back to the conference, it being held that it had not acted legally in the case.

The matter came up in the form of a resolution which proposed the preacher. An attempt was made to table the resolution, but this was lost. After an extended fight the resolution was finally voted down and the case was referred back to the conference.

In order to prevent any further speculating ventures on the part of ministers an amendment to the constitution was read which provides that in case ministers engage in any work of a purely secular nature they shall give up their letters of ordination to the president of the conference of which they are members and leave the ministry. This amendment was read a first and second time, and so far approved. But according to the rules of the synod it cannot be finally passed on the third reading until the next meeting.

The secretary of the synod, in the settlement of the difficulty. It passed a resolution in which it was stated that the body regretted that such a transaction had come to pass, and it was hoped that the trouble would be settled amicably in a Christianlike manner.

RUSHING THROUGH BUSINESS.

At the afternoon session of the August convention a large amount of routine business was transacted. The time for the conclusion of the annual conference is drawing near and the members bent all their energies to the disposal of unfinished business.

The treasurer of the synod reported that \$1,916.62 had been expended in salaries of ministers. Immigrants had been taken care of during the year and many of them furnished with homes and occupations. The new board elected for the coming year, Rev. Williamson of Rock Island, chairman of the committee on railroads, made his report, which was adopted by a 2/3 majority on the sum of \$25 individually expended.

Rev. G. Nelsonius of New York, chairman of the immigration committee, reported \$6,731.23 that had been received and expended and that his department was in a flourishing condition. Two thousand and five hundred immigrants had been taken care of during the year and many of them furnished with homes and occupations. The new board elected for the coming year, Rev. Williamson of Rock Island, chairman of the committee on railroads, made his report, which was adopted by a 2/3 majority on the sum of \$25 individually expended.

Excursions

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Excursion to St. Louis.

Via the Wabash Railroad. FOR THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION