BUILDING IN OTHER CITIES

Great Increase in Number for March Over Last Year.

OMAHA STANDS WELL IN THIS REGARD

Reports to Construction News from Twenty-Four Leading Cities Show that Much Activity is Being Experienced.

The Construction News in its issue, out yesterday, says:

Building for the month of March in twenty-four of the principal cities of the country shows an increase in the number of buildings erected over the corresponding period a year ago. Permits were issued in these cities, according to official reports to Construction News, for the construction of 8,190 buildings, aggregating $31,487,608 in cost, against 7,623 buildings, aggregating $38,643,499, an increase of 567 in the number of buildings and a decrease in cost of $7,145,891, or 18 per cent. This is considered very satisfactory when the conditions are taken into consideration. The excessively cold weather and heavy snow falls continued throughout the month, prohibiting the resumption of operations in almost all northern cities. In discussing the matter from the standpoint of dollars and cents fourteen of the cities show increases of from 4 to 116 per cent, while ten show losses varying from 3 to 81 per cent. The figures in detail are as follows:

CITY.	1904. No.	1904. Cost.	1903. No.	1903. Cost.	Per Cent Loss.	Per Cent Gain.
*New York	289	$ 9,758,560	200	$ 9,277,135	5	..
Chicago	600	2,027,830	569	4,531,500	..	55
Brooklyn	793	4,016,170	613	2,447,870	64	..
Phila	744	3,704,300	789	9,624,875	..	61
St. Louis	589	1,617,609	377	2,023,899	..	20
San 'Frisco	223	1,373,713	196	1,081,983	27	..
Kan. City	388	1,033,580	350	1,325,240	..	22
Wash'ton	297	978,048	326	692,573	41	..
L. Angeles	578	951,029	553	911,817	4	..
Cincinnati	452	752,540	390	488,710	54	..
Seattle	561	742,374	558	409,957	81	..
Buffalo	184	554,271	143	261,050	116	..
Detroit	304	487,100	271	461,506	5	..
Pittsburg	330	468,341	547	2,573,748	..	81
Minn'polis	338	445,470	401	653,287	..	32
Denver	213	382,446	219	572,396	..	33
Milwaukee	297	333,480	270	615,080	..	42
Atlanta	355	346,143	278	175,853	97	..
Indi'apolis	262	291,986	283	301,765	..	3
Memphis	..	272,681	..	148,449	83	..
Louisville	192	258,602	218	156,151	66	..
Allegheny	79	252,201	96	175,100	44	..
St. Paul	134	239,360	116	210,467	13	..
Omaha	89	159,785	70	95,490	67	..
Totals	8,190	$31,487,608	7,623	$38,643,499	..	18

* Manhattan and Bronx.

The most interesting increase is to be found in the city of Buffalo, amounting to 116, while Atlanta follows with 97 per cent; Memphis 83, Seattle 81, Omaha 67, Brooklyn 64, Cincinnati 54, Allegheny 44, Washington 41, San Francisco 27, St. Paul 13, New York and Detroit each 5 per cent and Los Angeles 4 per cent. The increase in New York City, while it is only 5 per cent, may be taken as a remarkable thing, inasmuch throughout the month labor troubles of the most serious character interrupted the operations in that city for that month. Now that the labor troubles are over in that city building will unquestionably show tremendous gains. Two remarkable decreases in cost are to be found in the principal cities of Pennsylvania. In Philadelphia during the month just closed permits were taken out involving a cost of $3,704,300 against $9,624,875 for the corresponding month a year ago, a decrease of $5,920,575, or 61 per cent. The decrease in the number of buildings is not so great. This year March permits were taken out for the construction of 744 buildings, as against 789 buildings, a decrease of only fifty-five buildings this year as against last, showing that almost as many buildings were erected this year as there were during the same time a year ago. Pittsburg also shows a marked decrease. During March of this year permits were taken out for the construction of 330 buildings, involving $468,341, as against 547 buildings, aggregating $2,573,748, a decrease of 117 buildings and a decrease of $2,105,507, or 81 per cent. The decreases in other cities are not so notable. Building fell behind in Chicago 55 per cent, attributable chiefly to the inclement weather. In Milwaukee 42, Denver 33, Minneapolis 32, Kansas City 22, St. Louis 20, and Indianapolis 3 per cent.

It is believed that while projects of great magnitude may not be so numerous this year, it will be more than made up in numbers. It has been observed by people who make it a business to keep an eye on building operations all over the country in gathering and sifting new projects of all kinds that there is a surprisingly vast amount of building under way and in contemplation. That each year brings to light many buildings upon which operations were deferred for one reason or another in time past, and this makes up for the lack of enterprise upon the part of others who are simply deferring operations to take them up at some period in the near future. Upon the whole there is nothing discouraging in the situation and it is believed that with the settled condition of the weather building will continue upon a much more active scale than for some time past.

Easily Traced.

The pursuers pressed on.

"The fool!" exclaimed Hemlock, the detective.

"Why so?" asked one of the pursuing party.

"He had a chance to escape before he stole that automobile, but now he is lost," said Hemlock.

"The automobile makes better time."

"Until it breaks down, and meanwhile the scent is strong.

They saw a farmer off in a field.

"Let us make inquiries," one suggested.

"Unnecessary," returned Hemlock.

"The farmer may have seen him."

"Very likely," admitted Hemlock, "but what good would that do?"

"It would give up positive assurance that he has been along this road."

"We have that now," asserted Hemlock. "He passed along this road not more than three hours ago."

"How can you be sure of that?"

"I can still smell the gasoline," said Hemlock.

Truly, when a fugitive takes an automobile of that kind, there is a scent that is easy to follow.—Brooklyn Eagle.

RELIGIOUS.

Rev. Thomas F. Cusack, the new Roman Catholic bishop-elect of the New York diocese, is to be consecrated on April 25.

F. Marion Crawford, the novelist, has gone to Italy, and in his Italian home will revise his biography of Pope Leo XIII.

Dr. Andrew M. Geiger, for forty years a prominent minister of the Lutheran church, and for ten years president of the state senate of the church in Ohio, died recently.

Miss Abbie G. Chapin, of Tung-cho, China, who has been obliged to come to this country on account of her health, is living in a tent in Tucson, Ariz., hoping to regain health and vigor.

A bill has passed the New York legislature providing for the payment of $1,000 a year to the clergymen who serve as chaplains to the firemen of New York City.

The Woman's Christian association of St. Louis, through the Travelers' Aid committee, will do all that is possible to protect young women seeking employment in St. Louis during the exposition.

The great auditorium of the Young Men's Christian association building in Chicago is crowded with men at noon five days in the week to hear Dr. Chapman and other ministers preach. On Sundays the auditorium is filled two or three times.

Among the eminent European scholars who have accepted invitations to deliver addresses in department 8, history of religion, in the congress of arts and sciences, to be held at the St. Louis fair are Professors Oldenburg, of Kiel; Goldilzer, of Budapest; Smith, of Glasgow; Budde, of Marburg, and Harnack, of Berlin.

Secretary Hegeman of the New York state federation estimates that there are between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 persons in New York that are estranged from the churches, and 500,000 children between 4 and 14 years of age whom the Sunday schools do not reach. Mr. Hegeman thinks the cause of this "is largely lack of rational co-operation." There is duplication and waste, he says.

Among the 1,250,000 Magyars in the United States there are 200,000 Presbyterians, who hold the reformed faith, which is that of the Presbyterian confession. Among this large number there are but two ministers, Dr. G. Karzany of Youngstown, Ohio, and Rev. Julius Hamborsjky, who was ordained in the Hungarian reformed church of the Helvetic confession.

The Women's Foreign Missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal church during the thirty-five years of its existence has established missions in nineteen countries and at ninety stations; 440 missionaries have been sent into the field, 2 colleges, 67 boarding schools, 21 training schools, 539 day schools, 30 hospitals and dispensaries, 16 deaconess homes, and 6 homes for homeless women have been established; 1,516 assistant missionaries and bible readers have been employed. Missionary gifts from Methodist Episcopal women have amounted to $7,000,000.

CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Unseasonable Weather Last Week Retarded Spring Business.

RICE MILLERS DID NOT COMBINE

Prices on Nearly All Lines About Same as Week Ago, but There Was a Strong Undertone to the General Market.

Weather conditions last week were not conducive to an active demand for spring lines. The people been induced to make purchases for immediate requirements they would have been more apt on most days to have bought winter rather than summer clothing. Taking the unfavorable weather into consideration, trade with both wholesalers and retailers was all that could be expected. With the advent of more seasonable weather none seem to have any fear but what business will be fully up to expectations and even heavier than a year ago.

Traveling salesmen for local jobbers are still meeting with good success in landing orders for fall goods for future delivery. Merchants seem to be more inclined than usual to place their orders at an early date and in fact on some lines it can almost be said that practically all merchants who expect to place their orders much in advance of their actual requirements have already done so.

The markets are in much the same condition they were a week ago—that is, prices on the majority of lines are in a good, strong position. As will be seen from the following items, practically all lines, with the possible exception of some kinds of groceries which fluctuate back and forth, are quoted strong.

Collections are reported as being only fair. The lack of warm and settled weather, which has made business quiet, has also interfered with collections.

Look for Sugar to Advance.

Wholesale grocers report the demand for their line of goods to be in very satisfactory condition. The market is also in a good, healthy condition. The market on sugar last week did not show much change, except possibly a little weaker selling on raws, but no changes in quotations were made. The general impression, though, is that sugar in this section of the country will be advanced in the near future. The traffic managers of the western railroads have been holding a session in Chicago for the last several days, and it is quite probable that the sugar rates will be restored both from the east and south. Not only that, but it is thought by many well-posted buyers that the new rates will be higher than those in force prior to the time the present cut rates went into effect. In that event an advance of fully ⅛ cent in the price of sugar will take effect. As yet no definite time has been set when the new rates will become effective, but it is almost certain to be between April 25 and May 1.

The coffee market advanced steadily last week until Friday, when there was a reaction amounting to ¼ cent. Even with this decline, however, the market is still nearly ⅝ cent above the low point. The general impression is that higher prices will rule in the future and an advance in package coffee would not be surprising.

There have been no very important changes in the canned goods market during the week under review, with the possible exception of a slightly weaker feeling on Baltimore tomatoes. Spot corn is being very firmly held, with no disposition from any source to shade prices.

The dried fruit market is fairly active for the time of year. The market on peaches and raisins is a trifle weaker. The weakness in raisins has been brought about by troubles in the association. The prune market is also easier, but almost every other item in the line is in a much stronger position, with probabilities of higher prices in a number of instances.

The meeting of rice millers in Louisiana was not a success, as the object for which the meeting was called, that of forming an association, was not accomplished. Another meeting, however, is announced for April 20, at which time it is thought an association will be formed which will be large enough to control at least in a measure the marketing of the rice crop. Temporarily the largest mills are out of the market on Japan rice, having withdrawn all quotations.

Dry Goods Rather Quiet.

As a result of the cold and unseasonable weather last week trade was rather light, although there are signs of a marked improvement in the near future. The latter part of the week there were more buyers on the market and orders, both direct and through traveling salesmen, improved to some extent. With the advent of warm weather both retailers and jobbers expect a nice trade. The fact that traveling men have been pounding the trade for fall orders has no doubt also helped to curtail immediate business, as retailers generally refuse to buy both for current use and for future shipment at the same time.

There are no changes to note in the prices ruling on staple cottons. The fluctuations in the price of raw material do not seem to have any effect on the price of the manufactured products. This is true both of the plain and fancy lines. Jobbers say there is no doubt about the supply of cotton goods being short in first hands and that there is much danger of a shortage of desirable lines before the season comes to a close.

Hardware Active and Scarce.

Hardware men report the demand for their line of goods as being exceptionally good for even this time of year, sales showing quite an increase over the corresponding period of last year. The demand is general for all seasonable lines. In fact, the call for such goods as poultry netting, wire cloth, field fence and barb wire is so great that jobbers are unable to get enough stock to meet the requirements of their trade. That, however, seems to be the case practically all over the country, so that the shortage is by no means confined to Omaha. Such goods as refrigerators, lawn mowers, steel goods and builders' hardware are also in brisk demand and jobbers say that this season promises to be a record-breaker. According to advices received from the country, retailers are also doing a nice business and if they were not their orders would not be as heavy as they have been up to the present time.

So far as the market is concerned there is nothing new to be said. Prices are firm all along the line, but no quotable change worthy of mention has taken place during the last several days. Those best posted are not looking for any for some little time to come and say that retailers need have no fear of the market as the demand is too great to permit of any shrinkage in values.

Leather Goods Not Very Brisk.

Leather goods jobbers say that the demand for their line of goods has not been as large so far this spring as it might be. The cool weather is, of course, responsible for any deficiency in that direction, and for that reason no one is doing any real complaining. Both retailers and wholesalers are confident that business will be all that could be desired so soon as settled weather puts in an appearance.

Advance orders for fall are coming in quite freely and no complaints on that score have been heard. As a general thing merchants did not carry over from last season more than the usual amount of goods and are in good condition for buying liberal stocks for next season.

Rubber goods for immediate use have been moving out fairly well all things considered, but it takes a long spell of stormy weather to make the trade really brisk. This is true of both footwear and clothing. Fall orders are still coming in quite freely, but it begins to look as though by far the majority of merchants have placed their fall orders. The last advance gave them a genuine scare and since that time traveling salesmen have experienced no trouble in landing an order whenever they could find a merchant who had not already bought.

Fruits and Vegetables.

There was only a fair trade on green vegetables last week. It takes warmer weather to make them move to the greatest advantage. Potatoes are still going up, prices now ranging from $1.10 to $1.25 per bushel. Prices on other lines of vegetables though are just about the same as they were a week ago.

Strawberries are unusually cheap for the time of year. Cases of twenty-four quarts have been selling from $3.00 to $3.25 and the quality has been as good as the average this early in the season. With favorable weather both for the ripening and marketing of the crop farther north it is thought that prices will continue rather low the remainder of the season. Oranges are selling freely, but prices are about 25c per box higher than they were a week ago.

Butter, eggs and poultry have shown very little change all the week, the supply and demand being about evenly balanced. The prices ruling on the different grades will be found in another column.