

OMAHA AN INSURANCE CITY

Extensive Operations of the Companies Now Centered Here.

BENEFITS THAT FLOW FROM RESERVES

Importance of the Home Insurance Companies as Factors in the Industrial and Commercial Growth of the City.

In his address before the Transmississippi Commercial congress in Kansas City last November, W. D. Van Diver, insurance commissioner of Missouri, said: "More money is handled by the insurance companies than by all the transportation companies in the country, and it is the centralization of these immense accumulations in one locality that makes that locality the seat of the financial empire of America. Wall street could not control the banks of the United States if it had not reached up the full length of Broadway and kept its finger in the valves which hold the premium reserves of nearly twenty millions of insurance policies. I feel, therefore, that the most important consideration of this body is the development of the insurance business in this great field which the Transmississippi congress represents, comprising more than one-half the territory of the United States, and destined to contain more than one-half the population, as well as its full share of the wealth, the brains, the enterprise and resources of the country. There is no reason why it should not develop its own great insurance institutions, and thus keep pace with the rest of the world in this, as in other great movements of the modern world."

Stipend Aggregate of Business. According to the report of the insurance department of the state of New York for 1906, on January 1, 1907, 130 life insurance companies were doing business in the United States, which reported assets of nearly \$3,000,000,000 and total insurance in force of more than \$12,000,000,000, or an increase of nearly 6,000 per cent since 1859, when the insurance department of New York was first organized.

These figures are shown simply to emphasize the importance of the establishment of insurance companies in the west and particularly in metropolitan Omaha, in order to show that if railroads are to be built and equipped from this great storehouse of policy premiums, let it be the railroads of the Transmississippi country and without first having western funds filtered through the stock market of New York.

Omaha is awakening to the importance of the establishment of insurance institutions, and a round dozen of these, which have been organized within the last fifteen years and which maintain their headquarters in Omaha, show the possibilities of home institutions. These institutions are: The Columbia Fire Insurance company, Woodmen of the World, Bankers' Life and Trust company, Equitable Endowment, Nebraska Underwriters' Fire, German Mutual Fire, Security Mutual Fire, National Mutual Fire, German American Life, Retail Merchants' Fire, Metropolitan Bond and Surety and State Insurance company of Nebraska, all of which are full of life and enterprise and are doing a world of good for Omaha.

Millions Brought to Omaha. The total amount of money brought to Omaha annually in the way of premiums by these dozen companies is approximately \$7,000,000, or to be more exact, \$6,900,000 during the year 1907. Associated with them are about 800 employees and officers, whose aggregate salaries amount to \$2,500,000 per annum, every dollar of which is spent in Omaha among Omaha merchants or invested in Omaha property. The average deposits of these establishments in Omaha banks and financial institutions is \$5,000,000, and the amount of direct investments in Omaha property or enterprises reaches the handsome sum of \$1,500,000.

This is a pretty fair showing for little over fifteen years in the establishment of Omaha insurance institutions. With the growth of past years there is every assurance to believe that during 1908 the amount of premium money brought to Omaha by these institutions will reach \$7,500,000.

What Iowa Pays. In Iowa the home fire companies collect about \$3,000,000 annually in premiums, while the foreign companies collect but a trifle over \$2,000,000. Des Moines is the insurance center of Iowa, and has been often referred to as the Hartford of the west. There is no good reason why Omaha should not be the insurance center of Nebraska.

In Nebraska the foreign fire companies collect about \$2,000,000 annually in premiums, and the home companies but little over \$1,000,000. The average loss ratio in Nebraska is 40 per cent, and is about the same in Iowa. This leaves about 60 per cent, at least 40 per cent, which goes back east, or nearly \$1,000,000 taken out of the state annually, which should just as well be left here in the state. With a premium reserve fund of this amount retained in Nebraska for reinvestment, the borrowers would be benefited just that much. It is the rule among the Nebraska home companies to supply the demand for local loans almost immediately, and Nebraska securities are regarded the best in the west.

Experience of a Home Company. A manager of one of the largest Omaha fire companies said: "With all our Nebraska investments in the seven years we have been in business there has never been a defaulting of interest or neglect to take up the loan when due, which conclusively shows to me that western securities are the best on earth. The east has long recognized this fact, and only the other day a representative from an eastern loan company was here to place money, but failed to do so because the borrower preferred to borrow of home concerns. The Omaha companies as a rule prefer to scatter their risks, rather than concentrate them, and by observing this conservative process the liabilities are not concentrated, as was demonstrated in the late St. Francis fire, and a big, destructive conflagration in a city is not such an alarming thing to the local companies as might be supposed."

Home Insurance is Heavy. Nebraska is fourth in the extent of insurance carried by home companies, and its states ranking in this order are New York, Wisconsin, New Jersey and Nebraska. About 50 per cent of Nebraska insurance is carried in its home companies. This applies more particularly to the life companies. The first of these was established at Lincoln in 1857. There are now seven of these companies in the state. Two are capital stock companies, two mutual legal reserve and three stipulated premium companies, the combined assets of which will amount to about \$2,000,000. The companies operating under the stipulated premium law are full legal reserve companies as the others, except in a legal technicality, and are required to maintain a full legal reserve on all contracts issued.

Omaha receives extensive advertising through its local companies. Not alone through formal advertising, but through the vast amount of circulars and other printed information sent out through the great host of agents and deputies employed by the various companies.

Statistics Show Over

3,000 KILLED AND INJURED SINCE JAN. 1st, '07

In Railroad Wrecks. More people are killed and injured every day by accident AT HOME. If you never see a railroad train, you need an accident policy all the more.

SIXTEEN CHILDREN AND

TEACHER ASPHYXIA

Fire in the H. THREE ARE DEAD AND FORTY WOUND

EXPRESS WRECK WITHIN NEW YORK; AT LEAST 22 DEATHS

PANIC AT OPERA; LEISEN ENDS IT.

SIX MEN KILLED

WRECK VICTIMS DIE IN HOSPITAL.

SHAKES BUILDINGS FOR MILES AROUND

THIRTY TRAMPLED IN CHURCH PANIC.

TORNADO AT NIGHT WASHINGTON, ARK., BADLY WRECKS TOWN.

ON THE ROCK AND 95 ABOARD.

Steamer Corona, That Left San Francisco Thursday, in Distress Entrance to Humboldt Bay.

SCALDED TO DEATH THREE LIVES ENDED BY GAS.

The Fidelity & Casualty Co's. Personal Accident Contract

You will find, by comparison, is the Most Liberal Policy issued by Any Company. And Costs No More Than Inferior Policies.

WE PAY liberally for ANY kind of accident. Partial disability is fully covered as well as total disability. We issue policies covering ANY kind of disability from accident, or ANY kind of illness. We also pay you for being quarantined.

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the San Francisco fire there is a stronger tendency to patronize the local companies and they are without exception doing a largely increasing business as a consequence. The assets of the Omaha companies are so invested that they can be converted into cash in the shortest possible time in the event of sudden and heavy losses. The Nebraska law requires that the full amount of the capital of the several companies shall be invested in the state.

A larger percentage of Omaha business is being done in the Omaha companies than ever before, and it is constantly increasing. The amount of premium paid to Omaha companies for Omaha business will approximate \$10,000,000 annually.

Omaha Has a Chance. With the proper encouragement to the home companies Omaha could readily be made one of the greatest insurance companies of the west. Numerous small businesses have become of national importance through their insurance enterprises. Many of them are better known because of being the homes of insurance companies than from any other cause. This is particularly true of Hartford, Conn.; Glens Falls, N. Y.; Providence, R. I.; Springfield, Mass.; Keokuk, Ia.; Des Moines, and scores of other towns might be mentioned in this connection. In some instances the insurance companies that gave these towns national pre-eminence have become merged with other companies and gone out of existence, yet the fame of the city or town as an insurance center remains, and it is more distinguished from that cause than any other.

This fact strongly emphasizes the vital importance from an economic standpoint of the western section of this country doing part at least of its own insurance business. Otherwise it will remain tributary and dependent upon the whim of eastern financiers. The never-ending absorption of money from every city, town and hamlet, factory and mercantile establishment throughout the west to build up the cash reserves of the eastern fire and insurance companies of the east will be continued to establish the financial supremacy of those sections.

Reserves Have Great Effect. "For the interests of the insuring public," as stated by a leading Omaha home insurance man, "it is best that insurance funds which must of necessity be accumulated in large reserves, should not be centered in localities remote from which those funds originate to be controlled by one set of financiers whose business generally is not insurance, but the management of other corporations, handling stocks and bonds. Besides, if these vast accumulations are to be used for investment in other enterprises, they must be in order to earn their expected interest, then why not have them invested in the commercial enterprises which make for the progress and the development of the people who furnish the funds? Why should we send money east to be loaned back to us when we get hard up? If great banking corporations are to be built up on the deposit of insurance funds let it be our own banks. If farms and factories are to be established by the use of insurance accumulations, then let it be the farms and factories of the people who pay the premiums."

Tribute to the East. In the last ten years the people of the state of Nebraska have sent approximately \$30,000,000 to eastern companies, and it is fair to presume that Omaha has contributed at least one-ninth of this vast amount, while the returns have been less than 50 per cent. It should further be remembered that the returns are but little, if any, in excess of the interest on mortgage loans held by eastern financial institutions. How important, then, it is that home enterprises should be built up and home money kept nearer home instead of sending it to the east and then borrowing it back.

VAST BUILDING EXPERIMENT

Italian Government's Plan of Increasing Travel by Low, Graded Rates. "If the American railroads were 'nationalized,' if a man could ride from New York to Philadelphia for 75 cents; if a drummer could buy for \$20 a ticket to tour all over England for a year, riding when and where he chose; if a passenger could go from Bangor to Chicago for \$7 on a board seat or for \$17.50 in a parlor car, we might understand the interest which the railway experiment of the Italian government is creating."

Loss than three months' trial of the new rate schedules, which went into effect November 1, leaves no doubt of their popularity. Passenger travel is fast increasing and the gross income leaps upward in spite of the cheap rates. An Italian manager Italy is "up-to-date" and ambitious. It has borrowed the "zone tariff" from Hungary; from England the policy of running third-class cars on express trains, which the French and even the Austrian railways have not yet adopted; from Switzerland its cheap monthly tickets, and from Germany the endeavor to reckon indirect as well as direct benefits of cheap transport.

One cannot now pay more than \$17.50 for a straightaway railway journey in Italy. The first 100 kilometers cost, first-class, the usual American rate, but after that each 100 miles added cost less, until the maximum is reached. For that sum one can go, first-class, from Palermo to any frontier, say Pontebba. The old rate was \$29. Third-class the old rate was \$19.45. It is now \$7.

In the United States a cheap long-distance ticket is carefully guarded as to stop-over privileges for fear "the drummers may get hold of it." Italy permits a stop every 30 miles. Longer stops arranged for in tourist tickets at prices greatly reduced from last year.

But the drummer will most rejoice in the "abandonment" system, a good Swiss idea. For \$10 the business man buys a two months' ticket enabling him to travel first-class from Rome to Naples and anywhere in Southern Italy and Sicily. He may ride all the time if he likes. His photograph pasted on his ticket prevents substitution.

For cheap short rides between neighboring cities the "exercise economy" is devised. East-Taranto, seventy-two miles, for 40 cents third-class and \$1.50 first-class is an example. Second-class is usually omitted on these "economical" trains, but there is sometimes a fourth-class, as in Germany and Russia, where thirty-two or forty men stand like horses in a little box-car.—New York World.

PODUNK IS REALLY A TOWN

It is in Connecticut, Signifies a Hot Place and Had Great Fighters in Its Day. Look on any good map of Connecticut and you see the River Podunk, which runs for miles through the town of South Windsor and empties into the Connecticut just over the line in East Hartford. The Podunk is not a brook. It affords a good water power for the mills at Pleasantville, and the stream does not run dry in the summer.

Since we have begun to tell about the Podunk river, we may as well add the facts that in this town, through which the Podunk flows, were born Jonathan Edwards, Oliver Wolcott and John P. Fiske, the latter the father of all steam navigation, whose first thoughts of what might be accomplished by putting an engine into a boat, no doubt, came to him while, as a youthful clockmaker, he wandered along the shores of the Podunk, a full century and a half ago. He was born in January, 1737, Podunk, Conn., is the place to which to

send all letters for Podunk people, where the name of the state is not given. There is no other Podunk anywhere which can "hold a candle" to this Podunk that we all know about here. In fact, our Connecticut Podunk is the original article, and all others are mere imitations. After the Englishmen under the lead of Winthrop, who were determined to be Americans, arrived in Salem in 1630, one of the first Indian chiefs who came from the backwoods to make their acquaintance was Wauquinnaut, who went to Boston in 1631 to see them, and he is said to have belonged to the Windsor tribe, or Podunks. Podunk signifies the place of fire or place of burning, from "potaw," fire, and "unk," place of—hence Potawuk, or Podunk, or Potunk. None of the historians intimates that it was an Indian synonym for hades, but it certainly meant a hot place. It is also made clear in their ancient histories that the Podunks were great fighters, or "hot stuff," in the vernacular of today. None of them was ever converted to Christianity.

The Podunks owed their gradual extinction to their bitter feuds with the Mohawks, down the river. Sixteen or more of the Podunks were killed at one time in a Mohawk ambush. A remnant of the tribe existed in East Windsor in 1748, but had quite disappeared in 1788, says Dr. Stiles, who also says that it was somewhere in the Podunk wilds of Windsor that Miantonomah, the great Narragansett chief, met his death at the hands of Uncas, his Mohegan conqueror, probably September 23, 1643. Uncas was a mighty man of war, and sent his son, Onoko, over into the Nipmuck country, Massachusetts, on a raid about 1690. The Nipmucks were trampled on that occasion in great shape. This happened in what is now the town of Brookfield. The settlers from Ipswich got there about that time and found that a meadow at the head of Quabaug pond was called Podunk, and the name has lasted, although it does not appear that any of the Podunk tribe of Indians ever lived there. For Podunk history you must come to Connecticut, and there is plenty of it here.—Hartford Times.

WILD CAT LOVES A BABY. Once SEVEN Creature Now as Tame as Any Domestic Tabby. How would you like to have a real live wild cat for a pet? This is what little Elsie Stearns, 8 months old, and Helen Stearns, aged 3, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stearns of Pasadena, Cal., regard as their dearest treasure. They would rather play with this big California wild cat than with their smaller domestic cats, and he is just as good-natured as any of the rest, too.

Bengal is his name, and he looks the part, for his marking is very similar to a Bengal tiger's. He is a beautiful animal, about three and a half feet long, and very heavy. His fur is soft and thick, and it is with this soft fur that the round-faced baby loves best to play. The photographer caught the baby just as she was pulling the wild cat's hair, and he is submitting it to with rare good nature. Writes it not for his size, one might think the little beast a well-bred domestic animal, too. He was caught when 3 months old in the wilds of the San Bernardino mountains, and purchased from a hunter at that age by Mr. Stearns. He has been with the family since that time. He was put right with several small Angora kittens, and grew up and played with them. He used to roam the house and jump on tables and bookcases, just as other kittens, and they are obliged to keep him in the open, for, in his playfulness, he might break ornaments and dishes. He is now 3 years old and powerful, yet as gentle as any ordinary cat. He is devoted to the children. He will lick the baby's hand as roughly as she wishes, with never a growl or sound, and he is also fond of little Miss Helen. He likes women and children generally, but does not care for men. Mr. Stearns says the reason for this is that he has been obliged to take Mr. Bengal during the summer and shake him up in a bag of insect powder to rid him of the shores of the Podunk, a full century and a half ago. He usually grows at them.—Los Angeles Times.

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Stronger, Financially and in the Confidence of the Public, than Ever Before

The Security Mutual Hail Insurance Co. Of Omaha. Martin Langdon, President William Gillespie, Vice President M. J. Gillespie, Secretary J. F. Langdon, Treasurer HOME OFFICE 487 RAMBLE BLOCK United States of America, State of Nebraska.

Office of Auditor of Public Accounts

Lincoln, February 1st, 1907. It is hereby certified that the Security Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Omaha, in the state of Nebraska, has complied with the insurance law of this state for the current year ending January 31st, 1908.

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37-38 Barker Block Deal in Every Kind of Good Insurance

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Wilder Cat Loves a Baby

How would you like to have a real live wild cat for a pet? This is what little Elsie Stearns, 8 months old, and Helen Stearns, aged 3, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stearns of Pasadena, Cal., regard as their dearest treasure.

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