

NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS

BOTH URBAN AND SUBURBAN

Omaha's Growth Within Last Few Years Has Been Symmetrical.

EXTENSION OF LINES GENERAL

Additions Have Been Filled Up, While Inside Property Has Not Been Neglected by the Busy Home Builders.

Observant people have noted during the last three or four years the wonderful growth of Omaha's suburban district. Up to recent years the city was confined to a comparatively small radius from the business district. During the last few years this radius has more than doubled. Such movements proceed gradually and, like the growth of a boy whom one sees every day, is not noted until he suddenly becomes a man, so the growth of the city outward is not observed as one house is added to another until suddenly the realization comes that the city is a metropolitan one.

These persons who have been at once frightened and judicious and shrewd have profited handsomely by this growth. Lots which were bought in such districts as Bemis Park, Walnut Hill, West Farnam, the Hancock Park district, Kountze Place and many others have doubled, tripled and quadrupled in value. Houses which have been erected on these places are paying excellent returns and making handsome returns on the investments, while hundreds of citizens, by buying early have secured homes which are now worth much more than it cost to buy the lots and build the houses.

At the same time the city has been filling up within its old radius. It is becoming more compact and it is being done with the rise in value of lots. The statement of Secretary Grigg of the Omaha Builders' exchange, that there will be 1,000 dwellings built in Omaha this year is not considered an overstatement of the facts by real estate men of conservative minds. This is about three houses a day, which is not so bad for a year following a "panic," and a presidential year besides.

That the United States government looks to cement to be the modern Joseph which shall deliver the country from the threatened famine in lumber, is indicated by the extensive tests which are being made at the government structural materials laboratories in St. Louis. The following statement is sent out from there and indicates some of the possible advantages of cement as a material for building homes:

In its effort to conserve the natural resources of the country the technological branch of the United States geological survey is doing an important work in its structural materials laboratories at St. Louis, Mo. This is the science of concrete and reinforced concrete, the so-called "building stones." The geological survey is doing this work because of the great amounts of this material now being used by the construction and engineering works throughout the country. These investigations are having a double value, for the one part is to determine the exact value of this new material in construction work, but the public also gets the benefit of the data.

It is the belief of experts that concrete will avert the threatened timber famine and give the country a chance to restore its depleted forests. Already concrete has supplanted lumber in a thousand different ways and more avenues are being developed every day for its use. Its importance as a fireproof material also adds to the significance of the tests now being made upon materials obtained near the large commercial centers of the country will indicate the value of concrete and how these should be mixed with the cement to attain the best results in strength for each group of materials. It is believed that the tests now being made upon materials obtained near the large commercial centers of the country will indicate the value of concrete and how these should be mixed with the cement to attain the best results in strength for each group of materials.

An unusual type of Roman villa has been unearthed on the site of the ancient Roman encampment in Britain at Caerwent. The remains have been found to be in an excellent state of preservation. In the basements two completely perfect heating devices, or hypocausts, were found, together with the peculiar blue tiles utilized by the owners for conducting the heat from the stove in the basement and radiating it through the upper rooms of the dwelling. The excavations have shown that some of the buildings of the ancient villa were heated (especially the thermæ or public baths of Rome) by moist warmth exhaled from the walls and ceilings, which were said to have been partially hollow and supplied with heated water circulation from the boilers which heated the bathing tanks. It is a fact worthy of grateful recognition that thousands of humble four to eight-room cottages of our own land are far better heated by steam and water radiators than were the finest palaces of the Roman emperors.

JUDGE DAY TO BUILD HOME

Has Plans for Ten Thousand-Dollar Brick Veneer Residence, Thirty-Fourth and Poppleton.

Judge George A. Day will erect a brick veneer residence at Thirty-fourth street and Poppleton avenue, which will cost \$10,000. Newman & Johnson, architects, have the plans for the new home. Frank Boyd, assistant cashier of the Omaha National bank, will build a residence at Thirty-first and Harney streets costing \$8,000. Phil Erdmann has the contract for Mr. Boyd's new home. Contracts have been let for heating Hastings & Heyden for two St. Louis flats on Twenty-sixth avenue, just north of St. Mary's avenue, each to have five rooms on the first floor, with a reception hall and six rooms on the second floor. Excavation has already been started.

CONTRACTS FOR BUILDING THE NEW ELKS CLUB

At York, which will cost \$23,000. The Omaha firm will build a new building.

Contracts have been let for building the new Elks club house at York, which will cost \$23,000. The Omaha firm will build a new building.

TIMELY REAL ESTATE TALK

Stylish Weather for the Business, Says Dealer F. D. Wead.

MUCH ACTIVITY IS ALREADY SEEN

Big Trades Hold Off, but Many Small Transactions Are Recorded and Abstractors Are Working Steadily.

HOW TO MAKE SCHOOLS SAFER

William Hale Ham of the National Association of Cement Users Makes Recommendations.

YOUNGSTOWN, O., March 21.—Alarmed by the statement of Director of Schools W. N. Abbaugh that the Cleveland disaster might be repeated in any of the public school buildings in Youngstown, the Board of Education has called in a fireproofing engineer of national prominence to formulate a plan for making its structures safe. The action is due to the existing state of public opinion, because many parents declare if this cannot be done at once their children will be kept from school.

William Hale Ham, vice president of the National Association of Cement Users for the section on law, fireproofing and insurance, has prepared a preliminary report on the fireproofing of school buildings, in which he points out where lies the greatest danger in buildings that are now in use and makes recommendations as to the most economical method of making these buildings safe. He also describes the type of construction that should be adapted to new buildings to prevent a recurrence of the disaster at Cleveland.

Mr. Ham is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and has spent the last ten years in the construction of fireproof buildings of reinforced concrete. His recommendations, he says, apply to the average school building in any town in the country as strongly as to the schools in Youngstown. He says: "In view of the calamity that has overtaken Cleveland there can be no question of the wisdom of the Youngstown Board of Education in taking whatever steps are necessary to make the school buildings that are now in use safe and to establish definitely a policy hereafter to construct no school buildings which are not absolutely fireproof. How to accomplish these results without increasing the burdens of the taxpayers unduly is the question of the moment and to this end the writer makes the following general recommendations:

"All school buildings which are not known to be thoroughly fireproof should be examined by the school committee, the superintendent of schools and the chief of the fire department of the city. "Steps should be taken to prevent rapid spread of fire, especially from the corridors to the main rooms. This can be accomplished in all old buildings quickly by the installation of a fireproof partition between the corridors and main rooms with steel doors having wire glass transoms or with no transoms. "If possible, every school building should have an exit at the opposite end of the building from the stairways. This exit should be protected from fire by brick walls extending at least six feet from the building, no other opening into the space being allowed. Fire escapes should be made of steel or cast-iron. The doors of these fire escapes should be unlocked every morning and opened. A fire drill should be instituted, using the fire escapes, and practice should be constant throughout the school year. In order that the children may not be frightened at the sound of alarm of fire, the practice should be carried out with regular fire alarm each week at no specified time.

"Where the school committee is limited for funds which to build a fireproof building, it should be impressed upon the architects that the interior of the building is the most important of all features, and that any saving that is to be made should be made in the looks of the exterior and not in the construction of the interior of the building. It often occurs for the sake of saving that an elaborate exterior is designed. That is, of course, ideal, but where maximum amount of space must be built for the minimum amount of money, a plain, almost severe, exterior, with thoroughly fireproof floors and partitions, should be the prevailing idea of construction.

"If the rooms are not too large, the cost of a thoroughly fireproof building with reinforced concrete floors and columns, and a neat, brick exterior, can be constructed for approximately 10 per cent increase in first cost over the construction of a brick and wood building. Insurance will soon bring down the cost of the investment to a point where the city cannot afford to build otherwise than fireproof. In this type of a school building, children could be actually kept at work at their desks while the furniture in one part of the building was burning—there would be nothing else to burn in the building.

"This type of construction is exceedingly well suited to school buildings and should be investigated by every building committee before adopting a brick and wood building.

"Disasters due to fires in this country are unnumbered and we are criticized severely by foreign countries, where the lack of wood has been a blessing for years."

BUILDING FOR CITY MISSION

Three-Story Structure is Needed for the Work, Says Miss Magee.

A pound social was given Friday evening in St. Mary's English Lutheran church, Twentieth and Burdette streets, for the benefit of the City mission. Everybody who attended took a pound of some edible. The edibles will be taken to the City mission to be used in serving the free lunch which is now a feature of the evening meetings there. Miss Nellie Magee, who has charge of the City mission, was present and gave a bright and interesting and hopeful talk about the work. One of the things for which she is hoping and for which all her charges who draw most of the good in their lives from the mission are hoping, she said, is a new building. "The little places where we are now is entirely too small and we have outgrown it long ago. We should have a three-story building of good size to give us the proper space for carrying on the various departments of the work. This we hope to have some time, and we trust that time is not very far away."

Miss Magee showed that the work being done there is growing remarkably and yielding most encouraging results among both the adults and the children. Other of the city churches will hold affairs like the one held in the Lutheran church for the purpose of providing materials for the nightly free lunch at the mission.

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CHINAMAN GIVES UP HIS QUEUE

Six-Foot Braid Solemnly Severed from His Head in Presence of Crowd.

MARKET FOR OLD HORSEHOES

Vice Consul Ernest Volmer reports that one of the constantly growing imports into the Chinese province of Szechuan, through the port of Tsingtau, is old horsehoes, which he said are in great demand.

The remarkable spectacle of a Chinaman willingly submitting to a hair cut and a separation from his honorable queue was witnessed by the men and women of the Beacon Light Tabernacle on West 12th street between Broadway and Amsterdam avenues, New York. When the glossy black braid, almost six feet long, fell under the clipping of a pair of shiny new shears, Chin Wing, a rather good looking young fellow of 21, never even shuddered. In fact, he smiled an almond-eyed smile and declared himself "born an American man."

Whether in parting with his honorable queue Chin Wing lost all claim to the Chinese heaven is a matter for his own conscience, but the actual fact remains that he did forfeit all future claim to rank and honor in his own land and even to recognition by his own kinsmen.

It was not the purpose of Chin, however, when he announced his desire to embrace the Christian faith and be baptized in the Beacon Light Tabernacle, to enter into any hair-cutting arrangements. He said he wanted to be baptized, but he wished to be baptized as an American citizen and a be-

liever and without the queue of his native land. The satisfaction of Chin in the performance was apparent, but every other orthodox Chinaman in Chinatown from Sing Foy, its oldest inhabitant, to the children in the doorkies eagerly discussed the desertion of the honorable queue of Chin. If Chin is as careful as well as a wise young Chinaman he will remain away from Chinatown for a few days at least or else some haterman is likely to place a hatchet where the queue once grew.—New York American.

DEATH FOLLOWS MASKED BALL

Home Made Grease Paints Prove Fatal to a Wisconsin School Teacher.

The disguise of Satan proved fatal to Miss Mary Schmidt, school teacher at Black Creek, Wis. Miss Schmidt died in Chicago, Mo. She was poisoned as a result of having attended a masquerade ball on January 25 last, to which she went disguised as Satan, the poisoning being due to her disguise. She wore the regulation red attire, in which Satan usually is represented as appearing, with long, pointed shoes, a forked tail and horns on her head. But the main feature of her disguise was a thick mask, composed of home-made grease paints, which made her the most striking figure at the ball. Dancing was kept up at the affair for the greater part of the night, the ball going a leap year dance and the girls having a dance property of asking the men to be their partners.

Many of those attending entered into the gaily of the event more heartily than Miss Schmidt. Satan was here, and there everywhere with a laugh and a jest. When Miss Schmidt reached her home in the small hours of the morning, however, she began to feel the effects of the grease paint. She worked at her face for some time, but only succeeded in scraping off a few atoms of the paint. "Oh, well," she exclaimed to one of her family, "I'm too tired to bother with it tonight, I'll let it go until tomorrow."

That next day Miss Schmidt approached the task of getting off the grease paint with perfect confidence. To her amazement and horror, however, the more she rubbed at the paint the more firmly it clung. She called to the members of her family to assist. Each had a suggestion and every suggestion was faithfully put to the test. No one was able to get the paint off. Becoming thoroughly alarmed by the mass of var-colored paint, which had now blended into a thick, mixed conglomeration, entirely covering her face and seriously inconveniencing her, Miss Schmidt summoned a physician.

He declared there would be no difficulty in getting the paint off. He went to work, applied chemicals and exhausted every means his skill and ingenuity could suggest. The paint not only would not come off, but it seemed to be working below the skin in places and began to cause intense pain.

Physicians doctors were called in. Physicians from a radius of many miles around Black Creek were sent for. Consultations were had and numerous methods of treatment tried. Nothing did the least good. The paint defied every effort of the medical men, as it had the home applications of Miss Schmidt.

Four weeks after the masquerade Miss Schmidt's condition had become such that it was necessary to send her to Chicago for treatment. In Chicago she was given new modes of treatment, but once more to no avail. Symptoms of blood poisoning finally developed, the unfortunate girl dying within a few days.—Chicago Record-Herald.

GREAT AND SMALLEST STREET

London Byway, Planned by an American, Conspicuous in World's History.

The smallest and yet greatest street in London is a dark little alley-like passage in the west of London, and No. 10 is the site of its most important house. This building more closely resembles a middle-class boarding house, such as are usually kept by the widows of army officers, than a place of official importance. But No. 10 Downing street is the official residence of the prime minister of Great Britain and has been since the time of Sir Robert Walpole, or about 200 years.

Many Americans go out of their way to gaze upon the dingy, almost repellent exterior of this lodge of diplomacy and national ambition, because Sir George Downing, who laid out the street, built the house therein, was of American ancestry, his mother belonging to the Winthrop of Massachusetts Bay colony and stands as the second graduate on the roster of Harvard college. After getting an American education, he went to England and, seizing opportunity when it offered, became Oliver Cromwell's ambassador to the court of Charles II. These were the days in which "graft" was expected of public officials. He invested his money in a strip of land on the western side of Whitehall and built the houses on two sides of that short street that runs through the heart of the city. The letters of Americans who are making their first visit to London that talk of the Nelson monument in Trafalgar square, the center of the great British empire, they mistake the point from which all distances are calculated for the strategic center of the most important place in London.

When the "great official residence" of a foreign minister of state, he is not to be understood as intimating that the personage lives there. It is the place to which his mail should be addressed; the location of the council room at which, surrounded by the members of his cabinet, he decides upon the national policy. No, the man who takes a look at the city as the destinies of imperial Britain are concerned, England has gone through many political upheavals, not to mention the changes of dynasty, since Sir George developed the street that bears his name; but No. 10 does not exhibit any improvements. It never fails to take a look at the old house when in London, and on my last inspection its external appearance indicated that the woodwork of its doors and windows hadn't known fresh paint for a quarter of a century. That is the English of it! When one inspects the low and narrow street, however, he is led to feel that he is rubbing against about all the English world. Were they to walk down Whitehall, toward Westminster abbey, a few hundred yards, they would pass the entrance of Downing street, absolutely the history (save the Japanese) that has been made up in the past.—Julius Chambers in Brooklyn Eagle.

MARKET FOR OLD HORSEHOES

Vice Consul Ernest Volmer reports that one of the constantly growing imports into the Chinese province of Szechuan, through the port of Tsingtau, is old horsehoes, which he said are in great demand. One steamer alone in November brought 30 tons of this scrap iron from Hamburg. It seems to be almost without limit. Chinese iron dealers buy the horsehoes and sell them to knife and tool manufacturers all over the province. It is claimed by the Chinese that the temper of the metal is better than that of the steel for other tools. They are also good for knives and cutlery, and also good for making a peculiar temper for the blades of the constant beating the shoes have received under the feet of horses has given them a peculiar temper that is unobtainable in any other way, and that tools made from them are superior to all others.

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My house is.....feet long.....feet wide and.....feet high. Porch is.....feet long and.....feet wide.....pairs of shutters.
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LIFE'S TOLL TO INDUSTRY

Death or Hurt Every Minute Averages the American Record.

RISK GREATEST IN THIS COUNTRY

Calculations of an Economist on the Annual Loss of the Nation's Productive Power—Dangerous Occupations.

A death or injury every minute of every working day throughout the year—or even a little oftener—is part of the price that labor pays to industry in this country. In other words, 19,000,000 workers, half a million men, women and children are killed or maimed annually. Two avowedly dangerous occupations, in which, in spite of all safeguards, a man takes his life in his hand every time he goes to work are the manufacture of dynamite and gunpowder and submarine tunneling. In a blasting powder plant men work eye to eye with death, and although high wages may tempt them to enter upon this form of earning a livelihood, many quit after a few weeks. In the big tunnel construction jobs in and about New York on an average a man a day is killed. A cavern of rock or mud or sand engulfs the gang or a blast of dynamite blows them to pieces, or they are overcome by "bends," the terrible disease due to compressed air.

Railroading and Mining. Railroad work is more dangerous than it ought to be because of the lack of proper safeguarding devices, 50 per cent more dangerous every year. From 1900 to 1907, 10,000 men were killed and injured in the operation of the various roads—more than one man for every twenty employed. But just as the use of the automatic coupling and uncoupling devices decreased the number of accidents, so equipping all cars, freight as well as passenger, with air brakes according to the provisions of the safety appliance law, should do a great deal of good.

In eighteen months fire damp alone was responsible for 415 deaths, and many times that number of injuries. The actual number of miners killed last year in Pennsylvania was over a thousand, and 2,000 were injured. In the fifteen states that report mine accidents, a year's record was 2,000 miners killed and injured. Of these 2,000 were lost through death. Falls of coal and slate carry off most of the men who are killed in mines, and the situation grows worse every year because machines are used for undercutting coal and the roofs are neglected.

But railroading and mining are unfortunately by no means the only industries in which human lives are lost or maimed. Probably the last thing one thinks of when entering a towering office building is its cost in human lives. From the time the iron, the quarrying of the stone, the excavation of its foundations and the sinking of its caissons to the riveting of its steel frame, the work is a constant risk. One well-known engineer has estimated that for every building of average floor area, one man has been lost in the construction of it. A large percentage of these accidents is due to insecure scaffolding, to loose flooring and to the collapse of flimsy and ill-built structures.

Figures compiled in the annual death roll of the Structural Iron Workers' union shows the increase in fatalities among the men to be enormous. Of a total membership of 1,500, 150 either lost their lives or were totally or partially disabled. The increase in the casualty list is from 10 to 12 per cent of the membership per year, and is attributed to the speeding up of the work.

In factory and mill. It is in the factory, foundry and steel mills that the total is built up through the absence of safety devices. Thirty per cent of the factory accidents belong to these categories, designed as "being caught in the machinery," of which a large proportion is preventable. Contracted wheelmen, fatigued gratings to screen off the moving parts of the machinery. The same is true for accidents due to leather belting; and wire cages, such as those used in Germany, placed around revolving wheels, many lives would be saved. As it is, the total factory employes killed and injured reached last year the terrible figure of 22,000.

Sudden and violent death is not the only death that a workman has to fear. In the potteries and porcelain works hundreds die every year from consumption contracted from the fine particles of dust that float in the air. As terrible as this is, lead poisoning contracted when gassing is done, and wherever porcelain sanitary ware is made, kills more.

In New York City occur ten violent deaths a day as a direct result of daily activities. In Chicago the number falls to six, and in the rest of the country it averages four. The state in which the city of Pittsburg is located, combining steel, iron and coal industries, mills, mines, railroads and building operations. Over 17,000 deaths and injuries a year in all industries is the record for this single country.

Assuming that the prime of life a man is given to the community about 125.00, if 1 per cent of all these injured were killed, it would mean a loss of productive power to the country every year equal to \$9,000,000, to consider the matter purely from the standpoint of the total loss to the workmen, has been an annual average of about \$60,000,000, to take the figure of an economist on this question—one-third of the volume of our foreign trade.—Philadelphia Record.

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But railroading and mining are unfortunately by no means the only industries in which human lives are lost or maimed. Probably the last thing one thinks of when entering a towering office building is its cost in human lives. From the time the iron, the quarrying of the stone, the excavation of its foundations and the sinking of its caissons to the riveting of its steel frame, the work is a constant risk. One well-known engineer has estimated that for every building of average floor area, one man has been lost in the construction of it. A large percentage of these accidents is due to insecure scaffolding, to loose flooring and to the collapse of flimsy and ill-built structures.

Figures compiled in the annual death roll of the Structural Iron Workers' union shows the increase in fatalities among the men to be enormous. Of a total membership of 1,500, 150 either lost their lives or were totally or partially disabled. The increase in the casualty list is from 10 to 12 per cent of the membership per year, and is attributed to the speeding up of the work.

In factory and mill. It is in the factory, foundry and steel mills that the total is built up through the absence of safety devices. Thirty per cent of the factory accidents belong to these categories, designed as "being caught in the machinery," of which a large proportion is preventable. Contracted wheelmen, fatigued gratings to screen off the moving parts of the machinery. The same is true for accidents due to leather belting; and wire cages, such as those used in Germany, placed around revolving wheels, many lives would be saved. As it is, the total factory employes killed and injured reached last year the terrible figure of 22,000.

Sudden and violent death is not the only death that a workman has to fear. In the potteries and porcelain works hundreds die every year from consumption contracted from the fine particles of dust that float in the air. As terrible as this is, lead poisoning contracted when gassing is done, and wherever porcelain sanitary ware is made, kills more.

In New York City occur ten violent deaths a day as a direct result of daily activities. In Chicago the number falls to six, and in the rest of the country it averages four. The