

YEAR OF PROSPERITY

(Continued from First Page.)

was the preceding year, for the number of new houses started, but the growth was mainly in the houses in business at the beginning of the year. The dry goods houses were in advance of the other lines in preparing for the increase of business, and the beginning of the year found warehouse space, manufacturing and office rooms enlarged. The grocery lines, on the contrary, found their greatest expansion after the beginning of the year, and the increase in the business which has come about all of them in a greater or less degree to enlarge their facilities for handling the trade. One of the new features of the Omaha grocery trade is the number of branch distributing houses which have been opened. One Omaha firm during the last twelve months has made arrangements for opening thirteen new depots, which will be located in a number of towns of the state and adjoining states west of Omaha. This has been brought about by transportation conditions, a number of the larger towns taking a rate from Chicago and eastern points little, if any, in excess of the Missouri river rates, and the local rate from the depot to the retail dealer in nearby towns is less than the rate from the western coast to be handled at a larger margin of profit and competition can be met on a better basis.

The largest individual growth of any one house during the year has been that of the Remis Bag company, which has added to its regular \$250,000 business and taken up the manufacture of horse blankets. This innovation has resulted in more than doubling the annual payroll, and has supplied work to a large number of people.

Probably in no other line has there been such a relative increase in the business of the country, but in the case of the trade. This increase is due in no small measure to the action of the large packing houses of the country. Swift and Armour, particularly, have entered the local trade on a large scale. According to the statement of local dealers, the business of these houses was done for the reason that, with their perfect method of distribution of packing house products, it has been necessary to keep salesmen in the larger cities of this and other countries who have been able to attend to the business of the packing house in a few hours each day, and as a result their time was not fully occupied, so the company managers decided to add poultry, butter and eggs to the business, being lines which required little additional force at the warehouses and which up to that time had not been handled in a systematic manner. In every country where the packing houses have representatives an active campaign was begun for the sale of frozen poultry, chilled eggs and refined butter. The result is that American products of this character are to be found in almost every civilized country, and the price paid during the year has been higher, especially for poultry, than has been known in any former year. In a direct way the independent houses have profited from the aggressive action of the packing houses, as these houses have expanded the market and the independent dealers are entering those fields with the minimum cost of advertising and expense of sale. Last year the estimate of the business, made by persons familiar with the trade, was \$1,000,000 for Omaha alone, and this year the estimate is \$2,500,000, and \$4,000,000 a year is paid to the workmen engaged in the business.

Among lines showing the most apparent expansion are: Heavy hardware, in which one concern has doubled its floor space and added to its line the manufacture of buggy tops. Tanning, in which the Omaha tannery, which was experimental last year at this time, has increased its capital and after adding the manufacture of harness from its product to its tanning business is now preparing the plans for a model factory and tannery building to be erected at East Omaha at a cost of approximately \$50,000.

Brewing, in which a strong company has taken charge of the Willow Springs brewery and is pushing its trade into all parts of the west. Distilling, in which the Willow Springs distillery has expended about \$70,000 in the construction of a new bonded warehouse, and the selling agents, Her & Co., have constructed and occupied a new saleroom at a cost of about \$20,000.

Stoves, in which one of the houses in the city in former years has erected a new warehouse and saleroom at a cost of about \$20,000.

Furniture, in which Beebe & Runyan have added to their capacity a large five-story building covering a town block and added the manufacture of couches and parlor suites on a large scale. Jewelry, in which a local wholesale house has constructed a three-story building, modern and modern for the trade, and entered upon the manufacture of jewelry.

Caps, in which a wholesale hat and cap house has entered upon the manufacture of caps with a factory having a capacity of about 500 dozen a week.

One of the reasons assigned for the growth of the trade of the city is the opening of the new line from this city into South Dakota by the way of Boyd county, Nebraska. This country has had easier communication with Chicago and St. Paul than with Omaha, and while the old route to the points was captured by Sioux City. With the new road Omaha and Sioux City were placed upon a plane of equality, while because of longer distances St. Paul and Chicago were put out of competition.

The growth of the trade of the city, on the whole, is not so much assigned to any development of new territory as it is to the more energetic working of the old territory, with the development of country and an increase in population. The evidence of the generally improved conditions was seen a year ago in the high prices offered for Nebraska farming land. During the last four years a large number of people, farmers of the better sort, have come into the state, and these who held their lands have derived large returns from their investment. The result has been increased demand for goods, and according to all reports this demand has been more in the way of better quality than in the way of larger quantity. This tendency was observed a year ago, and the jobbers purchased with that end in view, so that while there has been shortage of goods in other markets, Omaha has been fairly well supplied in all lines during the year, and this has resulted in bringing business to this city which under ordinary conditions would have remained at other centers.

Inquiry among the jobbers and manufacturers in the various lines represented in the city makes the following showing: Agricultural implements—The force of traveling men has been materially increased, but the increased business reported by these men has caused an additional force of office and warehouse men to be engaged. The total volume of business is estimated at \$3,200,000, and total wages paid to all employees \$250,000.

amount of wages paid has increased from \$250,000 to \$700,000, due to the addition of the manufacture of horse blankets to the lagging line. The volume of business is estimated at \$1,100,000.

Boots, shoes and rubbers—The consolidation of two of the leading houses of the city with the United States Rubber company has had the effect of making prices more stable. While the price of shoes has not increased, it has materially reduced the danger experienced by retail dealers of having changes in prices made when they had large stocks on hand. The number of traveling salesmen, office employees and warehouse men has been increased, and with a volume of business of \$4,810,000, the wages paid employees is \$320,000.

Manufacturing confectioners report an increase in business of 13-1-1 per cent over last year, with a large increase in all lines of employees.

Dry goods lines show an increase of 13 per cent over last year, the volume of business being estimated at \$5,750,000 and the annual wages paid \$465,000.

The increase in the volume of furniture business has been something more than 25 per cent over last year, the volume of business being estimated at \$1,450,000.

Drugs show a slight decrease in the volume of business, but an increase in the number of persons employed. The decrease is due to the fact that a number of manufacturers of chemicals, which are sold in large quantities, now sell direct to the wholesale houses. The decrease from this source is made up, with the exception of about \$50,000, by the increase in other lines of goods.

About 20 per cent increase is reported in the volume of business of the grocery houses, but this increase has made a large increase in the number of office employees and warehouse men, as last year the work was done with a short force.

Heavy hardware this year shows a gain of about 10 per cent over last year, in quantity, while the number of employees of inability to secure goods. The number of employees is about the same as formerly.

The condition of the light hardware and stove market was something unsatisfactory late in the season on account of the paucity of local dealers, but with a large stock of base burners on hand, but could the stock have been secured the sale of soft coal stoves and furnaces would have more than made up the deficiency. Other lines connected with the relief of trade, the business shown an increase of about 12 per cent.

Lumber in wholesale was increased about 10 per cent over last year. With one new house in business during the year the sale of paints, oil and glass increased about 10 per cent over last year.

The activity of the Typographical union and allied trades during the year has had a good effect upon the printing trade, as a much larger proportion of the total business of the city is being done by local houses than formerly, and this line is assuming a position of leading importance in the city. The number of expert employees is now about 650, with wages ranging higher than any similar number of employees engaged in any other manufacturing line.

Summing up the matter up the total number of consensually traveling for Omaha houses as conservatively be placed at approximately 1,000, with about 1,500 persons employed in the offices of the factories and jobbing houses and not less than 15,000 persons engaged in the factories and warehouses, whose total wages for the year will be at least \$3,500,000, exclusive of the wages paid at the Omaha Pacific shops, the railroad offices and the South Omaha industries, a large number of whose employees are engaged in the city of Omaha at the local salerooms and warehouses.

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by laboring men with the funds they have saved out of their wages. Three-fourths of them, it is reported by the dealers, pay cash, and of the others not a few take up their notes before due.

As between city and county the apportionment of mortgages filed and released is shown in the following tables:

Table with columns: Months, Filed, Released, Amount. Rows for January through December.

City Mortgages. Total: 1,886 Filed, 1,401 Released, \$2,821,570.

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Farm Mortgages. Total: 189 Filed, 208 Released, \$363,340.

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Real Estate Transfers. Total: 189 Filed, 208 Released, \$363,340.

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County Tax Collections. Total: \$1,076,371.

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Harney streets, the present work on which is estimated to cost \$15,000, but which will be completed greatly exceeded that amount. The largest flat building erected during the year is the two-story structure at Twenty-fifth and Farnam streets put up by L. Christian.

In the line of warehouses, factories and other places of business there has been considerable building in the course of the year, including the Great Western Stove company's warehouse at Ninth and Harney streets, \$30,000; Fitzgerald & Peters' brick warehouse, 509-11 South Sixteenth street, \$10,000; Remis Omaha Bag company's six-story brick factory, Eleventh and Jones streets, \$38,000; George Wehagen's three-story brick paper box factory at Fifteenth and Leavenworth streets, \$50,000; Omaha Coal, Coke and Lime company's acrement plant at Twentieth and Hickory streets, \$10,000.

Included in the work of the year also are the alterations and repairs upon the general office building of the B. & M. Railroad company, amounting to \$15,500.

Following is a summary of the building permits of the year 1902 by months:

Table with columns: Months, Permits, Value. Rows for January through December.

Natural Increase of the City's Population Continues at a Satisfactory Rate.

A glance backward over the records of the Board of Health shows a slightly larger number of deaths, and not quite so large a number of births for 1902 as for 1901, but neither the increase in the death rate or the falling off in the number of births has been so great as to cause any apprehension of a decline in the population of the city.

Table with columns: Months, Births, Deaths. Rows for January through December.

Deaths. Total: 703.

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the property. Then, too, the Board of Review has included in its returns to the city council assessments aggregating \$28,097,383.60 on the personal property of railroad companies which had heretofore been assessed by the State Board of Equalization at \$229,118.40. Thus the total personal property assessment of the present year is \$52,717,420, which after deducting the assessment on railroad property leaves \$52,488,301.60. The total personal property assessment of last year was \$37,726,814.80, but as that was fixed upon a basis of 60 per cent of the actual value, it represents a true property valuation of \$31,817,037, which shows an increase for this year to the city generally of \$4,980,256.40 over last year. The real estate assessment for 1902 aggregates \$72,295,465.

The aggregate real estate assessment of 1902 as returned by the board of review to the city council last year at this time was \$38,589,250, and as that was based upon a 40 per cent valuation it really represented property to the amount of \$77,223,125.

Birth and Death Record.

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UNITED STATES COURT WORK

Record of the Marshal's Office Shows the Amount of Business Done.

The following financial report for the United States marshal's office for the year shows the earnings of the office stand well above the expenses. The fee for jurors has made a considerable increase over 1901, which is due to the fact that there has been more work done, and also to the fact that on the last of last July the fee for jurors was increased from \$2 to \$3 in the class designated pay for jurors are included all the expenses of outside judges called here to assist Judge W. H. Munger, and the bills for the subsistence of jurors engaged in the trial of federal cases. Included in the miscellaneous expenses are the salaries of the judges' stenographers, the judge's messenger, the cost of transporting the records to and from Lincoln, the bills for blanks and books for the clerk's offices, and other such incidentals as are specifically authorized by the attorney general.

Comparative showing for 1902.

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MILES OF NEW PAVING LAID

Double the Amount of the Year Before Was Put Down in 1902.

In a general way it may be said that the work of the city engineering department for the year just closed has far exceeded that of 1901, for in nearly every line of public works the records show a gratifying proportion of progression. In paving work this is perhaps most apparent, as is shown by a total of 3,247 miles of pavement laid in 1902 as compared with 1,468 miles in the preceding year. In the year just closed the extent of pipe sewer laid is just about equal to the total of the pipe and brick sewers of the year before.

Following is a table showing the work of this department for 1902:

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ARMY SPENDS LOTS OF MONEY

Chief Quartermaster at Omaha Disburses Nearly a Million and a Half.

The disbursement of the quartermaster's funds by the chief quartermaster of the department of the Missouri at Omaha during the year ending December 31, 1902, minus the last week's business, shows a grand total of nearly a million and a half dollars, and a considerable increase over the figures of last year. The exact figures are, for 1902, \$1,424,631, and for 1901, \$1,017,962.29. This year's amount does not include the amounts for the construction of new buildings at Des Moines and Forts Leavenworth and Riley. The increase is due to the payment of higher prices for horses and increased expense incident to the Fort Riley maneuvers. The comparisons for the two years follow:

Regular supplies \$279,000 10 1 424,544 94

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