

OMAHA'S PROSPEROUS YEAR

Growth of City in All Lines is Shown by Figures.

JOBBER'S BUSINESS IS IMMENSE

Wholesale Trade of City Grows by Millions Over 1928 and Manufacturers Also Take Big Jump.

(Continued from First Page.)

ber markets in the west, and a successful competitor of Chicago and northern markets.

It is said the wholesale business has increased over 1928 just 19 per cent. The volume done in 1927 was \$1,500,000 and in 1928 it was \$1,750,000. Some of the firms have opened new branch yards in the towns out through this and adjoining states. Building has been very active everywhere, the demand good and prices firm.

All Material Business Big.

Other building material in addition to lumber makes fully as good a showing as in the phenomenal year of 1928. Portland cement sales aggregated \$2,000,000; brick and tile \$1,000,000 and plastering material \$200,000. The volume of business was greater than in 1928, but the prices were somewhat easier, so that the cash aggregate is about the same.

The coal business shows a marked increase. The estimated business for 1927 was about \$2,000,000, compared with \$2,500,000 in the preceding year and \$2,500,000 in 1928.

The two big hardware jobbing houses of the city have had their biggest year in their entire history by all odds. The volume of business shows an increase of more than 12 per cent over the business of 1928 and the year was the largest year in the hardware business that Omaha ever saw.

The business done by these two houses in 1929 is more than \$3,500,000. Prices have been firm in all lines, and in some lines there have been substantial advances, but there has been no way checked the demand from the surrounding country, where universal growth makes a steady call for hardware and the increased prosperity of the people is registered in demand for hardware luxuries and improvements for town and farm homes.

Increase Will Continue.

"Not only has it been by all odds the biggest year, but we see no reason why the business will not increase in the year to come," said the head of one of these houses. "We expect a bigger year 1930 than we had this year."

The two heavy hardware houses have also enjoyed an increase which is estimated at fully as much as the percentage of increase in the light hardware line. The heavy hardware business in Omaha aggregated \$500,000 for the year. Great activity in railway construction, with the employment of thousands of men in the territory contributory to Omaha has caused much of this increase in business.

The business done by the local houses dealing in steam, water and plumbing supplies during the year aggregated \$2,000,000, which is the same as the figures of the previous year. Both of the large firms in this line in Omaha are now housed in magnificent buildings built by themselves and specially adapted to their businesses. The United States Supply company moved recently into its handsome new six-story building at the corner of Ninth and Farnam streets.

M. E. Smith in Great New Home.

M. E. Smith & Co., wholesale dry goods, completed and occupied the twin eight-story warehouse and telegraph company building which is used for their clothing factory. The warehouses are each 132 feet square and face on Farnam and Douglas streets, west of Ninth street.

M. Spiesberger & Son, dealers in wholesale millinery, moved into a new building of five stories and a basement and through a wholesale millinery house is new in Omaha, the business has been more than \$500,000 for the year.

Business in electrical goods and supplies for telephone and telegraph companies has been increased by the Western Electric company opening a large house and entering the jobbing field. The company is associated with the Bell Telephone company.

Paxton & Gallagher, wholesale grocers, have started work on a new warehouse occupying a ground space of 132x145 feet and eight stories in height.

The business of the wholesale grocers for the past year exceeded \$15,000,000, several new houses being built in the big trade. The Hobbs-Jones Grocery company was organized from a number of small concerns and greatly increased the business of the market; the Rapke & Katz company became the Rapke Grocery company; the business of the Rapke & Katz company was bought by H. J. Hughes and his associates, making plans for an enlargement of the business. The J. S. Johnson-Nelson company located in Omaha, occupying the three-story building at 111 Farnham street; the Keesley-Matthewson company, dealers in asbestos goods also located in Omaha and has enjoyed a good year's business.

Carpenters in New Building.

The Carpenter Paper company moved into a fine new warehouse at Ninth and Harney streets November 1 and the U. S. Supply company occupied their new building during the early part of the year. The Fairbanks-Morse company completed a new six-story building with basement, while F. B. Kennard erected a large three-story and basement building for his paint and oil business at Fifteenth and Davenport streets.

Theodore Hamm, the St. Paul brewer, remodelled a three-story building at Eleventh and Douglas streets and built new stables, opening a sales agency and large warehouse for his products.

The Farmers' Creamery and Supply company bought the business of the Harding Creamery company and greatly enlarged it, while David Cole bought the business of the Beatrice Creamery company. The Fairmont creamery company moved headquarters from Fairmont, Neb., to Omaha, and occupied a new three-story plant, 68x132, at Twelfth and Jones streets. Kenneth T. Rouse created a cream, doubled the size of the plant which they have occupied.

Among the factories opened were the Kiel Manufacturing company, large makers of washing machines and sundries; the Bearing Company of America, manufacturing machinery; and the Swift company, which opened a large planing mill and office fixture factory at Twenty-fourth and Hamilton streets. The Flesher Motor Cycle company manufactures a machine in Omaha which has proved a good seller. I. C. Bixby & Sons have opened a large plumbing and fixture house, while Swift and Company opened a local branch for the sale of packing house products. C. W. Hull opened a large coal business, as did also Rex Merchandise.

List of Items.

The itemized statement of the wholesalers follows:

Table listing various goods and their values: Agricultural implements, Automobile supplies, Bakers' goods, Bakers' supplies, Billiard room and bar fixtures, Boots and shoes, Confectionery, Cigars and tobacco, Coal and coke, Creamery packages, Crockery, Dairy products, Electrical supplies, Dry goods, Dry goods, including fact. prod., Dressing, hosiery and sundries, Fruits and vegetables, Fruit and vegetable canners, Flour and feed, Groceries, without cigars and tob., Hardware and saddlery, Hats and caps, Harness and saddlery, Jewelry, Lumber, Millinery, Oil, lubricating and illumination, Paints, oils, glass, Paper, Patent medicines, other than drugs, Photograph supplies, Rubber goods, Springs, levers, hardware, School supplies, Sewing, doors, planing mill products, Sewing, Sportswear, Stoves, Poultry and alfalfa foods, etc., Shoes, Surgical supplies, Wall paper.

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Manufacturers Sky-High.

Manufactured products of Omaha for the year of 1929 were valued at \$20,000,000, and still there are products which cannot all be reduced to figures.

Manufacturers a year ago reported the value of products at \$18,000,000. The increase of \$2,000,000 is actually shown in the increased output of the packing houses, which amounted to \$18,000,000 for 1927, as compared to \$12,500,000 for 1926; the refined metals at \$4,000,000 for 1927, and but \$4,000,000 for 1926; the products of the brewers were heavier, the distillers paid \$1,700,000 to the internal revenue department, as compared to \$2,000,000 for 1926, but the brewers partly made up for the loss on spirits and paid \$73,392 for stamps, as against \$34,747 last year.

Besides the \$3,284,000 worth of beer manufactured in Omaha the local sales agencies located in Omaha have distributed \$1,000,000 worth of the products of other breweries. One St. Louis brewery alone sold \$254,286 worth of beer and seven other houses ranged from \$60,000 to \$250,000 worth actually sold from Omaha.

Alfalfa foods were a big item during 1929, as were crackers, the factory of Omaha producing \$200,000 worth of biscuits and consuming 20,000 barrels of flour. Clothing reached the enormous total of \$2,675,000, while the Union Pacific shops expended \$20,000 more than last year. Flour added \$20,000 by the opening of the Uptide mill; the wholesale fur houses increased their business and reached a total of \$20,000, while \$25,000 worth of whips were made by one factory.

Smelter Next to Packers.

Next to the packing house products of Omaha, those of the smelter are the most valuable. The output of the American Smelting and Refining company for the year 1929 was \$4,500,000, an increase of about 8 per cent over the previous year. The following table shows the comparison of the output of each metal for the two years:

Table comparing output of metals for 1928 and 1929: Gold, Silver, Lead, Zinc, Vanadium, etc.

Dairy Products Away Up.

Dairy products are an important factor in the sum total of the output of Omaha's food factories. The actual value of the butter is \$3,120,000, some 13,000,000 pounds having been manufactured during the year in the creameries, and the average wholesale price being 24 cents. Some 4,000,000 pounds of butter were worked over in the creameries and this was valued at 17 cents per pound on the average, making the market value \$680,000.

Ice cream to the value of \$400,000 has been produced in Omaha during the year, making the total value of dairy products, exclusive of the milk and cream, \$4,260,000.

And, while all this quantity has been turned out, the quality has been maintained, as is shown by the reports of dairy commissioners, which have reported this year that the smallest per cent of low grade butter from any state in the United States comes from Nebraska. And, while Nebraska was twenty-seventh in the list of states in Omaha, the creameries here have encouraged the farmers and with their enormous output have moved Nebraska up to the ninth largest dairy state in the Union.

Variety of Plants Progress.

The Bemis bag factory has increased its capacity for plants during the year and besides the bag business manufactures and sold a quarter of a million horse blankets. The factory is the only one west of Chicago making a high class blanket and the product has been sold from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the Omaha concern competing successfully with the eastern houses and disposing of thousands of blankets on the New York market.

Flour and feed, now a comparatively small item of Omaha manufacturers, will be greatly increased during the coming year, the Uptide Milling company having opened a mill with a capacity of one thousand barrels per day, and are making plans for doubling the capacity, which will swell the value of manufacturers' output by 2000 barrels of high grade flour each day.

Products of the Gate City Malt company manufactured in nine months were valued at \$400,000. The company did not open in April, but consumed 300,000 bushels of barley.

Blank book makers have experienced a small decrease in business, owing to the market being overstocked with the loose leaf ledgers and account books, now taking the place of sets and specially ruled books. Most of the ledgers are patented thus far in the east. The business, together with some special job printing, will exceed \$600,000 for the year.

Some Sweet Products.

Not the least item of the manufacturers is the syrup and preserving business, which increases in importance each year. The Farrell company made 600,000 gallons of syrup, 200,000 gallons of jellies and preserves and put up 1,000,000 cans of fruit and fruit products the past year.

Besides the syrup and preserving business, the firm of Haarmann Bros., manufacturers of vinegar, have given the trade \$445,000 worth of their products. The firm is just completing a new \$100,000 plant.

Both heavy buying and better prices, with less demand for cheap goods, have worked together to increase the value of the products of the candy makers, which are estimated at \$1,200,000.

Value of the products of the planing mills, which are estimated at \$2,000,000, the planing houses will exceed that of last year by many thousands of dollars, owing to the large amount of building, and the value is estimated at more than \$1,400,000.

Not enough brick has ever been produced in Omaha and the production of a clear past year has fallen \$40,000 short of last year, Omaha being compelled to buy train loads of brick to carry on the building

Advertisement for A. I. ROOT, Incorporated, Omaha, Nebraska. Tel. Douglas 1604. 1210-12 Howard St. The ad features a large graphic of a root and the text 'Start the New Year Right Have ROOT print it'.

Value of the Output.

The following is an itemized statement of the value of the products of Omaha's busy workshouses:

Table listing various products and their values: Packing houses, Alfalfa foods, Boilers and tanks, Boots and shoes, Bread and bakery products, Brick and tile, Butcher, Carriages and wagons, Crockery, Clothing, Clothing, skirts and women's wear, Cornice work, Furs, Groceries, Hardware, Iron and steel structural, Jewelry, Lard and lard, Liquors (other than malt), Malt products, Metal products, Paint, mixed, Pickles, etc., Printing, Publishing, Refined metals, Harness and saddlery, Soap, Stock and poultry foods, Tanned skins, Vinegar, Woodwork, planing mills, Whips, Motor cycles, Cement blocks and products, Wood and paper boxes, Washing machines, Trunks and suitcases, Bearings and automobile supplies, Incubators and supplies, Flour (Uptide), Flour and feed, Union Pacific shops, Motor cars, locomotives, paid work on cars, locomotives, paid workmen and expended for materials, Other products.

Some Smaller Plants.

Besides the list of factories whose output for the year is obtainable annually, the Commercial club has a list of factories which are probably worth close to \$5,000,000.

Among the factories which are actually in operation in Omaha and have been running to their capacity during the year of 1929, are the following:

- 1. Agricultural implements, 1; ammunition, 1; artificial stone, 1; awnings and tents, 3; basket and rattan and willow ware, 2; boots and shoes, 1; boxes, wood and paper, 3; brass ware, 1; buttons, 1; carpet, rag, 3; carriage and wagon materials, 4; coffee, spice roasting and grinding, 3; coffins and undertakers' goods, 1; dentists' materials, 1; deerskin, 1; envelopes, 2; flavoring extracts, 4; furnishing goods, men's, 2; hats and lamp fixtures, 1; gas machines and meters, 1; hand stamps, 1; hardware, 2; hosiery and knit goods, 1; lamps and reflectors, 1; lead, bar pipe and sheet, 1; looking glass and picture frames, 3; marble and stone work, 2; mattresses and spring beds, 2; mineral and soda waters, 2; mirrors, 1; models and patterns, other than paper, 2; musceluge and paste, 2; musical instruments, 2; musical instruments, pianos, 1; perfume, and cosmetics, 1; printing materials, 1; photo engraving, 1; regalia and society banners and emblems, 3; roofing and roofing materials, 2; sawing of lumber, 2; stators and art goods, 1; steam packing, 1; stereotyping and electrotyping, 2; structural iron work, 2; tinware, 2; trunks and valises, 2; washing machine and wringers, 2.

BANK CLEARINGS ADVANCE

Show Gain of Twelve and Half Per Cent for Year Despite the Flurry.

In spite of financial furries, the Omaha banks ended the current year with the remarkable showing of a 12 1/2 per cent increase in bank clearings over the corresponding twelve months of 1928. The gain in 1929 over 1928 was 12 per cent, so the gain in 1929 is but 1/2 per cent less than the year of 1928 over 1927. The biggest gain of any one month was made during October, when the Omaha banks showed a clear gain of \$9,337,375. The year just closed is by far the largest in the history of the Omaha banks, which have continued to show a gain since 1899. A change in the

DEATH CLAIMS ITS VICTIMS

Strikes from Rolls Names of Many Prominent Omahans.

COUNT CREIGHTON EARLY IN YEAR

John B. Furay, A. J. Hanscom, William A. Paxton, A. B. Huberman, George W. Lininger, Dr. S. D. Mercer on List.

During the year the Grim Reaper laid his hand upon over a score of the prominent people of Omaha, some of them having completed their life's work and some taken off in the prime of life. The list includes several of the most prominent capitalists, some lawyers, physicians, business men and prominent women.

SOUTH OMAHA LIVE STOCK

Facts and Figures Bearing on the Year's Business a South Omaha's Great Market.

The year just closed was a most satisfactory one at the South Omaha live stock market, barring only the last two months. The receipts were large, though not as a rule record-breakers, and prices prevailing for all kinds of live stock were exceptionally high. During the last two months the change in general business conditions brought about a slackening in receipts and a very heavy break in prices. The following tables will show more clearly than anything else the actual amount of business transacted, together with the top prices paid for the different kinds of stock each month.

Table showing receipts by month, 1928-29: Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc.

REVENUE RECEIPTS FALL OFF

Undergo Decrease for Year Because Distilleries Close Temporarily for Repairs.

The receipts of internal revenue in the Nebraska collection district for the year 1929 show a falling off over the previous year of \$28,452.94, due to the closing down of the Nebraska distilleries for repairs for a part of the year and the general falling off in the sales of spirits. A comparison of the figures for the two years will show a general, though smaller decrease all along the line.

ARMY INTERESTS GREATER

Branching Out in Various Directions, They Increase Importance of the Department Headquarters.

The importance of the Department of the Missouri in Omaha has been well impressed during the year. Aside from the general staff of officers, numbering twenty-five or more, ranking from that of the brigadier general commanding down to the second lieutenant as aide-de-camps, sixty-five civilian clerks are employed at head

LESS FOR COUNTY HOSPITAL

Expense of Maintenance Not as Great as Year Before.

NEARLY FOUR THOUSAND SAVED

Six Hundred and Eighty-Four Inmates Received and One Hundred and Thirteen Deaths Recorded.

It cost \$31,306.22 to run the county hospital and poor farm during the year according to a report just compiled by Commissioner Trainor of the county hospital committee of the county board. This is somewhat less than the cost last year which approximated \$35,000.

WEATHER FOR YEAR NORMAL

Mean Temperature Exactly Same as for the Last Thirty-Three Years.

The following facts, in connection with the weather during the year 1929, up to and including December 28, were taken from the records of the United States weather bureau at Omaha and supplied through the kindness of Postmaster Welch.

The annual mean temperature was 50 degrees, or exactly the same as the normal annual temperature for Omaha for thirty-three years. The highest temperature recorded during the year was 97 degrees on July 26th. This date was also the warmest day of the year, the mean for the day being 88 degrees. The lowest temperature recorded was 12 degrees below zero on February 25th. This day was also the coldest of the year, the daily mean temperature being 4 degrees below zero. The total precipitation to December 28th, was 24.43 inches, or 8.0 inches less than the average annual fall for the last thirty-six years. The heaviest rainfall in twenty-four consecutive hours occurred on July 14th, being 1.76 inches, of which 1.55 inches fell in five hours and thirty-five minutes. The heaviest rainfall of short duration occurred on July 18th, when 1.02 inches fell in twenty minutes.

Wind velocities of forty miles or more per hour were recorded on four separate days. The highest velocity reached during the year was forty-eight miles per hour from the north on July 6th.

The wide departures from the normal, or the unusual features of the year, were the high temperatures that prevailed during March, and the extremely cold weather that continued throughout April and May. On March 25th a temperature of 91 degrees above zero was recorded, being the highest recorded during March in the last thirty-seven years, and only in two instances during the last thirty-seven years have warm days occurred, being those of 1928 and 1929. March of this year was also abnormally dry, the total precipitation for the month was .29 inch, being the driest March in the last thirty-seven years, except that of 1871, when the total fall was .18 inch. The mean temperature for April was 43 degrees, or 10 degrees below the normal, being the coldest April in the last thirty-seven years. May was also cold, and the temperature of 26 degrees on the 2d is the lowest recorded in the last thirty-seven years. The only abnormally dry day occurred on the night of the 23d and the morning of the 24th.

The following table shows the normal and monthly mean temperatures, and the normal and total monthly precipitation:

Table showing monthly mean temperatures and precipitation: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

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