EDITORIAL SECTION. Pages 11 to 20.

# THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

A Happy New Year TO ONE AND ALL

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# Concrete Facts Illustrating Growth of Omaha During the Last Year

## JOBBERS AND THE FACTORIES

### Wholesalers Sell Over Ninety-Two Million Dollars of Goods.

### MANUFACTORIES DOUBLE THAT

**Plants and Supply Houses of Omaha Experience a Year of Remarkable Growth and Development.**

Three conditions made it possible for Omaha to sell $92,327,000 worth of goods at wholesale and produce in the factories $188,172,165 worth of goods.

These conditions have been overlooked by those who feared the wholesale houses and factories would not have as big a year in merchandising as they had in 1907 when they reached the most phenomenal business record in the history of the city and reached it in actual figures, not in guesses.

According to the business men who look back over the year's record, these are the things which caused almost every house to surprise itself.

Enlargement of trade territory.

Steady consumption of staples in the country.

Lower prices which tempted buyers with plenty of money during the closing months of the year.

W. S. Wright of Wright & Wilhelmy was at his desk the afternoon before New Year's. From a drawer he took a small black book with pages ruled in fine light red lines.

"I'm not going to lie about it," said the veteran hardware dealer. "I want to tell you a story before we talk about what the business has been for the year.

"One time there was a Scotchman who was arrested and charged with a crime and upon the advice of his friends he employed an attorney.

"After talking the matter all over with the lawyer, the Scotchman suddenly stopped and his attorney inquired: 'Have you told me the whole truth?'

"'I certainly hae', replied the Scot.

"'You are sure you have told me the whole truth?'

"'Yes, I hae, because I thought you could fix up th' less, better than I could.'

"Now that is what I am going to do," continued Mr. Wright, "and that is what I would insist that others do in the matter of making statements about the business conditions in Omaha, and if they do this it does not seem to me that it will be necessary for anyone to fix up the lies.

"The truth of the matter is," he said, as he looked over the pages of the little book which told a story of many years' business in Omaha. "The truth of the matter is that the business for 1908 is just as good as it was in 1907, and besides we have sold more pounds, dozen, gross and cases of articles than ever before.

"Prices went off, not only in hardware lines, but in others and our salesmen had to sell more to bring the gross sales up to what they were a year ago.

**Better Than Normal.**

"The year of 1907 was a record breaker. The year before, 1906, was a normal business year in Omaha. The business of 1908 exceeds that of 1906—in other words we have beaten the normal business record, and are also at the advantage of having eliminated sulplus stocks, and assisted the factories in catching up with their orders. The setback of a few months at the close of 1907 and beginning of 1908, was a healthy thing. Factories which were six months behind with orders caught up; wholesalers who had enough of some lines on hand to last two years, sold the surplus and quit ordering until they did; cars which were tied up in traffic congestion were released and sent pounding down the long lines of shimmering steel; retailers collected from the farmers and paid the wholesalers, the wholesalers paid the manufacturers, maintained their credit and probably owe as much or more today as they did at the end of 1907, but the bills are new and the kind of business which the best business houses and factories want.

"Withal, the year has been good. It opened good. July, August and September fell off, but things picked up again and the close is most satisfactory."

Mr. Wright shut the little book with a snap. It is a book which probably only the proprietors see. Each page tells the history of one year. The figures of 1908 were scarcely dry. They could hardly be called business history, they were so fresh. They showed the dollars and cents, they showed the car loads and the tonnage, the cost of trasportation and the cost of selling.

In almost every instance it is from such books as this that The Bee secures its information about the actual business done by wholesale houses—from the most confidential sources, and the figures given are, in the aggregate, making it possible to obtain from almost every broad minded business man an accurate statement of business conditions.

**Smaller Houses Help.**

In the dry goods lines the business closed about the same as last year. There is not a pliable 2 per cent difference in the sales of the big houses, while with the addition of a number of smaller houses, which have been pushing out for business, it is estimated that the gross sales of dry goods in Omaha for the year of 1908 exceeded that of 1907, when it was said to be $8,575,000. This figure compiled January 1, 1908, was found to be low when the invoicing was completed February 1. But to make a record for 1908, which would compare with the record of 1907, the dry goods dealers of Omaha had to do the most strenuous work they have ever done since they first began to trade calico to the Indians for Connecticut made wampum. Along soon after the first of the year, prices went off—10, 15 and finally all of 25 per cent in many lines of staple goods. Cloth which sold at 7½ cents per yard a year ago was selling during 1908 for 5 cents. Additional salesmen found positions in territory many miles beyond the former boundaries of Omaha's trade empire, and more yards, dozen, cases and pounds of dry goods were sold than ever before in order to bring the gross sales up to the point which they finally reached.

The consumption of staple and even fancy lines of dry goods did not diminish, however, when times became hard and at the end of 1907. The farmers, in particular, had the money and they spent it on their wives and daughters. When the prices went low, they bought two new apron patterns instead of one; a dozen new napkins, instead of six; a bolt of muslin of finer grade, instead of ten or fifteen yards of lower grade, and this made the business of which Omaha can justly boast at the close of a big year.

**Implements Show Decline.**

In the agricultural implement line, it is believed the business is off 10 per cent to a full 20 per cent. Many reasons are given for the decrease, but the principal one seems to be that almost every farmer bought new wagons, carriages, plows, cultivators and harrows during 1907, when the business done by Omaha houses was more than $11,500,000.

This figure looks high, but on the testimony of the most conservative business men in the line, it is not too high, perhaps not high enough, and a new house or two has been added, while the John Deere Plow company has more than tripled the space occupied by its warehouses and its business is climbing in proportion.

One feature of the implement business has been the elimination of surplus stocks and the placing of everything on a better footing. One house which had 2,400 carriages in its warehouse a year ago now has less than 800. The wholesalers arranged to assist the retailers who had bought heavy and where a house had a carload of wagons and the dealer a few stations beyond was ordering wagons, the goods were shipped from the retailer who had the surplus. Thus stocks both in the wholesale houses and in the country have been well cleaned up and there is now little doubt, but what the agricultural implement men, who have sold more than $9,500,000 of a $13,000,000 business during the coming goods during 1908, wih make it better than season.

Druggists have held their own—some have even done better because of new territory which they have been adding, and the Omaha houses are now selling clear to the Pacific coast, which has made it possible to make up any loss in business in the middle west by pushing further toward the Pacific. E. E. Bruce is responsible for the statement that there is not a pliable 5 per cent difference in the gross sales of 1908, as compared to those of 1907, either way.

One line of business which has attracted attention by a heavy increase is the wholesale millinery. The increase in this line will be more than 35 per cent, an increase from $488,000 to almost $700,000 in one year.

Business men are of the opinion the millinery business is a good barometer—almost as good as bank clearings. When people are buying millinery they are also buying groceries, rubber goods, clothing, carpets, coal, lumber, paints, wall paper, boots and shoes, confectionery, hats and caps, say the business houses.

**Millinery as a Barometer.**

The millinery sold in the Omaha territory has been better and has cost more money than it did last year. The tendency of the hat market is not inclined to be downward and, as a result, people had to have more money to buy millinery, but they had it and spent it, and if they could all afford new hats for their wives and daughters, it is almost certain the consumers were buying other lines liberally.

The trade in groceries has been steady—no falling off, and with the hope that it will show a good increase when the books are finally closed on the year. Even during the first few months of the year the people did not stop eating because many were trying to urge hard times, nor did the consumption decrease because of the presidential campaign. The record made by the grocers has not been hard to make—not as hard as it was in the dry goods lines.

Leather goods and advertising novelties had a good year in Omaha, and a new leather house or two came along to swell the business.

Both the sale and manufacture of poultry and stock foods has increased, notably the alfalfa foods.

Factories in Omaha have made a good record, $188,172,165 worth for the year. The most notable increase is in the manufacture of flour and feed stuffs, the mills of Omaha running day and night during the entire year, while the largest mill in the city ran only two months the last of 1907.

Healthy increases are shown by the creameries and Omaha maintains the position won several years ago of the largest butter manufacturing point in the United States.

**Cracker Showing Late.**

The manufacture of crackers decreased during 1908 because the National Biscuit company closed its plant during the winter of 1907, and until the plant of the Iten Biscuit company started in September, no crackers were made in Cmaha. The Iten plant, with a larger capacity than the old National factory, is now running, and the Loose-Wiles Cracker and Confectionery company is erecting a plant of equal capacity, which will soon make Omaha one of the largest independent cracker manufacturing points on the "biscuit map."

Beer and malt products did not show a decrease. One distillery was closed for a short time, but resumed to make up for the time lost when it was closed for improvements and repairs.

The cement block industry shows an increase, no less than six new plants opening in Omaha during the year.

Among the notable records is that made by the manufacturers of poultry supplies, including incubators. More of these supplies have been manufactured in Omaha than ever before and sold from the Mississippi river to the Pacific coast.

The following is a detailed statement of the wholesaling and jobbing business of the city for the twelve months of 1908:

**Record in Detail.**

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural implements | $ 9,700,000 |
| Advertising novelties | 187,000 |
| Automobile supplies | 90,000 |
| Bakers' supplies | 52,000 |
| Bakers' goods, jobbed | 400,000 |
| Barbers' supplies | 75,000 |
| Billiard room and bar fixtures | 115,000 |
| Boots and shoes | 1,800,000 |
| Confectionery | 1,400,000 |

(Continued on Twelfth Page.)

## FORTY-FOUR NEW CONCERNS

### Most of These Give Employment to Many Persons.

### INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IS GREAT

**Capacity of Flour Mills of Omaha Has Been Doubled, Bringing It Up to Nearly 5,000 Barrels Daily.**

In addition to the enlargements of firms already in business in Omaha, a large number of which increased their capital stock, at least fifty-five firms have come to Omaha, most of them being engaged in manufacturing, which means employment is furnished to a large number of people.

These fifty-five new firms coming to Omaha have furnished employment for 2,524 people, which means the population has grown some as a direct result of the opening of new industries which either took men and women from places already here or furnished new ones, at any rate supplying work for over 2,000 more people.

That the new firms coming to the city have influenced the activity in other lines is shown in the increased demand for factory and warehouse sites, as well as for residences. The attention of real estate dealers was drawn to the demand for factory sites early in the year and a list of available factory property filed with the Commercial club. This list has resulted in the sale of several properties.

Persistent advertising of the city's advantages and its railroad facilities has assisted in bringing many of the industries to the city, while in several instances the Commercial club, or business men directly interested or represented on its committees, have made it possible for industries to come by some such action as was taken for the wool warehouses and the Maney Milling company, for which institutions the Commercial club secured the sites.

Notable among the increasing industries of Omaha is the doubling of the milling plants. Making less than 2,000 barrels per day at present, the plans now being completed will mean 5,000 barrels per day from Omaha mills. The alfalfa mills are also increasing in size and importance, the M. C. Peters company buying a large storehouse for more than $30,000 just before the close of the year, which will be an addition to the big factory already in operation.

Many of the new industries have simply selected this city as the logical point at which a large business could be done; others have been brought here through the influence of the Commercial club which has worked constantly to secure locations and such an adjustment of railroad rates as would make new industries possible.

"Ralston," a new industrial suburb sprang into existence almost before the people of Omaha new it, the Shimer & Chase company opening as a townsite the old home of Dr. George L. Miller, and the importance of the suburb is now apparent as one of the big cases of the year before the Nebraska railroad commission has been opened in order to adjust railroad rates.

**List of New Firms.**

The following is the list of new firms and industries which came to Omaha during the year, their capital and business. (In the event branch houses have been opened, as has been the case in a number of instances, the capital—the buying power—of the firm is given, as representing what the business actually means. This is the case of the Butler Paper company and others. The paper company has a capital stock of $4,500,000. It has opened a branch house in Omaha. The stock carried has no bearing on the situation. The capital back of the concern is $4,500,000, and these figures are used for branches in the following list:)

The following gives name of company, capital and article manufactured or sold:

American Bottling company, $1,000; mineral waters, soda, etc.

Anderson Concrete company, $5,000; concrete blocks.

The Ankhurter company, $10,000; nuts and nut products.

Balster Commission company, $2,000; grocers' sundries.

Butler Bros. (branch), $4,500,000; general merchandise.

Butter Cream Candy company, $2,000; candy factory.

Central Tire and Rubber company, $6,000; automobile tires and accessories.

The Diamond Rubber company, $25,000; rubber tires, etc.

Diehl Chemical company, $35,000; manufacturing chemists.

Farmers Lumber company, $100,000; lumber and building material.

Florence Brick company, $5,000; concrete blocks.

Gate City Brokerage company, $5,000; wholesale cigars.

Howard Stove and Manufacturing company, $150,000; heating stoves, ranges, etc.

Ideal Cement company, $5,000; cement building stone.

Independent Lumber company, $50,000; lumber and building material.

Iten Biscuit company, $150,000; crackers, biscuits and cakes.

Johansen Brob. Shoe company (branch), $250,000; wholesale boots and shoes.

Keasbey & Mattison company (branch), $1,000,000; asbestos goods.

Lexington Mill and Elevator company, $100,000; flour.

Loose-Wiles company, $200,000; crackers, biscuits and cakes.

Maney Milling company, $125,000; flour and meal.

National Lumber Box company, $35,000; wooden packages and boxes.

Nebraska Concrete Reinforcement company, $5,000; concrete posts, blocks, etc.

L. J. Nelson & Co., $20,000; wholesale lumber and wooden packages.

Omaha Concrete Stone company, $5,000; concrete blocks.

Omaha Oil company, $50,000; oils and greases.

Omaha Van and Storage company (warehouse), $100,000; storage.

Omaha Wool and Storage company, $100,000; wool.

Oradell Farm Dairy company, $50,000; dairy feed, alfalfa meal.

Charles Passow & Sons, $5,000; pool, billiard and bar fixtures.

Peru Plow company, $200,000; farm implements.

People's Ice and Cold Storage company (warehouse), $200,000; storage and ice.

Perfection Cement Stone company, $5,000; concrete blocks.

Pope Trunk and Leather company, $1,000; trunks and leather goods.

Puck Soap company, $60,000; soap.

Ralston Car works, $200,000; freight cars, passenger coaches, etc.

Shogo-Lithia Springs company, $200,000; mineral waters, ginger ale.

Sioux City Saratoga Chip company, $2,500; potato chips.

Swanson Omaha Film company, $50,000; moving picture machines, optical goods, etc.

Toledo Computing Scale company (branch), $600,000; computing scales.

Uncle Sam Breakfast Food company, $100,000; breakfast food.

Weller Bros., $200,000; lumber.

Western Umbrella company, $1,000; umbrellas.

Wilson Reinforced Concrete company, $5,000; concrete blocks.

Western Bridge and Construction company, $75,000; bridge supplies.

Benson Cement Works, $20,000; cement blocks.

General Acoustic company of New York (branch), acousticons, etc.

Pierre Jackson, fire-proof material.

Katz-Craig Construction company, $80,000; water works, sewers, etc.

McKeen Motor Car company, $1,000,000; gasoline motor cars, air compressors, engines, etc.

Minneapolis Steel and Machinery company (branch), $1,000,000; electrical power plants.

Omaha Folding Machine company, $15,000; newspaper folders.

Scates Motor Car company, $10,000; automobiles.

Spicer, Nate, $2,500; wholesale ice cream.

Stahl Church Organ company, $10,000; church, concert and chapel organs.

## MILLION FOR PUBLIC WORKS

**Amount Spent for that Done and Does Not Touch What is Yet to Be Done.**

Over $1,000,000 was expended in public works in Omaha during the year 1908, the exact figures being $1,020,322. This is $238,796 more than was spent in 1907, when a total of $781,526 was used in public improvements.

This enormous expenditure is on work completed and does not touch work that has been ordered or just begun. The mammoth North Omaha sewer, which will cost the city nearly $100,000 and the Union Pacific over $60,000, which is barely begun, is not included in the 1908 figures. In addition to this work there are a number of other large sewer contracts as well as contracts for paving and other work which are not included.

During 1908 thirteen and one-third miles of new paving were laid at the cost of $534,686, bringing the total mileage of paving of all kinds up to practically 117 miles. Nearly twenty-two miles of curbing, thirty-three and one-half miles of permanent sidewalks and nearly ten miles of sewers were constructed during the year.

A summary of the year's operations of the public works' department, as prepared by City Engineer Rosewater, follows:

| Kind of Work. | —Miles in— 1908. | 1907. | —Cost in— 1908. | 1907. | —Present Total— Miles. | Value. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paving | 13.32 | 9.31 | $534,686 | $534,874 | 116.92 | $6,727,441 |
| Curbing | 21.76 | 18.31 | 84,872 | 71,344 | ..... | ..... |
| Sewers | 9.78 | 9.55 | 133,191 | 142,211 | 181.61 | 2,485,477 |
| Sidewalks | 33.54 | 37.21 | 96,485 | 113,320 | 320.00 | 1,153,940 |
| Grading (continued) | .... | .... | 22,114 | 2,368 | ..... | 1,670,569 |
| Grading repairs and rounding up | .... | .... | 14,786 | 19,054 | ..... | ..... |
| Asphalt repairs (laboratory expenses and earnings, street cuts) | .... | .... | 41,974 | 33,355 | ..... | ..... |
| Stone, brick and macadam pavement repairs | .... | .... | 16,125 | 1,700 | ..... | ..... |
| Crosswalks | .... | .... | 5,392 | 1,629 | ..... | ..... |
| Sidewalk repairs and changes | .... | .... | 2,422 | 1,893 | ..... | ..... |
| Bridges and culverts | .... | .... | 16,173 | 1,693 | ..... | ..... |
| Sewer maintenance | .... | .... | 13,431 | 11,106 | ..... | ..... |
| Sidewalk and street cut inspection | .... | .... | 8,025 | 12,485 | ..... | ..... |
| Engineering department | .... | .... | 30,573 | 33,957 | ..... | ..... |
| Totals | 78.40 | 74.38 | $1,020,322 | $781,526 | ..... | ..... |

## BANK CLEARINGS ARE WAY UP

**Show a Decided Gain Over Those of the Preceding Year for Omaha.**

Bank clearings in Omaha show a decided increase for 1908 over 1907, and as these figures are generally taken as a good index of business, the figures are looked upon as a criterion of the business stamina of Omaha. While two months show a decrease, other months show a sufficient increase to make the whole show a substantial gain. November showed an increase of 19 per cent. A change in the system of bookkeeping accounts for the double entry in 1893.

BANK CLEARINGS.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1887 | $274,441,069 | 1897 | $243,388,798 |
| 1888 | 332,014,006 | 1898 | 319,461,528 |
| 1889 | 402,506,332 | 1899 | 297,432,370 |
| 1890 | 490,124,913 | 1900 | 315,135,196 |
| 1891 | 442,257,780 | 1901 | 329,043,688 |
| 1892 | 545,879,384 | 1902 | 361,511,775 |
| 1893 | 632,533,745 | 1903 | 392,880,920 |
| 1893 | 126,504,072 | 1904 | 398,985,212 |
| 1894 | 483,472,168 | 1905 | 442,285,685 |
| 1895 | 381,286,477 | 1906 | 504,388,764 |
| 1896 | 420,282,668 | 1907 | 567,515,738 |
| | | 1908 | 602,525,867 |

| | 1908. | 1907. |
|---|---|---|
| January | $ 51,173,886 | $ 45,426,005 |
| February | 41,811,803 | 41,622,269 |
| March | 56,727,264 | 54,461,881 |
| April | 48,160,693 | 46,013,452 |
| May | 48,312,787 | 48,020,180 |
| June | 48,448,813 | 47,738,684 |
| July | 46,186,596 | 44,138,791 |
| August | 46,692,424 | 47,064,720 |
| September | 50,388,101 | 48,525,120 |
| October | 56,290,530 | 58,872,394 |
| November | 50,094,680 | 42,224,839 |
| December | 58,006,896 | 44,014,438 |
| Totals | $602,526,967 | $567,515,738 |

## TOM FLYNN HAS A REPORT

**Street Commissioner Comes Forward to Show What His Department Has Done.**

Even though the streets of the city have not presented the cleanest appearance during all seasons of the year, Street Commissioner Flynn reports cleaning on nearly 20,000 blocks and over 20,000 inter sections during 1908. In that period his department carted off the streets over 18,000 loads of sweepings and over 4,000 loads of snow.

A summary of the report of the street commissioner's department for 1908, the figures being approximately, is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Blocks cleaned by hand | 15,240 |
| Blocks cleaned by machinery | 3,342 |
| Blocks cleaned by flushing | 1,269 |
| Intersections cleaned | 20,108 |
| Loads of sweepings collected | 18,500 |
| Loads of snow collected | 4,500 |

## GRAIN RECEIPTS INCREASE

### Two and Half Million More Bushels Than Year Ago.

### WHEAT AND OATS EXCEED CORN

**Of All Grain Received at Omaha for the Year Total of Over Forty-Four Million Bushels is Shown.**

Two and a half million bushels more grain was received on the Omaha market during the twelve months of 1908 than during the same months of 1907.

This is an unexpected record and was made because the receipts of wheat and oats were greater than the receipts of corn—an unusual and remarkable record, according to the grain dealers.

While the receipts of corn at the Omaha market were nearly 5,000,000 bushels less during 1908 than during 1907, fully 5,000,000 bushels more of wheat and almost 2,000,000 more bushels of oats came to Omaha.

The record in a corn-growing state, at a market surrounded by other states which produce more corn than any other grain, was made because of the shortage of the Nebraska corn crop during 1907, and which was marketed during 1908. The crop of 1906 was over 252,000,000 of bushels, against 179,000,000 bushels during 1907, and this alone would be sufficient to explain why the receipts of corn at the Omaha primary market should fall 5,000,000 bushels in a year.

The wide difference between receipts and shipments is caused by the amount of grain held in storage at the close of last year and again at the close of 1908, when the elevators have a large amount of grain in them, especially wheat. It will also be noticed that the receipts of barley were 633,000 bushels and only 152,000 bushels were shipped out. In the case of the barley, the consumption of barley in Omaha is equal to more than 75 per cent of the total amount received. Each year shows the consumption of wheat in Omaha is increasing, as well as of corn, though as yet there is no considerable proportion of either grain consumed here.

One fact stands out in the report of the Omaha Grain exchange. At a time when Omaha is getting flouring mills, the report shows the market also gets the wheat for these mills.

**Report of Receipts.**

The following is the report of receipts of the different grains, compared to the receipts during 1907:

RECEIPTS.

| | 1908 | 1907. |
|---|---|---|
| Corn | 13,070,200 | 18,491,000 |
| Wheat | 14,959,200 | 9,984,000 |
| Oats | 15,212,800 | 13,588,800 |
| Rye | 180,900 | 140,000 |
| Barley | 633,000 | 335,000 |
| Total all grain | 44,056,100 | 42,538,800 |

**Report of Shipments.**

The following is the report of shipments made from Omaha of all grain, as compared to the year before:

SHIPMENTS.

| | 1908 | 1907. |
|---|---|---|
| Corn | 10,194,000 | 19,027,000 |
| Wheat | 11,454,000 | 9,641,000 |
| Oats | 12,814,500 | 14,799,000 |
| Rye | 167,000 | 187,000 |
| Barley | 152,000 | 133,000 |
| Total all grain | 34,781,500 | 43,787,000 |

## PARK SYSTEM IS ENLARGED

**Increased by Gift of Two Hundred and Sixty-One Acres Around Salina Sea.**

Through the munificent gift of Mrs. Salina C. Carter, 261 acres have been added to the park system of the city of Omaha during the last year. This is Levi Carter park, surfounding what has been known as Cut-Off lake. Mrs. Carter gave the city $50,000 with which to buy the land. In addition to this increase of park area, one mile has been added to the boulevary system in the opening of the Northwest boulevard.

The parks of Omaha now contain 874 acres, and a person can drive over ten and one-half miles of boulevards. The area of the parks and the length of the boulevards is as follows:

| Parks. | Acres. |
|---|---|
| Levi Carter | 261.13 |
| Elmwood | 208.13 |
| Riverview | 111.67 |
| Fontanelle | 107.53 |
| Miller | 78 |
| Hanscom | 57.69 |
| Deer | 19.39 |
| Kountze | 10.73 |
| Bemis | 9.40 |
| Curtiss Turner | 7.58 |
| Bluff View | 5.10 |
| Jefferson Square | 1.72 |
| Himebaugh | 1.10 |
| Boulevards. | Miles. |
| Florence | 3.75 |
| South Central | 2.44 |
| Southeast | 1.78 |
| West Central | 1.61 |
| Northwest | 1 |

The total original cost of all the parks was $496,264.15.

Not as much money was spent last year in improvements on the parks and boulevards and on maintenance as the preceding year, but still they have been kept up in good shape. In 1907 $194,164.83 was expended in maintenance, while in 1908 but $79,223.26 was expended. The table of receipts and expenditures for the last year is as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Park receipts | $49,559.82 |
| Hanscom park | 6,793.52 |
| Riverview park | 9,631.84 |
| Elmwood park | 5,167.39 |
| Miller park | 13,871.80 |
| Kountze park | 963.84 |
| Curtiss-Turner park | 300.41 |
| Deer park | 324.93 |
| Bemis park | 911.46 |
| Fontanelle park | 363.00 |
| Jefferson square | 373.67 |
| Capitol Avenue parking | 93.87 |
| Bluff View park | 727.34 |
| Greenhouse | 251.70 |
| Levi Carter park | 7.50 |
| Road receipts | 25,189.53 |
| Florence boulevard | 2,419.00 |
| West Central boulevard | 7,370.86 |
| South Central boulevard | 9,436.79 |
| Leavenworth street | 994.79 |
| Southeast boulevard | 40.00 |
| Northwest boulevard | 62.75 |
| Dodge street | 937.02 |
| Lafayette avenue | 1,766.02 |
| Park bond fund | 51,534.50 |
| West Central boulevard | 11,843.04 |
| Ed Creighton avenue | 1,384.53 |
| South Central boulevard | 675.01 |
| Pinkney street | 2,881.28 |

## PACKING HOUSE BUSINESS

**Total for the Year Amounts to Ninety Million Dolars for All the Big Plants.**

The volume of business in the packing industry of South Omaha has reached $90,000,000 in 1908. As large as this figure is it lacks fully $2,000,000 of reaching the figures of 1907. The increase of 1907 was, until the last two months of that year, far beyond all previous records and had not the hard times burst in October, 1907, with such suddenness the year would have been phenomenal. As it was the condition of business then made the year's figures about normal.

The effect of that decline continued as a natural consequence in 1908, but after three months all prospects brightened until the close. South Omaha receipts of cattle for the year show a decrease of 120,000 head in round numbers. This decrease easily accounts for a decline of $2,000,000 or $3,000,000 in the volume of business. The following table shows the actual consumption of live stock by the four great packers:

ARMOUR & CO.

| | |
|---|---|
| Hogs | 605,264 |
| Cattle | 161,347 |
| Sheep | 217,083 |
| Calves | 5,479 |
| Total | 979,173 |

Cost price, $14,939,226.

CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY.

| | |
|---|---|
| Hogs | 650,000 |
| Cattle | 250,000 |
| Sheep | 350,000 |
| Calves | 50,000 |
| Total | 1,300,000 |

Cost price, about $17,000,000.

OMAHA PACKING COMPANY.

| | |
|---|---|
| Hogs | 208,287 |
| Cattle | 101,846 |
| Sheep | 156,557 |
| Calves | 2,482 |
| Total | 469,552 |

Cost, $8,000,000.

SWIFT AND COMPANY.

| | |
|---|---|
| Total hogs, cattle, sheep, calves | 1,500,000 |

Cost, $16,000,000.

The business is distributed as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Swift and Company | $23,000,000 |
| Armour & Co. | 26,000,000 |
| Omaha Packing company | 13,000,000 |
| Cudahy Packing company | 27,500,000 |
| By-products and independent packers | 25,000,000 |
| Total | $114,500,000 |

## REVENUE COLLECTIONS LESS

**Gradual Increase in Use of Denatured Alcohol One Cause for Decrease of Receipts.**

The internal revenue collections for the Nebraska district show a falling off of $24,374.13 during the year, as compared with those of the preceding year. There is a tangible reason given for this decrease. The bulk of the decrease is found in the tax on spirits, which fluctuates from year to year. The gradual increase in the use of denatured alcohol, which is a nontaxable product, may have something to do with the decrease, but even that is partly conjectural. The growth of the temperance sentiment throughout the state and the closing out of a large number of saloons in the various communities of the state has undoubtedly had something to do with the dimunition of the sale of spirituous liquors and a consequent reduction in the revenues formerly derived from that source.

Following is a comparison of the internal revenue collections for the district during the years 1907 and 1908:

| | 1907. | 1908. |
|---|---|---|
| Lists | $ 4,976.30 | $ 4,047.00 |
| Beer stamps | 377,822.00 | 376,070.00 |
| Spirit stamps | 1,785,738.40 | 1,766,800.00 |
| Cigar and cigarette stamps | 84,166.98 | 85,262.00 |
| Tobacco stamps | 5,672.73 | 4,850.00 |
| Special tax stamps | 86,359.34 | 84,588.00 |
| Process butter stamps | 1,234.02 | 170.00 |
| Playing card stamps | 3.36 | .. |
| Mixed flour stamps | 5.25 | 18.00 |
| Documentary stamps | 1.25 | .50 |
| Totals | $2,345,979.63 | 2,321,605.50 |

## COUNTY HOSPITAL RECORDS

**Nearly Six Hundred Patients Treated and Over Seven Hundred Received.**

Nearly 600 patients were treated at the Douglas County hospital during the year, according to the report of Superintendent Farrar. The report shows the average number of patients in the institution to be 222. The number received during the year was 704 and the number discharged, 593. Ninety-nine died.

Sick patients to the number of 593 have been treated by the hosptial staff. Of these eighty required surgical operations which necessitated 7,669 surgical dressings.

During the year nine babies have been born at the hospital.

## TRANSFERS IN REAL ESTATE

### Amount Not Up to Last Year, but Large for Conditions.

### CITY MORTGAGES ARE FEWER

**October is the Month in Which the Largest Number of Transfers is Made for the Year.**

Records from Register of Deeds Frank W. Bandle's office show real estate transfers have fallen off over $2,086,000 in 1908 as compared with 1907.

While this indicates a falling off in real estate sales those who are conversant with financial conditions it is not a bad showing under the circumstances. The detailed figures show the greatest backslides came during the first seven months of the year. Since July there has been a tendency toward a rally and during November and December the recovery was so great that those two months exceeded the corresponding months of last year. The number of farm mortgages filed is slightly larger than the year before while the number released has decreased about $100,000. Both the filings and releases of city mortgages show a decrease the last year, while the number of sheriff's mortgages show a decided decrease largely because the scavenger cases were settled up before the beginning of the present year.

The following tables show the business done in the register of deeds' office as compared with 1907:

**Real Estate Transfers.**

| | 1907. | 1908. |
|---|---|---|
| January | $ 711,022.00 | $ 397,614.00 |
| February | 701,847.00 | 637,663.00 |
| March | 822,790.00 | 726,586.00 |
| April | 1,268,146.97 | 932,710.00 |
| May | 1,167,323.17 | 725,572.00 |
| June | 1,306,808.50 | 1,031,118.00 |
| July | 1,030,072.44 | 659,917.00 |
| August | 790,423.86 | 787,264.00 |
| September | 755,504.93 | 802,748.00 |
| October | 1,077,886.00 | 1,056,687.00 |
| November | 736,508.00 | 808,480.00 |
| December | 461,164.00 | 696,528.00 |
| Totals | $11,299,678.87 | $9,262,887.00 |

**Farm Mortgages, 1908.**

| | —FILED.— No. | Amount. | -RELEASED.- No. | Amount. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 10 | $ 35,700.00 | 15 | $ 27,413.00 |
| February | 11 | 59,220.00 | 21 | 78,610.00 |
| March | 24 | 64,122.00 | 21 | 51,450.00 |
| April | 17 | 56,110.00 | 42 | 25,650.00 |
| May | 7 | 16,550.00 | 6 | 14,350.00 |
| June | 7 | 15,846.90 | 12 | 72,112.00 |
| July | 1 | 3,000.00 | 7 | 15,875.00 |
| August | 6 | 14,635.45 | 9 | 18,090.00 |
| September | 2 | 28,500.00 | 2 | 7,500.00 |
| October | 6 | 8,800.00 | 13 | 21,710.00 |
| November | 9 | 11,000.00 | 8 | 8,150.00 |
| December | 1 | 1,100.00 | 3 | 7,600.00 |
| Totals | 101 | $315,334.35 | 129 | $348,510.00 |

**Farm Mortgages, 1907.**

| | —FILED.— No. | Amount. | -RELEASED.- No. | Amount. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 8 | $ 19,375.00 | 8 | $ 42,022.00 |
| February | 11 | 29,510.00 | 14 | 56,050.00 |
| March | 16 | 48,000.00 | 18 | 48,755.00 |
| April | 24 | 47,932.00 | 26 | 71,945.00 |
| May | 9 | 33,455.00 | 18 | 57,895.00 |
| June | 15 | 30,200.00 | 10 | 30,150.00 |
| July | 2 | 6,500.00 | 5 | 26,800.00 |
| August | 9 | 24,796.00 | 12 | 32,835.00 |
| September | 5 | 16,700.00 | 10 | 32,685.00 |
| October | 7 | 18,380.00 | 10 | 13,015.00 |
| November | 9 | 22,958.00 | 8 | 13,000.00 |
| December | 4 | 10,400.00 | 10 | 16,464.00 |
| Totals | 119 | $309,206.00 | 149 | $440,060.00 |

**City Mortgages, 1908.**

| | —FILED.— No. | Amount. | -RELEASED.- No. | Amount. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 145 | $ 219,680.88 | 176 | $ 274,050.50 |
| February | 160 | 215,690.83 | 226 | 406,238.00 |
| March | 273 | 386,071.62 | 188 | 207,718.76 |
| April | 326 | 440,721.00 | 219 | 261,245.00 |
| May | 234 | 441,708.08 | 252 | 333,912.00 |
| June | 345 | 445,038.42 | 202 | 261,691.50 |
| July | 342 | 553,954.84 | 222 | 373,050.00 |
| August | 318 | 517,327.00 | 203 | 275,981.00 |
| September | 308 | 428,352.29 | 197 | 283,411.00 |
| October | 327 | 683,676.98 | 229 | 300,526.00 |
| November | 242 | 433,879.28 | 185 | 344,018.50 |
| December | 331 | 405,245.00 | 184 | 240,412.00 |
| Totals | 3,461 | $5,170,346.02 | 2,493 | $3,450,654.36 |

**City Mortgages, 1907.**

| | —FILED.— No. | Amount. | -RELEASED.- No. | Amount. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 256 | $ 265,587.00 | 222 | $ 237,527.50 |
| February | 185 | 287,955.00 | 221 | 222,176.00 |
| March | 308 | 493,415.00 | 266 | 372,142.00 |
| April | 369 | 592,637.00 | 319 | 394,196.00 |
| May | 334 | 570,700.00 | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| June | 335 | 459,358.00 | 249 | 390,487.00 |
| July | 322 | 439,[illegible].00 | 296 | [illegible] |
| August | 369 | 525,870.00 | 240 | 278,492.00 |
| September | 357 | 476,607.00 | 191 | 279,472.00 |
| October | 328 | 801,759.00 | 197 | 261,116.00 |
| November | 191 | 346,434.00 | 182 | 187,717.00 |
| December | 152 | 177,278.00 | 146 | 198,212.00 |
| Totals | 3,448 | $5,445,868.30 | 2,732 | $3,639,264.50 |

**Sheriff's Deeds.**

| | —1907.— No. | Amount. | —1908.— No. | Amount. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| January | 6 | $ 9,453.67 | 2 | $ 1,725.00 |
| February | 1 | 25.00 | .. | ..... |
| March | 5 | 6,071.00 | 3 | 9,047.00 |
| April | 6 | 18,390.00 | 2 | 2,900.00 |
| May | 8 | 5,660.00 | 1 | 12,400.00 |
| June | 3 | 2,300.00 | .. | ..... |
| July | 3 | 6,792.00 | 1 | 500.00 |
| August | .. | ..... | .. | ..... |
| September | 2 | 17,500.00 | 3 | 7,260.00 |
| October | 3 | 5,440.00 | 3 | 5,300.00 |
| November | 3 | 1,800.00 | 2 | 3,850.00 |
| December | 2 | 1,050.00 | .. | ..... |
| Totals | 43 | $73,872.37 | 17 | $42,922.00 |

## BAR LABORS FOR AMENDMENT

**Attorneys of Douglas County Do Good Work in Campaign to Increase Number Supreme Judges.**

Omaha attorneys have for a number of years done effective work in promoting the general good of the profession through the Douglas County association, which has passed a very successful year. About 150 attorneys belong to the association, including some of the most prominent in the city. The organization did effective work in the last campaign in promoting the constitutional amendment providing for the increase in the number of supreme judges. It has also recently endorsed a reform of the Nebraska divorce laws and for the increase of the salaries of federal judges.

The officers of the association are Charles A. Goss, president; Arthur C. Wakeley, vice president; Victor R. McLucas, secretary, and J. J. Boucher, treasurer. The executive council consists of Frank Crawford, E. C. Page, R. B. Smith, A. C. Wakeley and E. E. Thomas.

## FIFTY-FIVE EXAMS ARE HELD

**Civil Service Department of Government Given Permanent Quarters in Postoffice Building.**

The civil service department of the government has been given permanent quarters in the postoffice building again on the second floor, these rooms being permanently assigned for examination rooms and the office of the local secretary, Miss Viola Coffin.

During the year 1908 there have been fifty-five civil service examinations and in which 529 persons took the examinations for various positions in the postoffices, departmental service, immigration or insular and Panama canal service.

## Detailed Showing of Building Operations in Omaha by Months for the Year 1908

| MONTH. | No. of Permits. | Dwellings. Fr. | Bk. | T'l. | Cost. | Stores and Office Buildings Fr. | Bk.