

YEAR OF PROSPERITY

Omaha Closes Twelve Months of Business Expansion.

GROWTH IN ALL DIRECTIONS IS NOTED

Record of Transactions in Each Line Shows Output Omaha Bigger Total.

BANK CLEARINGS A GOOD INDICATION

More Than Thirty-Two Millions Larger Than During 1902.

OTHER FIGURES TELL SIMILAR STORY

Every Avenue of Industrial or Commercial Activity Feems with Life and All Look Forward with Confidence.

Table with 2 columns: Category and Amount. Includes Bank clearings, Vol. Jobbing Business, Manufacturing, etc.

Omaha citizens can scan the year's balance sheet with much complacency this morning, for there is not an item that does not show an advance over the year preceding.

In the other avenues of industrial and commercial effort Omaha went to the front rapidly during the year.

Fewer real estate mortgages were filed during 1903 than for the year preceding.

The outlook for 1904 is encouraging in its every respect.

JOBGING AND MANUFACTURING

General Advance in Totals, with an Excellent Outlook for the Coming Year.

The increase of Omaha jobbing business during the year just closed, which was approximately 12.5 per cent, and the increase of manufacturing output, which was quite close to 22.5 per cent.

The year has seen the growth of nearly all the formerly established jobbing and manufacturing houses, but in new firms only three have been set up and these not of the first importance.

PROCEEDING AGAINST SMOOT

National Union of Women's Organizations Declares War on Mormonism and Polygamy.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—The National Union of Women's Organizations, Mrs. Frederick Schott of Philadelphia chairman, today issued a circular announcing the formation of a preliminary organization.

The circular declares that the moral standards of the nation will be what the women of the nation demand; that this is a critical time in our national life, and that the forty-four members of the National Union of Women's Organizations in the result of the earnest plea of non-Mormon women in Utah, who begged the help of eastern women in combating a situation which had become intolerable.

WESTERN MATTERS AT CAPITAL

Number of Rural Carriers Named and Routes Established in Iowa and Nebraska.

(From a Staff Correspondent) WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—(Special Telegram.)—Rural routes ordered established February 1: Nebraska—Bladen, Webster county, two additional; area covered, six square miles; population, 1,010.

Washington lodge No. 7, Degree of Honor, held its eleventh anniversary and New Year's party at the Ancient Order of United Workmen temple last evening.

EXPLOSION EXCITES SUSPICION

Government Thinks There May Have Been Conspiracy to Blow Up a Battleship.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Secret service agents are investigating a mysterious explosion which occurred at the Midvale Steel works in Nicetown, recently, news of which has just become public, according to a Herald dispatch from Philadelphia.

NEW ASSOCIATION ELECTS

Scientific American Breeders Determine Who is to Be at Head of the Work.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31.—A new association called the American Breeders' association has been perfected at a meeting of prominent scientists here.

W. J. BRYAN BRINGS SUIT

Starts Proceedings at New Haven to Determine Validity of Parts of Will.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 31.—A suit in the form of a supplementary proceeding in the Bennett will case was instituted today by counsel for William J. Bryan, an executor, against Mrs. Bennett and other legatees of P. S. Bennett.

FAILS TO PLACE THE BLAME

Coroner's Jury at St. Louis Cannot Tell Why Boilers Exploded.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31.—The coroner's jury, which was investigating the explosion of the boilers in the power house of the St. Louis & North Western railway, which killed seven men December 21, today declared its inability to find a reason for the accident because of the conflicting evidence submitted.

FIRST HOSTILE MOVEMENT

Colombian Troops Land on Panama Territory and Take Indian Prisoner.

COGHLAN SENDS SHIPS AGAINST THEM

Entire Available Force of Marines on Ishmies Harried on Board Three Vessels for Scene of Trouble.

(Copyright, 1903, by Press Publishing Co.) COLON, Dec. 31.—(New York World Telegram—Special Telegram.)—What is looked upon as the first step toward war on the isthmus has been taken by Colombia. Colombian regulars have landed on the San Blas coast, have occupied territory belonging to Panama and have made prisoner an ally of Panama, an Indian chief.

News of his capture and the seizure of his village was received in Colon yesterday. Admiral Coghlan immediately summoned to his fleet all the marines on shore.

SKINNER'S TASK ACCOMPLISHED

Treaty with Ethiopia Secured and Menelik Pleased into Great Generosity.

JERUSALEM, Dec. 31.—The United States expedition to Abyssinia under Consul General Skinker has successfully carried out the principal features of the mission.

MINISTER'S SON KILLS HIMSELF

Fargo Squelchers Accidentally Shot While Practicing with Revolver in Cuba.

HAVANA, Dec. 31.—Fargo Squelcher, eldest son of the United States minister to Cuba, accidentally shot and killed himself today.

HEADS HOT AIR DEPARTMENT

Carl E. Meyer Given Charge of Ballooning and Balloon Inflation at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 31.—Space 60x100 feet has been granted by the World's fair to the German government for a unique outdoor transportation exhibit which will show the practical operation of the German railways under government control in that country.

ARREST BENSON ONCE MORE

San Francisco Real Estate Dealer Taken in Charge in New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—John A. Benson, of San Francisco, 120 Madison street, 111, on account of his inability to furnish \$10,000 bail.

LATEST WRECK KILLS THREE

Occurs on the Lake Shore Line in Ohio, with Engines as Victims.

ASHTABULA, O., Dec. 31.—The double-headed eastbound limited on the Lake Shore railroad was derailed here today by an open switch.

MARK PASSING OF THE YEAR

Many Social and Fraternal Clubs and Societies Make Merry as It Goes.

Record of the Harvest of Death at the Iroquois Theater.

NAMES OF THOSE KNOWN TO BE LOST

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—The following is a list of the dead thus far identified: ADANACK, MRS. JOHN, Bartlett, Ill. LEBRICH, MRS. JOHN, partially identified.

Washington lodge No. 7, Degree of Honor, held its eleventh anniversary and New Year's party at the Ancient Order of United Workmen temple last evening.

DEAD, INJURED OR MISSING

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NEBRASKA WEATHER FORECAST

Partly Cloudy and Much Colder Friday; Saturday Fair. The cold wave was hoisted over the Omaha forecaster's station at 4:30 p. m. Thursday.

ILLINOIS FORGETS POLITICS

Lowden's Campaign Deferred and Mayor Comes Home to Aid Generous Council.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Mayor Harrison was on his way to the city for a number of days and Comptroller McGinnis was acting Mayor.

FORMER OMAHA WOMAN DEAD

Mrs. Dal Jones One of the Victims of the Iroquois Theater Fire.

Among the dead in Mrs. Dal Jones, the wife of a telegraph operator, formerly employed by the Western Union in Omaha, where he and his wife are both well known.

FINDS WHAT HELD CURTAIN

Insurance Inspector Discovers It Was Wire Used to Secure a Fairy Effect.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—The cause of the "jamming" of the asbestos curtain considered the cause of the disaster, was explained today by an inspector for the underwriters, who made a tour of the house and found that the wire on which the queen of social ballet flew over the audience.

NORFOLK MAN IN FIRE

Charles A. Madson, Formerly of this City and Whose Mother Lives at 410 Madison Street, Was Among Those in the Iroquois Theater Fire at Chicago.

At Queens-town—Sailed: Celtic for New York. At Hamburg—Arrived: Graf Waldersee from New York via Plymouth and Cherbourg.

MOVEMENTS OF OCEAN VESSELS

At New York—Arrived: Maudslayi from Liverpool; Boris from Liverpool. Sailed: La Touraine for Havre. At Liverpool—Arrived: Teutonic from New York. Sailed: Ionian for Halifax and St. John.

NO FIRE PROOF

Aldermen of Chicago Said Was Not Properly

ALLEGED THAT EXITS WERE NOT PROPERLY

Plans Show Many Aisles Did Not Exist

AUTOMATIC SPRINKLERS

Deputy Building Inspector Evasions of City Ord.

CHICAGO SPENDS HOLIDAY

Mayor Issues Proclamation Bidding No Noise at Beginning of New Year Because of Calamity.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—At last it had been identified, the injured persons who received attention still reported missing.

FIRST ARRESTS ARE MADE

Twelve Employees of Company Charged with Being Accessory to Manslaughter.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Twelve employees of the Iroquois theater were tonight arrested on orders issued by Chief of Police O'Neill. The charge against them is at present that of being accessory to manslaughter.

After being taken into custody by the police four of the men told Chief O'Neill that they had been requested by people connected with the theater to leave Chicago. When asked who advised them to do so they at first refused to say, but later admitted that the advice was given by Assistant Stage Manager Plunkett.

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ALDERMEN START INVESTIGATION

Theater and returned to the city hall called on the building department.

Twelve aldermen today inspected the theater and returned to the city hall called on the building department.

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