

Council Bluffs

Minor Mention

The Council Bluffs Office of the Omaha Bee is at 15 Scott Street, Room 100.

When you want reliable and advertising, use the Bee.

Calendars and art novelties for New Year's gift. Alexander's, 331 Broadway.

Up-to-date Art Department and Picture Framing. Borwick, 21 South Main Street.

Wooding Undertaking Company, Tel. 129. Lewis Cutler, funeral director. Phone 12.

Repard piano tuning. Hoops, Phone 144.

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Council Bluffs

PROSPERITY YEAR'S KEYNOTE

Council Bluffs Enjoys Material Advancement in 1909.

BUILDING RECORD EXCELLENT

Real Estate Transfers Disclose Increase of Three Quarters of Million Over 1908—City Finances Are Good.

When the clock struck the hour of midnight Friday and the curtain was rung down on 1909 the business men and citizens generally of Council Bluffs could say as they looked back over the last twelve months that they had enjoyed a year of prosperity. The era of "boom" days for the middle west is a thing of the past, but the prosperity which Council Bluffs experienced during the last year and indications are that it will continue to enjoy during the year of 1910 is of a conservative character which tends to uphold a city and provide its citizens with the employment which the members of every community need.

Business generally was good and there was no lack of employment for the skilled tradesmen and the unskilled laborer, despite the fact that the amount of public work was less than usual. The wholesalers, like the retailers, enjoyed a remarkably good business and are looking forward to an equally prosperous period during 1910.

Some of the wholesalers report that the volume of business during 1909 was limited only by the help which could be secured to handle it.

Dan's Estimate.

E. W. Peterson, local manager of the mercantile agency of R. G. Dun & Co., makes the following report on the business record of Council Bluffs for 1909 and the prospects for the new year.

In making up the usual annual report of trade conditions in this section considerable inquiry has been made at the various business concerns in this vicinity and other points in southwestern Iowa. The general report is to the effect that all things considered, 1909 has been a fairly prosperous year, although the outlook is not so bright as in the past.

The last couple of months of the year have had some drawbacks in the way of labor no men had been in a good steady demand for money at good rates of interest, are favorable conditions which are gratifying to the business men.

Council Bluffs has had a very fair trade in the implement line, which is the largest of any in the section. The demand for twenty-five jobbing houses here who either manufacture or handle implements, but not so in the near future.

Other jobs. In other lines, also report a favorable year and in some instances have already been in the market for the demand, although working extra time to do so.

National Horticultural association, which has been in session here during this year and which was quite a success, has been instrumental in bringing the city before the public. Quite a good deal of building in the real estate section is local evidence of prosperity.

Splendid Building Record.

The building record in Council Bluffs for 1909 was an excellent one, especially along the line of private residences. Council Bluffs is essentially a city of homes and in every section many handsome residences were erected during the last year.

The erection of the Auditorium at the corner of Washington and Broadway streets, was completed during the year and thirty-seventh street was erected during the year at a cost of about \$25,000. Council Bluffs has become an active center for the automobile business and during the year just closed four large garages were erected on Fourth street and one on Pearl street.

One new, modern school house was erected during the year, that at the corner of Broadway and Oak street which cost approximately \$20,000.

New Y. M. C. A. Building.

The handsome home of the Young Men's Christian association at the corner of First and South Seventh streets, which cost \$60,000, inclusive of the ground and building, was completed during the year just ended. The house of worship of the first Christian church at the corner of Myrtle and Scott streets, which cost about \$10,000, was recently completed and dedicated with appropriate services. It is considered one of the handsomest structures of its kind in the city.

The magnificent new church of the Holy family, Catholic parish in the western part of the city was also completed during the last year. The congregation of the Epworth Methodist church in the western part of the city is erecting a new frame building at a cost of \$5,000. At the Christian home, where during the last few years several splendid buildings have been erected, replacing the old frame structures, a boiler and laundry house at a cost of \$10,000 was added.

The Clark implement company erected a new warehouse and office building at Fourth street and Main street at a cost of about \$10,000. Robert Brothers erected a new two-story brick business structure at 215-217 West Broadway at a cost of \$5,000. The handsome new Central fire station built partly over Indian creek, between Bryant and Main street and facing Washington avenue was erected during the last year at a cost of \$10,000.

Among the hand handsome homes erected

Council Bluffs

Real Estate Transfers

disclosure of an increase of more than \$1,000,000 over those of the preceding year. Following is a comparative statement of the real estate transfers for 1909 and 1908 as taken from the books of the county recorder:

1909. 1908.

January 179 \$29,485 291 \$21,579.24

February 206 298,206 209 494,231.78

March 208 1,808,181 246 1,808,181.00

April 222 471,430 204 258,021.71

May 192 200,456 179 249,964.10

June 223 253,248 203 253,248.00

July 183 354,200 140 234,839.81

August 134 151,944 120 119,099.89

September 166 236,065 160 247,730.21

October 173 250,231 173 250,230.00

November 149 226,251 159 247,277.00

December 174 312,091 171 248,794.89

Total 2,528 \$4,977,961 2,522 \$4,493,412.52

The following shows the number of transfers of real estate and total consideration involved for the last five years:

Total number of deeds for 1905, 2,130; amount, \$5,277,961.

Total number of deeds for 1906, 2,130; amount, \$3,222,046.06.

Total number of deeds for 1907, 2,131; amount, \$2,922,529.71.

Total number of deeds for 1908, 2,131; amount, \$4,449,412.52.

City Finances.

The close of 1909 finds the city's general finances in better shape than they have been for many years. So far as the current expenses of the various municipal departments are concerned the city has been on a cash basis for several years and the annual total disbursements for this purpose cannot exceed the sum appropriated for the year.

The commencement of the fiscal year of 1910 finds the bonded indebtedness of the city was reduced to \$15,000 and there will be \$30,000 in the municipal treasury to pay off \$20,000 more bonds when they fall due this year.

The city's finances are in excellent shape as shown by the following statement from City Auditor W. P. McManey:

The bonded and interest debt of the city already paid or provided for will equal \$1,000,000 for the fiscal year.

This with the bond and interest debt paid off in the three preceding years will equal \$1,000,000.

The saving of general fund income for the year of 1909 was \$150,000 over the expenditures, or an excess of \$150,000, and despite the heavy drains on the treasury for the relief of the city from the effects of the heavy rains, the saving for the present fiscal year will be close to \$150,000.

There are no judgments against the city and all outstanding warrants are called for and paid.

The city treasurer, Frank T. True, makes the following report relative to the bonded indebtedness of the city:

Bonds outstanding January 1, 1909: Regular \$150,000; Interest \$12,000; Total \$162,000.

Bonds mature during the year 1910, as follows: Regular \$13,000; Interest \$1,000; Total \$14,000.

There will be \$147,000 to meet the \$162,000 maturing in 1910, and when the same are paid our bonded indebtedness will be reduced to \$15,000.

While we have contended that the bonded indebtedness of the city is within the 5 per cent constitutional limit of indebtedness, beyond a question, for the first time in the history of the city, it has always been debatable if they were not.

Postoffice Business.

The business of the Council Bluffs postoffice for the year just ended shows an increase of something over \$7,000. During the year two additional carriers were appointed and two additional carriers. The force at the postoffice, in addition to Postmaster A. S. Heselton and Assistant Postmaster G. T. Phelps, consists of twenty clerks. There are twenty-two regular and three substitute carriers.

The following will show the business of the postoffice for 1908 and 1909:

1908. 1909.

First quarter \$12,250.30 \$14,445.14

Second quarter 11,158.58 12,282.91

Third quarter 11,158.58 12,282.91

Fourth quarter 11,158.58 12,282.91

Totals \$45,726.04 \$51,393.87

MONEY ORDER DIVISION.

Domestic orders issued, \$1,900; \$1,127.67

Fees on same, 1.12; \$1.12

International orders issued, 725; \$1,278.41

Fees on same, 1.28; \$1.28

Certificates issued to remitting offices of the fourth class, 4,500; \$3,235.28

Totals \$6,172.66 \$6,503.77

DISBURSEMENTS.

Domestic orders paid, \$22,824.34

International orders paid, 5,152.52

Certificates of deposit of surplus funds, 206,200.00

Balance, including transfer to postal account, 120,236.93

Totals \$249,313.79

Domestic orders issued, 1909, \$157,953.50

Fees on same, 157.95; \$158.45

International orders issued, 1,977; \$1,214.12

Fees on same, 1.98; \$1.98

Certificates issued to remitting offices of the fourth class, 4,578; \$3,490.41

Totals \$160,633.57

DISBURSEMENTS.

Domestic orders paid, \$22,824.34

International orders paid, 5,152.52

Certificates of deposit of surplus funds, 206,200.00

Balance, including transfer to postal account, 120,236.93

Totals \$249,313.79

Fire Loss.

Council Bluffs was particularly fortunate during the last year so far as the loss by fire is concerned. The total loss for the twelve months was but \$15,308, and this is even less than in 1908, which was only \$21,800, as against nearly \$290,000 for 1907. The fire department responded to 156 alarms, as against 174 during 1908.

Following is the number of alarms by month: January, 22; February, 19; March, 9; April, 12; May, 13; June, 9; July, 2; August, 3; September, 5; October, 14; November, 23; December, 12. Total, 146.

Work of Police Department.

The records of the police department show that Council Bluffs was particularly free during the year just ended from crime of a serious character. Of the 1,619 arrests made during the year 27 or nearly half were for drunkenness, while 256 were for disorderly conduct and 124 for vagrancy.

In 1908 the number of arrests was 2,467 or 54 more than in the year just ended. Stolen property to the value of \$25,942.91 was recovered by the police during the year.

This is considered a remarkably good showing. The following is a list of the property collected by the department during the year amounting to \$1,164.48. The following is a summary of the work of the police department for the twelve months of 1909:

Alarms responded to, 156

Arrests made during the year, 1,619

Accidents reported and investigated, 12

Buildings found open and owner called, 20

For fire, 12

Burglaries frustrated, 24

Contagious disease signs posted, 14

Council Bluffs

City Health Record.

The records of Dr. C. H. Bower, city health officer show that during the year just ended, Council Bluffs did not suffer from any epidemic of serious diseases and that it was comparatively free from sickness although a number of typhoid fever cases were reported during December. Up to the end of October, which is as far as the records of Dr. Bower in this respect are complete, there were five deaths from diphtheria, three from typhoid fever and fifteen from tuberculosis. During the year there were twenty-nine cases of smallpox, twenty-three cases of scarlet fever and sixteen cases of diphtheria, reported to the health officer. This record is, however, notably incomplete as many cases of contagious diseases are not reported by the attending physicians.

Following is a summary by the month of contagious diseases reported:

1909. 1908.

January, smallpox, 5; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 7

February, smallpox, 2; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 4

March, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

April, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

May, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

June, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

July, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

August, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

September, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

October, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

November, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

December, smallpox, 1; scarlet fever, 1; diphtheria, 1; total, 3

Total, 150, 182

Real Estate Transfers.

These transfers were reported to The Bee December 31 by the Pottawattamie County Abstract company of Council Bluffs:

Heirs of W. K. Seitzer, deceased, to H. C. Seitzer, lot 1, block 1, and lot 2, block 1, Swan block; lot 6 of subdiv. of lot 4, original plat; lot 1, block 1, 1st 1