

NEWS OF INTEREST FROM IOWA

COUNCIL BLUFFS.

Office 15 Scott Street. Both 'Phones 43.

PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR CITY

No Boom, but a Consistently Good Business is Done.

BUILDING TRADES ARE ACTIVE

Windsup of the Year Shows an Entire Disappearance of the Strained Conditions of the Earlier Months.

While it would be an exaggeration to say that Council Bluffs enjoyed a boom during the year just closed, it can be truthfully said that the business men of the city have no reason to complain when conditions which prevailed throughout the country are taken into consideration. Business generally was good and there was no lack of employment for the skilled artisan and the unskilled laborer. The construction and building operations the supply of skilled labor during certain seasons of the year was insufficient to meet the demand. Merchants report an excellent Christmas trade. Everybody appeared to have money and seemed anxious to spend it. The Christmas trade, the merchants say, is a pretty sure index of the financial condition of the country.

Commercial Agency Report.
E. W. Peterson, local manager of the mercantile agency of H. G. Dun & Co., makes the following report on the business record of Council Bluffs for 1908 and the prospects for the coming year:

In speaking of the financial conditions of Council Bluffs and vicinity for the last twelve months, he says that the year cannot be truthfully given, owing largely to the unsettled state of financial affairs during the early months of the year, which marked the advent of the year 1908, and the unfavorable influence of the presidential campaign, the bank was closed with the factory results.

Council Bluffs has somewhat felt the general depression, but an interview with the majority of our retail merchants elicits from them expressions of gratification. Trade conditions, they say, have terminated much better than what had anticipated a year ago and a number of their customers report a very satisfactory holiday business. One of our prominent business men says that he had the best trade experienced by them for a number of years, an evidence of the prosperity of the city. He says that there were only two failures in Council Bluffs during the last year and one of them being very insignificant. He is of the opinion that our business men are most of them prosperous.

The jobbing houses of the city generally report a satisfactory year all things considered. The whole year's outlook for 1908 is regarded by most of our jobbing houses as quite successful.

Some of the noteworthy features of local advancement is the erection of a handsome City National building, and the new next marks the opening of this institution. The large Pioneer Implement company's automobile factory (now in process of construction) and the new four-story paper building are worthy of special mention and mark the growing additions to the business portion of the city. A large number of new residences built during 1908 and a fine remodeling of the city's local evidences of prosperity.

Speaking in behalf of Council Bluffs as an important point for enterprises looking westward it can be asserted that the trunk railroad lines and much room for factories seeking new locations.

Good Building Year.

The year just closed witnessed the erection of a number of important buildings in Council Bluffs, the activity in this direction being if anything greater than in 1907, which was considered a banner year. In every section of the city handiwork and in many instances costly residences were erected while on every hand are to be seen hundreds of new houses being excavated.

One of the handsome business structures in the city is the new four-story building erected by the City National bank at the corner of Broadway and Main street. Another notable building erected during the year is the Auditorium at the corner of Broadway and Main street, which is being built by the National Horticultural congress. Another semi-public building which is nearing completion and which will be an ornament and credit to the city is the Young Men's Christian association building at the corner of First avenue and Seventh street. The brick Catholic church of the Holy Family erected as a place of worship for the new congregation of that denomination in the western part of the city is nearing completion. It represents an outlay of something over \$25,000. Work on the new tabernacle for the First Christian church at the corner of Myrtle and Scott streets is well under way. This church which will be of ornate pressed brick and stone will represent an expenditure of about \$20,000 when completed.

One new modern school house was erected during the year, that at Seventh street and Avenue D, which cost approximately \$10,000. During the new year another school will be erected at Broadway and Oak street.

Of three large automobile garages planned for Council Bluffs, that erected by the Pioneer Implement company on Fourth street are being excavated, and work on the walls will begin as soon as the weather permits. With this large garage Council Bluffs expects to become a distributing center for the automobile trade this year.

One new elevator, that of the Nebraska Hay and Grain company, was built during the last year, while that of the Cavers company was added to so as to double its capacity.

Among the smaller business buildings erected during the year was one by M. P. Bohrer on Pearl and Main streets, which filled an unsightly gap opposite Bayliss park.

The First Congregational church is having plans drawn for a new house of worship to be located on First avenue, between Sixth and Seventh streets, and the Epworth Methodist church expects to erect a new church this year. Then there will be the addition to the post-office building, upon which the government expects to expend about \$140,000 this year.

The record of building permits issued during the year is notably an incomplete index to the number of buildings erected. Only 154 permits, showing the aggregate cost of the buildings to be \$17,248, were issued. No permits were taken out for the Auditorium, Young Men's Christian association building and other large structures.

Real Estate.

Transfers of real estate, as shown by

the books in the office of the county recorder of real estate and local consideration involved for the last five years are:

Year	No. of Deeds	Amount	No. of Deeds	Amount
1904	2,100	\$1,200,000	2,100	\$1,200,000
1905	2,200	\$1,300,000	2,200	\$1,300,000
1906	2,300	\$1,400,000	2,300	\$1,400,000
1907	2,400	\$1,500,000	2,400	\$1,500,000
1908	2,500	\$1,600,000	2,500	\$1,600,000

Public Improvements.

The cost of public improvements, including paving, curbing, sidewalks and sewers aggregated \$1,851,124, this being about \$200,000 less than the amount expended for similar work during 1907.

The new concrete bridge over Indian creek at Frank street was completed at a cost of about \$60,000, and work has been begun on a similar new bridge at the foot of Bryant street, which, when completed, will cost about \$100,000. If funds will permit of it this work will be continued at this point and the bridge at the foot of Main street replaced during the year with a concrete structure.

During the last year 20,000 square yards of paving were laid at a cost of \$30,000. Of combination curbing and guttering 11,500 lineal feet were laid at a cost of \$7,500. The cost of cement and brick sidewalks was \$12,751.12. Bit and gravel work was done, only \$1,742.22 being expended for this class of public improvement. Following is a summary of the public work done during the last year:

Paving.

Purification block concrete base: Sixth avenue, from Tenth street to Twelfth street, 2,800 square yards; cost, \$2,800.00.

Third street from Story street to High school avenue, 1,500 square yards; cost, \$1,500.00.

Turley avenue from Third street to Clark avenue, 1,100 square yards; cost, \$1,100.00.

Sixth avenue, from Tenth street to Twelfth street, 2,800 square yards; cost, \$2,800.00.

Fourth street from Broadway to Avenue B, 1,200 square yards; cost, \$1,200.00.

North Tenth street from Broadway to Avenue B, 1,200 square yards; cost, \$1,200.00.

North Seventh street from Washington avenue to Avenue F, 4,500 square yards; cost, \$4,500.00.

Combination curb and gutter: Elder street, from Washington avenue to Cedar street, 800 lineal feet; cost, \$400.00.

Avenue A, from Eighth street to Eleventh street, 2,100 lineal feet; cost, \$1,050.00.

Ninth street, from Broadway to Avenue A, 900 lineal feet; cost, \$450.00.

North First street, from Washington avenue to Hall street, 2,800 square yards; cost, \$2,800.00.

Fourth street, from Broadway to Avenue B, 1,200 square yards; cost, \$1,200.00.

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CHANGES IN SCHOOL LAWS

Principal Effort to Make the Country Schools More Effective.

STATE ASKED TO AID ROADS

Educators Teachers Against Women as Members of Debating Teams.

ATTORNEY HEALY CRITICALLY ILL

Consentation of Doctors Called and Feared He May Recover.

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Consentation of Doctors Called and Feared He May Recover.

Trusted Employee Short.

MARSHALLTOWN, Jan. 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Charles D. Swick, a trusted employee and manager of the branch office of the Gregory Coal and Lumber company, owned by George Gregory, president of the Iowa-Nebraska Retail Coal-dealers' association, has disappeared after being accused and confessed that he had appropriated money from his employer. He left a note intimating he intended committing suicide. Swick's whereabouts are not known and the body has not been found. As far as the examination of the books has been carried away and that the thief or thieves must have been provided with a wagon. O'Brien, it seems, after robbing the store went to Des Moines on a freight train, but his stay there was short. He was arrested at Des Moines, where he was arrested on a train late evening and was arrested at a High Bridge coal mine. All efforts to locate his relatives so far have proved fruitless. The body is being held here.

Iowa News Notes.

ATLANTIC—Emil Braun, the small son of Rev. Mr. Braun, pastor of the German Evangelical church in this city, after having been playing in the yard with his brother, and with a friend, was killed by a brick which fell from the chimney of the house.

ATLANTIC—As yet no news has been heard of the whereabouts of Fred Draper, the Methodist son of Mr. and Mrs. Draper, who disappeared from home August 1st. His father states that the boy is probably in the west, but no news from him up to the present.

CRISTOPHER—A few days ago J. S. Johnson, the manager of a skating rink at that point, lost his temper and struck his cashier, Mrs. Brown. As a result the city council took action and passed an ordinance making it a misdemeanor for any person to strike or assault a public dance hall in the town or for any fortune teller, clairvoyant or planist to operate in the town.

LOGAN—Farm lands near Logan are still on the rise. Yesterday Mr. John Armstrong, east of Logan, sold his farm at 100 acres for \$10,000. A short time ago the same farm was sold for \$8,000. The price of land is still on the rise.

MARSHALLTOWN—Matthew Cox, the blacksmith of Union, who, with his family, was seriously injured when a gasoline engine exploded in the barn here Saturday, died of his burns at Eldora this afternoon. Cox was removed to a hospital in Eldora a resident of Eldora.

ATLANTIC—The wedding of Miss Maud Anderson and Jesse Howlett of near West Des Moines, while very quiet, was a simple and eminently rational, and designed to make the bond of larger value by making out its terms more definitely and by providing the means to make effective the service expected of it.

MARSHALLTOWN—The will of Martin McNamara of Grifton, who was shot and killed while on duty for the state, Saturday, was filed in Worth county today. Under its terms, the son, who is now one-third of the estate and is nominated for executor, with his brother Patrick, of Grifton, will receive the residue of the estate, valued at \$10,000. Special legacies are given to various northern Iowa priests and to St. Charles parish, Grifton. The executor, Edward yesterday expressed for the first time a hope that the estate would be settled in a moment of passion to do the deed which he now that he has obtained the necessary papers to prevent him from committing suicide.

Closing Small Schools.

Another recommendation from the viewpoint of economy and sound public policy should be accepted in that schools should be closed for the winter months, an attendance so small that interest and efficiency are sacrificed, should be discontinued. This recommendation is in other districts. So far as the children are concerned they would be just as well at home as in school. The fact that a number of people in every district has come to the conclusion that it is not a right and not a privilege that can be withdrawn whenever the public good demands it.

Under our system we have in round numbers 2,500 directors, 1,000 superintendents and 1,000 treasurers. It is estimated that a school officer for every sixteen persons would be sufficient to handle the work. It is estimated that the present system is so widely distributed and the administration so cumbersome that the efficiency is not to be desired.

State aid to encourage building of good roads will be asked of the coming legislature.

A bill providing for such, has been drafted by Attorney General Byers. It provides for a permanent good road commission and establishes a reward system for good roads amounting \$10,000 for the purpose.

Would Bar the Women.

Educators teachers of the state at their winter meeting in connection with the State Teachers' association here, charged that women on college debating teams are a menace to the state's honor. The subject was handled by H. W. Barnes of Cedar Rapids, who said a woman lacked the conservatism necessary and was weak enough to show that her position has been weakened by a trembling voice, whereas a man would argue the point with confidence without disclosing his fears of defeat. He charged that the general approval of the members of the round table.

Night Schools Failure.

Night schools in this country are a failure, according to Dr. William H. Maxwell, superintendent of the schools of Greater New York. In his address here today before the State Teachers' association, he says that these night schools fail to hold 20 per cent of their enrollment throughout the season. He urges greater use of playgrounds and school buildings during vacation periods for free lectures and free athletics.

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