

# A RECORD-BREAKING BUSINESS YEAR.

THE year 1900 closes with a very good showing along all lines of business as compared with the year 1899. Wool prices have been lower this year than last, which has caused a number of wool growers to store the clip for the present, in the hope of securing better prices later on. This course has withheld from circulation much money which would otherwise have been used in some of the channels of trade. The highest price for the year was 18 cents, while the average price was about 14 cents. While this condition has no doubt curtailed the volume of business, the year compares quite favorably with last year.

Mr. B. W. Robinson of Bradstreet's agency, says that the creamery business has been very good, especially in the county, where a marked increase in business is reported. A slight decrease is recorded in other districts as compared with 1899. Four new creameries have been built during the year, making a total of 54 now being worked in the State. The capital invested has also been increased, and the outlook for 1901 is very good. The consumption was not materially changed from that of last year. Early in the year prices were not much different from those of last year, but the year closes with a very material advance in the prices of butter and other dairy products. The fruit crop has been larger than last year's, and fair prices have been maintained. The grade of fruit raised fell slightly below the average.

The capital of some of the older established business houses has been increased during the year, and one large wholesale grocery house has been established, with a capital of \$500,000. A wholesale drug house has been started up, owing to the prosperous condition of business.

A great increase is also noted in the product of the mines, which has been turned into the development of other mines and also the building of handsome residences in different parts of the county.

During the past 12 months, or up to Nov. 30th, the railroad industry, the actual assets being \$55,950, and the liabilities being \$192,862. In the year 1899 there were 59 failures, the total assets of which were \$147,550, while the liabilities amounted to \$389,853.

**Colonel Webber's Views.**  
Hon. T. G. Webber, secretary and general superintendent of Z. C. M. I., takes a hopeful view of the business outlook for Utah at the opening of the Twentieth century. In reply to questions, he said to a "News" representative:

"The trade conditions are good, and promise to continue so. There is no indication of sensational business advancement, but there is every reason to look for a good volume of trade and a fair share of prosperity. The uncertainty that always attends presidential elections has been swept away, and the people know now the policy that is to prevail for the next four years. This knowledge gives a settled condition of affairs that is good for the business outlook, and I anticipate a steady and prosperous growth."

"As to our own business, that has been satisfactory. The outlook is bright, and the low price of wheat, have made collections slow, and have retarded business somewhat. But the recent storm, which seems to have broken the drought effectually, brightens the promise for the future."

"The construction of the Salt Lake and Los Angeles railroad, and the important factor in giving increased vigor and activity to business, as it is a great enterprise, and will employ a vast amount of capital here in Utah. This, and the fact that the company has promised to the State, aid in giving future prospects a very healthy appearance."

"The business of Z. C. M. I. for 1900 is considerably in excess of that of 1899, and we expect next year to improve on this. Of course profits have been small, but the volume of business has increased. In some lines there has been a marked rise in prices. This is especially the case in cotton goods, where the figures are likely to keep up."

"In the iron trade, there has been a settling down of prices, and a new basis is likely to be reached soon. In almost every line of merchandise prices are higher than a year ago. As to the business of Z. C. M. I., the figures show by comparison that an advance has been made, and a good indication of what may be anticipated in the year to come, since conditions are equally favorable with those of a year ago."

"Our sales in the home departments for the nine months ending November 1st, 1900, were \$2,350,276.14, an increase of \$145,326 over a corresponding period of 1899."

**Bank Clearings.**

In all communities the clearing house is the business pulse which indicates the rapidity with which money flows through the different channels of trade. The following comparison between the bank clearings of 1899 and 1900 shows a slower pulse or less business for the current year. The decrease is not a material one, no more than that which would be expected, perhaps, at a presidential year. Then again, the consummation of several big mining deals in 1899 added several millions to that year's clearings. The effect of one of these deals was seen on September 27th last year when the bank clearings reached the sum of \$1,292,156. This was the largest day of 1899 and it shows a big decrease in the largest day this year when the clearings amounted to \$875,691.16. Another reason for the decrease is found in the fact that wool prices ranged lower than last year and that much wool was stored in 1900 waiting for higher prices. Up to December 15th the present monthly clearings have fallen \$1,294,000 below the clearings for the same period in 1899. It is probable that the year's clearings will be found to be about \$140,000 lower than those of 1899.

Following are the monthly bank clearings for the past 2 years:

1899.

January	\$1,101,009
February	6,917,951
March	7,826,846
April	7,618,570
May	9,871,233
June	9,291,060
July	9,733,334
August	9,644,285
September	16,008,167
October	12,917,473
November	12,454,418
December	12,523,687

1900.

January	\$1,048,465.03
February	5,611,096.23
March	9,861,951.14
April	9,866,192.01
May	10,063,888.02
June	8,739,482.08
July	8,832,749.47
August	8,569,896.52
September	9,155,058.72
October	11,202,430.54
November	12,622,746.05
December, estimated	10,556,000.00

\$116,984,563.18

## COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF UTAH'S MAIN PRODUCTS.

1900.

Barley	100,000
Alfalfa Seed	150,000
Honey	165,000
Salt	250,000
Oats	300,000
Sugar	1,000,000
Lambs	1,600,000
Wheat	2,000,000
Copper	2,286,060
Dairy Products	2,767,000
Gold	3,862,416
Lead	4,018,628
Wool	4,320,000
Coal	5,150,000
Silver	11,218,545

### Commercial Stocks.

A leading feature of the entire year of 1900, like that of 1899, has been the enormous amount of money which has been concentrated in Salt Lake, and generally laid idle in the banks. The Savings banks have been forced to reduce the rate of interest, and naturally holders of money have sought other avenues where they could look for a better return. There has thus been a rush towards the building societies, which paid larger rates of interest, and the leading concern, Zion's Building Society, has announced that it will not take the deposits of those who place their money in the society for an investment only, and do not contemplate the erection of homes. All this has naturally brought the local dividend paying stocks into stronger demand than ever, and as their number is limited the prices have been forced up to a point where some of them return only a little higher rate than that paid by the savings banks. How marked has been the advance in the leading stocks is well shown by the following list giving the prices two years ago and at present.

	Price 1898.	Price Dec. 1900.
Z. C. M. I.	\$122.00	\$137.00
Deseret National	207.00	243.00
Utah Sugar Co.	12.50	19.00
Ogden Sugar Co.	110.00	167.00
Home Fire	83.00	115.00
Utah B. & P. Co.	101.00	125.00
Deseret Savings	89.00	147.50
First National Bank	160.00	175.00
Ogden	160.00	175.00
Wagon M. Co.	100.00	110.00
Commercial National Bank	65.00	85.00
Utah Commercial Savings Bank	100.00	107.50
Zion's B. & P. Co.	115.00	132.00
Thatcher Bros Bank	95.00	108.00
Heber J. Grant & Co.	60.00	100.00
Clark, Eldredge & Co.	75.00	85.00

### Woolen Goods.

"The past year has been a prosperous one for the Provo Woolen Mills company," said Manager C. C. Carter this week. "Notwithstanding many difficulties in the way of making local woolen mills pay, the Provo company is forging steadily ahead, with a marked improvement this year. This is due to an increase in the export business, upon which the company depends for a great increase in the profits. Provo woolens are now known as far west as New York, and in the New England States, as well as Omaha and Chicago. Fully three-fourths of the present product of the State mills goes outside the State, and the outlook is very favorable for the demand to increase as time rolls on. For the first nine months of the year, the Provo Woolen Mills company shipped out of the State 260,000 yards of woolen goods. The demand at present is confined principally to cassimeres, in the manufacture of which nearly 500,000 pounds of wool have been used this year."

A great deal of money has been expended this year in increasing the spindle capacity of the mills. Several carloads of machinery were removed early in the year from the old Deseret Woolen mills, and in addition to this, new machinery was purchased in the east. These changes make the Provo Mills company fully equipped to handle the increased business which is coming its way. The mill force has been increased during the year.

### Utah Flour Mills.

The outlook for the milling industry of Utah is very bright, the bank of the year 1900. The proposition to ship flour to the Orient is being again considered by the millers of the State, and at this writing it appears very probable that the matter will assume definite form before the end of the year. About 2 years ago, it will be remembered, the same idea was worked up with very bright prospect of success. The details were all well arranged when it was found that, owing to the war with Spain, no shipments could be made for lack of storage room on the Pacific coast steamer. Since then things have changed and with a satisfactory rate decided upon, it is

### Salt Lake's Banks.

Salt Lake has fifteen banking institutions, eleven of them being members of the Clearing House association. It is a source of pride to everyone interested in the city's welfare that during the panic of 1893, when

Wheat	4,000,000 Bushels
Oats	750,000 Bushels
Barley	250,000 Bushels
Total	5,000,000 Bushels

## Utah's Grain Crop

FOR THE YEAR 1900.

Wheat Valuation	\$2,000,000
Oats Valuation	300,000
Barley Valuation	100,000
Total	\$2,400,000

FOUR million bushels of wheat valued at \$2,000,000; seven hundred and fifty thousand bushels of oats valued at \$300,000 and two hundred and fifty thousand bushels of barley valued at \$100,000. These figures represent, as accurately as possible, the number of bushels of grain, and their value in cash, produced in Utah for the year 1900.

The cereal crop was not as large in this State this year as in 1899, by more than a million bushels. The reduced yield was largely occasioned—in fact, caused by the continued drought that made this section of country suffer in common with the rest. The falling off in the production was principally in Sanpete and Sevier counties, though other parts were likewise affected, conspicuous among them being the Plymouth Flat and Bear River valley districts which are tapped by Colinton.

The "diminution in quantity," in the parlance of the grain dealers, went hand in hand with a "pinched quality." That is to say, the wheat was considerably shrunken. As to the market there have been few fluctuations here. The greatest change came quite early last summer when the wheat market was given a big impetus at Chicago on which occasion prices were advanced as much as 24 cents per bushel over figures that had prevailed up to that time. The market was comparatively slight being only about 2 cents. When the boom was started wheat was selling

locally at 47½ and 48 cents, carload lots. That was in June. In July it was up to 50 cents, and that is what first-class wheat is bringing upon the Salt Lake market at the present time, though much of this year's product is going at 48 and 49 cents. It will be seen that prices played closely around the 50 cent mark in Utah for the past year.

Out of the four million bushels of wheat produced in Utah this year about 1,750,000 bushels will be consumed for bread and feed purposes, thus leaving 2,250,000 bushels for exportation. This must find a market on the Pacific coast, or in the Orient, though it is not probable, in view of recent developments, that as much Utah wheat will be shipped to latter points as anticipated a few weeks ago. The reason for this is found principally in the fact that wheat is practically selling for the same price at Portland as in Utah. Nevertheless, enterprising Utah wheat shippers and equally enterprising railroad men hope to create a condition that will start much wheat from Utah for far eastern points next year. Then, again, Utah flour may find a market in Chicago within the next few months, something it has not done hitherto. Several weeks ago a number of car loads of Utah flour were sent to the Windy City as an experiment. While no definite report has been made as to the favor it has met with, it is believed that the result will be such as to bring about a decided demand there for the Utah article. This, done, great good must necessarily follow.

As to oats, about 750,000 bushels of a splendid article was raised here this year, finding a ready market at

48 cents a bushel, thus netting the farmers quite \$300,000, and oats, by the way, always finds a ready market in Utah and the wonder is that a greater acreage is not annually sown. It is a fact that oats sell at a higher figure in Salt Lake than at almost any interior point in the country. Of course, the local supply will not be sufficient for home demands by considerable.

The barley crop for this year is carefully estimated at 250,000 bushels. The article always sells by the hundred weight, but when reduced to the bushel basis brings about 40 cents. The 1900 yield is valued at about \$100,000.

The outlook for 1901 for all kinds of grain is at the present time most flattering. A leading Salt Lake wheat man who has just returned from an extensive trip over the State, declares that never before has he seen the fall sown wheat so vigorous as at the present time. The acreage too, is also great, and he thinks that next year, so far as indications go, will prove a record breaker in the cereal production. Almost all the counties will raise more wheat than heretofore, with the exception of those contiguous to the big sugar factories where beet growing has slowly and surely displaced wheat raising to a large extent on account of the profit being much greater in the latter business. Another exception will also be in order very soon, if indeed, it should not already be noted; and that is the fact that the recent success attending the tomato industry in Utah has caused much valuable wheat land (and it will cause much more) to be converted into more profitable tomato fields.

July '99. These taxes, with those on liquor dealers, etc., furnished the sum of \$271,134.10. The tax on beer was increased at that time from 31 per barrel to \$1.85, which resulted in the collection of \$203,709.70 in the above period. The cigar tax was raised from \$3 to \$3.60 per thousand, which totaled \$20,869.70.

The tobacco tax was doubled and amounted to \$237.24 in the above period. The tax on mixed flour, which was first put into effect in July, '98, amounted to \$21.50. The documentary stamps sold amounted to \$183,822.72, while the other special taxes from bankers, brokers, etc., the sum of \$346,581.23 collected on account of the war. In other words about two-thirds of the total collections goes to war tax account.

The proposition to repeal the documentary tax on all documents except stock certificates and to repeal the law regarding proprietary stamps on everything except bottled wine, is before the ways and means committee of Congress at this writing, and will be reported on in a few days. It is also proposed to reduce the tax on beer to \$1.60 per barrel, while the cigar tax will be placed at the old figure of 23 per thousand.

It is probable that a new ruling will also be agreed to by which Utah self-raising flour will not be considered mixed flour.

### State Finances.

Statement of receipts and disbursements of State monies for the eleven months ending November 30:

RECEIPTS.

January	\$108,445.49
February	67,212.22
March	67,212.22
April	16,829.28
May	21,000.02
June	20,000.00
July	46,507.99
August	100,000.00
September	42,547.81
October	75,000.00
November	13,023.06
December, estimated	60,000.00
Total	\$1,253,411.15

DISBURSEMENTS.

January	\$19,949.76
February	16,836.45
March	19,811.84
April	21,711.79
May	17,773.06
June	28,942.65
July	27,003.68
August	13,984.76
September	14,413.83
October	15,025.45
November	17,795.12
December, estimated	19,000.00
Total	\$257,209.53

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1900

Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1900

Grand total \$1,055,176.69

DISBURSEMENTS.

January	\$17,138.06
February	62,842.44
March	61,338.82
April	114,432.24
May	102,500.34
June	76,590.24
July	20,000.00
August	97,128.99
September	194,000.00
October	77,184.79
November	60,000.00
December	79,674.70
Total	\$1,302,967.07

Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1900

Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1900

Grand total \$1,055,176.69

1900

Deduct loans due Dec. 15, 1900

Balance \$27,208.02

County Finances.

Statement of receipts and disbursements of the county treasurer of Salt Lake county, for twelve months ending December, 1900, (December being estimated):

RECEIPTS.

January	\$5,061.34
February	18,234.22
March	4,661.18
April	8,929.18
May	4,508.23
June	5,615.66
July	7,650.43
August	4,618.85
September	28,942.65
October	21,580.79
November	108,683.29
December	5,000.00
December taxes, 1900, due	59,000.00
Total	\$257,209.53

DISBURSEMENTS.

January	\$19,949.76
February	16,836.45
March	19,811.84
April	21,711.79
May	17,773.06
June	28,942.65
July	27,003.68
August	13,984.76
September	14,413.83
October	15,025.45
November	17,795.12
December, estimated	19,000.00
Total	\$257,209.53

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1901

Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1900

Grand total \$1,055,176.69

Note—The June disbursement include

a judgment against the county, favor civil federation, for \$10,459.29. The July disbursement includes bond interest of \$8,750.00.

### Municipal Finances.

Receipts and disbursements from January 1, 1900 to December 1st, 1900.

RECEIPTS.

January	\$5,061.34
February	18,234.22
March	4,661.18
April	8,929.18
May	4,508.23
June	5,615.66
July	7,650.43
August	4,618.85
September	28,942.65
October	21,580.79
November	108,683.29
December	5,000.00
December taxes, 1900, due	59,000.00
Total	\$257,209.53

DISBURSEMENTS.

January	\$19,949.76
February	16,836.45
March	19,811.84
April	21,711.79
May	17,773.06
June	28,942.65
July	27,003.68
August	13,984.76
September	14,413.83
October	15,025.45
November	17,795.12
December, estimated	19,000.00
Total	\$257,209.53

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1901

Balance on hand Dec. 1, 1900

Grand total \$1,055,176.69

1900

Deduct loans due Dec. 15, 1900

Balance \$27,208.02

County Finances.

Statement of receipts and disbursements of the county treasurer of Salt Lake county, for twelve months ending December, 1900, (December being estimated):

RECEIPTS.

January	\$5,061.34
February	18,234.22
March	4,661.18
April	8,929.18
May	4,508.23
June	5,615.66
July	7,650.43
August	4,618.85
September	28,942.65
October	21,580.79
November	108,683.29
December	5,000.00
December taxes, 1900, due	59,000.00
Total	\$257,209.53

DISBURSEMENTS.

January	\$19,949.76
February	16,836.45
March	19,811.84
April	21,711.79
May	17,773.06
June	28,942.65
July	27,003.68
August	13,984.76
September	14,413.83
October	15,025.45
November	17,795.12
December, estimated	19,000.