

# Fremont's Banks Are Prosperous and Solid Institutions

If you go to Fremont you will be reminded every fifteen minutes that there is a First National bank, since chimneys are rung in front of that establishment four times an hour. But there are three other national banks in the city, two savings banks and a trust company. Two building and loan associations also help the people to take care of their surplus money.

The First National bank was established in 1866, with a capital of \$7,500. Its first president was E. H. Rogers and its first cashier L. H. Rogers. Now it has a capital of \$150,000. Deposits amount to \$1,135,000, an increase of \$300,000 over a year ago. Its new building, erected less than two years ago, cost \$150,000. Its surplus is \$30,000. It has close relations with sixty other banks in northern and eastern Nebraska. The president is H. J. Lee; vice president, E. R. Gurney and A. G. Christensen; cashier, J. H. Williams.

The Farmers Merchants bank's president is Philip S. Rine; vice president and cashier, William E. Smalls;

assistant cashier, Victor Seitz, and R. H. Buss. This bank was started in 1884, on a capital of \$25,000. Its first president was George W. E. Dorsey. Its capital is now \$100,000. Deposits amount to \$350,000, an increase of \$75,000 during the year. There is displayed in the front window the original summons to Mr. Smalls, on May 23, 1877, to go out and kill grasshoppers. This was the only time the people of the state were really seriously afflicted with the pests. The insects were so thick they would cloud the sun. It was a case of "root hog or die," and bankers as well as laborers were called out to do duty for their town. The surplus of the Farmers and Merchants National bank is \$52,000.

The Commercial National bank, like the others on Main street, has a capital of \$100,000. Deposits amount to \$950,000, an increase of \$100,000 over a year ago. Surplus and profits amount to \$130,000, the highest they have ever been. The president is Otto H. Schurman; vice president, C. Christensen; cashier, O. F. Turner.

In connection with the national bank, this institution conducts a savings department, with a capital of \$18,000. The surplus is \$15,000. Deposits are \$250,000. George L. Loomis is vice president. The other officials are the same as in the national bank. The Fremont National bank was started in 1883 on a capital of \$50,000. Its first president was A. P. Hopkins. Its present capital is \$150,000. Deposits foot up \$650,000, a gain of \$100,000 over last year. There is a surplus of \$100,000. It never missed paying a dividend. Its president is Charles F. Dodge; vice presidents, J. T. May and H. Wehner; cashier, I. McKen-

nan; assistant cashier, C. A. Silas. The Security Savings bank, under the same management, has a capital of \$18,000; deposits, \$139,695.85.

The Fremont State bank, formerly a savings bank, was reorganized two years ago. Its president is Louis E. May and its cashier D. D. Rowe. This bank is located on Sixth street. It was established in 1905, with R. B. Snyder as president and a capital at that time of \$15,000. Now its capital is \$50,000 and surplus \$5,000. Deposits amount to \$260,000. This is the only state bank in Fremont. It is protected by a guarantee fund of \$1,000,000.

The president of the Nebraska Building and Loan association is T. L. Mathew. This organization was started in 1892. Its total assets amount to \$1,905,000. It has dealings with 150 persons in that section of Nebraska.

The Equitable Building and Loan association has assets of \$230,000. Its president is Frank Hammond; vice president, Frank Fowler; secretary, Arthur Truesdell. It has gained about 20 per cent in business during the year. The president was congratulated recently in a letter from a prominent Omaha man on the high character of the men with whom it is now doing business.

The Federal Trust company has a capital of \$100,000; deposits, \$100,000. This concern was started in 1911. Its surplus August 1, 1913, was \$1,000; surplus in 1914, \$2,500, and in 1915, \$4,500.

The total clearings in Fremont banks for the year ending June 1, 1914, was \$18,850,000; June 1, 1915, \$21,537,000; June 1, 1916, \$22,045,000.

First National Bank



Commercial National Bank



## Building and Loan Agencies

While anyone in Fremont can start a bank account with \$1, and although more than \$500,000 more money was deposited in the banks than there was a year ago, not all of it goes to the banks. Thrifty Fremonters are finding the building and loan associations good places to put their surplus earnings. There are two such organizations in the city, payments being made monthly. There is more profit on one's money there than in the banks. It does not necessarily mean that every person who invests money in this way means to build a house. Some people have a good deal of ready money, from \$500 up into the thousands. For such persons the mortgage field is a profitable one. Everyone knows that Dodge county is rich and prosperous, but it is not so well known that more than a million dollars a year is borrowed on farms of that county. Fortunate is he who has his money invested in one or more of these farm mortgages, for where the amount is in proper proportion to the value of the farm, as is usually the case, it is as safe as a government bond, and bears much better interest. Needless to say, the demands for these mortgages is very strong, eastern and other life insurance companies being in the field after them. Fremont savings banks and professional

money loaning institutions seek them, and fully two-thirds of the amount borrowed in a year, is obtained from Nebraskans, including many Fremonters. A good way to get such a mortgage is to apply to some Fremont real estate or loan agency or trust company. The rates paid on Dodge county mortgages range from 5 1/2 per cent to a trifle more than 6.

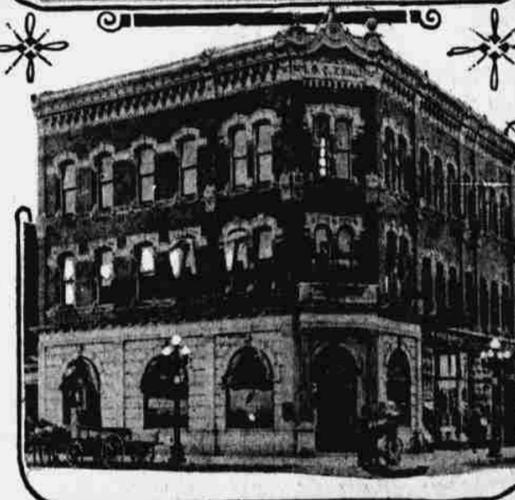
Then one can loan money profitably on Fremont business or residence property. More than \$300,000 is borrowed in a single year on such land or buildings. On these there is a higher rate of interest than on farm mortgages, and they are more available to Fremont people and institutions than the latter because of the inability of eastern insurance and other outside institutions to handle them. More discrimination and judgment is needed than with farm mortgages, because of the wide difference in values at short intervals of city property.

When land ranges above \$150 an acre, as has been the case in recent years in Dodge county, there is, of course, no such big advance possible as in years gone by. The average yearly advance on such land is now not more than 2 or 3 per cent and the rental returns yielding about 3 per cent additional make altogether in the

course of years a 5 or 6 per cent investment. Rental returns will be larger with better farming, the more general use of the tractor and such changes as July and August plowing for wheat and deep plowing for corn. But this is a mixed country and there is land still in the vicinity that can be picked up at a reasonable figure. It is not only the capitalist, as he is generally known, who is investing his money in such ways. There is a factory foreman in Fremont who little by little from his monthly salary has got possession of

five or six comfortable cottages, from which there is a satisfactory income. There are many opportunities like this and as the president of the Commercial club has shown in his latest report there is a strong demand, not only for many houses for rent at from \$18 to \$22, but stores also, on the side streets, where the rent will not be as large as on the more prominent thoroughfares. In this respect Fremont could well follow the example of Hastings, where many such buildings of both kinds have already been provided.

Farmers and Merchants Nat'l Bank



SIXTH STREET EAST TO MAIN



## The First National Bank Of Fremont

## The Fidelity Trust Company

Affiliated institutions having combined capital and surplus of \$300,000.00, and combined assets of nearly \$2,000,000.00 offer their services in every branch of banking to

### Every Nebraska Interest, Personal or Corporate

We ask you to come to Fremont and we most cordially invite you to make our home your home while in the city. Come in and see our business home. There are some who are kind enough to say we have the most beautiful banking room in Nebraska.

The Fidelity Trust Company  
F. B. KNAPP, President

The First National Bank  
H. J. LEE, President

(Established 1884)

## The Farmers and Merchants National Bank OF FREMONT



The officers and stockholders of this old institution extend a cordial welcome to everybody to come to the great Tractor Demonstration at Fremont—August 7 to 11. The pleasure will be ours to meet you.

### OFFICERS:

PHILIP S. RINE, President. WM. E. SMALLS, Vice President and Cashier.  
VICTOR SEITZ, and RALPH H. BUSS, Assistant Cashiers.  
G. F. WOLZ, B. W. REYNOLDS, R. W. MCGINNIS, J. O. MILLIGAN, H. J. HAUSER.

To obtain that satisfied feeling  
the drink must be—

## Golden Rod Soda Waters

The Golden Rod brand is refreshing,  
healthful, invigorating and pure

Manufactured by

The Fremont Bottling Works  
Fremont, Nebraska