### MAYOR'S ANNUAL MESSAGE

Condition of the City's Business and Record of the Year.

SUGGESTIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Steps to Purchase Water Plant Urged and Additional Fdads to Provide for Public Needs in Several Directions.

came delinquent July 1, and so vigorously was the work of collection prosecuted that on December 31 841 per cent of the current year's taxes had been paid in; the per cent of personaity collections being 92.4, while that of realty was 81.58.

During the year \$152,131.48 of special taxes were collected. A number of improvements were made for which assessments were levied and bonds and special warrants issued and yet the balances show a net decrease of 83,300 in our special assessment debt as compared with one year ago.

The following statement is furnished me by the city treasurer;

Assessed yaluation for 1903......\$31.06.186 00

Assessed valuation Mill levy
Tax produced 866,68
1992 tax collected (net) 707,06
Percentage of 1993 tax collected, 81.58. PERSONALTY.
Assessed valuation
Mill levy
Tax produced
1962 tax collected (net)...... 261,504 45 241,910 69

Percentage of 1902 tax collected, 92.4. Collections of the year 1903 exceed the levy for the year by \$49,350,17, a fact which never occurred prior to the year 1900. Special Taxation.

Well-considered charter amendments are needed in relation to the making of special improvements and the levying of assessments therefor. For many years the charter provisions upon this subject have been apparently framed to enable property owners begefited by them to evade payment of assessments for public improvements on the most trivial of technical objections to which the courts have been all too ready to littan. The conditions surrounding special tax attor in Omaha are unbearable and un-

most trivial of technical objections to which
the courts have been all too ready to listan. The conditions surrounding special
taxation in Omaha are unbearable and unconscionable. It is an outrageous situation
when property owners can defeat special
assessments a decade or more after their
levy without any proof of inequality in the
taxes, but solely on some hair-splitting
technicality, when a large proportion or
possibly all of the other owners of property
assessed for the improvement have paid
their assessments in full.

I think it may be laid down as a general principle that taxes and assessments
should be absolutely certain and equal in
their operation. If one person escapes all
should escape; if one pays, all should pay.

There is one provision in relation to certain classes of public improvement that
has occusioned the greater part of this injustice and uncertainty and has cost the
city at large hundreds of thousands of dollars. It is the provision requiring as a
jurisdictional prerequisite to the ordering
of repaving, a petition signed by personowning a majority of the taxable front
feet of the property within the district;
also the provision requiring a similar threefourths petition for street grading where
the entire cost is to be paid by special as-

## NURSING MOTHERS

A mother's poor health is bad enough for the mother but worse still for the nursing baby. .

Mothers find Scott's Emulsion a nourishing and strengthening food. If the breast milk is scanty or thin Scott's Emulsion will make it rich and more abundant.

When mothers take Scott's Emulsion the babies share in the benefits. Thin babies grow fat. Weak babies get strong.

We'll send you a little to try, if you like. SCOTT & BOWNE, 409 Pearl street, New York.

esaments; also the provision requiring a similar majority petition as a jurisdictional requirement before a change of grade can be ordered.

The trouble with these provisions is that

The trouble with these provisions is that they make it mandatory upon the city to order the improvements upon the filing of such petitions, and yet the sufficiency of the petitions may be attacked in the couris even after the improvements have been made in good faith and thousands of dollars expended by the city in their completion.

The couris have sustained the validity of most of the taxes levied under the new charter, which took effect in 1897. I believe a curative act should be passed by the legislature-curing all defects in assessments levied under this charter. Many if not most of the old assessments levied prior to 1897 are irregular, but a large part of them can be relevied without a curative act. If we could know that assessments from 1897 on were valid and incontestible it would be a great ald to the future prosperity of the city.

This gives to the city protection much to be desired with reference to the amount of the appraisement.

Whatever course may be decided upon, we should proceed, as we have done, with sufficient caution and understanding of the situation as to adopt the plan which will be safest and best, so that the water works may be secured for the city at a fair and reasonable cost.

Now that bonds can be issued and the time when the right of purchase will accrue will soon arrive, I recommend that an ordinance be passed declaring the necessity of acquiring the water works plant and providing for the appointment of appraisers to determins the value of the same. With this in view, I would urge that this communication be referred to the appropriate committee, and that the question as to the most desirable method of procedure for acquiring the water works be considered without delay by the council in general committee, and with reference to the proper determination of this question I will be pleased to confer with your honorable body.

Electric Lighting.

Electric Lighting.

A very important work of the year was the extension of the contract of the New Omaha Thomson-Houston Electric Light company for electric street lighting for a term of three years from December II, 1902. The former contract was entered into December 1, 1896, extending an existing contract which was not to expire until December 3, 1897. This old contract was rushed through and signed at midnight the same day of its passage, without giving the people an opportunity to be heard or to protect their interests. It provided that the city should pay at the rate of \$14.59 per year for each arc light. The new contract entered into latt March reduces the rate to \$94.59 per light, the rate taking effect January 1, 1902, one year before the expiration of the former contract, and also requires the company to pay to the city at the first of each year a royality of 3 per cent on the gross sales of the previous year. This saving of \$20 per year on each arc light has enabled the city to put in over 100 new lamps, which has greatly improved the lighting system of the city, and the additional royality will provide for still further extensions.

The gasoline street lamps have not proved very satisfactory, and during the year 190 of them have been discontanced, and the amount of money so saved has been put into additional gas lamps, which give much better service at only a small increase in price.

At the beginning of last year the light-

better service at only a small increase in price.

At the beginning of last year the lighting facilities of the city consisted of 3% are lights. MS gas lamps and 560 gasoline lamps. At the close of the year we had 466 are lights, 1635 gas lamps and 460 gasoline tamps. A great improvement has been made in our street lighting during the year, but an increased number of lights are still needed.

In March an ordinance was passed requiring all electric and other wires when used for electric light, heat, power, and other commercial purposes excepting those used for propelling street cars and telegraph and telephone wires, to be placed under ground in that portion of the city bounded on the east by Eighth street, on the west by Eighteenth street, on the south by Howard street and on the north by Capitol avenue.

by Howard street and on the north by Canitol avenue.

The electric light and telephone companies are rapidly complying with this requirement. The appearance of the downtown streets will certainly be greatly improved by having these poles and wires removed, and the work of fire fighting in the business district will be simplified, and the possibility of such terrible accidents as have occurred to firemen in recent years by coming in contact with live electric wires will be prevented.

Market House.

Market House.

During the latter part of the year just closed the council, over my veto, passed an ordinance providing for the erection of a market house in Capitol avenue, east of Fourteenth, and later let a contract for the partial construction of the same, and work has already commenced on the foundations. The portion now under contract is to cost about \$12.000 and it is estimated that it will cost about as much more to complete the structure according to plans from Fourteenth to Thirteenth streets.

I have consistently vetoed every step in the proceedings in relation to the location and construction of this market. I have believed and still believe that a visit to the market site would convince any unprejudiced person of its unsuitableness as a location. The structure in prog-

ress of erection is but a temporary makeshift and will not be a credit to the city.

I believe the city needs a market, but
it should be erected in a suitable and accessible location and it should be a building of permanent character and of adequate size and construction.

ress of erection is but a temporary make shift and will not be a credit to the city. It believe the city needs a market, but it should be erected in a suitable and accessible location and it should be a building of permanent character and of adequinte size and construction.

Health Department.

The work of this department during the year was most effective. The duties were very largely increased by smallpox, which reached the epidemic stage during the first part of the year. In the first three months of the year, there were bid cases under the care of the department. A total of Sk cases were attended to during the run of the disease. The epidemic has been stamped out by vigorous attention and proper care and we now have but four light cases of fed disease in the city.

As is well known, the charter allowance for this department is only \$10,000 and but 150 per cent of this can be drawn against. This amount is practically taken to meet salaries and fixed charges, and it was known would occur on account of the smallpox epidemic. This increase had to be taken care of out of the general fund, therefore, instead of out of the smallpox epidemic. This increase had to be taken care of out of the general fund, therefore, instead of out of the smallpox epidemic. This increase had to be drawn. The extra expenses attending the epidemic of smallpox amounted to \$11,400.54, or the pidemic of smallpox amounted to \$11,400.54, or

A much needed improvement was begun last fall in the matter of placing street markers on street corners. For a number of years past I have called attention to the imperative need for such markers and have urged the making of an appropriation for that purpose. A few months ago \$2.000 was set aside for this object and this amount has been expended as follows: Four hundred and eighty-six signposits with two street signs each, and \$85 signs placed on corner buildings, making a total of 1,690 signs. Additional money should be appropriated to extend this system, as the signs already placed only cover the more thickly populated parts of the city.

The Garbage Problem.

The Garbage Problem.

Under the present laws and conditions relating to the disposition of garbage, it is required that it be either disposed of at the Jones street dump, controlled by one contractor, or be hauled many miles into the country. As a result teamsters engaged in hauling garbage will neither pay for the privilege of using the dump or haul their loads out of the city, but deposit garbage, ashes, nightsoil and manure on vacant lots, outlying streets or in any accessible place where they think they can empty their loads and get away without discovery and arrest. Loads of refuse and foul-smelling filth are frequently dumped at night in streets and vacant lots right in the midst of thickly populated districts. This is a serious condition, and the worst feature of it is that with our small police force it is impossible to remedy it.

I would recommend that a garbage creamatory be erected by the city for the abatement of this nuisance. This could be done et a small expense and would be an improvement welcomed alike by property owners and teamsters. It would materially lessen the danger from contagious diseases and would improve the health and appearance of the city. Many other cities have adopted this plan and it has proven entirely satisfactory.

Engineer and Board of Public Works. The Garbage Problem.

Engineer and Board of Public Works. The annual report of the city engineer gives some figures which will be of interest to all citizens. The engineer states that exclusive of the wooden blocks, we now have in Omaha street pavements covering in round numbers 35% miles of asphalt, 21 miles of stone, 13% miles of brick and 1% miles of macadam. In addition to this there are 41-7 miles of paved alleys. Our sewer mileage has reached a total of 1261-6 miles. Treated as an asset, the investment in Omaha public improvements is as follows:

# Omaha Citizen.

Omaha prepared to tell their experience for the public good. Testimony from such a source is the best of evidence and will prove a "helping hand" to scores of eaders. Read the following statement:

Mrs. Fred Horn of 2002 Cuming street, says:-"In the winter of 1898 I could not algep on account of pain in my back. It also bothered me during the day and I often had sharp cuting pains in the kidneys when stooping or causing any strain on my back. At the time I commenced using Doan's Kidney Pills I was very bad. They were procured at Kuhn & Co's. drug store boxes, when there was no longer any need to sail for Honduras. to take more. I know Doan's Kidney Pills Foster-Milburn Co. Buffalo, N. Y., sole basket of paper. agents for the United States. Remember the name Doan's and take no

substitute.

The state of the control of the cont

The council during the last five years has adopted a very short-sighted policy in the matter of the publication of the annual reports of the various departments of the city. In each of my annual messages I have called attention to this matter and urged the necessity for their publication, but a mistaken idea of economy has induced the council to overrule my desires in the matter. In the recent investigations made by the Real Estate exchange it was found almost impossible to secure in available form comparative figures on city expenditures and receipts for the last five years. I would again urge the necessity for printing these reports, and I believe business men generally who are interested in municipal affairs would endorse this recommendation. If not deemed feasible to publish the reports in full, I would advise that at least an abstract of them for 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1901 be issued. This could be abbreviated into one volume, if thought necessary. I would further advise that the annual reports for 1902 be printed in full. All of this printing could be done for from \$1,500 to \$2,000, and the city, its officers and taxpayers would then be in a position, by comparison of expenditures, to check any tendency to extravagance and to trace the disposition of city funds. The taxpayers of the city want this information in brief concrete form, and the only way it can be furnished is by the publication of the annual reports of the city.

Every other city in the country the size of Omaha publishes such reports, and a comparison of our reports with those of other cities would be of great value. The Omaha annual reports of the city.

Every other city in the country the size of Omaha annual reports were published regularly from 1887 to 1897, inclusive, but were then discontinued for reason of economy.

Compilation of Ordinances.

No compliation of the ordinances of the city has been made since 1890. In the twelve intervening years more than 3,000 ordinances have been passed, amending, re-amending or repealing former ordinances. Hardly a section of the compliation of 1890 remains unchanged, therefore that volume is now worse than useless. It is practically impossible to ascertain what the present provisions of the ordinances of the city are upon some subjects, for certain parts of the complied ordinances of 1890 have been altered by amendatory or partially repealing ordinances as many as twenty times.

I have called attention to this subject in several previous annual messages and 1

Sewerage 1,940,941

This compilation should be made at once and by lawyers familiar with municipal and strikes with full force, no constitution is atrong enough to should be intrusted with this important matter. Then, when a new compilation has been thoroughly prepared, printed and aloopted and former ordinances repealed, no amendments of any character should be permitted, except in extreme cases of absolute necessity. Nine-tenths of the amendatory ordinances of the past twelve years were unnecessary, and were passed simily to gratify some personal whim and not from any public necessity.

Conclusion.

Conclusion. I desire to express my appreciation of the couriesy and consideration shown me by the members of the council and by the heads of the respective departments.

I trust that this review of the last year's municipal record and the suggestions made in the message may be of benefit in assisting us in the work before us in the year 1903. Respectfully.

FRANK E. MOORES, Mayor,

FIRE STARTS ON BATTLESHIP Lighted Cigarette in Basket of Pape Causes Damage to New

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 10 .- Fire broke and the first box relieved me. I continued out last night on the battleship New York, the treatment until I had taken three which is lying in the stream under orders

York.

The fire was in the cabin of Paymeste do the work that it is claimed they do." Ball and is believed to have originated.

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. from a lighted eigarette dropped into a Ball and is believed to have originated Considerable damage was done to the

cabin, but the sailing of the fleet today

will not be delayed.

Crackers With A Kerosene Flavor

They are known as the common bulk soda cracker. All grocers don't have them in this flavor-some of them do.

It's no fault of the grocerman. He sells bulk soda crackers because a few customers still buy them as a matter of habit. He also sells kerosene.

Between measuring out kerosene and putting bulk biscuit in a bag things will get mixed.

If you do not fancy the kind with the kerosene flavor ask for Uneeda Biscuit in the In-er-seal Package with red and white

Made with the utmost care; clean bakeries, clean bakers, best material. Packed in an air tight, dust proof package that does all that it was made to dokeeps the biscuit fresh, clean and dry. They reach you in perfect condition—just as they left the oven.

NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

1865 1850 1850 1850

BRITISH OFFICERS BRUTAL

English Admiral Exposes Alleged Barbarous Custom in Royal Guards.

SUBALTERNS FLOGGED WITHOUT MERCY

mall Social and Military Offences Said to Be Punished by Each Comrade Whipping Offender's Bare Feet.

LONDON, Feb. 16.-Rear Admiral Basil Cochrane, retired, in a letter published in the Times today, makes astounding statements regarding a "barbarous system" alleged to prevail among the guards regiments for the punishment of subalterns guilty of social or military offenses.

According to Rear Admiral Cochrane, the edionel of one battalion has been in the habit of handing over offenders to the senior subaltern, who summons a court martial at which the attendance of all the subalterns is exacted. The sentence is almost invariably flog-

ging. This is administered on the bare back, and from six to forty blows are given with such severity as to draw blood. All the officers present, even the most intimate friends of the victim, are compelled to administer their share of blows. The admiral cites the instance of a young

officer who fainted after receiving forty strokes, and also refers to the case of his own nephew, Captain Leveson-Gower, who, for an unintentional military fault, was Subsequently, according to Admiral Coch-

rane, his nephew was punished with great severity by Major General Oliphant, formerly commander of the Grenadter guards, for a petty fault, and who in consequence of continued ill treatment resigned his commission last week. When Lord Roberts, the commander in

through relatives he severely reprimanded Colonel Ricardo, commander of the Grena dier guards, and placed Lieutenant Colonel

COALING STATIONS IN CUBA People Have No Objection to Carrying Out Promise with the United States.

HAVANA, Feb. 10,-Although a fairly definite understanding has been reached with the United States representatives with regard to the coaling station on this island, President Palma is inclined to further feel the public pulse before commit ting his government to the agreement. Accordingly, he held a conference with

the leading senators and representatives at the palace today and the matter was discussed, with the result that no opposttion to the agreement developed, except on minor points.

It is understood here that the naval coaling station agreement is not dependent in any degree on the confirmation of the reciprocity treaty, since the coaling station arrangement is expressly provided for

# RHEUMATISM

**Tortures, Cripples and Deforms** 

Rheumatism does not treat all alike Some suffer torture from the very begin-ning, the attack being so sudden, sharp and disastrous that they are made helpless I have called attention to this subject in several previous annual messages and I desire to state again that I deem it to be of the highest importance that a new compilation of the ordinances be made. This should be done not only for the reason given above, but for the additional reason that many of our ordinances have been drawn carclessly and by incompetent persons, and a large number have already been declared invalid by the courts. Many others would not bear scrutiny if they had to be relied upon by the city in any fitigation. case tightens its grip and strikes with full THE BLOOD

AND SYSTEM RULED BY ACID.

poison in the blood, of every variety and form of this dread disease. External remedies do not reach the blood, consequently do no lasting good. S. S. S. goes directly into the cir and attacks the disease itself. The acid poisons that cause the inflammation, soreness and swelling are neutralized and the blood parified and cleansed of all irritat-ing matter, and nothing is left in the cir-

other attacks. S. S. S. being a vegetable remedy does not impair the digestion or general health like afkali and potash remedies, but builds up and invigorates the entire system, and at the

same time makes a thorough and permanent cure of Rheumatism. White for our free book on Rheumstism. THE SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Laxative Bromo Quinine Cures a Cold in One Day, Grip in 2 Days

The chair car is one of the modern conveniences of travel that furnishes old-fashioned comfort without any extracharge.

The chairs can be adjusted at night so that you can recline at full length. Then, with a pillow from the porter, you can sleep as soundly as in a bed.

These cars are distinctly a Burlington feature, and thro' trains all carry them. Thro' trains leave daily as follows: To Denver and West, 4:25 P. M. To Kansas City and South, 9:15 A. M.

To St. Louis and Southeast, 5:10 P. M. To Chicago and East, 7 A. M., 4 P. M.

TICKETS: 1502 Farnam St. J. B. Reynolds, City Ticket Agent.

Montana and Northwest 11:10 P. M.

One-Way Rates

and 8:05 P. M.

1903, the Union One-Way Colothe following

From February 15 to April 30, Pacific will sell nist Tickets at ratest 1 1 1 1 1

FROM MISSOURI RIVER \$20.00 to Ogden and Salt Lake City. \$20.00 to Butte, Anaconda and Helena.

\$22.50 to Spokane and Wanatchee, Wash. \$25.00 to Everett, Fairhaven and New Whatcom, via Huntington and Spokane. \$25.00 to Portland, Tacoma and Seattle.

\$25.00 to Ashland, Roseburg, Eugene, Albany and Salem, via Portland. \$25.00 to San Francisco, Los Ageles and many other California points.

CITY TICKET OFFICE 1324 Farnam St. 'Phone 316. Union Station, 10th and Marcy. 'Phone 62.

## \$25.00 to California

That is the Rock Island's rate from Omaha. In effect daily from February 15 to April 30. Tickets are good in tourist sleeping cars which the Rock Island runs every day in the week, Chicago and Kansas City to Los Angeles and San Francisco. Choice of routes-"Southern" or "Scenic." Folder giving full information mailed on request.

If you are going to Cali fornia, GO NOW. After May 1 it will cost you near by \$30 more than at present. Rates to Montana, Utah, Id sho, Washington and Oregon points are proportionate by as low as to California. Write or call.



C. A. Rutherford, D. P. A. 1323 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.

