THE BEE: OMAHA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 1916.

Advance Shown in All Phases of Community Activity

BEST YEAR OF ALL **RETAIL BUSINESS** FOR POSTOFFICE SHOWS INCREASE

Gain of Tweny Per Cent is Noted by the Association of Retailers of Omaha.

MANY NEW FAMILIES ARRIVE

Omaha's retail business, taken as a whole, was perhaps 20 per cent greater in volume in 1915 that it ever was in any previous year in the history of the city. Figures are not available on the retail business of the city, as they are on the wholesale and manufacturing business, but those closest in touch with the retail activities of the city make close estimatez.

The estimate of a 39 per cent increase is made by J. W. Metcalfe, secretary of the Associated Retailers of Omaha.

to say that the retail business has increased 20 per cent above that of any year in the past. Prosperity is in the air out here in Nebraska and in Omaha, Omaha is growing. People are coming into the city all the time and making their homes here."

Slow at First.

The first half of the year was slow. It began to pick up in some of the retail lines about May. The rest of the lines began to pick up about September. From that time on business in practically every retail line began to swell, and big sales were shown on the books at the close of each succeeding month.

The jewelry line particularly showed a big business this year. This, too, was alow during the first half of the year. Jewelry business began to pick up about July and from then on gained rapidly. The first Christmas buying in the jewelry line began early and kept up steadily. The volume of buying in the jewelry line, according to Secretary Metcalfe, was never so large as this year.

Population Increases.

That Omaha's population was steadily growing during the year by an influx of outsiders is shown in various ways. One of the best places to note this is in the office of the Associated Retailers, where all new accounts are reported when newmers open accounts with any of the retall stores members of the association. During all the fall this has averaged over thirty new accounts per month. These are largely accounts opened by the heads of families and all accounts of persons who have just moved into the city. Secretary Metcalfe make a little calculation in regard to these. He says that scarcely one-fifth of the heads of families moving into the city open accounts. That would mean that the thirty must be multiplied by five to get the number of families moving in. This, again, would be multiplied by five, as the average family, it is recognized, is a family of five.

"This would mean a total of some 7,500 or 7,800 new people moving into the city in a year" said Mr. Metcalfe, "and I do not think those figures are any too Interial

Collections Are Good.

Collee ines, two, have been better than usual during the fall. When September during 1915 numbered 2,980, according to came and the extent of the wheat crop was known, and, in fact, all the small of the office of the clerk of the district grain was, harvested-it was then the court. The statement follows: retail business first showed a spurt. Then Divorces allowe was marketed and money was beginning to be easier. Ifence, easier collections. Then came October and November, with the full extent of the corn crop a certainty, and this is what gave another added impetus to business. At the same time it tended still more to loosen up mopey and make collections easier. Secretary Metcalfe says the Associated Retailers should be credited, however, with having much to, do with facilitating collections. He points out that the credit bureau has had much to do with educating people as to the value of a good credit standing, and says he has had customers of some of the stores come in and thank him personally for having shown them the importance of keeping their bills paid up to date for the sake of their own credit standing in the community. At the same time he says the Associated Retailers should be given due credit for the increase in the volume of business in the city as the association has shown the retailers the value of true co-operation, not only for their individual benefit, but for the benefit of the city as a whole.

INDEX OF OMAHA'S GROWTH perity. During the past year Omaha has The best year that the Omaha postoffice has ever seen was 1915, as is shown by the annual report of Postmaster John she has expended many millions of dol-Wharton. Tremendous increases are lars in the erection of new buildings. shown in the stamp sales and other pos- among which may be numbered half a

Stamp Sales and Other Receipts

at Local Office.

ment of the work. "It is a most gratifying report." said building. In '1915 Omaha's bank clearings Postmaster Wharton, "We have had a were the greatest in her history and good year, not only in the money transac- probably for her population the greatest tions, but in the general good will and 'in the country. Three new banks are co-operation of the employes. It also in process of organization and will open Mr. Metcalfe mays "I think it is mafe reflects the great prosperity of the city their doors for business within a few days. and community."

A remarkable fact about the report is that while the receipts of the office increased over \$109,000, the salaries paid of Omaha are a unit in the development to railway mail clerks and local employes decreased \$43,000, this being due ing of the year another line of boats to a shifting of some employes by reaas the principal port. son of changes in the division boun-

Postal receipts at this office in 1915 were \$104,358.30 greater than they were railroad line from Yankton, S. D., which than they were in 1913.

postal savings bank all show increases. confidently believed, will easily place business interests of our city, and at the They are given elsewhere in this paper. Omaha as the first cattle market of the The postal receipts, salary expenditures world. and money order figures for the Omaha office are as follows:

Postal Cashler's Division.

daries.

Sale of stamps and postal receipts ernment, Omana has steadily presentest working along the line of the greatest working along the line of the greatest the profor 1815 Sale of stamps and postal receipts 1,391,064

Total increase. Salaries paid rural letter carriers, 1915 Salaries paid rural letter carriers, 1,227,355 Salaries paid railway mail clerks, 156,338 Salaries paid railway mail clerks, 1915

Total decrease.....\$ 25,321 Money Order Cashler's Division.
 Orders
 issued,
 1915.
 153,105
 \$ 1.278,888

 Orders
 paid,
 1915.
 520,614
 4,342,909

 Remittances,
 1915 (rec'd).
 42,413
 5,464,107

Three Thousand

Suits Are Filed in District Court

Civil and criminal suits which passed through the mill of the district court tabulation prepared by Fred A. Gordon CIVIL,

As the year just closed has been a Tremendous Increases Shown in red letter year in the history of Omaha, so the gate city of the west welcomes the new year as the beginning of an epoch of still greater progress and prosincreased its population by approxi-

New Year's Greeting from Mayor

Dahlman Sounds Note of Civic Pride

mately 40,000 people; her mills and great industries have worked night and day; tal receipts, in the money orders paid dozen skyscrapers. The new year opens and issued and in every other depart- with contracts let for several more, including two bank buildings and one hotel Navigation of the Missouri river has

reopened and the commercial interests of this great waterway. With the openwill ply the Missouri river with Omaha Omaha, aiready the second largest cat-

tle market in the world, will realize during the coming year the opening of a in 1914. In 1916 they were \$66,000 greater will mean the increase in the total amount of grain and cattle now handled Figures on parcel post, registry and by the Omaha market, and which, it is

> In civic affairs Omaha is easily the peer of the most progressive city in the country. Under the commission form of gov-

good to the greatest number. The program of the commission for the coming .\$ 104,338 year contemplates a further development

GREAT YEAR FOR STREET RAILWAY 465,262

ried During Last Twelve Months,

MANY IMPROVEMENTS MADE MORE MONEY FOR DEPARTMENT With one exception 1915 was the best

year, 1915 would have been a record be the most important.

breaker in the matter of taking in nick-els. However, the street railway company had a good year and the officers the special levy of \$66,500 for fire alarm are not complaining.

city firemen. During exposition year the houses.

pay passengers were something in excess of 55,000,000.



JAMES CHARLES DAHLMAN.

of the policy of dispensing the concrete benefith of municipal government to the great majority of the citizens, having in mind the welfare of the small home owner and the protection of the daily wage earner. To encourage the sturdy same time to give the widest opportunity and the most assured protection to the

individual worker is the promise which democracy holds out in Omaha for next YOUP.

James & Dahlusu

SCHOOLS OF OMAHA IMPROVEMENTS IN FORGING TO FRONT CITY PARK SYSTEM

Ncarly Twenty-Eight Thousand Pu-Large Amount of Construction pils in Attendance and Close to Work Done in Seventeen Parks One Thousand Teachers.

The Greater Omaha merger presented many problems for the Board of Education in its work of unifying the schools of Omaha proper and those of South Omaha. With the first half of the school year toward a close, the school system of the merged areas may be said to be fairly brought together. There are now fifty-two schools

Greater Omaha, with an attendance of 27,636, which includes 1,683 members of the Omaha evening high school and 582 of the two evening grade schools. Enrollments of the three high schools are; Central High, 1,824; High School of Commerce, 703; South High, 394. There are 950 teachers on the payroll, sixty serving in the evening schools.

The valuation of school sites and buildngs approximates \$4,500,000. The bonded debt is \$2,295,000, including \$500,000 bonds sold a few months ago. There are also \$500,000 bonds authorized, but not sold.

added to Lothrop, Central Park, Farnam, Lincoln, Park and Saunders schools. Last ummer the schools of South Omaha were given a general overhauling.

J. G. Masters and Karl F. Adams were engaged as principals of Central High nd High School of Commerce, respectively; and former Superintendent Graham of South Omaha was brought into the Greater Omaha systems as assistant superintendent.

The evening high school was a new feature of the year, the attendance and interest exceeding all expectations. Sites were purchased for new schools at Thirty-third and Davenport streets and in Minne Lusa addition.

The new Dundee school was brought into the greater system as a model, the only grade school of the system having fund. domestic science. Two nurses were en-

gaged for regular medical inspection at schools. A supervisor of social extension work was another innovation. The board engaged a consulting engineer to increase the efficiency of the heating plants and improve the ventilation and lighting of all buildings.

The School Census.

The board granted the use of certain schools for social center activities under direction of the Recreation board. A dean of girls was appointed for Central High school.

According to the last school census, there are \$7,700 persons of school age in Greater Omaha.

The school budget for the next fiscal year amounts to \$1,478,980, based on a levy of 25 mills,

The Board of Education is entering upon an extensive building and site program, which will require the expenditure system and motor apparatus. Although of \$1,000,000 authorized by the voters last spring. It is proposed to transfer the High School of Commerce to the Central school on Dodge street, enlarging the needs of a commercial institution. A new school will be erected on the

Henry W. Yates property, recently ac-

Belonging to Omaha. NEW BUILDINGS ARE ADDED MUCH WORK ON BOULEVARDS HIGH STANDARD MAINTAINED Greater Omaha's park system now enbraces seventeen parks of total area of 985 acres. There are thirty-five miles of market, brought about by the war in boulevards. Commissioner Hummel's de- Europe and the uncertainty of the outpartment was allowed \$65,000 for the park come of many suits in court, affecting fund during the year. An expenditure both freight and passenger rates, the

> streets adjacent to park property. A summary of the important improve-

ments during the year is given as follows: 12,005 surface feet of cement walks in Bemis park; additional bath house diving tower and pontoon at Carter lake bathing beach; construction of 800 feet of dike and wall along west shore of Carter lake; rip-rapping and grading of the Lake Shore drive on east side of Carter lake, which work has not been completed; reconstruction and cindering drives in Spring Lake park and remodeling swimming pool in that park; construction of swimming pool, laying out

tennis courts, building base ball stand and improving the zoo in Riverview park; addition of thousands of bulbs, plants and flowers and laying new dancing floor in pavilion at Hanscom park; contransforming cement tank for use as wimming pool in Elmwood park; base ball reviewing stand in Fontenelle park; sprinkling system for golf course, conpaving and curbing of Kansas avenue. enchanced the value of Miller park; curbing and guttering Florence boulevard, Grand avenue to north city limits, half of which expense was borne by the park

Much Work on Boulevards.

During the year 165 cars of cinders and 58,000 gallons of oil were distributed over the boulevard system and thirty-five band concerts were held during the summer Grading the approach to the Carter Park boulevard, at Grand avenue and Florence boulevard, is now being done.

Commissioner Hummel wishes to make the following announcement regarding boulevard work started during the year and which he hopes to have completed during 1916: "Survey has been completed of the new Fontenelle park to Miller park boulevard beginning at Thirtieth street and Kansas avenue, thence northwesterly about 1,800 feet to a point south of Curtis avenue and approaching Thirty-third street, thence south to Kansas avenue and along Kansas avenue to Thirty-

Little Done During the Year in the Way of Construction, but

BY THE RAILROADS

MUCH MONEY SPENT

Improvements Made.

In Omaha trade territory it was not of \$20,000 was made out of the road fund officials contented themselves with gorailroads pursued a waiting policy and for maintaining and improving boule- ing on with the usual betterments invards and about half of \$50,000 park bond stead of constructing new lines and openfund was used for paving and curbing ing new territory to the west and northwest of Omaha. However, with the rate

situation cleared and the assertion that money during the next twelve months in likely to be easy considerable railroad building hereaways is anticipated during the next year.

During the year just closed the Bure lington spent close to \$2,000,000 in this territory. Of this sum \$900,000 was exe pended in constructing the cut-off from Gurnsey to Wendover, Wyo. There is something like eight miles of this stretch and with its construction it opens a short line into the northwest.

Much Rail Replacement.

For rail replacement, where heavier steel was laid on the main line west of Omaha, \$490,000 was spent. In improve ing the Wyoming line and in constructs ing additional facilities for handling struction of eighteen-hole golf course and business, \$240,000 was spent. New industrial and team tracks were constructed at a cost of \$240,000 and \$8,000 was spent in the construction of a new depot at David City. Repairing and redecorating struction of twelve-foot brick sewer and the Omaha passenger depot cost \$5,000, while water stations, tanks and pumps, pipe lines, etc., out along the lines cost \$4,000. The renewal and replacement of bridges meant an expenditure of \$140,000. During the year the Union Pacific completed double tracking from Devil's

Gate bridge to Riverdale, one of the small gaps of the main line not heretofore double tracked. This new stretch of track is fully protected by automatic block signal, the same as is in use on the remainder of the road.

In Colorado the Union Pacific built a branch line to the Shamrock coal fields, besides twelve miles of industrial sidings, An interlocking plant is in course of construction at Salina, Kan., and many thousands of dollars were spent in renewing ballast on the main line and fog heavier rails on the branches.

At Omaha during the year a modern hospital was constructed for employed and a similar one at Kansas City, Mo. New depots were crected at Kimball Neb.: Pine Bluffs and Granger, Wyo.! Armstrong and Salina, Kan., and at Danver. A new depot is m course of construction at North Platte to take the fourth street, thence north on Thirtyfourth street to Curtis avenue and along place of the one recently burned.

On the branch north from Kearney a Curtis avenue to a point that is about 350 feet west of Thirty-sixth 300-horse-power gasoline motor car has street, thence southwesterly to the inter- been added to the service, it being the section of Redman avenue and Thirty- first car of its type to go onto any rails ninth street, crossing the old F. E. & road. The motor contains baggage, ex-M. V. right-of-way under their viaduct preas and mail compartments and, in and continuing westerly to Forty-third addition, it hauls an all-steel coach, afa street and along the east line of Forty- fording 30 per cent more seating capacity than the coach of the steam train southwesterly to Ames avenue, approach- formerly operated was able to accommodate. The Missourl Pacific during the yeas completed the building of its Omahas Kansas City line, reballasting the entire distance. Work on the Nebraska branches was started and was well on the way to completion when winter set in. New equipment was added to the Kansas City and St. Louis trains and the running time between Omaha and these cities materially reduced. The Omaha road relaid the steel on # large portion of its Nebraska lines and spent large sums in reballasting. Along the Northwestern. In improvement and betterments the Northwestern Railroad company during last year expended \$/75.350. Of this sum none went for extensions, the company not having added any mileage to the Nes braska system during the year. Itemized, the Northwestern apent money in Nebraska as follows during the year: Industry tracks, \$25,000; tracks to pris vate industries, \$1,660; new and remodeling depots, \$16,400; bridge betterments, \$125,400; track betterments, \$280,900; improvements to station grounds, \$35,940; special assessments, \$4,700; equipment and machinery, \$32,350; washout damages, \$150,000. The money put into bridge and track betterments was practically all for new work. A number of old bridges were taken out and new and all steel ones constructed in their stead. On track betterments the expenditure was largely for new and heavier steel rails.



Being Close to High Mark.

OMAHA FIRE LOSS SLIGHT FOR YEAR

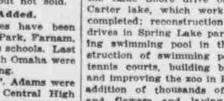
One Reaches Large Figures

for Loss.

Two hundred and eighty-five men, sevyear in the history of the Omaha Street enty-three horses and forty-five pieces Railway company, so far as gross earn- of apparatus represents the strength of ings were concerned. That exception was Omaha's fire fighting machinery. This the year of the Transmississippi expo- equipment is housed at twenty-one places. sition. If it had not been for the jitneys It is the most expensive of the city dethat went onto the streets early last partments and is generally conceded to

In round numbers, during the year just the matter has not been decided yet, it closed the Omaha Street Railway com- is believed that of the special levy \$25,000 pany carried 54,900,000 pay passengers and will be spent as a starter for a new fire 100,000 free. The free transportation was alarm system and \$40,000 for motor ap- and improving the latter school to meet. furnished employes, city policemen and paratus for some of the outlying fire

Few Big Fires. Under the leadership of Chief Charles Up to September 1, with the stret rail- gained an enviable reputation. The city A. Salter, Omaha's fire department has way company it did not look like a very was fortunate during 1915 in that no segood year. Indications were that the rious fires occurred. There were only gross carnings were going to fail below six fires whose losses were more than several of the former years. Then the \$5,000. The only fire of considerable loss "Billy" Sunday meetings came on and was the old Board af Trade building at the business boomed, with the result that Sixteenth and Farnam streets, where a during the period when "Billy" Sunday was here, business was the best since was placed at \$108,329. The other five fires of more than \$5,000 each were: Margolin Bros.' barn, 1718-20 North Twentyfourth street, \$6,109; water pumping station at Walnut Hill, \$9,306; Davis Bros.' commission house, 501-3-5-7-9 and 11, South ments and new work. In reconstruction frame barn at Twenty-first and Hickory streets, \$5,802; National Fur and Tanning company, 1923-5-7 South Thirteenth street, \$14,588, The total value of property and contents endangered by fires during the year to December 1 was \$17,422,941, and of this there was a total loss of \$317,357, with insurance of \$301,559. on them. To December 1 there were 997 alarms. of which 718 were sent in by telephones and twenty-seven over the alarm boxes. There were only eight second alarms and only one third alarm. The alarms by, months were as follows: January, 113: February, 73; March, 103; April, 120; May, 90; June, 51; July, 75; August, 71; September, 63; October, 124; November, 114. Between 9 and 10 a. m. and 2 and 2 p. m. yielded the most alarms of the hours of the day. The least fires by hours were between 3 and 4 a. m. and 10 and 11 p. m.



New Buildings Added. During the year annexes have been

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

An enormous increase in the internal revenue collections in Nebraska during the last year is shown by the annual report of the collector, George H. Loomis, who was appointed to the position last year, succeeding Ross Hammond.

The increase of these collections in 1915 over the previous year is \$58,291.97. the figures for the respective years being \$2,752,880.55 for 1914 and \$3,859,172.52 for 1915. The last ten days of this year are estimated.

This increase has been largely due, of course, to the special war tax passed by congress to take care of the loss of revcaus from the tariff on imports, due to

Strikingly illustrating this is the tax on documentary and proprietary articles, which went into effect December 1, 1914.

ctions on these items increased from \$95,569.67 in 1914 to \$378,900.15 in 1915. The tax on beer has been \$1.50 a barrel since October, 1914, and the collections fermented liquors increased from \$472.007.00 in 1914 to \$596.062.15 in 1915.

Corporation taxes, income taxes, penalties, etc., which come under the head of "lists," increased from \$329,617.75 in 1914 to \$461,668.20 in 1935.

The complete figures prepared by Deputy Collector E. W. North are as follows:

1914. 1915. 190.617.178 \$ 461.665.29 141.507.09 141.507.65 6.205.62 82.981.94 77.665.31 1,006.727.66 1,076.01.15 1,655.00 3.366.00 pecial tax 82,981.94 1,006,726.66 1,636.60 2,108,17 473,057.50 0,110,105 406,040,25 2.85 145.00 93,509:67 13,060,73 278,910,15 13,558,92 5:2,50 marietary pittos order bianka

Totals Last ion days of December estimated.

Divorces dismissed 375 27 515 289 Divorces pending Porsonal injury suits filed amounting to \$3, 512,747.40, damages claimed.

other damage suits mounting to \$2,324,194.13, damages 813

claimed. 7 Quiet title Partition of real estate Foreclosure Accounting Contracts 179 ppeals from justice court ppeals from county court echanics liens

Notes Notes Compensation suits Miscellaneous Verdicts for plaintiff (cases) CRIMINAL Bound over from police court Appeals from police court Appeals from police court Miscellaneous Appeals from justice court Writs of habeas corpus

Total

Twenty Miles of Water Mains Put in Place in 1915

Nearly 1.300 new services and twenty niles of service mains have been added to the municipal water plant during the year. Two hundred fire hydhants were installed and a sedimentation basin added to the settling facilities at Florence. The

basin has a capacity of 16,000,000 gallons and cost \$100,000. The tendency of the Missouri river

CONVICTIONS.

durder, first degree

reaking and entering

tobbery Felonious assault

Larceny from the person

Total convictions. ACQUITTALS.

Manslaughter Breaking and entering Grany larceny Peloulous assault Hiscellausen

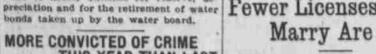
Total acquittals.

* *

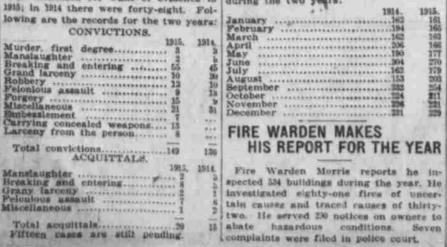
year.

above Florence to move to the eastward and possibly make a cut-off, led to the development of extensive plans for river protection. Late in the year, however, contrary tendencies developed, and prosscution of the proposed work was aban-

doned, awalting further developments. General Manager Howell is not ready to offer any financial statistics for the roam for the men. The treasury, however, shows a fund of nearly \$1,000,000 for reserve, de-



THIS YEAR THAN LAST Twenty-four hundred and two marriage icenses were issued in 1915, as compared Records of criminal business in the with 2,466 in 1914, according to records of office of County Attorney Magney shows the county court. County Judge Crawford 149 convictions and twenty acquittals in 1915, as compared with 136 convictions and 176 ceremonies the previous year. Foltifteen acquittals in 1914. Fifty cases lowing are the licenses issued by months were dismissed for want of evidence in during the two years:



Sunday Meetings Help Out.

While the atret railway company took in a vast sum of money during the year, it was not all profit by any means. There was the pay roll to meet, other current expenses, maintenance, better-

and new work about \$100,000 was expended. During the year the only extension was to the Speedway in East Omaha, a dis-

tance of one-fourth mile. A short stretch of new double track was laid on the west 2,588 alde of the Omaha postoffice to facilitate the handling of the mail car service. Heavier Steel Laid.

Several miles of track was taken up and relaid, or replaced with heavier steel. This consisted of the Thirtieth street car. line, from Fort street to the city limits on the north; Military avenue, from Forty-third street to Hamilton and on Forty-eighth street and Military avenue:

Farnam street, from Twentieth to. Twenty-fourth, and L street, from Boulevard to Thirty-third street. Hundreds of cars were overhauled, repaired and put through the local shops. Six electrically operated switching devices

wer installed and about 200 wooden poles were replaced with those of iron. All over the system tracks were levlatest in the way of electrical connections

were put in. At the Twenty-fourth street and Ames avenue harns considerable improvement was made, one of the features being the more complete equipment of the rest

Fewer Licenses to Marry Are Issued



Ten Fatally Burned.

Of the building fires there were 297 dwellings, 41 flats, 32 barns, 31 rooming eled up and at the joints of the rails the houses, 18 groceries and 14 garages. The casualty report shows ten citizens fatally

burned and fourteen severely burned; one fatally injured and eight slightly injured at fires. Causes of fires for the eleven months are given as follows: Unknown, 114: chimney sparks, 76; weeds, grass and rubbish, 71; matches, 39; cigars and cigarettes, 26; of Iowa.

sparks from locomotives, 19; spontaneous combustion, 18; hot stoves and furnaces, endiary, 15; defective flues, 14; electric vires, 14; gasoline, 10; gasoline stoves, 12. Forty-two horses were burned to death in fires during the first eleven months of the year. Ten fires were extinguished rest of the force in the headquarters port outside of the city limits.

POLICE COURT RECEIPTS

SAME THIS YEAR AS LAST Police Court Clerk Marcell reports but a alight deviation of the total cash recelpts by his department in 1915 from Cost of Gas Lights the amount taken care of in 1914. But the big stride made in the matter of boundover prisoners and a marked decrease in appeal cases is something to which police attaches and the department

as well point with pride. Very near twoas well point with proces, the commissioner, may be thirds less cases were appealed to the lowing report for the year; were bound over.

Following are the figures:

Forfeited bonds

The Clifton Hill district will have a new school. The Park school will be replaced with a new structure and the Field club district will have a school. The Bancroft school will be enlarged to sixteen rooms and other improvements are in prospect.

Customs Receipts Lower on Account of War in Europe

Decreases have been the order of the day and of the year in the office of the United States collector of customs at the inland port of Omaha, as they have at with the Happy Hollaw boulevard at all other ports since the big European Fifty-second and Western avenue. Total war started and cut off the bulk of im- length 1.3 miles. portations to this country.

year just closed have some big decreases

Total duties collected in 1914 amounted through the county poor farm to Fortyto \$59,167, and in 1915 to \$66,046, this being second street, thence southwesterly to a decrease of \$23,121. The war extended over only the last five months of .1914, while it extended over the entire twelve thence southeasterly to Spring street at months in 1915, thus explaining the big Forty-fourth street, thence along Forty-

decrease in duties collected. Total imports through this port were

Of these amounts \$450,044 worth of goods

Goods that came in free of duty in 1914 worth \$185,283, a decrease of \$166,832, Germany and Austria-Hungary have

been entirely cut off from importing goods to this country by reason of the war, and very little has come from Italy. Turkey and Bulgaria are also cut off now, although they never did figure very heavily in imports. The customs district of Omaha comprises the states of Nechimneys burning out, 67: children and brasks and Wyoming and a small area.

The ratio of free to dutiable merchandise according to these figures is about 17; sparks from matches, 16; supposed in- 1 to 3%. Under the old republican tariff the ratio was about 1 to 7.

The office saw a change in its chief during the year when C. W. McCune was appointed to succeed Cadet Taylor. The

of Omaha is: James Burness, chief deputy; J. C. Thomas, deputy and inspector; George H. Porter, deputy and clerk. At the Lincoln office are: E. R. Birge, dep-

Total

tendent of gas street lighing and gas commissioner, have submitted the fol-

49	Pay roll	n
	Stationery and printing	15
ē !	Globes, mantles, chimneys 5,366.20 Freight and drayage	19
.00	Repair, moving lamp posts XI.SI	15
100	Lamp lighters' supplies	
-	Miscellaneous	3

third street to Fowler avenue, thence ing the entrance to Fontenelle park between Forty-third and Forty-fifth streets. Total length 2.3 miles.

Survey of New Connection.

"Survey has also been completed of the Happy Hollow boulevard connection with the Fontenelle boulevard, beginning at Fontenelle boulevard just north of Military and Forty-seventh street, thence along the west line of Forty-seventh street to Himebaugh park, thence southwesterly to a point on Forty-eighth street between Franklin and Seward streets, thence west just north of Elk street to a point 300 feet east of Fifty-second

street, thence southwesterly to connection

"Survey has also been about completed The annual figures given out by Col- of the new Southwest boulevard from ector of Customs C. W. McCune for the Thirty-sixth and Woolworth avenue to Elmwood park, beginning at Thirty-sixth and Woolworth avenue, thence west Lincoln avenue just east of Forty-fifth street, thence south to Marinda street,

fourth street to Grover street and southwest to the southeast corner of T. L. 18, Sol.139 in 1914 and \$615,342 in 1915, being a decrease of \$185,817. fourth street and Grover street, and north was dutiable in 1914 and \$430,069 in 1915, a and along Sixtieth street north to Elmwood park. Total length about five miles.

were worth \$351,115, and in 1915 they were of this boulevard will be donated to the Most of the ground for the right-of-way city.

Infant Mortality Shows a Wonderful **Reduction** for Year

Claude F. Bossle, milk and dairy inspector, reports that the mortality of infants under one year of age during 1915 was 4.7 per cent of the births, the lowest In the history of the city. During the year there were 2,881 births and 137 deaths

of infants, The vital statistics of the health office show that during the first six months of the year the infant death rate of the south side was fourten to each 190 births, while during the latter half of the year the rate was eight to each 100 births, a reduction of 35 per cent of infant mortality since the South Side milk supply was brought into the Omaha system of in

spection. Mr. Bossie's report for the year fellows:

The death rate among infants for the

last ten years is as follows: A. C. Taylor and J. P. Butler, superin- Year. Births. Deaths. Dths per 100

inder 1

rue 101-	1906
	1949
E 5 012 00	1919
2.45	1911
E 964 74	1919
101 01	1918
Jas.01	1914 9 693 120
331.61	1916
20.00	Excluding the mountain the
	Excluding the seventeen deaths u
*** 204.15	Year of age that were nonresident

Local Real Estate Transfers Almost Double Last Year

Real estate transfers for 1915 amounted to \$15,849,908.79, according to figures prepared by Harry Pearce, register of deeds, Owing to the federal war tax on deeds it was possible this year to secure approximately accurate figures on total valuations for the first time in a nums ber of years. The transfers for last year were \$8,463,619.

The report shows a decrease in both receipts and expenses of the office over 1914. It is as follows:

Receipts Expenditures		1+,011,10	12,704.00
Net to coun Number of	instrument	ts record	\$ 7,387.40 ded, 15,871
as against 16 Farm mort	gages filed	1. 1. 151 a	mounting
to \$767,984; r	eleased, fl	amo	unting to
\$617,619.27.			
City mortg to \$9,476,758.14	ages flied,	4,242, 1	mounting
to \$8,131,727.51.	, resempess,	0,080, 1	mounting
the second second		DV T	
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The operations of the city electrical department have been summarized in the following manner:

Fees collected, \$7,020.51; expenditures, ats and \$7,370; wiring permits, 2,774; permits to . 339.35 occurred in hospitals, the rate for the connect, 2,694; journeymen permits, 2038 332,454.12 year would be forty-two per thousand. inspections made, 8,572,

uty in charg:, and Mrs. Mary A. Clark, deputy and clerk for Year Just Past