

# Social and Political Activities

## OMAHA POSTOFFICE SHOWS BIG GAINS

Increase Taken to Indicate a General Condition of Prosperity in This Section.

### RECEIPTS SHOW AN INCREASE

Parcel Post Business Has Doubled During the Last Year and the Money Order Division Alone Shows a Loss.

Big gains in practically all departments of the Omaha postoffice during the year just closed are shown by a report of the year's business prepared by Postmaster John C. Wharton. Stamp sales and other postal receipts totalling \$1,201,044.60, an increase of over \$65,000, and a total parcel post business of 1,314,000 packages during the year, are the most notable features of the report.

Every month in the last year showed an average gain of about \$5,000 in stamp sales and postal receipts over the corresponding months of the previous year. "As many other first class postoffices have marked time or even fallen behind previous records during the year just closed," says Postmaster Wharton, "Omaha should be especially proud of its postoffice record."

### Money Goes to Denver.

Explaining the slight decrease in the total business of the money order division of the postoffice, the postmaster points out that since April 1, the money order office at Rock Springs, Wyo., has sent its remittances to the Denver instead of the Omaha postoffice. This transfer alone has cut about \$75,000 per month from the remittances received here, or \$750,000 since April 1. The latter sum would have much more than wiped out the decrease in total money order business for the year.

The registry division decrease is accounted for by the growth of the parcel post system, many packages now being sent by insured parcel post, where formerly they were sent by registered mail.

Total figures for the parcel post business in 1914 are not available for comparison with those of the year just closed, but Superintendent of Mails Metland estimates that the increase for the last year has been about 100 per cent, a wonderful gain that indicates the popularity of the parcel post system.

### Gain in Receipts.

Following is the detailed statement of the business of the Omaha postoffice in 1914, as compared with that of 1913:

Sale of stamps and postal receipts for 1914	\$1,201,044.60	
Sale of stamps and postal receipts for 1913	1,135,368.39	
Increase	\$65,676.21	
Salaries paid rural letter carriers of Nebraska, 1914	\$1,227,355.40	
Salaries paid rural letter carriers of Nebraska, 1913	1,188,298.33	
Increase	\$39,057.07	
Salaries paid railway mail clerks in 1914	\$473,322.03	
Salaries paid railway mail clerks in 1913	498,310.12	
Decrease	\$24,988.09	
Salaries paid local employees in 1914	\$470,306.94	
Salaries paid local employees in 1913	429,715.34	
Increase	\$40,591.60	
Number of packages dispatched during 1914	1,314,000	
Number of packages received during 1914	630,000	
Total	\$1,844,000.00	
Insured Parcel Post, 1914	34,912	
Number of pieces accepted	34,912	
Total declared value	\$23,133.24	
Number of insured parcels delivered	41,883	
Collect on Delivery Parcel Post Mail, 1914	28,710	
Amount to be collected on above	\$38,723.79	
Parcels delivered	1,314,000	
Amount remitted by money orders to senders of above	\$30,278.45	
Year 1914	Number	Amount
Orders issued	1,218,789	\$1,313,748.29
Orders paid	418,732	\$473,322.03
Remittances received	6,324	\$2,549,662.32
Total	1,643,845	\$4,136,732.61
Year 1913	Number	Amount
Orders issued	1,144,444	\$1,296,519.62
Orders paid	444,444	\$505,333.33
Remittances received	38,888	\$1,549,662.32
Total	1,627,776	\$3,351,515.27
Decrease for 1914		\$785,217.34

## Internal Revenue Receipts in Excess, Due to the War Tax

United States internal revenue collections in Nebraska during the last year show an increase of \$1,568,100 over the year 1913. However, the collections in 1914 include \$146,000 of revenue paid into the government as a result of the emergency tax levied to make up for the loss of customs revenue since the war began.

Therefore, if it had not been for the special war taxes, the year's internal revenue in Nebraska would have been over \$100,000 less than in 1913. Although detailed statistics are not given out by the revenue service, it is known that the collections from the manufacture of whisky and beer in the state have been less during 1914 than formerly. Even with the large revenue from the income tax, the loss from liquor revenue has not been made up, except through the emergency war taxes.

Emergency stamps, required since December 1 on certain proprietary articles and documents, have netted \$88,000. Wine stamps, required since October 22, brought in \$12,000. About \$45,000 was also collected under the emergency act as special taxes on various businesses. The grand total of all internal revenue collections in the state during 1914 was \$2,748,000, according to Acting Collector E. W. North's figures. In 1913 the collections were \$2,181,900.

## FIRE WARDEN SAYS SOME FIRES WERE SUSPICIOUS

City Fire Warden Ed Morris reports that during the year 1914 out of 300 inspections he made several were of fires of suspicious origin and twenty-four were of incendiary nature. Three complaints were filed and one conviction was secured by the fire warden for incendiary.

## Eight Hundred Are Employed at Omaha Federal Building

The federal building occupies a whole block and cost a little over \$1,000,000. The various departments of the government represented in the building are: Collector of customs, headquarters railway mail service, fourth district collector of internal revenue, revenue agent, secret service, United States marshal, court rooms, judges' chambers, United States district attorney, special attorney department of justice, United States commissioner, bureau of investigation department of justice, clerk of the United States court, jury rooms, grand jury room, civil service, boiler inspector, pension examiner, navy recruiting station, mechanical inspector, treasury department and the postoffice. There are in the neighborhood of 800 men and women employed in the building, and more than double that number of employees reporting to the building occasionally, connected with the railway mail service and the Postoffice department.

There are thirty-seven people on the custodian force and the payroll for the care of the building, including engineering department, watchmen, elevator conductors, laborers and chain women, amounts to about \$25,000 per year. The expenditures during the year for the above items have been approximately as follows: Changing the electric lighting system, \$1,212; outside lights, \$1,011; furniture, which includes new mahogany benches for the court room, \$5,000; painting, \$2,125; screens, \$770; new doors etc. for main entrances, \$1,800; air washer, \$4,334; new urinals, \$280; repairs to porch roof, \$327; additional room for milk, general delivery and superintendent of mail offices, \$2,200; elevator and boiler repairs, \$1,200; pipe cutter, motor recorder, etc. for engineering department, \$221.

The federal building is administered by the supervising architect of the Treasury department at Washington and is in charge of Cadet Taylor, custodian.

## Tariff and War Hits the Customs Receipts a Blow

Imports from foreign countries to the district of Omaha, comprising the states of Nebraska and Wyoming and a small part of Iowa, fell off about \$60,000 in value during the year 1914. During the same time the duties collected were \$97,167, whereas in 1913 they amounted to \$26,710, making a decrease in customs revenue of \$138,534.

The loss in value of imports is due to the European war, which during the last five months has seriously crippled all foreign trade. Collector of Customs Cadet Taylor says. The large reduction in actual duties collected is largely attributable to the new democratic tariff, he declares. It was in force throughout the entire year 1914, but the old republican tariff prevailed for nearly nine months of 1913.

The value of imports during 1913 was as follows: Free, \$116,791; dutiable, \$140,294; total, \$257,085. For the calendar year 1914 the value of imports was: Free, \$324,115; dutiable, \$450,044; total, \$774,159.

Under the old tariff the ratio of free and dutiable was about seven to one in favor of the dutiable, and under the new tariff it stands only four to three in favor of the dutiable. In other words, there passed through the customs house three times the amount of free goods, and a little over half the amount of dutiable goods in 1914 as compared to 1913. The falling off in the total value of imports for this year as compared with last is only 7 per cent.

This Omaha office handled nearly 15,000 postal union mail packages from all over the world during the fiscal year ending June 30, but the European war made it impossible for the people residing on the other side to send the usual number of presents during Christmas season of 1914 to their friends in Nebraska. The result has been a big falling off in this class of business. The same conditions exist with reference to the shipments of general merchandise. There has been a very heavy reduction in all classes of goods coming in, but December showed improvement, and it is believed that from now on the business will continue to increase.

## Postal Savings Business Grows

Substantial increases in the number of accounts and amount of deposits in the local postal savings bank are reported in the year-end statement of the bank's business. Clara Southard is cashier. The bank is under the direction of Postmaster John C. Wharton, and occupies a room on the main floor of the federal building. Its comparative statement of business is as follows:

Number of accounts Dec. 1914	1,300
Number of accounts Dec. 1913	1,200
Balance to the credit of depositors December 1914	\$1,429,013
Balance to the credit of depositors December 1913	\$1,212,400

## CRIMINAL COURT RECORDS FOR TWO YEARS COMPARED

Records of criminal business in the office of County Attorney Magney show 184 convictions and fifteen acquittals in 1914 as compared with 119 convictions and eighteen acquittals in 1913. Forty-eight cases were dismissed for want of evidence in 1914; in 1913 there were forty-five.

Following are the records for the two years:	
Convictions	1914 1913
Homicide	3 3
Breaking and entering	4 4
Grand larceny	20 19
Robbery	19 19
Miscellaneous	12 12
Forgery	1 1
Miscellaneous	1 1
Totals	118 119
Acquittals	1914 1913
Homicide	1 1
Breaking and entering	1 1
Robbery	1 1
Miscellaneous	1 1
Forgery	1 1
Miscellaneous	1 1
Totals	15 18

## HOWELL SAVES WATER IS GOOD

Tells in His Annual Report of Expenditures of Half a Million.

### NEW MACHINERY IS INSTALLED

Reserve Supply of Water on Hand for Cases of Emergency Has Practically Been Doubled by Addition to Walnut Hill Station.

General Manager R. B. Howell of the Metropolitan Water district, in a summary of the work done by the Water board in 1914, says: "During the last year the Metropolitan Water district has completed more new construction than during any equal period since public ownership of the water plant was initiated. "At the Florence pumping station the steam plant has been thoroughly modernized by the addition of boilers, installation of stackers, coal bunkers, steam flow meters and the completion of ash tunnel and pit, at a cost of \$36,163. "The pollution of the river water supply due to Mill creek has been obviated by the completion of a dam in the creek and a cutoff sewer emptying the normal creek flow into the river below the intake, at a cost of \$30,817.

### Concrete Intake Wells.

"Permanent concrete intake wells, necessary buildings, etc. river protection and addition section have been installed at a cost of \$40,225. "The pumping plant has been supplemented by a 30,000-gallon cross-connection pump, discharge and gullion-connection main, venturi meters and other improvements at a cost of \$25,355. "The pumping plant has also been supplemented by a circulation system operated by an electric plant which also furnishes electric lighting throughout the grounds, with the result that there is a saving of from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 gallons of finished water per day. This improvement involves an expenditure of \$21,497. "At the settling basin, improved mixing weirs of high efficiency have been installed, and the excavation of a new basin completed, also a cross-connection pipe line installed between the thirty-six-inch and thirty-eight-inch delivery mains, involving construction to the amount of \$11,213.

### New Pump Installed.

At the Poppleton avenue station, supplying the elevated portions of the city, new boilers and an additional 12,000-gallon pump have been installed at a cost of \$41,708.

The reserve supply of water on hand in times of emergency has been practically doubled at Walnut Hill by the construction of a third reservoir at a cost of \$48,973.

In addition to all these improvements, the distribution system of the water works has been extended during the year by the installation of practically twenty-three miles of pipe lines, and the fire service improved by the addition of 211 fire hydrants, making the total number of additional fire hydrants installed in two and one-half years 602. The twenty-three miles of pipe lines added to the distribution involved the expenditure of \$171,548.

### Spends Half a Million.

A summation of all these improvements completed during 1914 in new construction indicates a total expenditure of \$482,973.

The character of water supply afforded has been further improved by careful attention to sedimentation and sterilization, with the result that at the present time the water is practically clear, with the bacteria averaging below 20. These results are very satisfactory when it is remembered that the European standard is 100 bacteria per c. c. The test for coliform bacilli has been almost uniformly negative, so far as finished water is concerned, and as a consequence typhoid fever in Omaha has been at a minimum, while some of our neighbors have been fighting almost an epidemic of this character.

During the year the number of services will have increased approximately 1,421, making a total number of services supplied approximately 28,660. "In the matter of rate reduction, one increasing the discount from the former maximum rate charge by the Omaha Water company from 20 to 25 per cent, became effective respecting bills for water used in January and thereafter. In July there was another reduction made of 5 per cent of the net amount of bills provided the same was paid within ten days of the date of bill.

## U. S. Marshal Has Charge of Large Sums to Disburse

A surprise for those unacquainted with the work of the United States marshal's office is contained in figures of the last year's business, prepared by Marshall William F. Warner and Chief Deputy James B. Nickerson. Both the total amount of money disbursed and the number of prisoners handled during the year show the extent and importance of the office for the district of Nebraska. "For all purposes, \$67,000 was disbursed by Marshal Warner during 1914. Much of the amount was incident to federal trials, and included fees of many jurors and witnesses. The care and subsistence of prisoners alone cost \$4,856.30. "The number of prisoners handled during the year totaled 294. Of these, 224 were committed to county jails in the state, having sentences of less than a year and a day to serve. The other ten prisoners were committed to the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kan.

## COUNTY ATTORNEY WINS SOME BIG CIVIL CASES

In addition to the criminal cases handled by the office of the county attorney, fifty civil cases in which the county of Douglas was involved were started, and among the most important disposed of was the case involving the right of the sheriff of this county to collect 50 cents per day for feeding prisoners, which was decided against the sheriff and in favor of the county, thereby saving the county about \$20,000 per annum. "The case of Douglas county against Frank Broadwell, former district clerk, was decided in the supreme court in favor of the county. In this case a judgment of a little over \$100,000 in damages was recovered against the sheriff on his bond.

## MANY TREES ARE PLANTED

Commissioner Hummel Reports on the Work He Has Done.

### SUPERVISES THE SUPERVISORS

Improvements Parks Have Been Installed to Make Parks Better Playgrounds for Children of Omaha.

City Commissioner J. B. Hummel of the department of parks and public property spent the year, among other things, in planting trees, improving the boulevards, installing play devices in the parks and providing for superintendence of play in the parks. "A partial summary of the work of this department follows: "Thirty-four free band concerts in the parks. "Permanent playgrounds in all city parks, carefully supervised. The average daily attendance was 2,600. "A bathing pavilion at Carter lake. "Repairing and ciling of all boulevards. "Planting trees along all boulevards. "Sidewalks, paving and guttering in parks. "Important additions to Hanescom park greenhouses. "Comfort stations in the parks. "Commissioner Hummel, during the year when the play devices in the parks were used by many children, himself supervised the supervisors of play. Every night he visited as many parks as possible and saw that the children were given every opportunity to enjoy the play facilities. "Ornamental flower beds were set out in Hanescom park and flowers were taken from Hanescom park to other parks and planted. "On the small amount of money at his disposal Commissioner Hummel made a showing that caused Dr. C. A. Stinson, field secretary for the Playground and Recreation Association of America, to remark: "This department has done as much on \$20,000 as some cities have on twice as much money. The work is good and more money should be provided to carry it forward."

### Large Number of Civil Suits Are Filed During Year

Civil suits filed in district court during 1914 numbered 2,438, according to a comprehensive tabulation prepared for A. S. Steere, Jr., deputy in the office of the district court. The statement follows:

Divorce	631
Appeal, county court	97
Appeal, justice court	262
Appeal, city court	15
Appeal, county commissioners	15
Mandamus	20
Admiralty	1
Contract	27
Foreclosure	212
Partnership, miscellaneous	12
Ships	64
Injunction	25
Accounting	25
Partnership	90
Insurance	11
Equity relief	11
Alienation of affections	1
Breach of promise	1
Malpractice	1
Adjudgment of lunacy	1
Specific performance	1
Fraud	1
Replevin	1
Separate maintenance	1
Adoption	1
Levy	1
Execution	1
Deceit	1
Decrease of divorce granted	396
Number of civil verdicts rendered	221
Way of pleading	139
Verdict of defendant	62
Number of judgments rendered	336
(Amounting to \$4,285,928.41)	

## Overhead Wires Are To Be Changed to Underground

City Electrician M. J. Curran in his annual report says the electric lighting company and the telephone company are planning to remove overhead wires from the streets in the fire limits. He says these companies have cooperated with him in securing removal of poles from streets.

"The electric lighting company last year removed many overhead wires and cables from underground. The telephone company is planning to put the wires under ground in the fire limits. "The street railway company is also helping toward making the city more beautiful."

Fees collected by the electrician amounted to \$7,428.97, which paid the expenses of running his office and left a balance of \$567. "The work done by this department is reported as follows: "Wiring permits issued, 2,710; permits to connect, 3,669; telephone calls answered, 15,000; inspections, 3,300, including forty-six theaters and moving picture houses; lights connected, 54,000.

## Enlistments in Navy Show a Falling Off

Fewer men enlisted in the Omaha district for service in the United States navy during 1914 than in 1913. This is largely accounted for by the suspension of enlistments last May, when no more men were needed for a while, and the lack of publicity when enlistments were resumed later. Stricter physical requirements also account for the decrease in enlistments.

Figures prepared by Chief Petty Officer High of the local navy recruiting station show the enlistments to have been 108 in 1914, out of 793 applicants. The year before they numbered 211 out of 1,333 applicants.

## ARMY ENLISTMENTS HAVE INCREASED DURING YEAR

Enlistments in the United States army at the Omaha Recruiting station and its sub-stations numbered 180 more in 1914 than during the previous year, according to figures given out by Recruiting Sergeant Fred M. Hansen. The increase is partly accounted for by the Mexican trouble and the European war.

This table shows the enlistments during the two years at the four offices:		
Station	1914	1913
Omaha	249	321
Lincoln	22	32
St. Joseph	17	25
Des Moines	40	116
Totals	328	534

## MORE BOOKS ARE BEING READ

Omaha Public Library Shows Increase in All Departments.

### LARGEST IN DEPOSIT STATIONS

Legislature Is to Be Asked to Provide More Money to Extend the Work and to Make Needed Improvements.

Handsome increases in the work of the public library during the last year are shown by statistics prepared by Miss Edith Toltel, the librarian. "Because of the increased patronage at the institution, and because it has now reached its maximum usefulness with the small fund available and numerous extensions and improvements are needed to take care of the city's bigger population, the state legislature this winter will be asked to authorize an increased appropriation by the city commission hereafter. "The biggest increase in library work is shown by the deposit stations, of which there are now thirteen. Following are Miss Toltel's figures:

Circulation—	1914	1913
Main library, adults	154,405	200,023
Main library, children	10,829	71,297
Deposit stations	21,290	16,958
School stations	19,821	16,411
Totals	206,344	294,691
Increase in 1914	78,119	
Registered borrowers	20,313	22,600
Increases 1914	2,259	
Books in foreign languages issued	12,326	
Reading room visitors, 1914	51,529	508
Increase over 1913	50,225	
Reference room visitors	908	
Increase over 1913	908	
Children's room visitors, Sunday	1,144	
Books added, purchase and gift, 1914	12,619	
Increase over 1913	6,277	
Books bound in library bindery	5,741	
Increase over 1913	7,714	
Increase over 1913	965	

## Chief Dunn Makes Report on Arrests During Last Year

Chief of Police H. W. Dunn reports the arrest of 12,565 persons in Omaha during the year 1914. The police cared for 10,574 lodgers. There were 408 accidents.

Accidents reported	408
Alcoholics arrested	11,252
Assaults	27
Buildings secured, being found open	401
Arrest of sentenced prisoners	12,565
Dead bodies reported and taken to morgue	101
Destitute persons cared for	184
Arrest of persons in custody	41
Insane persons cared for	41
Lodgers accommodated	10,574
Arrest of persons in custody	9
Lost children taken to station	9
Murders	9
Number of calls for patrol wagon	7,433
Number of miles traveled by patrol wagon	11,586
Number of calls furnished prisoners, etc.	20,829
Persons taken to county jail	2,208
Sick and injured taken home	2,208
Sick and injured taken to hospital	2,208
Arrest of persons in custody	141
Sick and injured taken to station and cared for	141
Shooting affrays	24
Stabbing or cutting affrays	24
Persons arrested	12,565
Stabbing or cutting affrays	24
Suicides attempted	42
Suicides attempted	42
Turned over to juvenile officers	119

## Douglas County Has Paid Out \$27,929 Children Pension

Children's pensions to the amount of \$27,929 have been allowed in juvenile court since the pension law went into effect July 1, 1913, and have been paid by Douglas county. A report of juvenile court business follows:

Total number juvenile cases filed, January 1 to Dec. 31, 1914	1,178
Total number cases filed under dependent children's act, mother's pension, July 1, 1913, to December 31, 1914	128
Total number of cases allowed, 182	
Total amount allowed, \$27,929	

## Births and Deaths Both Show Increase

Births in the city of Omaha in 1914 numbered 2,225, as against 2,109 in 1913, according to the report of the city vital statistician. The deaths were 1,525, against 1,761 in 1913. There were 1,463 boys and 1,362 girls born.

## COUNTY COURT HANDLES MANY CASES DURING YEAR

The following comparative statement of business transacted in county court during three years has been prepared by Clerk Clyde Sundblatt:

Station	1912	1913	1914
Estates probated	440	440	50
Adoption proceedings	172	172	172
County court cases	105	445	43
Justice cases	612	345	251

## Graff Tells of New Things in Public Schools of Omaha

Superintendent E. U. Graff of the public schools summarizes some of the things accomplished during the last year, as follows.

Purchase of two portable school houses for Central and Clifton Hill schools to relieve congestion. The houses were found to be satisfactory. "Installation of a course in sewing in the Omaha High school and the employment of a Chicago expert to teach the work. Teaching of German in the public schools, with 1,200 pupils have enrolled in the work. One class in the Bohemian language has also been organized. "Established manual training departments in Sherman and Train schools. "Increased facilities at Ford school and the Omaha High school where attendance greatly increased. "Superintendent Graff said: "Along with these improvements the schools have become more and more efficient through the co-operation and earnest endeavors of the teaching staff. "During the year just closed the schools were used for neighborhood meetings and improved club meetings more widely than before.

## Y. W. C. A. Reports Good Gains During Each 1914 Month

The Young Women's Christian association reports that while no new features were inaugurated during 1914, the association has recorded substantial advances in all departments. The membership especially shows gains, each month's report being larger than the reports of the corresponding months in 1913. "The membership up to December 1 was 1,115, while the membership for 1913 was but 848. The highest rates were registered in the physical department, although the educational department also enjoyed a healthy growth. The number enrolled in physical and educational classes in 1914 was 1,492, about 500 more than in 1913. "Approximately 1,000 persons a day were served during 1914 in the association's lunch room.

A special department for girls under the association was created and a special secretary appointed. In addition to the gymnastic classes, club classes which include gymnastics, sewing and cooking, were formed. "Under the extension secretary a number of classes were taught in churches, factories, business colleges and other centers where groups of young women are to be found. "The gymnastic carnival held last spring made it possible for the employment of an assistant in the gymnasium since September, thus greatly increasing the efficiency of that branch. "Other regular interests of the association, including the employment bureau, boarding house directory, travelers' aid, social, religious and general, were carried on more extensively than ever before.

## Register of Deeds Makes Money for Douglas County

Substantial increase in business and in net proceeds to Douglas county over 1913 is the outstanding feature of the report of Frank Handie, register of deeds. The report follows: