

PAVING BUSINESS LOOKING UP

COURT HOUSE CLEANS UP POLITICAL SCORE

Many New Appointees Come With Change in Administration

O'CONNOR'S PETS ARE ALL TABOOED

House Cleaning Season Comes When Political Conditions Change and Many Look for New Jobs—Old Crowd Dies Hard—Compton Buys Flock of Mules

There has been a "cleaning" in court house and county affairs this week that has brought out a lot of comment, sarcastic and otherwise. It came as the natural result of a change in the political color in county political affairs, when the new crowd took possession of the court house and of the personnel of that institution. There has been waiting and gnashing of teeth in several departments, once presided over by democrats, but now being looked after by some sturdy republicans.

The public defender's office was the first scene of war, when Jack Baldwin, new occupant of that position, took charge and fired Frank O'Connor, who held a place as stenographer at \$150 per month by virtue of his daddy being big boss in the county commissioner's office. Baldwin had a few political debts of his own to pay up and began the job by putting another man on young O'Connor's job. But O'Connor denied the right of Baldwin to fire him and has been sticking out. It is pretty generally believed, however, that O'Connor's pay will stop at once and that there will be a new man in his place in the very near future. Tom O'Connor, the daddy, and county commissioner for many years, has had things about his own way so long he had about decided he owned a big share in the court house. With the democratic majority disappearing last week, however, he was brought to his senses to find out

that he was very small peanuts in county affairs under the new regime. Date Compton, chairman of the board until he lost his job this week, has been taking things pretty quietly. Compton bought four spans of mules last week and says he will groom them until time to put in the spring crops, when he expects to get busy. He admits he got about everything he wanted while he was on the board and he is apparently perfectly satisfied. He says he does not want to be a member unless he is part of the majority.

One of the changes that has been causing intense talk is that which parted Mrs. Margaret Sexton from her job as superintendent of the county detention home. Her husband, John Sexton, was superintendent for several years. He was killed in the line of duty and his wife appointed to the vacancy. They had two children of their own. Sexton's efficiency as head of this institution was admittedly of the very best sort, and his wife, who had been identified with her husband in the work, was considered well qualified for the place. When the new county board decided to remove her for political reasons, it raised a big stir, with the democrats doing the most of the kicking. Of course, Mrs. Sexton was greatly grieved at being thrown out unceremoniously, but hard hearted politicians appeared to give little heed to her pleadings and quick-

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NEW YEAR CELEBRATION CRIMPS ALL FORMER LOCAL HOLIDAY DOINGS

Hotels Furnish Everything Except "Hootch" Which Everybody Brings With Them—Canadian Goods Make Appearance in Many Places—Artillery Interrupts Weary Sleepers

It was an old-fashioned celebration indulged in New Year's eve by Omaha's citizens. They danced, got drunk and cut up delightfully. A lot of them got home early Saturday morning and a few of them landed in jail. Down at the Henshaw, where a Greek combination furnished "special" dinners and the bootleggers furnished plenty of "hootch" the crowd stayed until they got so hilarious that some of the women actually made a show of themselves. They all wore abbreviated skirts and a lot of them were attired in abbreviated waist wear. The men on the scene enjoyed it greatly and some remarkably funny things happened before the crowd made its getaway.

All the other hotels also had big parties, but they were not quite so boisterous. It was a real night of celebration for about everybody. Hootch was in evidence everywhere and it is variously estimated that something like 33,224 persons got pretty well drunk up. There was some powerful cutting up at some of the places, and a lot of things might be told that are better left unsaid.

A large crowd missed the gay party that used to be held at the old T. M. A., where the theatrical folk sojourning on similar occasions and enjoyed a few cold bottles and put on

their after-theater parties. Charlie Gorr was one of the few bright lights of the theatrical world who went home early this year, the first time in his life, it is said. Charlie orders Bill Byrne and the actors around at the Orpheum, as a means of livelihood. He used to drink his beer out of the bottle, always deigning a glass, and at one time owned a part interest in Charles Lewis' liquid emporium.

The church people all were on deck until midnight, too. They did not put on the same sort of celebration that the downtown folk put on but most of them enjoyed the whole business, just the same. A lot of artillery was turned loose all over the city at midnight, and if anybody had gone to bed before that hour he or she was rudely awakened to enjoy the celebration.

Talk about old times, but Omaha sure was up to date for this celebration. Those who have kept in touch with the whisky market were surprised to learn that so much of the good old stuff still remained in the city. A liberal supply of Canadian goods was also on hand for the occasion.

Generally speaking, only the open saloon was missing. Otherwise the celebration was as good as they ever made them and most of the celebrators are still talking about it.



Doings In Omaha Fifty Years Ago

- A fine collection of cashier girls were on the job at the Rome hotel, according to reports. George Yeager vouched for the story.
- Mike Clark, well-known sheriff of this county, took a short vacation out of town, and Charley Hoye, his leading assistant, arrested the whole of Carter lake for bootlegging.
- H. R. McNeil, red-headed news dealer, has been sticking to his own business. He never liked to work, nohow.
- Billy Archibald, once part owner of the Chicago board of trade, was again making an honest living, much to the surprise of his friends.
- Pete Jolly was again putting out that old stuff. He had a long line of it, too.
- Charlie Jacobson again retired from business. It got to be a regular thing with Charlie.
- Billy Musgrave lost an arm, but that did not keep him from having a weather-eye on things around town. Art Anderson went to work again.
- Dean Noyes let it be known he was on the job for nomination for city commissioner. It was said some new slates would appear in the near future.
- Tony Hoffmann made a brief visit to the city. He was again putting out that old stuff about Oklahoma and Kansas oil wells.
- Billy Holm, former liquid refreshment dispenser, was holding down a taxi at Fourteenth and Harney.
- Charlie Schneckengerger was still putting out his old alibis.
- Bill Carey did not loaf on the job. He believed something had been landed. Bill had a great eye for business.
- John N. Baldwin took on a new political job. He began by throwing out some of his Irish friends.
- George Lynch was seen in some of the hotel lobbies. He did not show himself any oftener than necessary.
- Fruit jobbers in the Trimble building had no apologies to make for what they saw going on in that vicinity.
- Charlie Hill threatened to call on the editor of The Mediator, but did not keep his threats.

Police Desperation Over Local Crime

Police Commissioner Ringer's augmented force of policemen is becoming desperate over local conditions, it is stated, and is undertaking to get a line on the criminal element that infests the city and is responsible for daily highway robberies and holdups. The people believe it is time something was being done. Not a day passes any more that some business man is not held up in his own place and robbed. This condition has been going on for nearly three years, and many who have studied the condition believe the mismanagement of police affairs is responsible for most of it.

Before the present administration took office comparatively little of this sort of work was indulged in. The fellows responsible for it were spotted as quick as they struck town and were given orders to move on. Just to the contrary, at present, Omaha appears to have become a rendezvous for this criminal element and most of them appear to be doing pretty well and getting away with about everything they undertake.

There are some pretty fine fellows left on the police force but most of them work under conditions that make it impossible for them to accomplish very much. Latest orders are for emergency squads to patrol the city at night and find out what people are doing who happen not to be in bed when the clock strikes nine o'clock. This curfew business is very fine for a village but it will not be very popular in Omaha, where people are required to be on the down town streets at all hours of the night. If this new police army accomplishes anything in the way of cleaning up the city of bad characters they will be thanked for their efforts but few people are going to admit "the right of seize and search" when they are attending to their own business.

Mr. Ringer has been an absolute failure in the position he holds and inside information is to the effect that the present commission would not permit him to hold his present position another term if the remote accident of their being re-elected should occur.

DOUGLAS COUNTY NOW READY FOR BUSINESS

Court Proceeding Temporarily Holds Up Letting of Contract

PERMANENT PAVING NOW IN DEMAND

Possibility of Many New Roads Seen in Letting of Contracts for New Construction—Douglas County Leads Van for Action in Nebraska—Courts to Act

The question of whether or not Douglas county is to have the new and permanent roads voted by the people is becoming a serious one. The money has been voted and something like \$700,000 of it is in the bank vaults waiting to be spent. Just now injunction proceedings are holding up the awarding of bids on a long stretch of these roads, which are considered as being badly needed.

The county board advertised for bids in December. Four firms offered bids, which were considered, by road men, as being pretty well within what was demanded. Injunction proceedings were brought, however, holding up the whole business for a week or two until the new county commissioners took charge of affairs. By those competent to talk this move was considered a political one, which it is hoped will blow over with the new majority of that body taking control.

There has been a lot of talk about letting county contracts for bridge building, road construction and all that sort of stuff. But the new permanent road construction is of comparative recent origin and those who formerly gave no heed to such matters are now taking a lively interest in them. This is especially true of automobile owners, who expect to use the highways considerably in the future. Formerly they did not know what a country road looked like.

It is generally felt that the contracts for letting this road construction should be let at once, in order that builders may get material scattered out ready for spring work. In the event of new advertisements being placed for this work it means at least one more year of delay. By those competent to speak on such matters, it is stated that the bids opened ten days ago are in keeping with the competition indulged in by the bidders and that the prices are very favorable.

In the past there have been some jokers in this road construction that may have been good reason for holding up the work, but it appears now that the time has come for action. The fact that four different paving concerns were low bidders on various stretches of these roads gives evidence of the fact that there is plenty of competition for the work and what might formerly have been live objections to letting the work have now fallen flat.

John Breen, who says he represents some live civic organizations, went after the county board with the result that the courts held up the letting of bids for ten days. The decision of this case will be given Tuesday, it is said. The court thus far has been a bulwark against the possibility of Douglas county taxpayers being handed any lemons and those who are most

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EAST OMAHA SHOPS CLOSE UP AWAITING ACTION NEW OFFICERS

Classy Suburb Goes Into Winter Quarters When New Justice and Constable Take Control—Mike Clark Keeps Weather Eye on Conditions Out There

East Omaha is to be renovated, says the new administration that has recently come into power out in that neck of the woods. The new administration consists of a justice of the peace and his constable, in the persons of Medor Martin, 76 years young, and J. C. Michaelson, described as looking like a "movie sheriff." Martin used to belong to the Chicago police force and knows about as much about law as a hog about Latin. Michaelson, who is expected to wield the heavy artillery in that neck of the woods, is of the backwoods type, but is given credit for being ready to do business whenever called upon for that purpose.

East Omaha has had its doings for a long time. It has been a great hangout for the bootlegger and roadhouse man, but as a general proposition the lawless element has never been in control of affairs out there. The running of Carter Lake boulevard to the vicinity a few years ago popularized the place and most of Omaha's joyriders, of high and low degree, visit that part of the city periodically.

In recent months, it has been charged, bootleggers and small distillery operators have done a thriving business in that vicinity, but as a general proposition not much has been heard of it, and if there has been any lawlessness little publicity has been

given to the fact. Mike Clark, who keeps a weather eye on things in that vicinity, gave all of the old timers out there notice that they must keep within the law. This occurred when Clark was first elected and East Omaha has been a pretty quiet place ever since.

Sheriff Clarks made several personal visits to resorts in East Omaha and still drops around to see what is going on there occasionally. This territory has always been somewhat neutral because much of it is in Iowa, under the jurisdiction of the Council Bluffs authorities. Occasional raids from the Iowa officers have been made but usually any violators were "tipped off" before the "law" reached the spot, because they had to pass through Omaha to get to the place.

George Scheschey, who for many years operated a roadhouse near the boulevard, has closed his place for the winter, he says. George keeps in touch with doings in his vicinity and usually takes good care to keep out of the clutches of the law. Other famous corners out that way have found it pretty hard of late to make any money because of it not being of easy access. Bootleggers are reported to have tabooed the district because there was no business. Taken altogether, it is not believed Martin and Michaelson will have very big jobs on their hands.

