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STEELE COUNTY

Named after Franklin Steele, pioneer Minnesota lumberman, Steele County lies in the fertile southeastern farming area where first was established the State's agricultural eminence.

As an enterprising farming and dairy unit, Steele has earned wealth and prestige. It has served as a laboratory for agricultural research and experimentation for educators interested in husbandry. A corresponding cultural background gives to this community integral personality.

About 70 miles south of the Twin Cities and 40 miles west of Rochester, Steele's chief and only city, Owatonna, is unique in character. Familiarly known as "the butter capital," Owatonna, the county seat, has likewise achieved esthetic distinction through a project in art, established by Andrew Carnegie under the direction of the University of Minnesota. Extensive nurseries in the city, expanded through acclimating trees and fruits for farmers, support the flourishing interest in landscape gardening expressed in the attractive home gardens and city parks.

After the first breaking of the soil by pioneer settlers in 1859, wheat became the most important crop. In 1879, more than half the acreage was planted in wheat but the successive wheat harvests decreased in yield and more diversification with crop ro-

tation became imperative.

A definite trend to livestock farming, which set-in about 1880, and improved transportation facilities, eventually made dairying of chief importance. Cows of dual purpose were gradually exchanged for dairy pure-breds and numerous high production herds were developed.

Cheese was the first commercial dairy product sold. Six cheese factories operating in 1872 were later replaced by creameries in the nineties. Cooperative marketing was introduced into the State in 1890 by a cooperative creamery a short distance from the county's southern border. Expansion of the cooperative movement led to a strong federation of this entire southeastern section which soon allied with the central district.

Organization, plus high quality in butterfat, enabled these creameries to pay their members during the last 25 years / 8 percent higher butterfat prices than the average throughout the State. Today 22 cooperative creameries process the county's entire output from dairying.

OPPORTUNITIES

So much capital has been invested in farms in Steele, many being of exhibition character, that a prospective farmer would need a comparatively large amount of capital or credit for initial investment. To such, and to the already established farmer, opportunities in Steele appear exceptionally promising. Lime-impregnated soil yields abundant alfalfa which, with feed crops of corn, oats, and barley, are translated into fattened livestock and thence into farm income. Dairying furnishes the largest share of income with the sale of livestock a close second. The latter consists of steers, veal calves,

sheep, swine, and poultry.

As dairying grew in importance, sheep raising declined, while that of swine ^{raising} increased. Pork production automatically expands with dairying as small pigs consume the skim milk.

PHYSICAL SETTING Steele has an area of 431 square miles, or 275,840 acres.

Lying in the second row of the counties from the south, midway from the Iowa border and the Mississippi River, it is bounded on the west by Waseca County, on the north by Rice, on the south by Freeborn, and on the east by Dodge County.

Topography

Surface of the county is level to gently rolling, with steep hills along the rivers. Originally the southern area was open prairie, with the northern part and the river banks heavily wooded. Large groves of trees are still standing. Gradation of the varied surface to the higher elevation in the south has formed lakes, small rivers, creeks and marshes, giving the landscape a variable and blooming aspect.

Drainage

Practically all of Steele County is drained through the Straight River, originating in the county, to the Cannon River and thence to the Mississippi. A small portion along the southwestern border drains eastward through branches of the Le Sueur into the Minnesota River. Likewise, the northeastern edge drains through branches of the Zumbro River northeasterly to the Mississippi. This division of drainage through three water courses reveals a higher elevation in Steele than in the surrounding southeastern area of the State. The slowness of the slope, shown in the sluggish flowing of

the streams, necessitated installation of a system of ditches and tile drains. These drain the marshes unaffected by natural drainage and aid drainage of the heavier soil in wet weather. In 1930 there were 23,954 acres of land improved or reclaimed by artificial drainage.

Soil

A rich black clay loam soil upon a pebbly clay subsoil is fairly uniform throughout most of Steele. This soil contains a good supply of lime which always assures abundant alfalfa. A large area of loess lies to the east of the county. This loess, dating from glacial periods, while extremely fertile, is deficient in lime. Small areas of gravel and sand are found near the various streams.

Climate and Rainfall

As Steele County has no official weather bureau, climatic information is taken from the Federal records at Waseca, approximately 14 miles from Owatonna. It is to be noted that approximately 75 percent of the average rainfall occurs during the growing season. The average annual precipitation for this area over a period of 21 years was 29.83 inches, or the fourth heaviest in the State. The average annual temperature was 44.7 degrees. A long growing season of 140 days gives Steele a marked agricultural advantage. The last killing frost occurs about May 11 and the first in the fall about September 28th. The following charts record the average monthly temperature and precipitation over the 21-year period.

CLIMATIC RECORD 21 years.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
TOWNS: Waseca (alt. 1,153) Precipitation in inches	.76	.96	1.3 5	2.25	4.05	4.56	3.89	4.40	3.47	2.16	1.31	.67	29.83
Temperature (Fahrenheit)	12.7°	18.7°	31.4°	45.4°	57.3°	66.9°	72.2°	69.7°	61.5°	48.5°	33.3°	18.4°	44.7°

SETTLEMENT AND
RACIAL ORIGINS

As Steele is in the area permanently settled before the major immigration rush set in, 88.6 percent of the 18,475 inhabitants in 1930 were native white. Population, also according to the 1930 census figures, contained 10.9 percent foreign-born white and 0.1 percent Negro. There were 9,086 native whites of foreign parentage, 2,941 of mixed parentage and 2,013 foreign-born representing nationalities from the following countries: England, Scotland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, Switzerland, France, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Austria, Russia, Finland, Canada. The greatest number came from Germany and others in numerical gradation from Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Norway, and Poland. Other races are represented by 60 Mexicans, 20 Indians, and 19 Negroes.

COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS

AND SUBDIVISIONS Steele is subdivided into 13 townships, ¹one city, and ³three incorporated villages. ~~On the surface~~ The small number of cities and villages seems inadequate for a flourishing county, but Owatonna,

has a population of 7,654.
 the county seat, ~~is an exceptional city.~~ Besides the villages, Bloom-
 ing Prairie, Ellendale, and Medford, there are small trading centers sup-
 porting cooperative enterprises in the 13 ~~various~~ townships.

TOWNSHIPS

Aurora Township	807
Berlin (764) →	
Bloomington Prairie	409
Clinton Falls	758
Deerfield	741
Havana	664
Lemond	753
Medford	737
Meriden	808
Merton	624
Owatonna	610
Somerset	933
Summit	781

VILLAGES

Bloomington Prairie	1,046
Ellendale	385
Medford	
(No population available as village was incorporated in 1936).	

CITIES

Owatonna	7,654
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TAXES

According to the State Tax Commission, the total taxable
 value of Steele County in 1931 was \$13,633,776.00. The
 depression lowered land and property valuations to \$9,277,262 in
 1935, a decline of 16 percent. This decrease in valuation necessitated
 an increased tax rate from 50.30 mills in 1931 to 62.27 mills in 1935,
 but despite this advance less money was paid in taxes in 1935. The
 general levy, based on the 1935 rate was designed to yield \$588,093.00,
 while the levy in 1931 called for \$694,721.00. Thus, an aggregate
 monetary saving in taxes amounted to \$106,628.00 in 1935.

Indebtedness

In 1935/ a total indebtedness of \$681,809.80 lay against

Steele County and its subdivisions. This indebtedness, in the form of bonds and warrants, against county, city, ~~and~~ villages, and school districts, equalled 7.35 percent of the total valuation of \$9,277,262.00 in 1935. The per capita debt of \$36.90 was considerably below the State average of \$82.86.

Steele has the smallest tax delinquency in the State. Of the 1934 levy of \$591,752 payable in 1935, \$22,650 or 3.83 percent was delinquent on January 1, 1936. The total of all uncollected taxes as of January 1, 1936 was \$51,407. Thus with the year of 1934 as a basis of comparison, the cumulative delinquency is only 8.6 percent of a year's taxes.

MARKETS AND TRADE CENTERS

Urban facilities in Steele County, concentrated as they are in one city, have made Owatonna an ~~exceptionally~~ adequate market and trade center. Farmers from a wide vicinity bring trade here in preference to rival markets. Owatonna takes its name from the Sioux word, Ouitunya, meaning straight. The ~~synonym~~ name "straight" was given ~~as a name~~ to the river beside which the city was founded, in ironic reference to its winding course.

Long before the Owatonna Project in Art was established in 1933, the city was known for its scenic charm and beauty. This natural instinct for the harmonious is now being guided through the project by translating basic art in terms of everyday community life. Under distinguished instructors ~~every~~ ^{all} phases, including architecture, landscape gardening, interior decoration, dress design, arts and crafts, are finding practical expression. Eager participation of merchants, officials, and residents in realizing the project's ideal, resulted in

an additional Carnegie grant in art, of books, periodicals and prints, to the city. This collection, valued at \$5,000.00 is housed in the Owatonna library.

A point of interest in the city is the Security Bank and Trust Company building. Its site, away from the main business street, affords the necessary perspective in viewing architecture. Designed by Louis Sullivan in harmony with its rural background, the interior of the building is decorated by murals of farm scenes painted by Oskar Gross.

Besides the major dairying industry, supporting ^{many} cooperative creameries and one independent, three ice cream and four pasteurization plants, Owatonna maintains a cannery and allied industries. One of the largest jewelry-manufacturing concerns in the West operates in Owatonna and the State highway department has shops in the city.

COOPERATIVES

Steele County/ pioneered in launching the cooperative movement in Minnesota. In 1891, 4 creameries were manufacturing butter and by 1894 the number had increased to 17. These creameries absorbed the ^{first} cheese factories/ existing since 1872, as the sale of cream for butter yielded more profits to the farmer. Ten of the 22 creameries operating/ in 1935 are located in Owatonna, while the balance are distributed throughout the county. Three of these are in Blooming Prairie, two in Ellendale, and others in rural centers such as New Richland, Medford, Hope, Meriden, Bixby, Pratt, and Claremont.

Other local cooperatives through which the farmers market their products and pool their interests are the 3 farmers elevators, situated in Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, and Owatonna; 3 mutual fire

insurance companies in Owatonna; 8 livestock cooperatives, of which 2 are in Owatonna and others in Bixby, Blooming Prairie, Ellendale, Hope, Medford, and Meriden; a cooperative oil company operating in both Owatonna and Blooming Prairie and a cooperative store in Ellendale and Owatonna.

TRANSPORTATION

At an early date, Steele recognized the importance of good roads. In 1936/ there were 51 miles of surfaced county-aid roads and 2 miles of unsurfaced; 154 miles of surfaced State-aid roads and 4 miles of unsurfaced. US 65 and State 218 connect Owatonna with the Twin Cities. In addition to the county and State-aid roads, there were three paved federal highways. US 14, beginning at Winona, runs east and west passing through Owatonna, and continues west to Lake Benton in Lincoln County. US 65 and US 218 extend south from Owatonna to the Iowa border. These highways are kept passable the year around, as there are 32 milk routes on the main highways. Under the present tax program/ it is estimated that/ within the next 5 years, 50 miles of new roads will be built.

#cap Three railroads and two bus lines service the county, with Owatonna as the transportation center. The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul passes through Blooming Prairie, Bixby, Pratt, and Owatonna; the Chicago & North~~western~~ railroad runs parallel with the US highway 14 touching Anderson, Havanna, and Meriden, ~~while~~, the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific passes through Ellendale, thence to Owatonna, and continues north along ^{side} the US highway 65.

Bus ^{lines} of the Northland-Greyhound ~~system~~ and the Jefferson Transportation Company connect Owatonna with the Twin Cities.

SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND AGENCIES

Social welfare and relief administration in Steele is under supervision of the county government. The county supports a poor farm, setting aside a special tax for that purpose. The child welfare board consists of three members, cooperating with the State board of control in guarding unprotected children. Adequate hospitalization is available in the county. Owatonna has one of the ^{five} accredited, municipally owned, general hospitals in the State.

There are several recreational areas near Owatonna of which the most important is Mineral Springs Park. It contains a public tourist camp, equipped with fireplaces, running water and a pavilion. Kaplan's Woods, near the county fair grounds, recently has been converted into a State park, thus preserving the virgin timber in the area. Summer cottages at Beaver Lake, ^{are available to those} ~~near Ellendale, attract those~~ interested in fishing, and there is plenty of wild fowl during the hunting season.

Churches

There are 7 Catholic churches belonging to the Archdiocese of St. Paul, and 23 Protestant churches in Steele. Three of the former are in Owatonna and others are in Blooming Prairie, Litomysl, Deerfield, and Moravia. The dominant Protestant church is the Lutheran supporting the two churches in Ellendale, four in Owatonna, and single churches in Blooming Prairie, Meriden, and New Auburn.

Schools

Steele recognized early the necessity of providing accredited schools in the community. The Pillsbury Military

Steele County

Academy, a private school for boys, was established at Owatonna in 1877. First known as the Minnesota Academy, the name was changed in honor of its patron, George ^{A.} Pillsbury, whose beneficence enabled the school to obtain acceptable rank among college preparatory schools. The Sacred Heart Academy, established the same year, is a Catholic day and boarding school for girls.

Public schools in Steele, maintained chiefly by local general taxes, receive additional financial support from a State apportionment, special State aid, and a supplementary allotment from income tax. The Owatonna system includes a graded elementary school, a junior ^{and} senior high, and the following special departments; agriculture, general industrial, home economics, commercial, kindergarten, spring primaries, and a class for defectives. There are graded high and graded elementary schools in Blooming Prairie, and the two consolidated schools at Ellendale and Medford contain graded elementary and ⁶~~six~~-year graded high schools with additional departments in general industry and home economics.

These consolidated schools provide transportation. There are also 82 ungraded elementary schools in the rural districts.

The municipal library in Owatonna is generally superior to cities of comparative population. The library with a yearly circulation of 109,341 volumes contains 24,477 volumes and 2,112 periodicals. It serves 4,535 borrowers, of which only 41 percent are city residents.

FARM INCOME

The 1930 census figures reveal that 78 percent of the total farm income of \$4,967,905.00 was gained from the sale of livestock and its products. The latter, consisting chiefly of dairy products, was \$2,265,387 or 45.6 percent of the total, while the in-

come from livestock sold amounted to \$1,609,733 or 32.40 percent. The balance included \$675,937.00, or 13.60 percent, from products used by the operator's family, \$405,893.00, or 8.17 percent, from the sale of crops; and \$10,955, or .22 percent, from forest products.

CENSUS REPORTS

In Steele County during the year 1935, there were 2,090

farms in operation. An average farm would be 129 acres in size and be valued at \$7,728, a decrease of 39.5 percent from 1930. On this farm would be approximately 4 horses, 20 head of cattle, 16 swine and on every ^{tench} ~~10th~~ farm, a flock of sheep numbering 18 head. The swine would be 7 less than in 1930. Productive acreage harvested would be divided among the following crops: 2.3 acres in wheat; 12.8 acres in oats; 2.9 acres in barley; .23 acres in rye; 14 acres in mixed grains; .64 acres in flax; 21.3 acres in legumes and hay; 28.6 acres in corn; .09 acres in sugar beets; 1.06 acres in potatoes. Additional acreage would consist of 1.6 acres in idle or fallow crop land; 10.4 acres in plowable pasture; 4.1 acres in woodland pasture; 16.7 acres in other pasture; 1.4 acres in woodland and the balance in the homestead and gardens.

STEELE COUNTY - AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

Population, 1930 (county)	18,475
Land Area -- 431 sq. miles	275,840 acres.

County Seat - Owatonna

FARM DEVELOPMENT

Number of farms, 1935	2,090
Land in farms -- 97.8 percent	269,665 acres
Average size of farms	129. acres

FARM VALUES

Average value per acre, 1935	\$ 59.90
" " " " , 1930	93.77
Average value per farm, 1935	7,728.00
" " " " , 1930	12,813.00

THE TAX PICTURE

Total Taxable Value, 1935	\$9,277,262.00
Total tax levy, 1935	588,093.00
The average tax rate in 1935 was 62.27 mills	
Total debt of county and subdivisions	681,809.80
Per capita debt	36.90
The total debt was 7.35 percent of the tax value	

TENANCY AND MORTGAGE DEBT

Farm Mortgage Debt, (Farms operated by owners), 1930 \$3,929,125.00
Of farms operated by owners, 51 percent were mortgaged in 1930.
Tenants occupied 32 percent of the farms in 1935.

FARM INCOME (1930 Census - 1929 Crop)

Total Farm Income	\$4,967,905.00
Average Farm Income	2,528.25

Sources of Income:

Crops	8.17 Percent
Livestock	32.40 "
Livestock Products	45.61 "

Steele County Agricultural Statistics

Farm Income (cont'd)

Forest Products	.22	Percent
Products Used by Operator's Family	13.60	"

LIVESTOCK HOLDINGS -- 1935

Cattle and calves of all ages - 1,967 farms reported 40,846 animals, an increase over 1930 of 24.4 percent.

Swine - 1,776 farms reported 34,141 animals, a decrease of 41.6 percent over 1930.

9,208/ Sheep - 206 farms reported 3,772 animals, an increase of 78 sheep over 1930.

Horses - 1,878 farms reported 9,708 animals.

THE 1934 CROP (U. S. CENSUS)

Wheat - 562 farms reported 54,064 bushels from 4,744 acres.

Oats - 1,072 farms reported 468,487 bushels from 26,767 acres.

Barley - 414 farms reported 104,560 bushels from 5,912 acres.

Rye - 60 farms reported 4,431 bushels from 479 acres.

Mixed Grains - 1,106 farms reported 566,006 bushels from 30,301 acres.

Flax threshed - 161 farms reported 12,266 bushels from 1,340 acres.

Grain sorghums - 4 farms reported 300 bushels from 25 acres.

Sweet and grain sorghums for silage - 8 farms reported 73 tons from 49 acres.

Alfalfa - 1,057 farms reported 10,007 tons from 8,009 acres.

Timothy and clover, alone or mixed - 423 farms reported 2,273 tons from 3,810 acres.

Sweet clover cut for hay - 123 farms reported 891, tons from 810 acres.

Small grains cut for hay - 698 farms reported 3,884 tons from 6,064 acres.

All other tame and wild grasses - 1,452 farms reported 13,057 tons from 22,264 acres.

Annual legumes saved for hay - 547 farms reported 4,692 tons from 3,507 acres.

Corn harvested for grain - 1882 farms reported 1,073,969 bushels from 34,511 acres.

Corn for all purposes - 59,977 acres planted, 1992 farms reported.

Sugar beets for sugar - 12 farms reported 1,232 tons from 206 acres.

Potatoes - 1,803 farms reported 125,590 bushels from 2,213 acres.

NMR

MINNEAPOLIS MINNESOTA
TOPIC: Bank Building at Owatonna
SUBMITTED BY: James Ferguson

Steele Co

BANK BUILDING AT OWATONNA

Prior to 1907 there was little evidence of creative artistry shown in buildings designed for commercial use. This was essentially true of buildings in the smaller towns and cities. The trend had been toward standard patterns and designs centered on general utility.

Louis Sullivan, a Chicago architect of no little ability, advocated the blending of the work of creative artists with that of the architectural engineer. His idea was usually scoffed at, but he persisted in his arguments on the subject - in person and in the press.

One of his articles came to the notice of owners of the Farmers' Bank in Owatonna, who was looking about for an architect who could give them something unique in the way of a design for the new bank contemplated. Sullivan was sent for and here in a town of six thousand population, in 1907, the first of a long series of artistic building which

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followed was erected.

The built-in adornments and decorative effects were said to be a physhological plan representing Spring and Autumn, and glorifying the occupation of the farmer and dairyman in the community. News of the building quickly spread and Sullivan soon found himself to be famous.

SOURCES OF MATERIAL

The Craftsman, Gustave Sticky, editor and publisher, New York, N. Y. 1907 edition, page 176.

Architectural Record, published by the Architectural Record Company, New York, N. Y. October 1908, page 249.

Morrison, Hugh, Louis Sullivan, a biography, published by W. W. Morrison & Co., New York, N. Y.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA.
TOPIC: Owatonna Bank
Number of words:
By James Ferguson.
Date:

Steele ²⁰

Owatonna's Contribution to Modern Architecture:

The Farmers Bank in Owatonna has been traced definitely as a turning point in the trend of architecture in business buildings in America.

Before we can get at the substance of the thought we are trying to bring out it becomes necessary to get a picture of the methods in vogue before this building was designed and built. also a brief reference to the life of Louis Sullivan the designer.

Louis Sullivan was born in Boston, Mass. Sept. 3d, 1856. After studying at home and abroad he settled in Chicago, 1876, where he was associated with Holabird & Root, noted architects. He socalled visionary ideas soon got him in bad repute with his employers, although his ability was recognized as more than outstanding. At that time it must be remembered that the church or cathedral design and embellishments were not thought of in connection with business buildings.

Sullivan is said to have received a very severe criticism for putting stained glass windows in the Gage Building, an incident which would be unnoticed today. He left the firm and set up the firm of Adler & Sullivan.

His burning desire to break away from the conventional type of building design and apply artistic effects received no encouragement and frequently met with caustic comment throughout the architectural world. He made some headway in the early nineties in designing theatres and tombs.

The flame he tried to kindle soon died and for fifteen years the

great artist was forgotten. Other members of the profession frequently spoke of him as a false prophet who had been put on a shelf.

He continued to talk and write of the idea and one of these articles attracted the attention of the bankers at Owatonna. They sent for Sullivan and allowed him to work out the design for the bank according to his own artistic idea of what would represent the community.

The Architectural Record Oct. 1908 made the following comment:
Can this be a forerunner of a return to that independence of spirit, that desire for something close and real, which American clients once possessed even in a crude way before the American translation of Vignola was spread upon our every draughtsman's table, and before the Architectural hopper began to pour out classic orders in response to a decadent demand.

After his success at Owatonna Sullivan was called to many towns throughout the country to construct bank buildings. Each one was different. He had no pattern. But designed each one representing the community in which it was erected. The one at Owatonna is considered his best work.

Following the application of the new architecture to banks in smaller cities and towns builders of other building in the larger cities took up the idea with the result that we now see artistic embellishments in sky scrapers which were undreamed of before Sullivans time and perhaps would not be used today had not the men at Owatonna been far-sighted enough to see something practical as well as beautiful in Sullivan's ideas.

Exterior of base, red sand stone and ashlar, laid in curves of different heights penetrated by simple rectangular doors and windows above which the building is faced with rough shale brick, soft and

varigated colors. The general effect is rich dark red.

Two arch windows, thirty six foot span. Wide flat archivolts of ten eccentric header courses of brick. Glass set in vertical steel mullions.

Walls rectangular panels, framed by bands of terra cotta, relief of bronz green, white and gold. Capped by heavy cornice of unique design. Corbled course of brick bound by bonds of brown terra Cotta. The total effect is very rich with color blending softly from a distance but strongly individual at close range.

The Interior. Large square room rich in decorative detail, and glowing in color. Amply lighted by the two windows and skylight. Curious quality of light green tinge like sunlight passing through sea water.

Windows doubly hermetically sealed. Outside is regular plate inside opalescent leaded glass is used. Marble green and buff in color. Center pattern of violet and buff.

On opposite walls under the arches are two large mural paintings by Oskor Gross, representing dairy and harvest scenes.

Wide archivolts and outer soffits of all four arches are beautifully colored. Stenciled pot jade green, brick red and dull green and buff, with terra cotta sheathed in gold leaf.

The banking office projects into the room, on three sides, as one story enclosure.

Walls of red Roman brick topped by cornice of enameled green terra cotta. Counters and deal plates are Black Belgian marble. Cashiers grills are of bronze.

A green terra cotta framed clock. Decorative panel over entrance door. The light shades are miniatures of the complete building. Even the furniture is especially designed.

We must keep in mind that many things we pass by as commonplace today was the unusual yesterday. The fact that this bank building aroused comment in the Architectural journals throughout the world and was quickly followed by other bank buildings of similiar kind designed by the same artist, proves conclusively that it was unusual and the turning point in American Architecture, bringing into business and even the home the elevating influence hitherto thought of only in connection with the church or cathedral.

SOURCES OF MATERIAL.

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Owatonna Bank

The banking office projects into the room on three sides as one story enclosures.

Walls of red Roman brick topped by a cornice of enameled green terracotta. Counters and deal plates are Black Belgian marble. Cashiers grills are of bronze.

A green terra cotta framed clock. Decorative panel over entrance door. The light shades are minatures of the complete building. Even the furniture is especially designed.

We must keep in mind that many things we pass by as commonplace to-day was the unusual yesterday. The fact that this Bank building aroused comment in the Architectural journals throughout the world and was quickly followed by other bank buildings of similar kind designed by the same artist. proves conclusively that it was unusual and the turning point in American Architecture, bringing into business and even the home the elevating influence hitherto thought of only in connection with the church or cathedral.

Minneapolis, Minn.

TOPIC: Sources, (Bank at Owatonna)
Submitted by James Ferguson.
April, 15th, 1936.

SOURCES OF MATERIAL

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