

Interesting Information Concerning Omaha's Social and Business Life

PEOPLE VOTE LARGER DEBT

Confident of Future, Improvements Are Demanded. COURT HOUSE TAKES MILLION

This Expenditure, with Those for Paying and Betterment, Shows Up in Annual Statements of City and County.

While the bonded debt of the city of Omaha has been increased \$300,000 and that of the county by \$1,000,000 during the last year, the increased debt was incurred by the people willingly who wished for better city and county improvements, and the year has been a prosperous one. City bonds were voted for paving and public improvements and county bonds were voted for the new court house, all within the year. No school bonds were voted during the last twelve month period, but during that time \$250,000 of these bonds were sold.

Table showing tax collections during the year, including property taxes, school taxes, and other sources. Total tax collections for 1908 are listed as \$1,738,329.58.

According to the statement of the city and county treasurer, Frank A. Furey, there was in the city treasury at the close of business on December 31, 1908, a balance amounting to \$1,643,700.87. Opposed to this on the other side of the ledger is the bonded debt, totaling to \$8,213,303.90. There is no outstanding warrant indebtedness. The school district has a bonded debt of \$1,525,000.

Tax collections during the year were much better than usual, over 55 per cent of all real and personal taxes being collected. In some other years it has been a struggle to get in 50 per cent of the taxes.

The report of the city treasurer for 1908 up to and including December 24, is as follows: Balance Jan. 1, 1908, \$1,096,612.05. Receipts, including Dec. 24, 1908, \$1,643,700.87. Disbursements, including Dec. 24, 1908, \$429,603.14. Total, \$1,738,329.58.

BOONDED DEBT.

Table showing bonded debt for the city and county. City debt is \$300,000 and county debt is \$1,000,000.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Table showing disbursements for the city and county. Total disbursements for 1908 are listed as \$1,738,329.58.

EASY LIFE FOR THE FIREMAN

In the Blissful City of Cartagena—Two Fires in About Seventy Years. The city of Cartagena, in the republic of Colombia, is one spot where the business of being a fireman is no great drain on the nervous system. If information tell the truth there have been two fires in Cartagena in the last seventy years.

LIBRARY MAKES BIG GAIN

Circulates Over Twenty-Four Thousand Books More Than 1907. ALL DEPARTMENTS GO FORWARD

Museum Also Makes Big Strides and is Visited During the Year by Nearly Thirty Thousand Persons.

Table showing the increase in circulation of the Omaha Public Library. Total circulation for 1908 is 35,329, an increase of 197 from 1907.

Factories Hold Up Record.

Manufacturing for the year fell below last year only by a small amount, the estimate being last year that \$20,000,000 worth of products were made in Omaha.

Table showing manufacturing output for 1908, including food products, clothing, and other goods. Total manufacturing value is \$20,000,000.

FIRES FEWER AND LOSS LESS

Good Showing for Omaha and the Department in Protecting Life and Property. With a fire loss of only \$183,465, as against \$398,121 for the year 1907, or a reduction of about 12 per cent, the year just closed has been both fortunate and exceptional in that line.

MARITAL CONDITIONS BETTER

Fewer Divorced and More Married in Nebraska During Last Year Than in 1907. Sensitive Nebraskans who blush whenever the so-called law Nebraska divorce law is mentioned can find some comfort in a comparison of the divorce and marriage licenses statistics for the last two years.

FEDERAL OFFICES ARE ADDED

Special Inspector Treasury Department and Pure Food Laboratory Gained Through Uncle Sam. Two new departments have been installed in the federal building during the year 1908.

POSTOFFICE RECORDS GAIN

Big Increase in Business Over Total of Last Year. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT SHOWN

Three Hundred Clerks and Carriers Show Perfect Record for Honesty and Sobriety During Twelve Months Just Over. The work of the Omaha postoffice during the year 1908 shows a remarkable increase over that of preceding years and is given herewith in detail.

LARGER MAILS, MORE CLERKS

Increase in Railway Service Calls for Greater Number of Postmen. Owing to the increased mails in transit during 1908 additional clerks were appointed and detailed to lines west of the Missouri river in the Omaha district as follows:

Omaha & Ogden, trains 9 and 10, exclusive mail trains, six clerks between Omaha and Cheyenne; two clerks between Omaha and Kearney. On Omaha & Ogden division, trains 11 and 10, one clerk, extending the helper runs from Columbus to Grand Island. Omaha and Grand Island trains Nos. 27 and 28, one additional clerk, allowing three clerks to the line. Omaha and McFarland train, one clerk, allowing three clerks to the line. Omaha and McFarland, Kan., on trains Nos. 17 and 20 and 29 and 18, Omaha and Chadron, trains Nos. 1 and 6, one clerk, allowing three helpers to the line between Omaha and Norfolk.

Valparaiso, one relief clerk, the permit train, one clerk, allowing three clerks to the line. Omaha and Chadron, trains Nos. 1 and 6, one clerk, allowing three helpers to the line between Omaha and Norfolk. The regular clerks for those lines one-fourth time off for rest and study.

BOOK DEPARTMENT.

Received by gift, 1,025. Received by purchase, 3,498. Bound periodicals, 373. Total books received, 4,896. An increase over 1907 of 901. Books in foreign languages, including German, French, Danish, Swedish, were purchased to the number of 318.

CIRCULATING DEPARTMENT.

Adult department, 15,018. Children's department, 4,734. School department, 6,547. Paper box factory, 84. Union Pacific shops, 470. People's Home, 236. Social Settlement (100 volumes deposited September, 1908—no record of circulation, 1908—), 35,329. An increase over 1907 of 24,810.

MEMBERSHIP AND REGISTRATIONS.

New registrations, 1,526. Re-registrations, 1,329. Total, 2,855. Less than one-third of applicants for service pass the examination.

READING ROOM.

Daily newspapers received, 29. Periodicals received, 183. Public documents, 1,000. Reading room, 5,667. Bound volumes of newspapers, 467. Books, 1,000. Drawings and specifications of the Patent Office, 769. Visitors to the reading room, 6,122. An increase in the number of visitors over 1907 of 2,272.

REFERENCE ROOM.

Number of books catalogued (including sets of periodicals indexed in Poole), 3,866. Visitors, 27,127. Increase over 1907, 1,500.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

A collection of books numbering 3,000, set up and used on the primary class, State public and private.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

(Partly maintained by a fund received from the Omaha Douglas County Medical Association.) Public documents, 1,215. Periodicals, 100. Circulation, 800. BYRON READ CUTLER, CHIEF CLERK. MANUSCRIPTS AND RARE BOOKS. Visitors, 5,448. Books used for reference, 852.

MUSEUM.

Visitors, 29,307. Number of books read and rebound, 5,172. LECTURE ROOM. Seating capacity, 125. The use of this room is free to all educational organizations not charging a fee for admission to its meetings.

Classes and clubs which have met regularly during 1908: The art of the Graduate Nurses' association, Esperanto classes—afternoon and evening, Omaha Society of the Fine Arts, Primary class, State university, extension course; Teachers' Training class, library course; "Story hour" for the Omaha Public Library; Jewish Bible class. GIFTS AND LOANS. (A full list will be given in the annual report, only the most important here.) Stereoscopic slides presented by the Omaha Society of the Fine Arts, 509. Slides loaned by F. L. Haller, 216. Slides loaned by G. M. Hitchcock, 106. Foreign photographs presented to be used for circulation, presented by Mr. L. S. Reed, 1,756. Music, 50. Holy Land, three volumes; Robert's Egypt and Nubia, three volumes, and several articles for the museum, presented by C. N. Dietz. Collection of minerals, presented by Ernest Young.

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Postmaster B. P. Thomas said in reference to the increase of the work of the community. It comes into daily contact with the homes, places of business and offices of the people. "I am free to say that there is not a more intelligent, honest and industrious class of people in the country than the operating force of the Omaha postoffice. During the year there has not been a scandal trace to any one of the 300 clerks, carriers and employees connected with this office, and neither has a suspicion of dishonesty been directed against a single one of the Omaha postoffice force. We are all more than satisfied with the year's work, even though it has been one severe and trying to every employee of the department."

Official Record of Year.

A statement of business transacted at the postoffice in all departments during the year is as follows: MONEY ORDER BUSINESS. 1907. 1908. No. Amount. No. Amount. Issued, 94,508 \$1,025,922.14 94,811 \$1,027,840.47. Paid, 392,105 2,001,948.19 397,558 2,242,975.83. Receipts, 30,869 4,859,863.82 31,902 4,822,273.84. Total, 85,385,531.16 85,822,089.14. Increase of business over 1907, \$196,557.98.

STAMP SALES.

Total sales in 1907, \$75,194.58. Total sales in 1908, \$98,389.29. Increase of sales over 1907, \$23,194.71.

REGISTRY BUSINESS.

Letters and parcels reg., 1907, 1908. Inc. Letters and parcels reg., 75,012 59,000 4,988. Delivered, 127,759 128,290 530. Reg. packages received, 18,005 18,170 2,165. Reg. packages dispatched, 312,324 358,917 46,883. Reg. packages dispatched, 15,962 17,421 1,829. Reg. packages dispatched, 23,019 33,814 17,796. In name, 23,019 33,814 17,796. Millions of Letters Mailed.

MAIL MATTER ORIGINATING AT AND DISPATCHED FROM THIS OFFICE.

Number of pieces distributed and forwarded by clerks in mailing division during the year 1908, 85,745,413.

ASSESSMENT ROLL LARGER

Increase of Two Million Dollars in Real Estate. PERSONAL SHOWS FALLING OFF

Influence of Distribution of Count Freight Estate Still Felt in This Connection by the County. An increase of a little less than \$2,000,000 has been added to the assessment rolls of Douglas county during the last year. The added assessment is all in the real estate column, the personal assessment showing a decrease of \$281,000.

OUTPUT OF THE SMELTER

Table showing the output of the smelter for 1908. Total value of output is \$47,400,871. This is accounted for in several ways. At the close of last year there was a demand for money and minerals were rushed to the market to be converted into cash. The price is also off this year, so that although in some cases the quantity is almost as great as last year, the money value is less. The following table shows a comparative statement of the value of each metal for the two years:

Table showing comparative statement of metal values for 1907 and 1908. Silver, 1907: \$9,909,475; 1908: \$15,483,823. Gold, 1907: \$1,581,645; 1908: \$1,584,224. Lead, 1907: \$7,787,056; 1908: \$2,674,759. Copper, 1907: \$1,816,876; 1908: \$2,582,756. Vitrol, 1907: \$29,879; 1908: \$45,218. Total, 1907: \$21,354,931; 1908: \$23,870,871.

LIGHTER CITY THAN EVER

Omaha Was Brilliant During the Year and Will Keep on Being. While Omaha is not as large as some cities, it is as well lighted as most of them and is getting lighter every day—on night.

During the year 1908 more street arc lights were installed than in any one year since the street lighting system was inaugurated and in the year just closed over one-eighth of all the street arc lights in the city were placed. There are now in the city of Omaha 550 arc lights maintained on the streets by the city and 119 of these were installed during 1908.

City Electrician Michaelson reports the receipts of his department for the year have been \$463,835. During the year 3,614 inspections of electric wiring were made and 2,151 applications received.

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Large advertisement for AMERICAN & IDEAL RADIATORS & BOILERS. Includes the headline 'Make coal-bills migrate!', a large illustration of a coal-bill character, and detailed text describing the benefits of their products, such as saving fuel, reducing maintenance, and being easy to install. The ad also includes contact information for American Radiator Company at 413-417 South Tenth Street, Omaha, Nebraska.