

NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS

HOME BUILDERS KEEP BUSY

Omaha Folks Are Still Putting Up Houses to Live In.

RECORD FOR JUNE IS SURPRISING

Value of Permits Issued in Omaha Exceeds that of Last Year, Which Was Itself a Goodly Showing.

While the home builders all over the country have been timely awaiting the outcome of the reported money stringency and financial panic, the builders in Omaha have been calmly going on erecting homes as though nothing had happened. The records of the building inspector's office have been compiled for the first six months of the year and show that building has held up remarkably well, all through the first six months of a year which is conceded to have natural disadvantages for the investment of money. The total figures for the six months shows an expenditure of \$1,976,915 on building in the first half of 1907 and \$1,744,140 in the corresponding period of this year. But the record for June of the two years is especially encouraging and indicates that business is picking up more than ever. In June, 1907, the building permits amounted to \$438,350, while in June of this year they totaled \$450,160.

The clean and chaste lines of the old colonial style of home are being exemplified in a residence being built in the Field club district of this city. The house has broad lines and is erected on a commodious lot, with wide yard around the front and ample space on the sides. An attractive feature of the exterior is the large brick chimney rising at one end of the gable roof which has a slope toward the street. The building is of frame and the exterior framework is covered with sheathing of good building paper and clapboard of wide gauge. The blinds are painted green. The shingle roof is painted a moss green. The interior of the house is treated in true colonial style. The central hall extends from front to the back of the house. The dining room has an inglenook and a large open fireplace built of red brick. There are four large bedrooms on the second floor, with baths, plenty of closets and an attic above. The cost of this house is said to be \$8,500.

Men experienced in the building of homes in Omaha for investment purposes say that now is an especially good time for undertaking work of this kind. The cheapness of material compared with its price a year or two ago is the reason given for present building from the investment standpoint.

"Usually the investor in city property looks about 3 per cent," says a real estate man who has built many houses for investment. "But now he ought to make at least 20 per cent on the investment. It is possible to secure more and better work for the same money than could be secured in 1907. This is one of the reasons why the building record of Omaha is keeping up so excellently. The shrewd men are getting busy now and they will reap the fruits of their foresight."

"While the prices on lumber are easy just now," said a local dealer in this important building commodity, "there is absolutely no way to forecast what they will be in a week or a month from now. Values will necessarily show fluctuations in the future. Sale prices will move up and down in response to heavy demand or its temporary restriction. The lumber trade of the country and the lumber consumers should remember that a steadily increasing demand is being filled with a constantly decreasing supply of timber. The inevitable outcome of these forces working upon one another will be a higher price level."

The cement market in Omaha for the last forty days has been in the most demoralized condition ever known in the history of the business. Some concerns have been sold for less than the cost of production. Lately there has been a slight rebound in prices and the many new uses to which cement has been put because of the low prices is already stimulating the demand for it so that it is likely higher prices will prevail as the season progresses. The heaviest demand for cement in this section of the country is during the late summer and early fall and many are making preparations to meet this demand. One of the largest factors in the cement market is the railroads who have been doing no new work for some time. New work, however, was begun by the roads July 1 and it is expected they will do a large amount of work during the next few months. The present price in Omaha is \$1.15 a barrel.

PLANS

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CONTRASTS IN HUMAN LIFE

Shady Walks Offer a Parallel Path of Higher Aims in a Merry Old World.

My old friend J. W. Edmonds of New York says: "Does it seem strange to you that the shady walks of life should so often run parallel with the path of higher aims, such as art, literature and the like? Here we have 'Paddy the Pig' with a posthumous gliding of a reputed love of flowers and poetry! As to this dual instinct, we have as an authority of appeal Bret Harte, who recognized the existence of such a peculiar human trait in his portrayal of the characters of Jack Hamlin and John Oakhurst. Then we have the Hon. Dick Canfield as a living example. What's the secret of nature in this respect? My own theory is that men of normal mold, whose occupations force them steadily into one groove, must seek their diversions in a diametrically opposite channel."

"Wicked Gibbs" was a lover of art, and much appreciated by J. Pierpont Morgan, Edmund Clarence Stedman was a poet and a banker. He was an imitator of Samuel Rogers, the original mixer of finance and poetry. Rogers was a millionaire banker—a very Croesus. He could draw unlimited checks alike on the Bank of England and on the treasury of the Muses. At the same time, Rogers was the ugliest man in England. His home was such a palace of art as Morgan would envy, and try to improve on, and the only unglorious thing in it was Rogers himself. Morgan never laid claim to beauty. He is richer than Rogers was, and his art collection will be the grandest on earth if he lives ten years longer.

Drama in Plunkville.

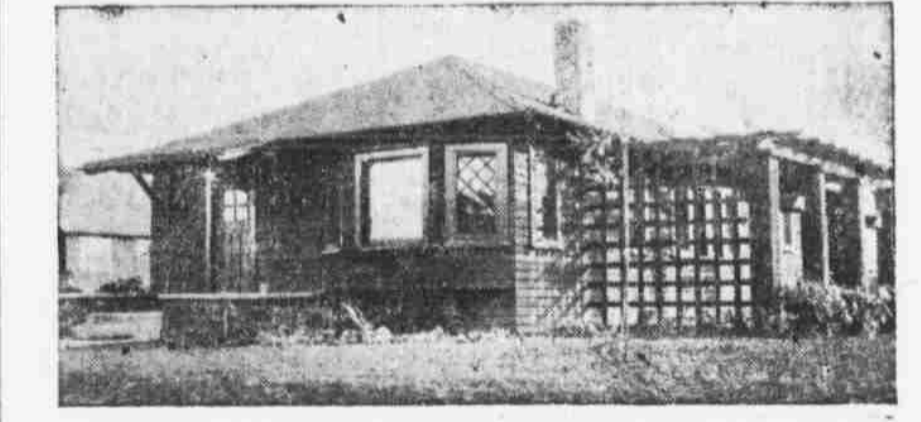
"The heroine was tied to a buzz-saw and the hero was locked in a dungeon. Fright I thought her time had come."

"And what saved her?"

"Just then the sheriff walked in and leveled on the scenery. It broke up the show, but that was better'n sevin' the gal sawed in twain."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Attractive and Inexpensive Homes

By Max L. Keith.



THE BUNGALOW HOME.

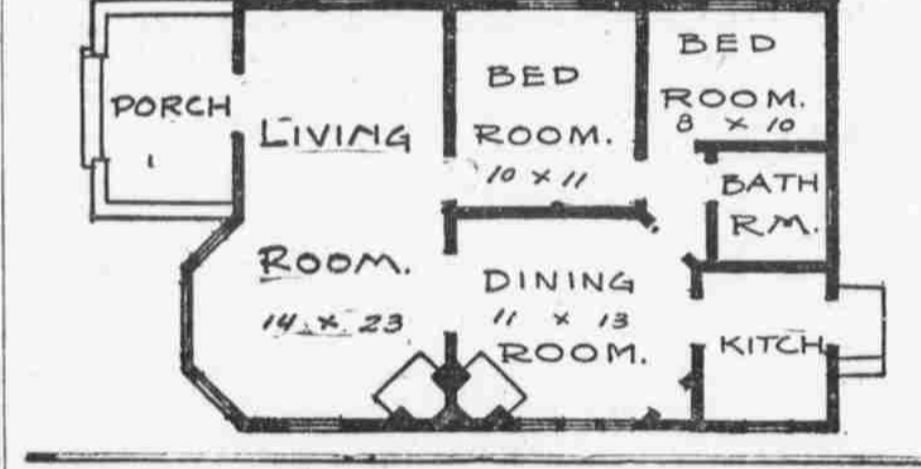
For a few weeks I shall show a number of very interesting but exceedingly inexpensive one-story cottages, or bungalows as popularly termed. I believe that the building of a home is indeed a business proposition. It is somewhat cheaper to own a home than to rent, provided that the home is built properly and does not require continual repairs. The building of a home, however, is far more than a mere business proposition. There is too much sentiment connected with the building of a home to court its worth in mere dollars and cents and a bungalow appeals strongly to home-loving American people nowadays for two important factors—economy of its cost and its homelike possibilities.

The origin of the bungalow is no doubt derived from the American log cabin and these two styles are the only two distinctly original styles in American architecture.

The first of this series shows a simple, beautiful homelike little bungalow and because of its utter simplicity and straight forward expression of simple means is one of the most attractive homes in my collection. That is saying considerable when we consider that it only cost to build a little over \$1,500.

The living room is very attractive with its fireplace and broad bay window and its views in many directions. Good wall spaces have also been left for the davenport and piano. Dining room and living room are directly connected through a wide-cased opening and back of the dining room is a small hall leading to the bed rooms and bath room. While the illustration shows siding on the house, it will look equally well, perhaps better, if shingled, and in either case should be stained a mission brown with either a moss green roof or a dark maroon stain as the prospective builder may desire.

Estimated cost, \$1,200 in pine finish. Dimensions are 24x33 feet; ceiling height, 10 feet.



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