

South Omaha's Fine Showing as Progressive Municipality



P. J. TRAINOR
MAYOR
SOUTH OMAHA

LEW ETTER
POSTMASTER

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CITY TREASURER



SOUTH OMAHA HIGH SCHOOL

SOUTH OMAHA, the "Magic City," has been forging ahead strongly, in recent years, in other lines than meat packing. This fact was strongly emphasized by Mayor Trainor, in talking of the growth and progress of his city. It is borne out by the superintendent of the South Omaha schools, N. M. Graham.

"Surprise, and even doubt, will fill the mind of the inquiring non-resident," said Prof. Graham, "when he is presented with the facts concerning the school system here. Even some of our local people are astonished when they learn that 7,511 children of school age are on the census roll, while the annual enrollment averages very close to 5,000."

Counting principals and supervisors, 165 teachers are on the educational staff of the busy little city. The high school is one of the finest buildings of its size in the whole country, a delight to all visitors. One of the very first buildings in South Omaha in which public money was invested was the Central building, erected in 1887, shortly after South Omaha had taken its place on the map as a municipality. The newest ward school, called the Franklin, was finished and occupied last year. The sixteen grade school buildings testify, by their number, that the matter of education is always foremost in the thoughts of the citizens. Rooms in these buildings reach the total of 134, and they are all occupied. The curriculum compares favorably with that of any other city in the land, and thirteen years are contemplated as the school course, from kindergarten to graduation from the high school.

South Omaha Alumni Widely Scattered.

The graduates from the high school of South Omaha are admitted without question to the colleges and universities of the North Central Association of Colleges and secondary schools. Graduates who call the South Omaha High their alma mater are scattered all over the globe, and measure up with the men and women turned out by any public school system in the land. In the alumni ranks is a paymaster in the United States navy, lawyers, doctors, teachers, ministers, electricians, poets, cartoonists, journalists, civil engineers and business men. In the University of Nebraska is always to be found a strong delegation from the South Omaha schools, taking front rank in all activities. The present manager of the Daily Nebraskan, the university paper, is from South Omaha, as was his immediate predecessor; and the recently elected editor of the Cornhusker is also a South Omaha alumnus. In the list of pupils at present are a number from the surrounding country paying tuition, and a good many come from a distance to take the course offered in the Magic City schools.

Modern in equipment and methods, the schools under the care of Superintendent Graham are a source of pride to every citizen. In them industrial training is a characteristic of the work throughout the entire course. Free hand cutting, clay modeling, weaving, paper folding, basketry, wood carving, drawing and bench work, are the dominant lines of manual work, and a large proportion of the pupils exhibit a fine degree of aptitude and cleverness. All this is, of course, subsidiary to the general course in the fundamentals of a well-rounded modern education. A standard of work that makes for efficiency in active life, after school days are over, and a standard of scholarship that ranks second to none is carefully maintained and upheld.

Public Improvements Pushed Through.

While quite youthful, as cities go, even in the west, dating back a trifle over a quarter of a century, South Omaha has constructed for itself, to May 1, 1911, public improvements to the amount of almost \$2,500,000, in round numbers.

It took some time to get the municipal finances in shape to proceed with the public works, but after the quick building of the earlier city that gave it the title, "Magic City," the people settled down to serious consideration of the permanent things needed to minister to their comfort and happiness.

At the present time South Omaha has thirty-five miles of well graded streets, costing \$479,982. It has eighteen miles of paved streets, which cost \$957,000; 13,200 linear feet of sewers, to cost \$72,500; 192,500 cubic yards of grading, to cost \$42,000; 10,000 linear feet of sidewalk, to cost \$5,300; showing an estimated grand total of new work representing \$502,300, to be done during the season of 1911. This new work, when connected up with that already done, will put South Omaha in most excellent shape to make comparison with municipalities of its class anywhere.



SOUTH OMAHA POST OFFICE

814. Storm and sanitary sewers already built total seventeen miles, and cost \$312,534. Brick and cement sidewalks have been laid over fifty miles of property front, at a cost of \$130,000.

Because of its peculiar topographical features, South Omaha was compelled to face large expenditures for viaducts, bridges and culverts. Of large viaducts there are five, with an even dozen pile bridges to supplement them, and a half a dozen more or less costly culverts. The investment in these structures is \$520,000.

"We are not near through with necessary public improvements yet," says City Engineer George W. Roberts, which can well be believed from the following synopsis of such work now under contract, to be done this year: About 165,200 square yards of paving and 85,400 linear feet of curbing, to cost \$382,500; 13,200 linear feet of sewers, to cost \$72,500; 192,500 cubic yards of grading, to cost \$42,000; 10,000 linear feet of sidewalk, to cost \$5,300; showing an estimated grand total of new work representing \$502,300, to be done during the season of 1911. This new work, when connected up with that already done, will put South Omaha in most excellent shape to make comparison with municipalities of its class anywhere.

Work Done Last Year.

As an indication of the quality of work being done under the supervision of Engineer Roberts, the following summary of last season's paving, curbing and guttering will be interesting: Of class A asphaltic concrete 38,173 square yards were laid, at a maximum price of \$1.90 and a minimum of \$1.84 a square yard. Of class B, sheet asphalt, 20,219 square

yards were put down, at the flat rate of \$1.85 per square yard. Cressed wood block pavement was used to the extent of 14,742 square yards, costing \$2.60 a yard. Purinton brick block was used to the amount of 13,461 square yards, at \$1.93 per yard, and 12,065 square yards of the same make of block at \$1.91 a yard. Of class A, straight curb, 21,237 linear feet was placed, costing a maximum of 60 cents and a minimum of 44 cents a foot. Combination stone curb and gutter was placed to the amount of 32,659 linear feet, with a maximum cost of 65 cents and a minimum cost of 61 cents a foot.

During the season of 1910 City Engineer Roberts supervised public work to the amount of \$332,028, under the following heads:

Five and one-tenth miles of pavements, comprising 93,332 square yards of paving, 51,898 linear feet



SCENE AT 24th AND N STS.



SOUTH OMAHA CITY HALL

of curbing and all appurtenances; cost of \$229,375.47. One and nine-tenths miles of sewers, comprising various sizes, storm and sanitary sewers, manholes, catch basins and all appurtenances; cost of \$76,358.29.

One and nine-tenths miles of grading, comprising 111,388 cubic yards; cost of \$19,598.69.

One and eight-tenths miles of sidewalks, of concrete and brick construction; cost of \$5,614.06.

Repairs of streets and bridges; cost of \$1,171.75. Forty-eight sewer connection permits, thirty-four sidewalk construction permits and 178 water installation permits, were issued and work constructed in compliance with city ordinances.

Grades were established on six miles of streets. The quick building of the earlier city that gave it the

City Real Estate Sells Well.

Three new additions, comprising 110 lots, were recorded in 1910, and South Omaha real estate dealers never find time hanging idle on their hands these days. The new additions platted and put on the market in the last few years have, been largely sold to home builders. Many of the new residences are quite pretentious, and in South Omaha are to be seen some most attractive street vistas in the better residence sections, with trees in plenty, well kept lawns, generous expanses of flower beds, everything that goes to add beauty to the permanent home.

Postmaster Lew Etter is in charge of an office that last year transacted business for Uncle Sam to the amount of \$180,000, and that is showing a steady and most healthy growth from year to year. The postoffice is located in a very fine building erected by the government, and carriers deliver the mails.

Municipal Buildings and Parks.

South Omaha's city hall and police station, erected three years ago, are substantial structures of very creditable appearance, representing a cost of \$50,000. The city hall is presided over by Mayor P. J. Trainor, who has so won the good will of his neighbors that he is never defeated for what he seeks in the way of political office. He was county commissioner for the South Omaha district two terms before being chosen mayor, and filled with eminent satisfaction to the electorate other local positions of trust before that.

The city clerk, Frank H. Good, and the city treasurer, John J. Gillen, are both products of the Magic City, and are making good in the important offices entrusted to their care. In George H. Roberts the city has a competent and businesslike engineer.

Six parks are owned and being developed. At the present time Syndicate park is the only one in finished condition. The parks are valued at \$120,000. The fire department is headed by Chief J. F. McKale. He has under his direction a force of sixteen officers and men, stationed in three fire houses, costing \$85,000 with apparatus. Two new houses will be equipped and manned this year. The department has some very important interests to protect from the red fiend, even though its work is complemented by small fire fighting forces maintained by the packing companies at their different plants.

In its banking facilities South Omaha has come to the point where its local banks are quite adequate to handle all the ordinary business of its varied interests in quick and satisfactory shape. They have ample capital, are well officered and respond readily to every legitimate demand.

While the packing plants are still the backbone of the business prosperity of South Omaha, it is true that in recent years men in other lines of manufacture have found a good and promising field there for their products and eligible locations for their plants.

Nebraska's Busy Editors Will Meet in Omaha This Week

(Continued from Page One.)

auditorium, South Omaha, and at the Hotel Rome assembly room. Official headquarters are to be located at the Hotel Loyal, where all members and those accompanying them will register. The business program is planned to cover most of the important subjects with which editors and printers have to contend. Reports that will engage the close attention of the members are to be made on "Cost Systems" by H. L. Tostevin and C. E. Corey of the Omaha Bee Franklin club; and on "Price Lists" by H. G. Taylor of the Central City Nonpareil, chairman of a special investigating committee. Two addresses on the set program that are looked forward to with a good deal of interest will be made by C. C. Rosewater, business manager of The Bee, on "Advertising Strength of the Small Papers," and by Courtland Smith, general manager of the American Press association, on "Advertising." A dozen or more of the brightest editors in the state are also on the program for talks on the business and ethical aspects of country newspaper publishing. A question box is to be conducted by Penn P. Fodrea of the Omaha Trade Exhibit, and A. W. Ladd of the Albin News will have charge of a round table discussion.

For the opening session, at Masonic temple at 10 o'clock Monday morning, the following program has been arranged:

Invocation—Rev. T. J. Mackay, rector of All Saints' church and editor of Church and Home.

Welcome to the city of Omaha by Mayor James C. Dahlgren.

Welcome on behalf of the newspaper men of Omaha, Rodger Craven, telegraph editor of the World-Herald.

Welcome on behalf of the Commercial club of

Omaha by G. E. Haverstick, chairman of the executive committee.

Response for the Nebraska Press association, A. B. Wood of the Gering Courier, president.

T. W. McCullough of The Bee will make the farewell address Wednesday afternoon at Hotel Rome and the Omaha Ad club will have charge of the evening meeting Wednesday at the same place, when Courtland Smith will deliver his address.

Commercial Club "Receivers."

That the Omaha Commercial club is fully alive to the need of a strong committee to receive the visitors and see that they are kept reasonably busy and properly entertained is indicated by the selection of the following named men as a reception committee, to be continually on the job:

Colonel T. W. McCullough, chairman; H. Hugo Brandeis, Dr. W. M. Davidson, H. E. Newbranch, J. M. Gullid, Mel Uhl, Irvin A. Medlar, Victor Rosewater, Rome Miller, W. R. Watson, C. C. Rosewater, Isaac Carpenter, Harry Dorley, George Gillispie, Mel Uhl, Jr., Thomas A. Fry, Sam Potter, W. H. Bucholz, Clement Chase, Alfred Sorenson, F. J. Taggart, Ralph Kitchen, E. Buckingham, Frank Koop, P. P. Podrea, G. E. Haverstick, T. J. O'Brien, Roy N. Gale, Henry R. Gering, A. J. Beaton, E. T. Swobe, T. L. Davis, J. O. Goodwin, Luther Drake, W. E. Shepherd, Robert Manley, F. W. Harwood, John L. Kennedy, Roy T. Byrne, G. W. Clabaugh, DeForest Richards, John C. Drexel, A. W. Jefferts, W. H. Rhodes, G. W. Wattles, C. R. Sherman, Albert Edholm, Robert Smith, George West, H. S. Waller, L. W. Wakeley, F. T. B. Martin, S. F. Miller, J. J. Deight, Harry Kelly, Victor White, W. D. Hosford, Will A. Campbell and F. I. Ellick.

Features of Entertainment.

The entertaining will begin with a luncheon for the

editors Monday noon at the Henshaw, given by the Daily News. At the same hour the visiting women will be the guests of the American Press association in the main dining room at Hotel Loyal. Rest will be allowed and a chance given for the first business session Monday afternoon. Things will warm up Monday evening, no matter what the state of the weather, when there will be a special initiation for the editors by the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben at the Coliseum and a theater party for the visiting women, given by the World-Herald.

Tuesday morning, June 6, the women will devote to a shopping tour through Omaha's big stores.

Tuesday noon dinner for the entire party will be served at the Exchange hotel, South Omaha, given by the Union Stock Yards company, the South Omaha Live Stock exchange and South Omaha Commercial club.

Tuesday evening an automobile ride is to be given by the Commercial club of Omaha, leaving the Hotel Loyal at 5:30 p. m. In the evening occurs the dinner given by the Commercial club of Omaha. Automobiles will take guests to this dinner.

Wednesday morning a trip has been planned for visiting women through the Omaha museum, public library and the Lininger Art gallery, leaving Hotel Loyal at 9 a. m.

Wednesday noon, dinner for editors and visiting women, given by the printing material houses of Omaha at the Hotel Rome.

Wednesday evening a buffet supper for entire party will be given by The Omaha Daily Bee at the Hotel Rome. This will be followed by a smoker and special program given by the Omaha Ad club at the Hotel Rome.