

NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS

SOME ARCHITECTURE AWFUL

What an Omaha Designer Says of Personal Tastes.

RESULTS ARE FROZEN DISCORD

Fantastic Creations that Are Designed Because the Owners Think They Are Cute Are Slowly Giving Way.

"The taste of the people nowadays lean altogether toward something entirely new and unheard of in the line of building homes, as in other things," said a leading Omaha architect. "We have to draw up what the people want and sometimes our ideas of taste are awfully violated and mutilated by the demands of people for what they think will be 'nobby,' or 'odd,' or 'cute.' Odd they certainly are. Some of the things planned and erected are positively fantastic. They contain a bit of all kinds of architecture, horrible in its incongruity.

"The time is coming and I can see it already when people will go back to the architecture of the good old days of our grandfathers. I can see the big, roomy, solid, substantial, comfortable houses now like we used to have east in the little town where I lived. They were built of stone, and the white mortar showed in irregular lines on those massive gray walls. The windows were deep and wide. The shutters were more substantial than could be left off in the modern house after this model. The roof was gabled and the chimneys rose from each end.

"Inside the arrangements were just as sensible and there was every sign of comfort and homeliness. A bed room with the four-poster, covered with its white dimity hanging and white coverlet; the wall paper modestly flowered, the big, deep fireplace with its oak paneled mantle, the deep, sunny windows.

"What do you see in the modern house that approaches this? Some people erect massive dwellings that look like castles or penitentiaries. Others erect fantastic things that bear more or less resemblance to Chinese pagodas.

"Recently I have had requests for plans to be drawn for structures on the lines of the old colonial dwellings or the houses of New England. People seem to be getting a desire to move back to nature, and with this desire, which generally follows on a healthy city growth, I think there will come a revival of rural architecture. Houses of this type can be built more cheaply than the more common type of house now in vogue because they require rougher and less expensive materials. The man who sets out to build such a house, though, must not try to make room for his modern tastes. He must not try to mix modern comforts, so-called, with the beauty of the old-fashioned, or the composite will be a wretched failure. I look for some of the suburban homes to be erected in the near future to follow these lines."

William Mummaugh, the contractor, is preparing to build a modern residence on the Florence boulevard, opposite the home of Rome Miller. He has purchased a lot and will begin building soon.

The recently announced purpose to build a new city on the large site purchased at Seymour Park by an eastern syndicate has created an increased activity in real estate in the southwest part of the city. This is a portion of Omaha which is beautifully favored topographically and has excellent street car facilities. In late years the residence district has not expanded in that direction as much as it has toward the west and northwest. But with the prospect of a large residential suburb at Seymour Park, building in that direction has received a decided boom.

The new Rome hotel is nearing completion and will be occupied in a few days. The lighting fixtures, which are to be an important feature in this new hotel, are being installed by the Burgess, Granden Co.

The entrance to the pastor's study of the Unity church has been changed, the Nebraska Concrete Reinforcing company were given the difficult task of matching the stonework of the church with concrete blocks. Red blocks were used for the coping, with alternate red and white blocks for the walls. The result is a very pleasing contrast.

A discovery of vital interest to manufacturers and users of concrete blocks has recently been made by W. E. Owens of the Nebraska Concrete Reinforcing company in the way of a waterproof filler for facing concrete products. An important fact regarding Mr. Owens' filler is that it does not affect the strength, setting or hardening qualities of the cement. A severe test was made last week by pouring water on the face of blocks treated with the filler. Although the blocks were but forty-eight hours old, the water remained on the surface until evaporated, apparently none being absorbed by the block.

The Nebraska Mattress company, in addition to the twenty-horsepower motor installed by the American Electric company, mention of which was made last week, has just placed an order for an additional motor of twenty-horsepower, with the same firm. The Creighton School of Pharmacy has just been equipped with 50 lights and fixtures by the same.

G. W. Clabaugh, secretary of the Gas company, is having stamped steel ceilings put in his parlor, sitting room, den and hall.

The National Roofing company has just completed a gravel roof on the school building at Lyons, Neb. The same company has also just commenced work on a slate roof on the Wise Memorial hospital and a tile roof on the De Bore residence at Thirty-fifth and Woolworth avenues.

Four modern houses, to cost \$1,500 each, will be erected at the corner of Thirty-fifth street and Woolworth avenue, by R. C. Peters & Co.

Dr. F. E. Coulter has had plans drawn up and will begin immediately the erection of a modern home at 4400 at Forty-first and Davenport streets. Dr. C. A. Hull will erect a home on an adjoining lot at a cost of \$1,500.

Still the demand for houses continues unabated in this great and growing city. Directory publishers and public school enumerators may, in the absence of the government census taker, guess at the increasing population, but the real estate men and the house hunters have the real inside information. Contractors and laborers can furnish additional information. Contracts are let every day for

A Twentieth Century Cottage



The design which we illustrate this week is particularly adapted for building in the country on account of its extreme simplicity and the ease and cheapness with which it can be constructed. The foundation is finished in four range rock above grade and three-inch siding for remainder of building. If cheaper, cement blocks could be used for foundation above surface and concrete mixture below grade.

The large, open cornice and commodious small chambers, one of which could be used as a bath room, and if needed two rooms could be finished in the attic.

This house can be built for \$2,000, exclusive of plumbing and heating. The height of first floor, nine feet; second floor, eight and a half feet; cellar, seven feet.

In explanation of our estimates we would say that it is impossible for us to give an exact cost for any locality without first becoming acquainted with local prices and conditions. We would suggest in this capacity that you either see your local contractor or write us and we will send you a list of questions and at a small expense figure for you the exact cost of any building.

In response to numerous requests we have prepared a book containing a number of views and complete floor plans of moderate-priced houses. This will be sent prepaid upon receipt of 25 cents. Address all letters to Building Department, care Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb.

The second floor has two large and two

new houses and still the number of vacant homes continues so small it can hardly be noticed. One real estate firm began work last week on twelve new houses in various parts of the city. A large number of other contracts were let for new residences and many are begun.

The contract for the sheet metal work on the B. & M. depot at Ashland, Neb., has been awarded to Bjornson & Haas. The quality of workmanship turned out in Omaha, in the cornice line, is indicated by the award of a contract by the Sidney Drug company of Sidney, Neb., to Bjornson & Haas also, although this firm was by no means the low bidder, the award being made purely on the quality of their workmanship.

The new Omaha hospital at Thirty-sixth and Cuming streets is progressing nicely now. E. C. Bennett & Co. have been awarded the contract for installing electric wiring for lighting, power elevators, heating and ventilator purposes.

The handsome new home of Sol Levy at Thirty-third street and Lincoln boulevard will be wired for electric light by the Wolfe-Lovett company.

"There are several little things of which the people in this part of the country are ignorant in the way of home beautifiers and finishers," said an Omaha man recently returned from the east. "Among these are marble, tile, glazed brick and stained glass. Real marble, of course, is almost prohibitively expensive here. But a very good imitation which is practically as durable can be made and its appearance in a residence is extremely artistic. Yet it is a thing almost unknown in Omaha homes.

"Glazed brick which are used so extensively in England and on the continent are almost unknown here, though they are not expensive and will wear forever, always look well and are kept clean with the greatest ease. Stained glass for windows is considered only useful for churches, but with a very pretty effect can be obtained especially if it is used for an oriel window or something of a similar nature."

Joseph Louiska has started his two brick store rooms on the northwest corner of Sherman avenue and Locust street.

Mr. Frank Martin of the Martin-Cott Hat company purchased another lot next south of the corner of Twenty-fourth and Wirt streets adjoining his residence. Mr. Martin expects to improve these two lots, but perhaps not until next year.

The Cole, McKenna cigar store in the Paxton block is being equipped with a brick or hollow tile fireproof enclosure, and where these may be difficult to place about elevators and stairs in old buildings, then light iron frames and wire glass enclosures can be so placed at little cost and affording splendid protection.

VICTIM OF FIRE IS BURIED
Man Killed in Martin Flats Supposed to Have Been Joseph Campbell.

The body of the man supposed to be Joseph Campbell found Friday morning in the ruins of the Martin flats after the fire of Friday morning was interred in Forest Lawn cemetery by the coroner Saturday morning. Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock an inquest was held. No absolute identification was possible, but all the evidence seems to indicate that the companion of Charles Campbell, the man who jumped and broke his ankle, was the one who was killed. This Joseph Campbell answered well to the descriptions of the dead man. As far as known he had no relatives or connections in Omaha.

The new home of Mrs. Reichensberg at Thirty-sixth and Harney streets will be provided throughout with the latest fixtures and equipment for electric lights. The system will be furnished with Sush

SEVEN MILLION INCREASE

Advance in Valuation of Real and Personal County Property.

RAILROADS AND PALACE CARS OUT

Figures and Realty Represent New Buildings and Not Natural Rise on Land Not Yet Assessed.

Completed figures from the county assessor's office show a total increase in the valuation of real and personal property in Douglas county of \$7,569,710. This does not include railroads and palace car companies, which are assessed by the State Board of Assessment, which sits in July. The grand total of personal and real property, excluding railroads, is \$153,068,250. Last year it was \$145,508,540.

The greatest increase is in the business districts of Omaha. The increase in the real estate assessment represents new buildings, or improvements on buildings, and not the natural rise in the value of land which is not reassessed until next year. The increase in the real estate assessment in Omaha was \$3,562,988. In South Omaha it was \$22,540, and in the country districts \$27,372.

The personal assessment has not been compiled by districts since the alterations were made by the Board of Equalization. The total shows an increase in personal property over the entire county of \$3,926,806.

The following table shows the valuations of real estate by divisions as compared with the valuation last year:

	1906	1907
Omaha	\$1,178,250	\$1,745,215
South Omaha	14,338,800	14,816,440
Country	12,990,500	13,515,290
Total real estate	\$10,844,010	\$14,266,945
Personal	4,544,510	8,471,255
Grand total	\$15,388,520	\$22,738,200

It is believed the railroad and palace car assessment by the state board will show a substantial increase this year. The total of these two items last year was \$7,158,710.

MAYOR STANDS BY HIS SLOGAN

Writes "Nothing Doing" Across Anti-Whistling Ordinance by President Johnson.

Mayor Dahlman has redeemed another of his campaign pledges and "nothing doing" as an official expression, has received official recognition.

Yesterday morning the mayor made public the fact that he had vetoed the Johnson anti-whistling ordinance and he did so in the following terms:

To the City Council: I hereby return without my approval the "whistling" ordinance for the following reasons: I do not think it could be enforced. It would need a regiment of policemen, with special locomotives to keep in sight of the majority of railroad engines or there would never be enough evidence to convict; and furthermore, we need a little noise of the kind to keep things moving. Nothing doing.

"It is my intention," said the mayor, "to redeem every pledge, and I have really forgotten my promise to the public to put 'nothing doing' on any ordinance which was not worthy. When this ordinance came up I thought there should be 'nothing doing' and when I had written the words remembered that another pledge had been redeemed."

ALL PULL FOR PURE FOOD

National Association of Grocers' Convention Attended by Omaha Men in Line.

John S. Brady, Charles H. Pickens and Edgar Allen returned Saturday from Chicago, where they spent the week attending the convention of the National Wholesale Grocers' association.

This association was formed in Buffalo a year ago and has more than doubled its membership since then. Every state in the union with the exception of some three or four, were well represented by the leading wholesale grocers.

"The national association is doing all in its power to secure the passage of 'pure food' laws, by the several states, to conform with the national laws, and hopes to secure decisions by the several pure food commissions of the different states in conformity with the national decisions, thus avoiding complications in business that would naturally otherwise necessarily arise," said Mr. Pickens.

John S. Brady was re-elected as one of the officers of the association. The Omaha and western contingent quite generally left Chicago previous to the banquet, which was served Friday evening.

CUPID WINS IN LONG FIGHT

Finally Succeeds in Landing Will Herdman Under the Bell at the Altar.

William H. Herdman, well known democratic politician and formerly deputy city attorney and Miss Lou M. Nelson, will be married this evening at 8 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Nelson, 314 South Twenty-fifth street.

The fact he was about to be married has been a closely guarded secret by Mr. Herdman and even his closest business associates knew nothing about it. The wedding will be a very quiet affair and the ceremony will be witnessed only by a few relatives and intimate friends and will be performed by Rev. J. W. Conley of the First Baptist church. At the close of the ceremony a reception will be held at the home.

Mr. and Mrs. Herdman will leave at once for the Minnesota midland, a steam lake region for a three weeks' wedding trip. On their return they will be at home at 408 Lafayette avenue.

Mr. Herdman's friend considered him a confirmed bachelor and they were greatly surprised at the announcement he was about to wed.

SMALLPOX RILES ROWDEN

Victim Visits City Hall, Whereupon It's Worth Superintendent Promptly Explodes.

loy adopted by the union three years ago of holding a political primary on the eve of the regular primaries for the selection of candidates for whom the members of the affiliated unions would vote either in the primaries or at the polls. He alleges that in times past these labor primaries have been manipulated so that real friends and associates of laboring men were defeated and persons not favoring their cause were chosen. He desires an expression from members of organized labor on the subject so that it may be considered from every side of the question.

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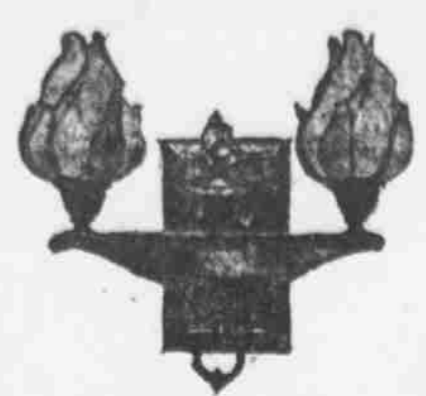
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