

CIVIC ACTIVITIES OF OMAHA FOR YEAR REVIEWED

RETAIL STORES REPORT BANNER YEAR FOR TRADE

Omahans Buy Substantial Merchandise Despite War Prices; Cheap Things Go Begging.

Every month of the year 1917, with the possible exception of November, showed an increase in volume of retail business done in Omaha over the corresponding month of the previous year. The business during October was as good as any October Omaha has had in its history, and some of the retailers are inclined to say that it was the best October for retail business the city has ever had. This they attribute to the fact that a cold snap came in October, and caused people to rush for clothing and shoes. The reverse was true in November, which was an exceptionally mild month. Thus, those who needed fall and winter clothing had rushed to the stores and supplied themselves during the mild spell of October and found themselves provided for in November, particularly since the month was mild.

The December business, however, the retailers say, was unquestionably the greatest December business the city has yet enjoyed. Not only this, but the merchandise sold was of a more stable character than in past years. People were seeking the cheap things in merchandise, but they were looking for substantial goods, and they insisted upon it. Many of the clerks have reported that very frequently when they showed a man a \$20 suit, he insisted upon a \$30 or \$40 suit, and when they showed a woman a \$15 suit he insisted upon a \$25 suit.

Prices Were Higher.

It is true that most merchandise sold at a higher price this year than last. But this, the retailers say, will be no means account for the increase in the volume of business done in dollars and cents.

Big retailers of the city estimate the retail business of Omaha for the entire year will run 20 to 22 per cent ahead of last year. One of the big department store merchants says his business ran 35 per cent over the volume of last year, and he confessed that he himself was astonished when the books were opened to him revealing such a volume.

The shoe business ran ahead of last year in dollars and cents. Here, perhaps, the price has advanced during the year enough to swell considerably the total volume of money taken in, even though the amount of goods turned had been the same as last year. However, dealers are free to say that they turned in more goods and the business has been highly satisfactory.

In the jewelry line the retail business has run far ahead of last year. Diamonds were more in demand than ever before, despite all the talk of conservatism. Watch watches for soldiers and bracelets, watches for the ladies were among the most popular articles in this line.

Biggest Year in History of County Clerk's Office Reported

The annual report of County Clerk Dewey shows the greatest volume of business in the history of the office. The surplus fees turned in are noticeably the largest of any previous year.

The best business barometer in the city, Dewey maintains, is the number of chattel mortgage and sales contracts with the amount of money involved filed during the year. These filings indicate money transactions. When times are good the chattel mortgages and sales increase and decrease in hard times. In 1917 the record was broken by the filing of 8,182 chattel mortgage and sales contracts involving sales equal to \$18,443,843. During the bad times of 1897-8 the mortgages ran as low as \$150 to \$200 a month. In 1916 only 6,921 of these transactions were recorded.

Contagious Diseases Show 50 Per Cent Increase

An increase of more than 50 per cent is noted in the number of contagious diseases reported during 1917. This increase has been most marked in the smaller diseases, the last few months, particularly in the South Side. Measles and chickenpox also have increased considerably.

The large total shown for scarlet fever cases in 1916 was due to an epidemic which was abated during the early part of this year. It is noted that scarlet fever has decreased nearly 50 per cent, comparing 1916 with 1917.

There were 23 cases of poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis), which was an increase, but comparatively small in view of the conditions in some cities where this terrible disease prevailed.

More Than \$20,000 Paid Into City Clerk's Office

During 1917 the city clerk's office collected \$20,325.75 paid for licenses, permits, occupational taxes, dog tags and in fees. Total number of documents presented to the city council was 7,622. The council passed 358 general ordinances and adopted 1,008 resolutions.

Greater Omaha

Population (estimated)	204,000
Area (square miles)	29
Number of parks	39
Average parks and playgrounds	1,300
Boardwalks (in miles)	32
Number miles paved streets	550
Miles permanent sidewalks	530
Number miles of sewer	350
Number of telephones	46,214
Bonded indebtedness:	
Municipal	\$9,978,574
School district	5,915,000
Water district	7,000,000
Total	19,893,574
Number of banks	11,000,000
Banking capital	105,107,941
Bank deposits	30,000,000
Building and loan assets	20,000,000
Number public school buildings	37
Number enrolled in public schools	26,878
Value public school property	5,668,384
Nurses in school inspection work	18
Number of parochial schools	21
Number of universities	3
Number of churches	150
Number of synagogues	9
Number of mosques	1
Number of packing houses	283
Number of factories	283
Number of hotels	40
Number of hospitals	13
Number of country clubs	5
Number of golf courses	2
Number of movie theaters	38
Commercial club membership	2,100

CHURCH BUILDING HINDERED BY WAR

Many New Edifices Planned, But Scarcity and High Price of Materials Causes Postponement.

The past year was to have been a notable one in the church building line. At the beginning of the year many new structures were contemplated, but owing to the declaration of war, immediately followed by a raise in price of building materials, many were postponed indefinitely.

Construction of the new Central Congregational church, which was to have been erected this year at a cost of \$150,000, has been put off until after the war. Westminster Presbyterian church will not be built this year owing to the war.

Plans have been prepared for the Parkvale Presbyterian church at a cost of \$30,000, of which \$10,000 has been expended for the erection of a commodious Sunday school, and the church will probably be erected some time this year.

St. Cecilia's cathedral is nearly completed, but it will be some time yet before it is finished, although it has been used for services for over a year. The estimated cost of the edifice originally was \$350,000, but owing to the advances in material \$500,000 will have been expended before the cathedral is completed.

St. Peter's Catholic church is now in the course of construction at Thirty-second and Pacific streets, likewise the First Unitarian church at Turner boulevard and Harney street.

The Second Church of Christ, Scientist, which planned to build a new church during 1917, will erect a \$60,000 building at Forty-first and Davenport streets.

A new building was planned for St. Andrew's Episcopal church for 1917, but war conditions prevented. However, \$5,000 was spent in enlarging and improving the old structure after moving it from Forty-first and Charles streets to Forty-second and Hamilton streets.

MORE MARRIAGES FOR THE YEAR 1917

Weddings of Soldiers Swells Totals; Day Before Christmas Is a Record-Breaker.

Marriages in Douglas county this year as indicated by the number of marriage licenses issued show a steady increase over the totals for 1916, which was a record year, "Cupid" Stubbendorf's record, as license clerk in the office of the clerk of the county court, shows that 2,912 licenses to wed were issued during 1917, as compared with 2,724 in 1916 and 2,404 in 1915.

Stubbendorf does not attribute the increase so much to the so-called "slacker marriages," as to the soldier marriages. Many of the licenses have been taken out by boys in khaki since the declaration of war.

The day before Christmas this year 35 licenses were issued setting a new record in the office for a single day's business and boosting the total for December, 1917, to 297 licenses, as against 240 for December, 1916.

County Judge Crawford performed 164 marriages during the year. The fees from licenses issued and marriages performed were \$6,090.

A comparison of the number of marriage licenses issued in 1916 and 1917, by months, shows:

Month	1916	1917
January	175	123
February	228	228
March	206	205
April	179	324
May	209	228
June	221	315
July	201	298
August	218	205
September	206	227
October	250	255
November	246	226
December	240	297
Totals	2,724	2,912

Omaha Postoffice Shows General Increase Over 1916

Increases in all departments of the Omaha postoffice were recorded in 1917 over 1916. The annual report of Postmaster Fanning is as follows:

Money Order Business.		
1917—	Amount.	1916—
Orders issued	160,625	\$1,319,593
Orders paid	149,229	6,428,443
C. O. D's dispatched	44,510	5,938,247
Remittances rec'd.		
Total, 1917		\$11,897,299
1916—		
Orders issued	159,459	\$1,288,125
Orders paid	155,790	4,801,867
C. O. D's dispatched	45,523	6,666,473
Remittances rec'd.		
Total, 1916		\$11,556,829
Increase for 1917		\$330,706

Post Office Savings Business.

1917—	1916—	
Number of depositors	1,850	849,903
Number of deposits	3,026	304,621
Increase, 1917		64,462

Registry Business.

1917—	1916—	
Registers dispatched	127,002	106,566
C. O. D's dispatched	64,788	44,119
Stamp duty		
Sale of stamped paper and postal receipts, 1917		\$1,802,918
Sale of stamped paper and postal receipts, 1916		2,996,905
Increase		\$ 1,081,113
Insured parcels dispatched, 1917		108,514
Insured parcels dispatched, 1916		69,240
Increase		39,274

Bee Want Ads Bring Results.

Big Decrease in the Number of Arrests Here

A big decrease in arrests, especially since May 1, are shown in the statement issued by the police department up to December 15, 1917. The report shows that almost 3,000 less arrests were made in 1917 than in 1916. Decrease in the number of persons sent to the workhouse and county jail are also shown. In 1916 there were 2,178 sent to the workhouse and 2,005 to the county jail, while in 1917 there were but 771 sent to the workhouse and 1,570 to the county jail. Burglaries, murders, suicides and accidents all show a decrease. The following is a comparative summary for the two years:

	1917.	1916.
Arrests reported	957	172
Arrests made	14,911	17,292
Dead bodies reported and taken to morgue	102	151
Destitute persons cared for	2	25
Piracy attended	181	152
Juvenile persons cared for	102	123
Lost children cared for	27	37
Murders	8	18
Prisoners taken to county jail	1,570	2,006
Prisoners taken to workhouse	771	2,178
Shooting affrays	39	47
Knifing or cutting affrays	47	69
Suicides reported	49	60
Suicides attempted	59	69
Turned over to juvenile authority	283	109

County Engineer Reports Busy Year in Road Making

County Engineer Adams' reports of work done on Douglas county roads and bridges during the year 1917 shows 110 1/2 miles of earth roads have been resurfaced by three machines, two of which were drawn by tractors and one by team. The cost of this work was \$81.10 per mile, or a total of \$8,960. This cost is slightly more than in previous years owing to the increased cost of operation, and to the locations in which the work was done.

There have been 73 drags at work under the department at a cost of 75 cents per mile, which have dragged 7,800 miles of road. Eleven steel bridges have been built at a cost of \$4,030.99 and five wooden bridges, costing \$3,333.61. Retaining walls costing \$1,701.67 have been built and four reinforced concrete culverts, costing \$2,389.41, replacing bridges.

Bridge repairs amount to \$7,974.01, done under contract. Deep grading at an average cost of 19.9 cents per cubic yard amounted to \$4,325.15. Brick pavement extending 6,235.5 feet was laid at a cost of \$26,318.03, or an average of \$4.22 per foot, including curbing.

Five miles of macadam road on the Lincoln highway are now in process of being resurfaced, on which the estimated payments to date amount to \$3,194.89. Payments on several bridges still in construction are not included in the report.

Greater Number of Acquittals and Convictions During 1917

The annual report of the county attorney's office for the year 1917 shows 186 convictions obtained in various cases, as compared with 161 in 1916. The acquittals, also, were greater, 13 being obtained, while in 1916 there were but 12. Report also shows 93 cases pending and 65 nolle prosequi (making a total of 337 cases on the docket. In his first report as ex-officio corner county attorney Magney conducted 156 investigations and held 29 inquests.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS ENJOY GOOD YEAR

Nearly 40,000 Persons in Greater Omaha Within Legal School Age; New Superintendent in Office.

The last school census of Greater Omaha yielded returns which showed there are nearly 40,000 persons between 5 and 21 years of age, which embrace the legal school ages. The compulsory educational law requires school attendance until 16 years of age and from that age until 21 years of age attendance is optional.

During the last year the enrollment in the public schools of this city was 30,477, including night schools. The present enrollment of the public day schools is 28,678. A teaching staff of nearly 1,100 is employed.

The maintenance cost of this great educational system for the last year was \$1,500,000, which does not include building operations.

The bonded indebtedness of the school district is \$2,915,000 and the valuation of sites and buildings is \$5,568,384.

The new Bancroft school building will be opened in a few weeks. This school was started with a four-room unit, to which has been added 12 rooms, making a complete 16-room structure. The new Druid Hill school of 12 rooms will be opened during the latter part of this month. New schools in course of construction are: Park, Field, Yates, Clifton Hill and an addition to Train school.

Coincident with the incumbency of J. H. Beveridge as superintendent of instruction, a survey of buildings and physical equipment was made by Dr. George D. Strayer of Columbia university. That survey was made the basis of a bond proposition of \$2,250,000 which the Board of Education had proposed to submit to the voters on November 20, but war conditions caused the members to rescind their action by deferring the bond proposal.

The medical inspection was enlarged with the opening of schools in September. Miss Charlotte Townsend, supervisor, now has a staff of 18 nurses, and Dr. E. T. Manning was engaged as consulting physician. Medical inspection was continued during the last summer vacation, that the situation might be well in hand when the schools were reopened.

H. W. Anderson was engaged by the board to work with Superintendent Beveridge as research director. Mr. Anderson has been making a series of surveys known as educational measurements, the purpose of which is to locate the weak places and to standardize the work where possible.

The present plan is to make the Fort school for boys a preconviction school and to make provision for those boys in the lower grades who are motor-minded. A school for subnormals has been established at the Comenius school, where this work is justifying itself in a substantial manner.

J. H. Beveridge began his work here as superintendent last September and Dwight E. Porter assumed his work as principal of the High School of Commerce. The school year, beginning last September, brought the Benson and Florence schools into the Greater Omaha system.

C. J. Ernst and Thomas A. Fry,

chairman and vice chairman respectively, of the Board of Education, resigned during September. Their places will be filled this week.

During the year the schools have co-operated in many war activities. The children made thousands of trench candles, Christmas books and other articles, which were forwarded to France on November 15. The teachers assisted in the food conservation campaign, Red Cross work and Liberty bond drives.

Internal Revenue Receipts Show Decrease of 30 Per Cent

A decrease of nearly 30 per cent in the 1917 internal revenue receipts for this district is shown by the annual report of the United States internal revenue collector, George L. Loomis.

The reason for this is the fact that Nebraska has gone "dry." Revenue collected on spirits in this district in 1916 was \$3,482,319.78 and in 1917 it was only \$1,015,322.13. In 1917 there were four "wet" months. On beer the collections decreased from \$664,907.63 to \$184,067.25.

There was an enormous increase in list taxes and a big decrease on documentary taxes and wine taxes. The complete report is as follows:

	1916.	1917.
List tax	\$ 627,846.30	\$2,070,515.93
Special tax	175,886.30	74,589.38
Tobacco	5,968.00	5,884.91
Clears	2,028.17	95,745.45
Spirits	2,482,319.78	1,015,322.13
Cheese	4,862.00	1,740.00
Oleomargarine	4,824.50	9,865.48
Beer	664,907.63	184,067.25
Mixed flour	24.24	1.06
Playing cards	356.50	201.06
Mixed	329,479.86	64,447.46
Wine	19,874.87	5,271.86
Optical orders	522.99	388.90
Total	\$6,498,256.06	\$7,794,571.73

Note: Last week of December, 1917, estimated.

MONDAY THE LAST DAY OF THE YEAR - END SALE

The Greatest Bargain Day of the Week

Store Will CLOSE All Day Tuesday, New Year's

HAYDEN'S

16 TH DODGE AND DOUGLAS STREETS

Store Will CLOSE All Day Tuesday, New Year's

Women's Suits, Coats, Dresses, Furs

At Prices Which Mean Savings of 25%, 33 1/3%, 50%-In Many Cases More



Evening Coats, That sold at \$75.00 and \$85.00, choice **\$35** | Evening Coats, That sold at \$45.00, good assortment, at **\$15**

One Choice Lot of Women's Winter Suits That Sold to \$35.00, good assortment of styles for selection, all newest shades, at **\$12.50** | 200 Nobby Dresses, in Taffetas, Satins, Serges, etc., including Dancing Frocks worth to \$35.00.

25% Off 33 1/3% Off 33 1/3% Off 25% Off

On All Our **PLUSH COATS** | On Fur Trimmed **Coats** | On Fur Sets, Scarfs and Muffs | On All Our **FUR COATS**

SCORES OF OTHER SPLENDID BARGAINS IN WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S OUTER APPAREL MONDAY

A FEW MENTIONED

Women's Corduroy Bath or Lounging Robes, worth \$5.00..... \$1.95	Women's Lingerie Waists, worth \$1.00 and \$1.50, Monday 59c	Women's Bath Robes, worth \$4.00 and \$5.00, all colors, at..... \$2.95
Women's and Misses' Sweaters, worth \$4.00, at..... \$1.95	Women's Long Silk Kimonos, worth \$7.50 to \$10, Monday, at..... \$4.95	Women's Silk Petticoats, all colors, worth \$4.00, Monday \$2.85

Good Things to Eat For New Year's Day

Canned Goods, Farenacious Goods, Bottle Goods, Fruits, Vegetables, Etc.—The Highest Quality, at a Saving of 25% to 50% on the Cost of Living.

21-oz. jars Pure Fruit Preserves..... 25c	Choice California Evaporated Apples, lb. 15c
14-oz. jars Pure Mince Meat..... 25c	Choice California Seedless Raisins, lb. 15c
28-oz. jars Pure Strained Hor. 40c	Seeded Raisins, per package, 10c and 12 1/2c
Fancy Queen Olives, bottle..... 10-15-20-25c	TEA AND COFFEE SPECIALS
16-oz. jars Celery Relish or Picicallini, per bottle, at..... 15c	Fancy Golden Santos Coffee, the talk of Omaha, per lb..... 20c
Schupp's Shredded Coconut, lb..... 7c	Fancy Golden Blend Coffee, lb..... 25c
Monarch Catnip, large bottle..... 19c	Fancy Porto Rico Blend Coffee, lb..... 27c
3 lbs. Fancy Carolina Head Rice..... 25c	The Best Tea Blending, lb..... 20c
16-oz. cans Condensed Milk..... 12 1/2c	Choice Basket Fried or Sun Dried Japan Tea, per lb..... 40c
The Best Domestic Macaroni or Spaghetti, 5 lb. pkg., at..... 10c	OMAHA'S GREATEST VEGETABLE AND FRUIT MARKET
Jello, for dessert, per pkg..... 10c	Fresh Southern Shallots, Beets, Carrots, Turnips or Radishes, per bunch..... 5c
4 lbs. Best White or Yellow Cornmeal, 24c	Cape Cod Cranberries, lb..... 25c
4 lbs. Best Rolled White Breakfast Oatmeal, at..... 25c	Fancy Head Lettuce, head..... 7 1/2c and 10c
3 lbs. California Brown Beans, equal to Navy Beans, 3 lbs., for..... 25c	3 stalks Fresh Celery..... 10c
1 lb. Best Fancy Sweet Sugar Corn, Early June Peas, Wax or String Beans, can, 14c	Old Beef, Carrots, Turnips, Rutabagas or Parsnips, per lb..... 2 1/2c
E. C. Corn Flakes, pkg..... 7 1/2c	Cabbage, per lb..... 2 1/2c
New Corn Honey, per pack..... 25c	15 lbs. Best No. 1 Potatoes..... 25c
Dried Fruits, Etc. for Your Feedings, Pies and Cakes.	Don't Fail to Attend This Special Pre-Inventory Grocery Sale—The Greatest Stock-Reducing Sale We Have Ever Held.
Choice California Prunes, lb..... 12 1/2c	Choice California Muir Peaches, lb..... 15c
Choice California Cooking Figs, lb..... 15c	Choice California Muscat Raisins, lb. 15 1/2c

MONDAY Meat Specials In Our Sanitary Market

Fancy Dressed Turkeys, Geese, Ducks and Chickens at Lowest Market Price.
Steer Rib Roast..... 24 1/2c
Roiled Rib Roast..... 24 1/2c
Steer Pot Roast..... 17 1/2c, 15c
Rib Boiling Beef..... 12 1/2c
Steer Loin Steaks..... 22 1/2c
Steer Round Steaks..... 18 1/2c
Porterhouse Steaks..... 24c
Steer Shoulder Steaks..... 17 1/2c
Pork Loin Chops..... 22 1/2c
Pork Loin Chops..... 22c
Fancy Veal Roast..... 17 1/2c
Fancy Veal Steaks..... 22 1/2c
Fancy Veal Steaks..... 20c
Fancy Veal Steaks..... 15c
SPRING LAMB
Hindquarters, lb..... 23 1/2c
Forequarters, lb..... 17 1/2c
Lamb Chops, lb..... 17 1/2c
Lamb Steak, lb..... 15c
Hamburger Steak, lb..... 15c
Bulk Sausage, lb..... 15c
Pork Neckbones, 4 lb. lbs..... 25c
Mince-meat, per lb..... 11c
38 kinds Smoked Sausage
Regular Bacon, 37 1/2c and 40c
Regular Ham, lb..... 26 1/2c
Sauer Kraut, lb..... 5c
Best Creamery Butter, per lb..... 25c
Strictly Fresh Eggs, doz..... 25c
No. 1 Storage Eggs, doz..... 42c
A Full and Complete Line of Fancy Cheese.

It Pays—TRY HAYDEN'S FIRST—It Pays



Let us resolve during the coming year to give the automobile fair and just consideration. Before we condemn let us try to picture our transportation questions with the automobile taken away. Let us consider the value of time in true efficiency.

Let us consider, too, the distinction between the legitimate and the curb-stone dealer—the standard, recognized manufacturer and the stock selling organization—for therein lies the difference between sound business and waste.

Let us give fair consideration to business done on a business basis. List price, honest service and standard quality goods must be watch words with the automobile man, more so now than ever. It behooves us all to recognize these facts and support legitimate business.

Long profits and cut prices are not legitimate with goods of merit.

Legitimate, sound business methods will keep our country in fighting trim.

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