Officers on Whom the Bespons bility for Public Safrty Berts.

FOUR INSPECTORS ARE PROVIDED FOR

Building, Electrical, Plumbing and Boiler Experts Who Enforce Laws and Regulations in Their Several Lines.

Responsibility for the inspection of buildings and to guarantee their proper construction is vested in four city officers, one, the building inspector being elective, and the others, only electrician, boiler inspector and plumbing inspector, being appointive by the mayor with the advice and consent of the council. The building inspector and city electrician are paid a Malary of \$1,800 a year each, and the boiler inspector and the plumbing inspector receive \$1,200 a year each. The building inspector, by arrangement of the mayor and a month, and a clerk who draws the same, and performs the office work for the boiler and plumbing inspectors. The city elec-

stenographer paid \$60 a month. The office of building inspector is created for the purpose of enforcing all ordinances pertaining to party walls or the erection, construction, alteration, removal or repair of all buildings. According to the charter the inspector shall "provide for the removal of all dangerous buildings and for the condemnation and removal of any building when the same shall have been damaged by fire, decay or other-When the damage has reached for per cent, even though the building is in imminent danger of collapse, it has been the custom of the department to consider destruction warranted. Before the building is torn down sanction must be obtained from the advisory board, which always gives two weeks' time for the owner to be heard before authorizing actual demolition. In some cases the costs removal are taxed against the owners, which proceeding is authorized by the charter. In all cases the owner is first given a chance to do the work himself. Building Inspector's Business.

The building inspector is directed by the regulating house movers and prescribe the the different parts of the city; also to regulate the raising and lowering of buildings in the fire limits. The ordinances defining the fire limits are to be enforced by this department.

Permission to do any of the following department of the Myers-Dillon Drug commust first be obtained through the office pany, says: of the building inspector. To erect, structure; to occupy any part of the street | tune time, for the very simple reason that or alley adjoining property on which im- the price of paint is exceptionally low. provements are contemplated or being A great many people must have realized made; to authorize and allow any Roensed this fact, for we are selling more paint housemover to move a building along or than we had any hopes of doing. Of course. across any streets or alleys; to use space | there is one thing that influences this big under the street, alley or sidewalk for increase, and that is that there is so much areaway, stairway or vaults, and to con- building going on; new houses must be struct and erect sign and biliboards; to painted, and that makes the house next fastall plumbing and to operate steam door look a little old and shabby, so the boilers and elevators.

of the inspector is to carefully examine the plans and specifications, which in all Omaha to get together and help beautify cases must be filed before a permit is the city. One of the pleasures of the atstructure shall have sufficient strength; that means of egress and ingress are sufficient and that the sanitary arrangements are proper. After the permit is issued and the building under way the inspector or handle a paint that is made by one of the tied. The ordinary light back are buff, being executed according to the plans on file in his office and to prosecute persons found violating the building ordinances. In this case the permit is immediately revoked and the owner, agent or contractor firected to cease operations until further notice after he has complied with the

Details of His Duty.

The matter of fire escapes comes partly under the building inspector's duties, and he is required also to know that theaters and other public buildings are in condition to resist fire and for the prompt expulsion of as many persons as they will hold. In all departments of his work, constant vigilance is necessary in order that violations, which are frequent and constant, may be

The building ordinances proper consist of ninety sections governing the following: Erection, alteration or repair of girders, brick flues, thickness of bow windows and balconies, brick buildings, columns in brick buildings. chimneys, as to size, localon and coping: fire proof doors, automatic rails, gates. buildings, foundations, fire proof par- modern. th ms and ceilings, construction of fursace pipes, setting of furnaces, fireproof loors and shutters, how floor joists are shall be put in, arrangement of wood and Alton and making daily trips to St. Lous for pipes, theaters, theater exits, stages, cur-lains, weights to be allowed on floors, work than is a man and that her project beating and others pertaining to detail, will be a success, especially during the

Corbin's

Locks

CITY'S CONTROL OF BUILDING | altogether making a small printed volume. | MATERIALS FOR BUILDINGS

utiding department Electrician's Peculiar Province. The first and foremost purpose of the electrical department is to control electrical installations of all kinds for the purpose of safety to life and property. It is also made the duty of the department by charter to have charge of all electrical work done by, or performed for, the city with a view of insuring that all contracts made with the city by private corporations are properly fulfilled in the true apirit and intent of the contracts. A rec ord is made in the office of every installs. tion for electric wiring for light, heat or power, and for each new installation a permit is filed for such work and same is inspected when finished and before current

cannot be applied. The law provides that all electrical installations for light, heat and power be reinspected at least once each year. This time of the department will permit, and tant places. improvements on old installation are or-

dered from time to time. year while all electrical apparatus of assistant receiving \$83.33 a month and a traveling companies is inspected before the performance is given.

Plumbing and Bollers.

spectors, but gives him no jurisdiction over the city electrician. All plumbers allowed worked." icensed after passing an examination before a board of plumbers, appointed by the mayor, of which the plumbing inspector is one. Hefore any plumbing work is done permit must be obtained by application to the plumbing inspector, who must examine and approve the work. The boiler inspector has to test all steam boilers in the city and examine engineers and elevator conductors as to their fitness for such tasks No boiler may be operated without his certificate or any stationary engineer or conductor allowed to perform such duties without a license from the boller inspector. In all cases small fees are required for

charter, also, to enforce the ordinances MUCH PAINT BEING SPREAD kinds of buildings that can be moved in Omaha People Are Brightening Their Homes by Plentiful Use of Colors.

permits, embling each office to pay its own

expenses and in addition contribute elightly

to the revenues of the city.

Chester C. Clark, manager of the paint

"If any one in Omaha is contemplating change, alter or repair any building or painting, there was never a more opporowner of it gets busy and paints up also; Concerning new buildings, the first duty in fact, there seems to be a tacit understanding amongst the home owners of most well known and thoroughly reliable iron spotted, light, n idea we try to convey by the catch line in nett store is made. our ads.. "The right paint for every puris no time-from every standpoint-like the it contains. When there have been conpresent to paint up.

> ARCHITECTS ARE VERY BUSY of One Affords an Excellent Proof of the Activity Existing.

J. P. Guth, architect and superintendent, buildings, anchored walls, areaways, building operations in Omaha by submitting used in the west, at least, while now no which must have railings; awnings, brick, a list of some of the work he has under good job is done without them. They are as to their size and quality; brick piers way. Among it were ten residences, one of made for jamb work and for cornices brick walls, boiler rooms, projection of -all of them modern in every respect, numerous. These brick almost equal some "cornices on There was also a two-story brick store and of the terra cotta work and are as durable also when dangerous; coal holes, division eral brick buildings waiting for new brick. The brick have many advantages for corwalls, elevator shafts, which must have and two pressed brick flat buildings, one a nice. The gulvanized iron cornice is the

Pemale Detectives for St. Louis. Miss Cora M. Strayer of Chicago says she framing timbers, heighth of fences, agency, the officers of which will be women heighth of buildings, how hot air pipes exclusively. Miss Strayer is visiting in

Tools

Stene, Brick, Terra Cotta and Lumber Hay Fashions and Fada.

Most of Omaha's Supplies Are Brought from Abroad, but Only the Best Material is Used by Builders.

In the building of houses, stone, brick, terra cotta, wood and iron are the principal factors, and in only one is Omaha particularly fortunate. That is brick. Excellent clay for pressed brick is in abundance in Douglas county, while the other materials have to be hauled for long dislaw is carried out to the fullest extent the tances. The stone comes from various dis-

"Bedford stone is the only generally used building stone," said J. E. Merriam. "There All outside wiring, overhead as well as is blue and buff Hedford, but little of the underground, comes under the jurisdiction first, which is the harder, is brought to council, has one assistant who draws \$16 of this department, and all such wiring is Omaha. The reason that this stone is so inspected when installation is made, as satisfactory and so comparatively cheap is well as from time to time. With regard to that it is of so uniform quality and so the theaters of the city inspection of the free from grit that it can be worked on trician, by similar arrangement, has one permanent wiring is made about twice a the planers very easily. Sandstone is so gritty that it quickly uses up the machine. Some of the Black Hills stone would be good but it contains pieces of iron ore and when the planers strike one of these it The law makes the building inspector the knocks the machine all to pieces. Bedford superior of the plumbing and boiler in- is the best molded stone and the cheapest molded stone because it is so easily

to do business in the city must first be In past years a number of building stones have been brought to Omaha experimentally, and some of them have been found fitted to the climate and others entirely uscless. The red stone used on the building cocupied by the People's store and the M. E. Smith building has crumbled badly in this changing climate, while it was a good stone in some other localities. Most of the red stone comes from Colorado and from Lake Superior, the former supplying the larger amount. From Mankato, Minn. nes a hard ilmestone which is considerably used for sill work. Cottonwood Falis, to the south, also supplies this sort of The library building used Hot Springs stone, and this would probably be popular but for its cost, due to the difficulty of planing it, and to the freight. This last consideration effects all stone, and because of the transportation stone is more expensive here than in most cities and stone buildings will continue to be

Omaha Pressed Brick.

The manufacture of brick has brondened very much in ten years. The clay of Dougins county, while not so good for ordinary brick as that found in many other places, is of the first quality for pressed brick. The plant at Avery now turns out brick of one sor, or another, ranging in catalogue number of these are molded brick. The red pressed brick is made in five shades. Fourteen years ago the manufacture of pressed brick began in Omaha, and at that time nothing but the red brick were made. but now these have lost their popularity and are little used, while the grey, buff and motiled brick are used in almost every new building. The light brick have been made here for only about seven years. Be- pine. paint manufacturers in the country, light, medium and dark grey and mottled namely, Lowe Bros., whose every effort is grey. These different colors are gained by to manufacture the best paint that time, using local clay with different amounts intelligence, experience and money can pro- of imported clay, by artificial coloring and duce. Our stock is complete in every de- by the introduction of iron to make spots. tail. There is not a demand, no matter No. 575 is the most expensive of these how exacting, that we cannot fill. This bricks and is the sort of which the Ben-

One of the principal reasons for the depose." Let us my just once more that there cline of the red brick is the alkali which tinued rains the red brick walls become white with this alkali and sometimes remain so nearly the entire year. The makers of the light brick guarantee them to be free from this objection. Style has more to do with it than anything else. Grey brick are the newest thing and the man who is to build must have them. Moided Brick a Triumph

The greatest advance in the bricklocated in the Paxton block, gave us one makers' art has been in moided brick. of the best evidences of the extent of the Ten years ago they were not generally which is to cost \$5,500, another to cost \$6,000 the regular designs carried in stock are bank building-a two-story brick building and much cheaper. The brick are molded for one of the Omaha breweries, and nev- solid, while the terra cotta has a core. double eight-room building, the other a cheapest, but has a life when well cared exits of public buildings, excavations four-spartment six-room building, strictly for of only twelve or fifteen years. The brick are second in expense. Stone and terra cotta are higher in price and cost about the same. The disadvantage in erra cotta is that the price varies conto be cut, fire escapes and ladders, sizes is organizing in St. Louis a female detective siderably without any apparent reason. Brick, according to the contractors, is growing in favor yearly. Hardly any fron lintels, strength of materials, en-flowing stairways, protection to smoke the agency. Miss Strayer believes that a As lumber continues to increase in cost. as the brick men say it will, the other materials will get somewhat cheaper, so these maintain, the result is obvious.

Terra Cotta a Fashionable Favorite. used and most effective building materials we have. It comes in almost any color and glazing and is modeled into the most ber. Yellow pine is principally used and intricate designs for building work. The will be in future. burning of clay for this purpose is no new An interesting development of mill work thing, but the present high state of per- is the general use of the large colonial fection is a matter of memory with most perch column. The slender post of a few rapidly and it is pressing stone very hard. Some of the factories began the manufacat least in sections of the country to which ture of the colonial column as a specialty the natural material has to be carried for and so many of them went into this line long distances. Terra cotta is probably that an over-production resulted and an ago and the increase in its use has been \$2.75. The factories build these up from higher than could be wished, and this is fine appearance they contain wood which to the large amount of loss in making might otherwise be wasted. and burning the clay. Crocked burning shades and quality may not be uniform. what was the pet molding of a factory a But the manufacturers are always at few years ago now gets the pitying smile. ing passed behind.

The American terra cotta industry is nd. England was the birthplace of tile with promptness. making. Some adventurous English manufacturer put a few rude lines of terra cotta on the market and later enamelel These were accepted and copied and a fair degree of excellence reached. About fifteen years ago the first terraootta was made in this country. The American manufacturers ground their brains for Otto Rassmussen, Omaha new ideas, while the Englishmen were thoroughly pleased with their pottery work. so that now the American output is far superior, and none of the foreign is imported. They had a struggle at first and were long in setting a uniform glaze and one which would stand the weather.

Get It in Any Color.

always a dark red or golden buff. The ciny is burned in the rough, and then the bisque is enameled and the colors added-They are glazed in almost any shade. A building lately finished on Douglas street Something About the Men Who Do the Work is noticeable as the only structure in town having white terra cotta. This was made by taking ground porceigin and covering HOME-BAKED BRICK IN HIGH FAVOR the terra cotta and turning and glazing it precisely as an ordinary porceinin plate ! made. While the front of this building may grow dirty, so the dealers in these building water may, any good rain will wash it clean. A man with soup and water and a bostswain's chair may wash it clear just as a dinner plate is washed clean, and the building will look new when it is old a thing which cannot be said of brick and The Paxton block was one of the first buildings in Omaha in which terra cotta was used. From simple blocks the large and ornamental blocks are built up the development of specialization in the after the architect's specifications. These are bollow and strengthened with ribs and must be largely handwork. When the molding is done, the finishing is made by

Concrete in Modern Application.

Concrete is entering every day more largely into the structure of buildings. This is particularly the case with ware houses and other buildings in which strength and durability are more thought of than appearance. In the east such buildings have been made entirely of concrete, being monoliths. This is a particularly useful construction for sold storage houses. The climate of Nebraska seems to disintegrate such construction and render it impractical What is called the reinforced concrete

It is very strong and is much cheaper than nized as one of the building crafts. the older form of fireproof floor. In the latter form of construction fireproof tiling an increase in the number of unions and is arched in between heavy steel I beams, organizations which were formed by the The new idea forms what is in reality a workmen to improve their condition. Here suspension floor. Steel cables are stratched in Omaha the growth of the unions was across the building where the floor is to first started by the Knights of Labor be, and tightened up with proper ma- which recognized the division of interests chinery. On these cables is laid a strong by permitting the formation of trades aswire mesh. A temporary tight wooden semblies under the guidance of the general floor is then laid under the cables and ce- organization, in which assemblies the men ment pressed down and made compact. A working at the particular trade for which thickness of five inches is all that is re- it was instituted had exclusive voice and quired to serve in storage rooms. The vote as to conditions under which they cables being imbedded in the cement will would work, but the general society exernot rust away. In the new sanitarium at dised supervision in case of strikes or other Battle Creek, Mich., floors flox24 feet are troubles which might arise. made in this way. The Lincoln Telephone exchange, just bulk, was fitted with these floors by an Omaha concern.

Terra cotta water coping is one of the most useful inventions the builder has been Knights of Labor was the cainters, who blessed with. Up to the time of their in- formed a local trades assembly about ISSA troduction it was the custom to cover the The organization did little more than ortop of the brick walls with cement. This gamize and get into shape is make request cracked off after a time and exposed the for shorter hours when it was dropped, and wall to damage. The tiles are made like in 1887 the painters went into the internaflattened half sections of drain tiles and tional union of their craft. At that time

For five or six years the building ordinances have required the use of fireclay work day, with a scale of 40 cents an hour. number from 180 to 727. Of course a large flue linings. These come in pieces two feet in length, and made a smooth inner among the building trades formed in the surface for the flue. Formerly cement was city was that of the plasterers, who formed used and soot collected on the rough sur- a local society in 1878. A few years later face. With the tile lining defective brick- they entered the international organizawork cannot cause a fire.

Substitutes for White Pine,

The feature of the lumber business is the substitution of other lumbers for white fore that time they came from St. Louis in the upper grades was from 50 to 75 the stonecutters, which was organized in and Columbus, O. The lemon colored Mil-per cent cheaper than it is today, and 1884. Two weeks after it was organized it wankee brick has never been popular here was used for almost every part of the and the Schlitz hotel is the only large frame structure. The advance is due to issued, and ascertain that the proposed tractive home is occasional change and improvement. Our business is increasing to be very popular. They are long and ferior pine was used and people began to its position as one of the most effective in has not shown a gain. It is true that we were first brought here from Columbus. has come to be more extensively used and has had in its peculiar field more success. haustible. This pine is a triffe lower in many Yellow pine is now used in places where it will be exposed to the weather. It has proved an admirable subchange has come in the matter of lap siding. Where the lumber yards formerly parried only the different grades of white pine siding, they now have fully ten different woods and the various grades of time of the organization Among these are red wood, red cedar, fir and cypress. When pine began to grow expensive many woods were tried in an attempt to find a substitute. Some of these were found useless in this climate very much lower in cost than it is now. California red wood is little used here except in the midings, but the red cedar has found considerable use. This is the case in shingles where the western wood has sold the northern out of the market. Fully 90 per cent of the shingles used during the last eight years have been the red cedar. These are thought to be cheaper for the

money than the pine, and have sold the latter out of business. Hard Wood in Demand.

houses has brought the hard wood part of the lumberman's business much more to the front. Oak and other hard woods are growing in favor. The use of hard wood floors has been greatly increased by the introduction a few years ago of thin quarterhouse is now put up costing more than sawed oak and other hard wood boarding. Machinery was then perfected which would turn out this perfectly matched flooring with a thickness of only three-eighths of inch. The old flooring was much thicker and the change naturally reduced the price of a hard wood floor considerably. Terra cotta is nowadays one of the most The thin board can be inid over an old floor or on the sub-floor of a new building. There is little change in dimension lum-

The use of it has increased very years ago has been largely superceded. half less in cost than it was ten years Ext column is now at first cost only \$2.50 or advance in wages from 17% cents an hour furing this period. The cost still remains scraps of lumber, and while they are of

put together with the iden of the plate largely centered in Ohio and Illinois, but are not snowed under with orders now as glass panel. The sash and door factories figurishes wherever the proper day is they were last year, and are filling them

> Marriage Licenses. Up to noon April 16 the following couples ad been licensed to wed: Name and Residence George A. Gilifland Omaha Cleo M. Elliot Omaha Fred Piols. South Omaha Dennis A. Carbman, Lenox, In Elizabeth Moore, Corning, in... William E. Pindy, Ecarney lda B. Smith, Kearney

18-K. Wedding Rings. Edholm, jeweler.

BUILDING TRADES UNIONS

of Construction.

DIVISION OF TRADES A MODERN FEATURE

Advance in Methods of Building Brings Changes in Craftsmen and Multiplicity of Their Organizations.

S

One of the features of metropolitan building operations is the presence of unions of workmen. This growth, while manufacture has advanced until now very but has taken upon itself new phases with more marked in recens years, is not new work of erecting buildings. A few years ago the building trades were

confined essentially to three, or possibly four occupations, while today at least eleven distinct trades are recognized as independent, with perhaps a twelfth which is considered justly as one of the necessary parts of the building traces. A few years ago the bricklayer, who was then the plasterer; the carpenter, who was also the finished wood worker; the stone mason, when he was not also the brickinger, and the blacksmith in rare cases, erected the buildings, while today the recognized building trades include carpenters, bricklayers, plasterers, plumbers, painters, electrical workers, structural iron workers, sheet metal workers, lathers, stone cutters and mason tenders, with the hoisting engineers, who run the engines used to lift heavy parts of floor is gaining favor in hireproof buildings. large buildings, asking to be fully recog-

With the diversification of the work came

Omaha Bullding Trades Unions.

The history of the Omaha organizations shows that the first of the bullding trades unions to be formed under the rule of the are laid along the top and are very effect wages were from 25 cents to 50 cents per hour and ten hours constituted a day's work. At this time there is an eight-hour Probably the first union of any kind tion, and with the other building trades have reduced the hours of labor from ten to eight, with increase in the price per

The first union to secure an eight-hour Ten years ago the northern pine work day for its members in Omaha was secured an increase in wages without friction, probably the only instance of the kind

The Brickinyers' union, considered from look about for other lumber. Yellow pine the allied crafts, was organized in 1861, and has the advantage of not being easily ex- than any other, although encountering labor organizations. When the union was organized the scale was placed at 30 cents very many ways in which a few years an hour and ten hours was a day's work. ago it would not have been considered. Today the recognized scale is 62% cents an Fir lumber from the Pacific coast has come hour, with an eight-hour work day, and to be used for porch flooring and other many men receiving more than the scale. The first organization of the sheet metal workers was perfected in 1885, and while it stitute for the white pine. The great has from time to time exercised little influence over hours and wages it has maintained the society over since. It, with the other crafts, has an eight-hour day in place of ten, with higher wages than at the

Strength and Wenkness. One of the strongest unions numerically, but because of its position with reference to work one of the unions which lacks many elements of strength, is the carpenand others have proved to be as good or ters union. The first organisation of this better than the northern pine. All the craft was in the Knights of Labor days, substitutes are somewhat more expensive about 1884. It existed for several years, than the pine was formerly, but all are but was not strong enough to enforce a scale for shorter hours or higher wages generally, because of the fact that, as expressed by a member, "every man who can drive a plane or push a saw is a carpenter when there is trouble." For this reason the carpenters have not been successful in securing higher wages as the bricklayers and plumbers, while they have reduced the hours to eight per day. The present union was formed some time in the early 'Wes, but was of little importance in the labor world until 1887, when it was The building of better and finer finished given an impetus by the Transmississippi exposition, and from that time has had comparatively easy sailing and secured advances in wages from an average of I cents an hour to an average of 40 cents. The plumbers of Omaha have a record

running back to 1878, when an organization was formed under the old international union, which did not exist long as a factor in building affairs, although the society was maintained. The present society was formed in 1890 and after some hard experiences in attempting to secure shorter hours and higher pay finally reached the point where it has a scale of hi per day for eight hours.

The local union of electrical workers was formed in 1892, but did little work until just before the exposition, when it se cured without trouble the eight-hour day and the present scale of wages. The structural from workers is the young est of the building trades unions, having been formed four years ago. The union is necessarily small in numbers, compared with many of the other trades, but has been successful in this time in securing an with a ten-hour day to so cents an hour

Not considered as a trade, but of considerable importance in the building line The factories have a large number of is the mason tender's or hod carrier's is the greatest fault and sometimes a high pattern moldings and these are being in- union, which was formed in 1600. There per cent of a kiln will be ruined. Then the creased and improved every year, so that are now two organizations, one composed of white men and the other of negroes. They work in harmony and have a sonie of work and these defects are gradually be- In the making of doors the finer grade is S and 27% cents an hour, in place of the 17% and 26 cents an hour which was in effect at the time the union was organized The holsting engineers are members of the stationary engineers' union and their scale is regulated by that mociety, but they have at times asked for membership in the building trades council, which at this time

Membership in the locar unions varies greatly with the condition of business There are many unmarried men in all of the organizations and not a few of them travel from place to place, being in the south during the winter and is the north in the summer. For this reason the local organizations are not as large now as they era, will be in thirty days. when the birds of passage arrive. Exact statistics are not at terera, 10, and, but estimates made by those familiar with the unions place the average unions is the number of men who have the plumbers, Harry Mc membership about as follows: Brickingers, developed from the membership and are are contracting for the Back 110; carpenters, 40; bud carriers, 25; paint- new contractors . Among the bricklayers other cities.

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