

The United States National Bank of Omaha

United States Depository.

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W. E. RHOADES, Assistant Cashier. L. M. TALMAGE, Assistant Cashier. G. E. HAVERSTICK, Assistant Cashier.

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W. W. MORSMAN, Attorney.
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W. A. SMITH, Treasurer and General Manager Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway Company.
G. W. WATTLES, Vice-President United States National Bank.
C. E. YOST, President Nebraska Telephone Company.



NEW HOME OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK.

Announcement

Omaha, Nebraska, July 22, 1905.

We beg to announce that the arrangements for the consolidation of the United States National Bank of Omaha, the Commercial National Bank of Omaha and the Union National Bank of Omaha have been completed. Beginning Monday, July 24, 1905, the business will be conducted at Sixteenth and Farnam streets in the building formerly occupied by the Commercial National Bank, under the title of

THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA

Capital - - - \$600,000.00
Surplus - - - 200,000.00

Attention is called to the personnel of the directorate of the bank and to its officers. The new bank will be in a much stronger position to handle the banking business generally than was any one of the constituent banks. The depositors, clients and correspondents of the United States National Bank, the Commercial National Bank and the Union National Bank are especially requested to note this and also that almost all the present officers and staff of each bank will remain with the consolidated institution and continue to give as heretofore their personal attention to the business.

We invite new accounts of banks, corporations, firms and individuals, to whom we offer all the facilities of a large bank with numerous bank correspondents throughout the United States and Foreign Countries.

We particularly desire and will give personal attention to the smaller accounts of individuals. We shall be pleased to have correspondence or personal conference with those desiring to transact business with us.

Respectfully,
UNITED STATES NATIONAL BANK.
By M. T. BARLOW, President.

Omaha's Big New Consolidated Bank and the Big Men Behind It

OMAHA is making banking history these days. With the opening of the United States National Bank in its new location, formerly the home of the Commercial National Bank, with the consolidated business of the United States National, the Commercial National and the Union National, an epoch will be marked in the progress of local financial institutions. While the public has been fairly informed for a month past of the big banking merger that had been projected and brought to a consummation, all the time intervening was necessary to go through the legal forms required for actual consolidation.

A glance at the building to be occupied by the new United States National any day since the public announcement of the merger would show that no time was being lost, either, in executing the various changes necessary to make room for the enlarged business that is to be transacted there. The location of the bank at the corner of Sixteenth and Farnam streets, which is the very heart of the business section, occupying one of the choicest corners in the city, makes it distinctly conspicuous as well as convenient of access. Diagonally across the street is located what was recently reported to be the most highly valued piece of real estate in Omaha, and with the present rapid building transformation of this section of the city, of which Sixteenth and Farnam streets is the center, the United States National bank corner bids fair to be a point from which people will reckon distances when giving directions for finding other parts of town.

Inside the building has been a veritable hive of industry for the last month. The remodeling of the building has been in absolute charge of Assistant Cashier Rhoades, who, in getting everything done in so short a time, has accomplished what was considered almost impossible. Yesterday Phil J. Kuntz, the contractor who has had the work in hand, was putting on the finishing touches, so that the transfer of the books and records of the United States and Union National banks to the new location could be expedited and enable depositors and clients of the three consolidated banks to call in the morning at the new bank and transact business not only without inconvenience, but with a facility surpassing that obtained in any one of the banks before consolidation. As a result, the interior of the building has been thoroughly overhauled and remodeled according to plans by Architect Kimball, who originally designed it, making it look like a new place.

The old lobby, that was 20x22 feet, has been enlarged to 42x25 feet with a south extension 18x15 feet. The added space was necessary for patrons to transact business in the various departments with ease and expedition. This commodious lobby is surrounded on three sides with cages for paying and receiving tellers, discount, draft, collection and statement clerks, and desks of the leading officers. These desks have been so arranged that the officials of the institution will be in close touch with one another and with the public. The public telephone has been placed in the south wing on the first floor, and a large meeting room for the directors and a private consultation room for the officers have been located in the southeast corner of the main floor.

One of the important features of the big bank is the battery of safes and vaults that has just been newly installed. The safes, three in number, represent a Gibraltar of strength in the banking world and, together with the conservatism and ability of the men behind the bank, makes a combination to defy breaking. The eight-ton Corlies safe that was used in the Commercial bank has been retained and supplemented with two large manganese safes of most improved patterns. A set of fireproof vaults, in three galleries, provide for records and papers. The accounting and mailing departments of the bank have been re-

moved to the second floor, where partitions that formerly separated private offices have been torn out to make one large counting room. An electric dummy runs from the banking floor to this room for the purpose of carrying statements to and from the various clerks for final disposition. The private telephone exchange has been installed here, also, and locker rooms and other conveniences for the employees have been provided, which may be reached from either front or rear.

The ceilings and walls of the entire bank have been redecorated in delicate shades of ivory and green, set off with gold trimmings, and in every detail the purely physical part of the bank has been brought up to the requirements of an up-to-date banking institution. All the new furniture which has been ordered has not yet come, but when placed promises to add to the general harmony of the banking room.

The great central ideal in which the consolidation scheme has been built by its promoters was to organize one big bank out of three already successful banks, to incorporate the very best of the three individual banks into the body of the integral bank, and then to improve and strengthen the consolidated bank along lines suggested by years of experience as promising the banking public the best protection and services to be obtained anywhere.

While the new United States National will have one of the best locations and one of the finest bank buildings in the west, its promoters realize that even more important than the advantages of a convenient and hospitable home is the personnel and business stability of those conducting it and backing it.

In the matter of a good ancestry, on which depends largely the confidence it inspires in a community, the United States National is fortunate in being one of the oldest established banking houses in Nebraska, in fact, the oldest by succession. In 1856 Ezra Millard founded at Omaha the banking house of Barrows, Millard & Co., a firm in which Mr. Barrows, Ezra Millard and J. H. Millard were joint partners. In 1890 S. S. Caldwell entered into the partnership and J. H. Millard went to Montana, while the firm name was changed to Millard, Caldwell & Co. Out of this combination the Omaha National bank was organized in 1896. Ezra Millard was an advocate of the then new national banking system, while Mr. Caldwell believed in the old-established private banking business. When Ezra Millard organized the Omaha National bank, Mr. Caldwell joined him in that enterprise and both of them at the time regarded it much like establishing a branch bank and believed both their banks would benefit correspondingly.

When Mr. Millard left the banking house of Millard, Caldwell & Co., a new partnership was formed by admitting C. W. Hamilton and M. T. Barlow under the firm name of Caldwell, Hamilton & Co. All over the country the private banking firms were gradually going into the national or state system and the commercial business in all financial centers was being concentrated more and more in the national banks, so that in the summer of 1893 the firm of Caldwell, Hamilton & Co. was transformed into a national bank under the name of the United States National bank. Mr. Caldwell gave up active work and died the following year. The first officers were: President, C. W. Hamilton; vice president, S. S. Caldwell, and cashier, M. T. Barlow. Victor B. Caldwell, son of one of the founders, entered the bank as messenger in 1887 and continued to fill various positions as messenger, bookkeeper, correspondent, clerk, teller, etc., until 1896, when Charles W. Hamilton died and Mr. Barlow was elected president in his place and Mr. Caldwell made cashier, succeeding Mr. Barlow.

Milton T. Barlow continues to be the president of the new United States National as of the old. He has been for over forty years an

active banker and always connected with the same institution, whose location has not changed in the forty years until the present move engineered by Victor B. Caldwell was brought to a successful termination. Mr. Barlow entered the bank as messenger and his successful administration in the past is well known throughout the city and state, where his name stands for conservatism and cautious business methods. He is recognized as having to a remarkable degree built up the business of the United States National bank and influenced its policy.

The Union National bank gives to the new United States National bank for an active officer Gordon W. Wattles, who becomes vice president of the new institution. Mr. Wattles is so widely known as an active, aggressive, successful business man that his active interest in the new bank alone is assurance of its success, and that in the future the bank will be an aggressive factor in the Greater Omaha that is now crystallizing. Mr. Wattles' friends like to call him "the man who does things," and he enters into his new relations and duties with the full conviction that Omaha is on the verge of bigger and better things. It is said that no man more fully understands the capacity of Nebraska for increased wealth and for its improvement in general than Mr. Wattles. His unvarying success in every undertaking in which he has engaged and the marked impress he has made upon this community as a broad-minded, public-spirited business man led his associates to congratulate themselves upon obtaining his active services.

Victor B. Caldwell, who also becomes vice president, is a Yale man of the class of 1897 and has been identified with the bank since his graduation from college. His financial training has been all under Mr. Barlow, whose assistant he was for a number of years. In the last few years Mr. Caldwell has become known as an exceedingly able and ambitious banker and is to be credited almost solely for the present merger. If ever a deal was stamped all over with the individuality of one man it has been this bank merger, and the successful harmonizing of its many conflicting interests. Nothing more completely explains this than the announcement given to the reporters by Mr. Wattles at midnight, at his residence on West Farnam street, after the meeting at which the merger of the three banks was formally concluded, in which he said:

"This deal of consolidating these banks was worked out by Mr. Caldwell, who was obliged to overcome a large number of almost insurmountable obstacles to accomplish the results that have been reached. It has been pending for the last three weeks, but was only closed here at my house this evening, when representatives of the three banks were present."

In this connection it is interesting to recite again the statement made at the same time by Mr. Caldwell, which explains the method of the examination of the assets of the combined banks preliminary to a merger. Victor Caldwell said: "This consolidation takes what is best of the three institutions. I refer particularly to the character of the men who become directors and active officers of the new bank."

"Each bank has been rigidly examined by committees appointed from each one of them for that purpose. Into the new organization will go the best assets of the three banks, which have been selected by the strongest men in each institution. The new bank is organized in such a manner that the officers are well acquainted with the needs of customers, who will see in the new bank officers and directors of the three banks, that their interests will be protected as heretofore."

"With the well known conservative views of Mr. Barlow and the strong, aggressive character of Mr. Wattles, who will take an

active and energetic part in the new institution, I believe that its success is absolutely insured.

Alfred Millard, cashier of the Commercial National bank, takes the position of cashier of the new bank. Mr. Millard is a graduate of Cornell university, a son of Ezra Millard, already referred to as one of the founders of the original banking house out of which this one has grown, and has been identified with the Commercial National bank since its organization. A large part of its business is the direct result of his personality and aggressiveness. He is so absolutely in personal touch with all the interests of their old customers that they will be assured against any change in their dealings with the larger bank. With his twenty years' experience Mr. Millard brings into the new organization a personality that will be of great benefit to it.

The assistant cashier of the United States National bank has been for several years W. E. Rhoades, who entered the bank as messenger and successfully worked his way up into official position by serving a long apprenticeship and filling at various times every position in the bank. He is well known in the city as well as having an extensive banking acquaintance throughout the state. He has been an active officer of the bank, fully in touch with the bank's policy, speaking authoritatively for the bank on questions in which it was interested, and has contributed to a marked degree toward its success. In the new bank he will have the same position, but with additional responsibilities that will make his influence more generally felt.

L. M. Talmage, at present an assistant cashier, will also hold his same position and continue to have a general oversight over the credit department of the bank. He, too, began in the United States National as a boy and all his banking business has been learned in that bank. Mr. Talmage is recognized as a man of strong character and an up-to-date credit man. He has a wide circle of acquaintances and is counted one of the strong, capable young men of Omaha. His personality is already a marked feature of the old bank and the greater opportunities now offered him strengthen his position in his field.

The only change made in the official force of the Old United States people is the promotion of their chief clerk, George E. Haverstick, to an assistant cashier. Mr. Haverstick is another young man who entered the bank as a boy and he has never worked outside of this bank. He will have entire control of the working force to be assigned to the second story of the new bank building, where his office will be located. Mr. Haverstick is an expert accountant and has won his promotion through his ability and absolute thorough knowledge of all the intricacies of general bank work. He will have special charge of the "transit department," as it is called in the larger cities—that is the collection of the miscellaneous country drafts and checks drawn on all parts of the country, and will give vigorous attention to the collection of country checks for the customers of the bank.

In addition to the principal officers the directory contains names calculated to inspire complete confidence among the business circles of this city and state. It includes well known representatives of the various commercial interests. Each of the directors ranks high in his own line of business and stands for some particular class of business or professional activity, including real estate and investments of large corporate holdings, street railways, telephones and industrial enterprises. With such an array of personal strength and ample capital resources together with a banking house equipment not excelled, the new consolidated bank certainly begins business under most promising auspices.