## WORK ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

Builders Unable to Let Up, Even for Holiday.

BETTER TASTE IS NOW EVINCED

Some Architectural Mintakes of Other Days Are Being Corrected, to the Immense Improvement of the Bulidings.

he army of home builders in Omaha has en doing full justice to its reputation for being "busy" during the last week. The Intense heat has not caused any slackening of the swift pace set by the people, the contractors and the workmen. Even on the Fourth of July men were at work on some of the structures, the activity being so great that they could not afford to waste even a single day from work, even such a day as the Fourth.

A brisk demand for lots continues and some of them have brought prices which establish a new record in values in their respective locations. At the southeast corner of Thirty-eighth avenue and Farnam street a lot 26x137 fost was sold to J. W. Thomas for \$6,000. He will build a \$6,000 visidence on the lot. Peter Soderberg, contractor, bought a lot 50x185 feet, between Jackson and Leavenworth streets and running from Seventeenth avenue to Eightcenth street, for \$4.975. He will erect modern flats on the property, one facing on Seventeenth avenue and one on Eighteenth

A "reformed taste" in the building of fists in Omaha is apparent from remodeling of several structures of this kind that have stood for years. One of these is located at Dodge and Twenty-fifth streets and the other at Chicago and Fifteenth streets. Both are rows of flats three stories and half basement, with the half basement entrance from the ground level and steps leading to the first floor above. These long rows of unsightly steps and porches have now been torn away and small porticos with stately pillars have seen erected at the entrance to the balf basement and a small balcony has taken the place of the old-time porch on the first floor landing. This leaves the front yard. formerly occupied by the steps, free to be laid out with cement walks and grass plots and flower beds. The result is decidedly good to see and the dwelling is greatly improved from the viewpoint of homely tastiness and municipal beauty.

Bjornson & Hass have taken the con tract for equipping the new Northwestern freight depot with metal gutters and spouting. It is a big job, the building being more than 600 feet long. It will be provided all along both sides of the roof with guttering sufficient to carry the water

The "finest flat in Omaha" is about to be built. It will stand at Twenty-seventh and Harney streets. T. J. O'Brien will build it and it will cost \$12,000, though it will be only 47x52 feet in size. The ordipary flat of this size costs only about \$7,000 will be built of the finest material throughout, with hot water heating plant. The interior finish will be of oak. It marks Reparture in apartment house construc-tion in Omaha and denotes a trend in the public taste toward the luxurious homes ommon only in the largest cities.

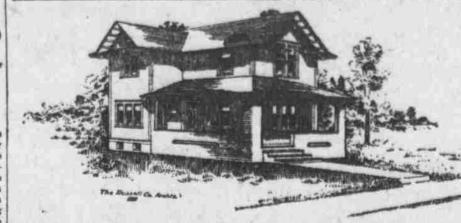
"This is the day when builders seem to has built a number of houses in Omaha. people think it has put good old-fashioned brick and mortar, and even steel, out of the running. But there is much to be said against concrete. With all its virtues, it has several vices which are serious objections to its excellence as a building material. One of these is its great clumsiness, unsightliness and apparent wastefulness. A concrete girder to have the same strength of a steel girder has to be vastly I beam has the same strength as a concrete girder measuring 18x26 inches. The steel I beam, of course, has almost no width at all. Another thing is what is known as the ultimate compressive strength, which in the case of concrete is only 2,000 to 3,500 pounds to the square inch. That is, it takes only that much of a weight to the square inch to crush concrete. The ultimate compressive strength of trap rock is 20,000 to 24,000 pounds; that of granite is 12,000 to 21,000 This fact at once explains the necessarily unwieldly size of concrete columns and the fact that in many structures timber is preferred to concrete or vertical

There are some very busy home builders out on the banks of Cut-Off lake and they have built for themselves some of the coslest and most comfortable homes to be found within a day's journey. On the grounds of the Omaha Rod and Gun club there are now nearly twenty cottages, half of which have been erected this year. They are amazing revelations of what a man can do with a little money and a few carpenters' tools, for most of the cottages are the handiwork of their proud and selfreliant owners. They have gone to work to build with the independence of the true ploneer. A few loads of lumber, a keg or two of nails, and then the long summer evenings and Saturday afternoons. These have been the only requisites of the builders. It is cafe to may there are no more comfortable homes in Omaha than are to be found on the banks of the lake. Every one is provided with a porch anywhere from five to twelve feet wide and extending around a goodly portion of the house. fact, some of the houses have more of this fly and mosquito proof porch than enclosed house. Inside there is, as a rule, one large home are at hand.

The cottage owned by Roy and Alvin Bloom and Oscar and Henry Drefold is a marvel of cosiness, beauty and comfort. The main room measures some lexil feet. The high gable roof furnishes the celling. On all sides are windows, great wide windows, which swing open inward on hinges. wide porch running along the front the house is entirely enclosed with seen. In short the whole building is as open to the air as the space beneath the trees of the neighboring grove, and yet there is not a hole where even a baby mosquito could get hrough. At one and of the main room is a massive stone fireplace. built up of the rough stone, like the pio neers might have built. This is used in winter, when the house is opened occusionally for skating or teeboat sailing parties. Sailing, dehing and swimming are the pastimes of the home builders who have taken steps toward the simple life at Cut-

W. A. Gordon of the Expressmen's Deliv. A. Johnson of Heatrice, who will move ordered. to Omaha, is preparing to build a \$4,500

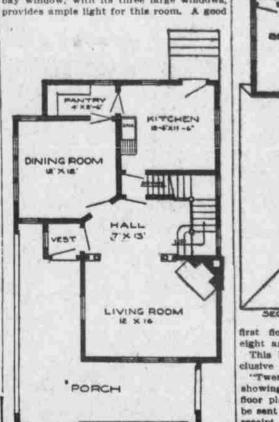
## A Twentieth Century Cottage



This picturesque home, on account of im- | pantry, with convenient cupboard, connects posing and striking appearance, will seem more expensive than its size warrants. The outside measurements, 22x31, are comparatively small when the number and size of the rooms are considered.

Four-range rock is used for foundation above grade and cement blocks for the provided on second floor. first story and remainder of building is finished with cement plaster on wire lath. A pleasant porch opens into an attractive eception hall, from which we have an oper stairway to second floor.

The large, comfortable living room, with its cheery open fireplace, is separated from the dining room by a column arch. The bay window, with its three large windows,



FIRST FLOOR PLAN Cuming streets and intends to erect a \$5,000

M. Kellner, 1306 South Thirty-fifth street, has just placed an order with the American Electric company for a complete equiphave gone concrete mad," said a man who ment of colonial fixtures throughout his

Matthew Bjornson of Bjornson & Haas, striped heavy duck and make it up on a gies, gravel, slag or composition roofings easily invite fire from the outside and easily are burned through by fires from improve upon. Spring rollers, those that the inside. Tin cannot be ignited by fire larger. For example, a twenty-inch steel be burned through. Thus it keeps the air out and smothers the flames. If a tin roof is put on well and kept painted properly it will last longer than any other kind of roof." Talking of the durability of the tin roof thirty-five years old which is today just as good as the day it was put on by Mr. Nash.

at the corner of Thirty-eighth and Dodge C. Bennett & Co.

"Business this summer has been exceptionally good in our line," says George A. Hayes, of the Nebraska Nernst company, "and we are installing a large number of plants in Omaha." Mr. Hayes has a letter from the home office stating that a contract for 15,000 Nernst lamps has just been closed with Marshall Field & Co., Chicago. "living room" where all the comforts of This is equivalent to nearly a million candle

> J. B. Blanchard's residence on Popplator avenue has just been equipped with a he

> A "Perfect" furnace has just been in stalled by Cox Bros., in the new residence of C. M. Martin at Twenty-fifth and Fort

The work on the Mercer flats at Fortyfirst and Izard streets has reached the point where the furnaces are being in-All six are being furnished by A. stalled.

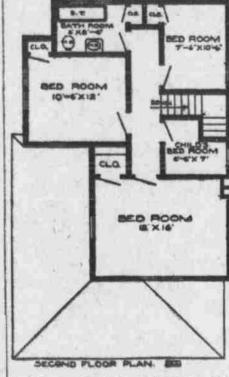
gradually equipping their signal towers with hot air furnaces in place of stoves. Cox Bros, have just placed a furnace in the signal tower at Columbus, Neb.

Atlatic Effect of Awnings. on window pane or doorway grows uncomfortable, and one thinks instinctively of

residence at Twentieth and Wirt streets, adds as much to the cool appearance of a Charles E. Wright has bought the lot on house as fresh looking, harmonious, well

with a fine kitchen. The cellar stairs start from the hall, which also serves as a passage way from the kitchen to the front part of the house. Four good chambers, with fine large closets, and a well arranged bath room are The attic will furnish ample room for

storage purposes. Height of cellar to joists, seven feet



first floor, nine feet, and second floor, eight and one-half feet. This house will cost \$3,000 to build, ex-

clusive of heating or plumbing. "Twentieth Century Cottages," a book showing a number of views and complete floor plans of moderate-priced homes, will be sent postpaid to any of our readers upon receipt of 25 cents in stamps. Address all etters to the Home Building Department, care Omaha Bee, Omaha, Neb.

the northeast corner of Thirty-eighth and cut awnings, and special care should be taken in their selection. home on it this summer. In buying, remember that durability

entire house.

"In spite of its faults, tin roofing is about the best thing on the market today," said ginning, it is wiser to buy only the best "It has the lowest insurance rate. Shinfalling on it and when a fire starts inside a building with a tin roof the roof cannot tin roof, A. Nash of A. Nash & Son says he has many tin rofs now in good state of preservation in Omaha which were put on at the time he began business here, thirty-seven years ago. In the neighbor-

The sale of thirty-four lots out of fiftytwo platted in the new Patrick addition between Twenty-fourth and Twenty-sixth and Lake and Miami streets shows the trend of opinion of builders in the northern part of the city. These lots were sold within two weeks after the addition had been placed on the market. Some were sold before the advertisements were inserted in the newspapers, people having read in the news columns that the lots were to be placed on sale. Nearly all the buyers bought with the intention of building homes or stores immediately and some of the excavations have already been be-4. 1115.1连续线连续服务

The electric work is being installed in the handsome new residence of J. M. Cudahy This work is being done by E.

power lamps.

air furnacs. Cox Bros. did the work.

atreets.

Burmester.

The Union Pacific Railway company is

the great essential. However, one tempted to indulge in noveities, either of coloring or patent contrivance, it is well have stood the test of many seasons' sun and rain and wind.

Economy should never be practiced materials. Though costing more in the bemethod of pulling on a string is hard to go up like window shades, and other intricate appliances, besides being expensive, have an uncomfortable knack of getting out of fix.

In colors it is acknowledged that tans give the best service. Greens, though specially cool looking, are uncertain, while the many novelty stripes in bright Venetian reds and blues, are very apt to run if they do refrain from fading. The character of the architecture should

also influence the choice of awnings. City houses have a more or less conventional hood of Twenty-sixth and Hamilton is a standard, but greater laxity is allowed in shading the country home. Here the fancy yellows and reds are often used with good effect, or a broad green and white stripe looks well where there are wide verandas A gray stone house should have blue awnings; a colonial, a green or yellow; for a or sixteen miles; of steam pipe, 155,000 feet, brownstone, the various browns and linen ings are solid white, with a skirt of blue,

yellow or green. As many persons object to awnings be cause they keep out the air, they are often made with a small hood at the top for vena circulation of air.

In the care of awnings, continued discussion is held on whether they are better up and halls. or down when it rains. On the whole, they are better down, as thus the dirt runs off that other wise might accumulate in the however, they should always be up.

ing up results. Never neglect to thoroughly clean and brush them before they are put any desired point. away.

Biggest Building in the World New York, within a year, is to have the

It is the Terminal building-that gigantic the window. structure in the underground mases of which will run the great system of subway lines which will connect New Jersey Hudson

straight through its center.

York to Danvar if placed end to end. The 75,000 pounds of concrete necessary With the first hot days, the beating sun will take up 1,190,000 cubic feet. The amount of concrete for the floor arches alone would pave Broadway from the Batery-company is preparing to build a modern awnings. Old ones must be taken out, tery to Forty-second street. It will take when this is dry apply a solution of acetate home at Twenty-fifth and Irard streets dusted and repaired, or new ones must be 4,500 tons of terra cotta for the ornamenta- of iron, made by dissolving iron filings in

> needed. Of plumbing pips there will be \$8,000 feet, polish.

GUARDING THE PEARL MUSSEL to make a liberal appropriation.

Mississippi River Industry in Danger of Destruction.

Scientists Take Up the Question of Artificial Propagation - Pearl Hunting Parties Given by Women.

One of the tasks the government has set for itself this summer is to find out why the pearl bearing mussels of the rivers of to try to propagate them. A commission headed by Prof. Paul Baratch of Budlington has just begun a thorough search of out all about the mussel

The mussel is highly regarded in that ection of the country. Not only has it been the basis of a very profitable industry in the way of furnishing raw material for button making, but it has enriched a great many who have merely taken up the hunt in the hope of finding valuable pearls.

Museels have been found in large quantities along the upper Mississippi, but pearls are few and far between, due possibly to the fact that the temperature of the water is not so favorable to the propagation of the slug, the technical name for the pearl bearing secretions. Down along the White and Arkansas rivers hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of pearls have been found in the last five years. In Arkansas more than \$1,000,000 worth of them have been

unearthed in that time. The pearl-bearing mussel has been found now and then for years in the Arkansas rivers by fishermen who use it as a balt for the drum and the red horse varieties of the sucker family of fish. Several lucky finds of this character on the Black river started everybody hunting.

All a Gamble.

It was all a gamble. Only now and then a mussel with the precious stone attached banks and bid against one another for the untouched shells brought in by the fishermen. Bathing parties and picnics at which the interest centered in pearl fishing were common.

Many stories are told of lucky finds. trio of tramps one day tried to induce a ferryman to carry them across the river. He gruffly refused, telling them to go to work and hunt pearls for a living. They took his advice and in about three hours had gathered several bushels of shells. Sitting down to open them, they discovered n the fifth shell a pearl that sold for more only twice have they been colored versus than enough to buy all the earthly possessions of the ferryman.

A lad playing about a boat used for pearl fishing discovered something shiny on the bottom. He showed it to a man whom he met on the street, and cheerfully accepted \$10 for the pearl. The man disposed of it to a friend for \$50, who sold it later for four times that sum to a professional buyer who is reported to have received several thousand dollars for it.

A business man who was on the verge of bankruptcy went down to the river to put in a few days fishing while he contrived to think some way out of his difficulties. On the first day he found three pearls that he disposed of for sufficient to pay all of his debts.

Pearls worth \$900 were found one afternoon by three young northern women who had accepted an invitation from a southern hostess to join them in a bathing party with a pearl fishing attachment. The proper dress for these functions, by the to adhere to the old-fashioned styles, which way, was the ordinary bathing dress and broad brimmed straw hats.

Although the industry has waned greatly the last year, there are still the river banks. The shallows were, of course, first looted, and nowadays most of galvanized iron frame of simple construc- the work is done in the deeps. For this tion. As for the mechanisms the old-time purpose cyster tongs are used, and the work is kept up most of the year.

Matter of Business Now. Dredging for pearls is very largely a business matter these days. Dredges are used on the deep places and on the bars the river bottom was ploughed up and the mussels brought in scows and opened. The shells were saved and sold to the button factories that sprang up at every town and village. These shells more than paid the expenses of the work, and the pearls found were clear profit. Several comfortable fortunes were built up in this way.

There are hundreds of button factories all along the upper Mississippi. Wherever there are saudbars and shallow places the work of dredging for mussels goes on. The supply is getting shorter every year, and to preserve the sources and propagate

or about twenty-nine miles, and of concolor are good. Sometimes, too, the awn- duits, 500,000 feet, or nearly ninety-five miles

To light such a mastedonic hive of business will require 5,600 windows, which will be glazed with 120,000 square feet of glass, or enough to cover three city blocks. It tilating. Or they are run en a rod at the will take 113 miles of wiring for the electric top, leaving a space narrow enough to shut lighting service-enough to run a wire from out the sun, and at the same time allow Yonkers to Philadelphia. This wiring will feed 30,000 lamps in 13,000 fixtures. And 5,000 doors will be necessary for the rooms

New Sash Lock.

Sash locks are no novelty, but one refolds and leave a stain. In a windstorm, cently patented seems particularly designed to baffle burglars who devote their ener-The average life of an awning is three gies to entering second-story windows. This or four seasons, though they frequently device is attached to the side of the winlast much longer. They are often turned dow frame. By shutting the window, withafter two summers' wear, with quite fresh- out handling the lock, it locks the upper as well as the lower sash automatically at

It is claimed for this lock that, being fastened with vertical and lateral screws, cannot be pried off by a jimmy, even if the sash were splintered in the attempt. highest office building in the world. It will Nor can anything be inserted between the have 5,000 windows, thirty-nine elevators eashes to remove the bolt from the slide. and twenty-nine acres of floor space. It It can only be opened from the inside could house a city of 10,000 persons, or half | when the window is shut, and even if the million persons will pass through it thief breaks the glass he will find it extremely difficult, if not impossible, to open

Remove Spilt Paint from Tiles. There is nothing more unsightly toan and uptown by means of tunnels under the spots and splashes of paint left on the floor and tiles of buildings. They not only spoil It will face on Church street, towering the look of the tiler's work, but make the twenty-two stories in the air, with a paint work look slovenly, however well it frontage of two city blocks, from Fulton may be done. Most tiles will allow a wash to Cortlandt street, and Dey street running of caustic soda being put over them, which will remove the paint without the necessaity The structural steel necessary weighs of using an afterwash of acid to destroy 24,000 tons. When completed the living and the effects of the potash, water only being dead weight of the building will be 200,000 required. But if the tile is likely to stain tons, or 480,000,000 pounds. It will take with the potash, a wash of diluted am-16,300,000 bricks to build the structure- monia will remove the paint spots, which, mough to reach 2,000 miles, or from New in turn, can be washed off with clean water.

Apply a coat of hot logwood solution; allow it to dry, then apply a second coat; tion of the facades of the building. Some hot vinegar or acetic acid, which will turn Besides promoting our comfort, nothing \$10,000 square yards of plastering will be the logwood stain dead black. Let this dry, then sub with raw linseed off to a dead

Shells by the carload are shipped to the factories and there they are made into matter of business." blanks and buttons. A big business in shipping the blanks to Germany has been built up in the last few years.

The expedition is to examine into the LUCKY FIND BY SOME HUNTERS habits and conditions of the mussel and to determine what can be done to save this lucrative industry. It is intended to visit every bayou and tributary from St. Paul to the Arkansas. In an interview Prof. Bartsch says:

"The difficulties of artificial propagation of the mussel are many. These may be overcome, but at present we do not know sufficient of the mussel and its habits to be able to form a definite opinion. It is a very simple thing to turn millions of eggs the Mississippi river are disappearing and into fish, but the egg of the mussel passes through another stage before it becomes a mussel. After being hatched it is a parathe Mississippi and its tributaries to find while one mussel may produce 80,000 eggs. site which attaches itself to fish. Now but a very small number of these will be That is one of the things the expedition will learn something about. If artificial propagation shall not prove prac ticable, perhaps by protecting the fish and the mussels and having a closed season

> NO RACE BOTHER AT BUXTON Iowa Mining Town Where Whites and Blacks Work Side

during which the mussels must not be dis-

turbed the desired results may be at

Those senators who despair of a solution of the race question eught to go to Buxton. Buxton is a coal mining camp in Iowa. Its population is about 5,000, 93 per cent being black and 7 per cent white. The negroes were brought in from the south originally to break a strike. They were quick to learn the value of unionism and now there is no more thoroughly organized miners' union than the Buxton camp.

by Side.

In Buxton the senators would receive their mal from a negro postmaster; at the hotel their host would be a negro. They would find themselves in a community would be found, but when once discovered where everybody works, especially father. it was well worth the time employed. Those If father develops a tendency to loaf and who would not wade loafed around on the to graft on his family he will not remain long in Buxton. Only men who work can rent houses.

The Buxton schools have grown from four teachers in a four-room building in 1904 to a ten-room building and twelve teachers today. Of the 600 pupils, only sixty-one in ten-are white. The superintendent is a colored man. The teachers are colored and white. Of the mixing of races in the schools, Superintendent Gil liam says:

"There is absolutely no friction between the races. Of the very few cases of fights

[the mussel the last congress was induced white, both last year. They play together, sit together and eat together. Nothing is said about social equality. The school is a

> The seventy-two clerks in the company store are whites and negroes, working together, neither insulting nor being insulted by one another, white girls waiting on black men, negro girls waiting on white men. In the bank the senators would find a negro woman and a white woman, one the teller, the other the cashier.

The president of the Young Men's Christian association is a negro miner, living in a well furnished house and giving his children a liberal education. The Young Men's Christian association secretary is the theatrical manager and amusement censor of the town. He controls the opera hall. with a free hand to turn down whatever appears morally unfit. On Saturday night of moving pictures are given for the good of all.

Buxton has its drawbacks. No mining camp is an ideal place. The coal will be exhausted some time, then Buxton will de- further information at Sixteenth and camp and disappear. There is lacking the motive to buy and to improve property. But here is a community where as yet the race question is solved. Business is business in the store, on the

street and in the mines. The white woman is safe and sacred-so is the black woman. In this community, overwhelmingly negro, the races work together, go to school together, but do not intermingle racially. Six days in the week, fifty-two weeks in the year, black men work in Buxton, making good money and making as good use of their money as white men, in Buxton or elsewhere. Buxton, like



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