

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

OMAHA, SUNDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 18, 1904.

SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

RICHEST BLOCK IN OMAHA

Most Valuable Real Estate in City as Determined by Assessment.

HEART OF THE RETAIL TRADE DISTRICT

Farnam, Douglas, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Streets Bound the Square that is Valued Highest on Books for Taxation.

A recent inquiry from the east produced the question: "Which is the most valuable business block in Omaha?" It is presumed that the value of the land within a single city square is meant and not the aggregate worth of the ground and the buildings upon it.

Both the city and county assessors place a higher aggregate value on the block just west above Sixteenth street, but this is due to the fact that it contains the new New York Life building, assessed at \$500,000, bringing the total up to \$1,217,500.

The county assessments are somewhat higher than the city. County Assessor Reed says that a fair selling valuation for the block between Farnam and Douglas and east of Sixteenth street would be \$1,600,000.

Uncle Sam's Magnificent Property. All blocks, however, are put in the shade by the federal building block, which is held to be worth \$1,750,000 by the government.

The block between Farnam and Douglas streets from Fourteenth to Fifteenth has an aggregate assessment of \$1,150,000 placed on it by the city, the land being put in for \$329,000; that between Farnam and Harney from Sixteenth to Seventeenth street is held for taxing purposes at \$206,000, the land being considered at \$217,500.

Beginning at the Douglas and Douglas street corner of the block agreed upon as having the great land value, the three-story brick building occupied by Brown-King company is assessed at \$115,000, is owned by Lew W. Hill and brings him a monthly rental of \$1,000.

Virginia and the Clock. At the luncheon following the launching of the submarine torpedo boat Simon Lake K. Mr. Foster M. Voorhees, former governor of New Jersey, told this story on a distinguished Virginian.

Fashion Pooled. Thomas Fogarty, the illustrator, was talking about modern fashions in dress. "It is hard to keep up with the fashions," he said.

Reciprocity. Joseph Jefferson tells the story of a theatrical manager who met the representative of an opera company.

Another Valuable Block. In the square between Farnam and Douglas and west of Sixteenth street, L. Brandeis & Sons own all of the north half of the block with the exception of forty-four feet in the name of Mrs. Elizabeth Duffrene.

brings the aggregate value of this square up, despite the row of flats and residences on the northwest corner.

The block north, on which is the Boston store and Hayden Bros., is very valuable, but does not rank among the highest, because these two buildings and one other are about all the important structures it contains.

TERSELY TOLD TALES.

On Forbidden Ground. Here's one from Representative Kehoe of Kentucky:

"A debating society was formed in one of the counties of my district, and among the first questions debated was, 'Resolved, That the negroes have more cause for complaint than the Indians.'"

A Confined Idea.

"When I was a boy," remarked T. E. Ryan of Waukesha, as he caught sight of some old patriarchs who sent him into the retrospective mood.

English Humor.

Charles M. Pepper, the newspaper man who was appointed a commissioner on the Intercontinental Railway commission, tells an amusing story in which the main figure is Henry Norman, the British journalist.

One evening just before the departure of the Britisher it was determined to put up a joke on him at the Press club. A Mr. Decker was selected to be the perpetrator.

It was plainly to be seen that the Englishman was taken aback. After a good deal of hemming and hawing he replied: "Mr. Decker and Members of the National Press Club: Words fail me. I am overwhelmed. With respect to this gift, which I am pleased to receive, I suppose that Mr. Decker, as was only natural in the embarrassment of the moment, for we newspaper men are notoriously poor speakers, has made a mistake, for he has, as you see, given me a bell instead of a ring!"

The Strenuous Life.

A negro hack driver in Washington was driving along the street when he encountered a funeral. A long line of coaches was behind a hearse, which was moving along at a lively rate.

Good Men to Lean On. About the third or fourth visit which Judge Parker made to New York during the late campaign, he sent for Mayor McClellan.

A Just Claim. George Grossmith, the English comedian, tells of a super who went to the manager of a successful play after it had been having a long London run and demanded a raise of salary.

An Explanation. "We were bounding along," said a recent traveler on a local South African seven line railway, "at the rate of about seven miles an hour, and the whole train was shaking terribly."

A Brief Shock. Representative Dixon of Montana is telling of the experience of a young eastern woman with one of his constituents.

Office-keepers on the Spot. "I had been a good deal about the hustling ways of westeners," remarked Lincoln J. Steffens, whose graphic stories on the way certain western political machines are organized are unique of their kind.

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Investigate These Prices