

BUILDING GROWS IN JULY

Past Month Shows Large Gain Over That of Last Year.

ONE-THIRD PER CENT MORE

Nearly Six Hundred Thousand Dollars Worth of Construction Involved in Hundred and Forty-Three Permits.

The building record for the month of July, 1908, shows an increase of 33 per cent over the record for the same month last year. One hundred and forty-three permits, aggregating \$576,000 worth of construction...

The record for the first seven months of the year shows a slight decline over the same period of last year. During the first seven months of this year 518 permits were issued for buildings to cost \$2,314,400...

The Deere Plow company took out the two largest permits, both of them for warehouses at Ninth and Howard streets, to cost \$100,000 each. These two permits are also the largest issued this year.

August Begins Big

The first day of August starts off with eight permits aggregating \$25,000. Eleven of these permits were issued to Hastings & Heyden for buildings to cost in excess of \$2,500.

The building record for the first day of the month is as follows: Hastings & Heyden, 1612 Lake street, frame dwelling, \$2,000; Hastings & Heyden, 1574 Lake street, frame dwelling, \$2,000; Hastings & Heyden, 1728 Lake street, frame dwelling, \$2,000; Hastings & Heyden, 3185 Agard street, frame dwelling, \$2,350; Hastings & Heyden, 1908 Spencer street, frame dwelling, \$4,000; Hastings & Heyden, 629 South Nineteenth street, brick dwelling, \$4,000; Hastings & Heyden, Twenty-third and Fort street, frame dwelling, \$2,000; Hastings & Heyden, 207 North Twenty-third street, frame dwelling, \$2,000; Hastings & Heyden, 308 North Twenty-third street, frame dwelling, \$2,000; Hastings & Heyden, 301 Meredith avenue, frame dwelling, \$2,000; Hastings & Heyden, Twenty-fifth and Fort streets, frame dwelling, \$2,000; McCauley Investment company, 18-21 South Twenty-sixth avenue, duplex to brick flats, \$1,000; F. C. Taylor, Twenty-sixth avenue and Sprague street, frame dwelling, \$1,500; George Self, Twentieth and Boulevard streets, frame dwelling, \$4,000.

W. O. W. NOT IN THE FIGHT

Withdrawal of Modern Woodmen from Fraternal Congress Purely Local Matter.

As far as officials of the Woodmen of the World know at present that order will not be withdrawn from the National Fraternal Congress from which the Modern Woodmen of America has just withdrawn, alleging as a reason that the congress proposed to secure laws in the various states making fraternal insurance rates uniform and much higher.

John Thomas Yates, head clerk of the Woodmen of the World, said: "The trouble with the Modern Woodmen with the National Fraternal Congress is a fight between the order and congress and does not concern other orders in the least. Personally, I would not like to mix in the affair in any way. Reference to the proceedings of the national congress at Buffalo in August, 1907, would tell the story of why the Modern Woodmen has given notice of its intending of withdrawing from the national congress."

"We don't know of any conspiracy on the part of the congress to secure laws in the various states which would make fraternal insurance rates almost as high as old line rates."

"This much, I am quite sure of: The Woodmen of the World is not going to withdraw from the National Fraternal Congress simply because the national organization will not allow us to run the business and incidentally dictate to other insurance companies or fraternal orders."

"Mr. Yates referred to other inquiries to Esmerin Commander Joseph H. Root, of the Woodmen of the World, but Mr. Root had just returned from the east and covered up with work could not give the matter any time. Mr. Yates insisted that the proceedings of the congress would tell the story of the trouble between the fraternal congress and the Modern Woodmen."

PURITAN PRUDERY GONE MAD

Sample Instances of Shocked Minds Ascribing Evil to Innocent Actions.

New England is a land of tenuous habit. Its conservatism is as set as its scrubby golf, as stanch as Plymouth Rock. Not centuries, nor generations, nor judicial decrees can remove from New England's blood the iron and aloes of its forefathers.

The Puritan lives there today as he did in Governor Winthrop's day. His outlook on life is still as blue as his moral code. On other days he burned witches at Salem and hanged heretics; in these days he throws into jail the summer girl who sits on his beach in a bathing suit and won't go near the water. The following newspaper dispatch from a Maine resort tells the story:

Two belligerent appearing men faced each other. "You're a liar." "You're a yellow pup." "Fright!" shrieked a small boy. Then a crowd of curious began to gather in front of the Grand building in upper Market street. It was looking for trouble I guess it can give it to you. I missed the "liar" but I was his teeth.

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While the doctor gets out the packages of our magical herbs, guaranteed to cure cancer, tumors, and diseases, etc., I will entertain you with some sleight of hand tricks," announced the "liar" in a stentorian voice.

The crowd then realized that it had been gulled. A few on the outskirts slunk away, but the main body remained to fall victims to the wiles of the wily medical faker and his curative. At \$1 per package, and a pair of glasses, the "solid gold" was sold, thrown in. —San Francisco Call.

TIMELY REAL ESTATE TALK

Renewed Activity in the East Good Sign for the West.

LOCAL BUSINESS IS SATISFACTORY

Sales and Building All Encourage Dealers and Speculators Are Making Money in Factory Sites.

From one side of the country to the other, real estate conditions have shown slight improvement during the month of July, while in the middle west they have never been more healthy. Reports received by the Omaha real estate board from New England and the North Atlantic states, where large amounts of money have been withdrawn from eastern investments and placed in the west, indicate that at last there is a renewal of building operations and during July there was a fair amount of buying. More men have been at work in New England during July than during any month since last November, though the trades are receiving smaller wages than before. This recovery back east may and may not check the money which has been coming to western cities for investment, instead of staying in eastern real estate, bonds or saving banks.

According to S. P. Hostwick, who has recently returned from an extended trip east, the money will continue to come west. A number of dealers have had orders from clients in the east to buy for investment in Omaha during July and something like \$150,000 was invested during the last two weeks of the month. There is practically no difference in conditions in Omaha and other Nebraska cities, except that mortgage money is lower in Omaha and business property is more in demand, especially truckage vacancies.

Charles T. Knapp of Lincoln, in writing of conditions in that city, says: "Increasing activity due to gradual restoration of confidence. Many business properties being erected, but few sales. New private houses being constructed in large numbers and selling well; quite a few older houses vacant. Sales of apartment houses restricted, and vacancies few. Suburban growing very fast. Farm land, salable, average price in Lancaster county being \$8 per acre. Mortgage money abundant at 5 to 8 1/2 per cent for business property; 6 1/2 to 8 per cent for apartment houses; 6 to 8 1/2 per cent for private houses; 1 per cent for farm lands."

In Omaha the interest during the last week in July centered in the proposed organization of a new state bank and the erection of a building. Bankers are quite generally agreed that there is a field for such an institution in Omaha and that it will be a success and win friends from the start. Two real estate dealers are negotiating with the organizers for sites. It is known that George & Co. have offered the corner at Sixteenth and Harnett streets. What J. H. Dumont & Son are offering the organizers of the new institution Mr. Dumont refuses to disclose. But whether the new institution takes the Sixteenth and Harnett street corner or a site offered by J. H. Dumont & Son, it is understood that there will be a big sale and a vacant corner the home of a new building.

With a number of factories coming to Omaha, there has been activity in business property and much more to come. As a result there is some speculation. Good money has been made in the last few weeks by careful buyers of property in the business district, notably Gould Dietz and David Cole, who have bought and sold several pieces of property. John R. Webster entered the field during the week by buying two lots near the new factory of the Looney-Wiles Contracting company, while Harrison & Morton bought two lots at Twentieth and Harnett streets for a client, whose name is not disclosed, purely for speculation. The Russian-Jewish congregation got an opportunity to see the site bought some time ago for a church at Twenty-first and Chicago streets and it was sold for about \$100,000 to the buyers, who will build homes. The congregation has worshiped in a small synagogue on Capitol avenue between Twelfth and Thirteenth streets. The congregation made a fair profit on the Chicago street property and will likely buy another site within a short time.

JULY GREAT FOR THE STORK

Makes Big Gain in Births and Has Fewer Deaths Than Any Other Month.

Vital statistics of Omaha show more births and fewer deaths for the month of July just past than any other month in the year. During the month there were 222 births and only 115 deaths, as compared with an equal number of deaths for the same month last year and 203 births for July, 1907. One pair of twins, one pair of Japanese and one pair of negro twins were born during the month. The record of births shows 119 boys and 103 girls.

The first day of August starts in with twice as many births as deaths, the following being the record: Births—H. H. Roberts, 1115 North Twenty-third street; John Thirte, Twenty-eighth and Fort Omaha avenue, boy; Sam McAniff, 2008 Hamilton, girl; Arthur P. Chamberlain, 2538 Seward, boy; Vaclav Paska, 406 Walnut, girl; Albert M. Connor, 174 Charles, boy; Robert Rogers, 624 Bancroft, girl. Deaths—Mrs. Mary Fisher, Fifteenth and Bancroft, 3; Turah M. Northcutt, 217 Fernway, 3; Pearl McGuigan, 1506 Ohio, 3 days; William Cook, 3212 Burdette, 4 days.

MAN DROWNS AT CUT-OFF LAKE

Harry Totenhaupt Goes Down in Sight of Several Workmen, Calling for Help.

With slight of several workmen who were dismantling the pavilion at Courtland beach, Harry Totenhaupt, 489 North Twenty-fifth street, a clerk in the South Omaha postoffice, was drowned in Cut-Off lake a few yards east of the pavilion, about 10 o'clock Sunday morning. Totenhaupt had secured a duck boat, of which he was part owner, from Larson's on the west side of the lake early in the morning. He paddled across to Courtland beach and was noticed by several of the workmen when he was swimming directly opposite the old pavilion. After bathing he paddled the boat eastward. He was seen to stand up in the boat, which suddenly skidded out from under him. He started to swim toward the shore when he became entangled with the dangerous weeds and then cried for help.

W. J. Shepherd and two other workmen immediately secured a boat to go out to rescue, but Totenhaupt had gone down for the last time. The body was recovered within a few minutes and Police Surgeon Benjamin and Dr. C. G. Moore were called, but despite their vigorous efforts at resuscitation, Totenhaupt showed no signs of life after being pulled out of the water.

Coroner Brewer took charge of the body and will hold an inquest. Totenhaupt, who would have become of age in November, leaves a widowed mother, a brother and two sisters.

ABOLISH OATH, SAYS JUDGE

Traditional Form Used in Court, Says, Superinduces Crime of Perjury.

"Abolish the oath in the courts," says Judge W. G. Sears of the Douglas county district bench. "In the ordinary administration of justice in the courts the crime of perjury is much more common than is supposed," said the judge, "and the number of prosecutions for false testimony is in no way a fair indication of the commonality of perjury. I am in favor of abolishing the oath in the courts. Its reference to the divinity, coupled with the too common weakness of witness, reduces it to a sacrifice. I know of no one who has testified to the truth because of the solemnity of his oath in my experience on the bench. It often occurs that the divorce courts are schools for perjury. As a statement it is untrue in its full force. They are no more so than any other courts, civil or criminal."

Break Up Kemper, Hemphill & Buckingham. Anything of metal made "Good as New." Owners, Omaha Silver Co., 214 So. 13th St.

OUR LETTER BOX

Contributors are on a timely topic invited. Write legibly on one side of the paper only, with name and address appended. Unless corrections are desired, letters will be subject to being put down at the discretion of the editor. Publication of views of correspondents does not commit The Bee to their endorsement.

Wright Replies to Woodbury

OMAHA, July 31.—To the Editor of The Bee: During the long litigation with the Omaha Water company I have consistently refrained from making any public statement. The recent statement in the public press, over the name of Theodore C. Woodbury as president, inasmuch as it charges that the Water board of the city has not been willing to meet the water company relative to the improvement of the system, Omaha real estate board, has been consistently misleading and far from the truth that a word of explanation appears necessary.

It is true that heretofore communications have been received by the Water board from Mr. Woodbury. These communications, however, were published in the press of the city before opportunity for consideration by the Water board, and here such unmistakable evidences upon their face of being merely advertising matter that they were not answered by letter. However, soon after the communications to which Mr. Woodbury refers, which were published as paid advertisements in the press of the city, Mr. Woodbury if he had any business proposition to submit to, or desired to discuss with the Water board that they were all business men and would meet with him at any time, either in the day or evening, and that I would get the members of the board together on that or any other day, to discuss the propositions suggested in his letters. Mr. Woodbury did not meet with the board. His present communication is the first since that conversation.

Reasonable space would not permit a review of the litigation between the city and the water company. It is understood that the city has refused to pay the hydrant rentals due since December 31, 1904. It is true that during the six months preceding that the company had installed certain hydrants, but it had installed only about half that were ordered. Part of the hydrants that were installed were not connected to the district court, and the manager of the water company, Mr. E. M. Fairfield, had stated to the mayor of the city that the company would not install more hydrants. Judge W. H. Munger, on the trial of the case, held that a matter to the action of the company was such as to defer until after to recover the full contract price for hydrant service. This decision was reversed with the statement of the court of appeals that there was no evidence that the water company had had a reasonable price for the hydrant service. The position of the water company then was that the company was not required to comply with its part of the contract, but that, nevertheless, the city must pay the full price. The water board felt if the contract was not good so far as the water company was concerned, that the company might not require the city to pay the full price. The water board has at all times been, and is now, ready to pay for the reasonable value of the service which the water company has rendered to the city. The price for the hydrant rental was fixed by contract twenty-five years ago, and by the engineer who made the report for the water works system, as an annuity to the company. The rates fixed for hydrant service were excessively high for a city of the size of Omaha at the present time, and the water board feels that if the water company is to insist upon the pound of flesh, i. e., the excessive hydrant rental rates, it should be required to comply with its part of the contract, and that when it announces to the city that it does not propose to comply with its part of the contract, it should longer to pay more than the reasonable value of the service rendered.

On the recent trial, for reasons which appear to the counsel for the city to be uncourteous, Hon. T. C. Munger, judge of the circuit court, decided that the water company was not required to construct additional mains and hydrants pending the appraisal. The recent announcement by the court was the first time any such position has been taken by any court in the pending litigation. During this long litigation the Water board has on many occasions sought to get the necessary extensions and improvements of the system from the water company by negotiations with the company, but the water company has refused to make any such extensions except upon such terms as would amount to a total surrender of the city to the hydrant rental suits and to the suit for specific performance. The Water board of the city has realized fully the necessity of improvements of the present system even to the extent of securing the most competent engineers to get the system determined what should be done to relieve the situation, but it does not feel that the situation is such that it ought to submit to the outrageous estimate of value put upon this plant by two engineers in order to secure this relief. That the value placed upon this plant by two engineers is grossly excessive, and was arrived at by methods that are intolerable, need scarcely be stated to inhabitants of this city. If any corroboration of this fact were necessary it is fully sustained by a statement which Theodore C. Woodbury made to me on January 15, 1908, in which he stated that the suit to compel the city to purchase the water works would have been commenced and insisted upon even if the valuation had been only \$1,000,000.

It is not proper for me to criticize the opinion of the circuit court of appeals. We have exercised the right which is open to litigants, viz: to take that decision to the supreme court of the United States. Unless the supreme court of the United States shall decide otherwise, I shall continue to believe that the opinion of Judge W. H. Munger to the effect that the appraisalment was arrived at by unfair and improper methods and therefore illegal and void is the only one which can be sustained in a court of equity.

In closing let me state, both to the public and to the Omaha Water company, what the water company already knows, that the Water board of the city is ready and willing at any time to consider and act upon any business proposition looking to the improvement of the service or the minimizing of the dangers from the present condition of the water works supplying this city. C. C. WRIGHT.

Oh, What a Day

"Curd at last! Oh, what joy to think that I have at last been cured of that awful bowel trouble," are the words of A. C. Butler of Cold Springs, Tex., who suffered off and on for twelve months with a disorder of his bowels, and finally, after almost giving up in despair, was cured by Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. For sale by all druggists. Prompt relief. For sale by all druggists.

One of the most fashionable clubs in Berlin has in its supper room a curtain made of champagne corks. Four thousand corks, each the silver or gilt color, have been threaded on their rods decorated with colored ribbons and embellished with small copper balls. The curtain has the appearance of a Japanese panel. Each cork from a bottle of champagne coating about 2 1/2 and the whole curtain represents an expenditure of something like \$20,000.

NEWS OF THE BUSY HOME BUILDERS

The Coming of the Cemented House

OMAHA GROWS RIGHT ALONG

Other Cities Do Obedience to the Gate City.

JULY BUILDING FIGURES GREAT

Increase Over 1907 Such as Shows How Steady is the Progress of the Busy Home Builders of Omaha.

It will be remembered that Joseph in the scriptural story dreamed a dream which he relates thus: "I beheld, we were binding sheaves in the field and, lo, my sheaf arose and stood upright and behold, your sheaves stood round about and made obeisance to my sheaf."

That is the position of Omaha today and it is no dream either. The other cities of the United States are bowing down and doing obeisance to her because in the aftermath of a panic (according to reports from the east and other parts of the country) and upon the eve of a presidential campaign Omaha is going right on growing and Omaha's home builders are going right on sawing wood figuratively and building homes literally. It is not necessary to do such a silly and useless thing as to "put to the song of the nightingale" as the poet advises. Just list to the song of the building inspector's report for the month of July, 1908. This is the burden of his song: July, 1908, \$576,000 worth of new buildings. July, 1907, \$422,700 worth of new buildings. This shows an increase of \$153,300 in July of this year over July of last year, or just 33 per cent.

This is the reason why the other cities are bowing down and doing obeisance to Omaha.

An Omaha business man is having plans drawn for a "Spanish home." The house is rather severe and regular in its lines. The outside is to be finished with plaster nearly white, which will be offset somewhat by wrought iron balconies at the three upper windows and a roof of red tile. Extending across the front of the house on the first floor will be an open porch eight feet wide, with a handsome balustrade. The front door is massive in construction, with the lintel elaborately decorated. The interior woodwork is to be finished in white enamel throughout. There are to be nine rooms in the house—drawing room, dining room, den, kitchen and pantry on the first floor, and four bedrooms and bath on the second floor.

The cement market remains firm in this section of the country, and while there are no heavy orders the demand is quite heavy and in comparison with the orders on other classes of building material, cement is more than holding its own. The demand compares favorably with that of other years. While the railroads and city are not using cement in as large quantities as former years, there is a steady demand from other sources, which brings up the total. The prices are low, but firm, remaining at about \$1.50 wholesale.

"Terra cotta is a good thing with which to build houses on terra firma," said a local carpenter, who is given to epigrammatical speech. "There are very few homes in this part of the country, however, that are built of tile or terra cotta. Man seems to fancy that he must have some solid substance with which to build the walls of a solid house. As a matter of fact the hollow tile wall is quite as strong, less expensive and less pervious to heat or cold than a house of any other material. Throughout the country people are coming to realize this and many of the latest houses which follow the European villa style are being constructed of terra cotta. The outside is then finished in cement or stucco and can be half timbered for architectural effect."

"I'm just crazy to have a loggia," exclaimed a charming young man, who lives in South Omaha and whose husband is about to build a new home. The young woman was not quite crazy about loggias, but merely expressed her enthusiasm about tidious sleeping apartments in feminine, twentieth century hyperbole. It is a fact that the outdoor sleeping room is coming to be as necessary an adjunct of the modern home as the bath room. The present, according to the indications of the architect's records, is a fresh air age, and people are losing their fear of that ancient bugaboo, "night air." They are coming to realize that night air is quite as healthful as day air, and that the advantage of breathing pure air during that third of life, when one lies asleep, is a very great thing, and greatly to be reckoned with in maintaining the general health. Besides being conducive to health the loggia or open-air-at-least three-sided sleeping room is a very comfortable place to spend a midsummer's night where the most can be made of what breeze and coolness may be lying around loose. Therefore the loggia is coming to be a common feature in the plans for modern homes in Omaha.

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