

RACING ON BIG SKYSCRAPER

Gangs of Workmen in Handicap Competition at City National.

SERIAL DEVELOPMENT SHOWN

Each Step from Completed Offices to Naked Steel Skeleton Illustrated in Growth of Towering Structure.

The erection of a skyscraper is a series of races between the gangs of men which begin with the steel frame after the foundation has been laid in the excavation and ending with the interior finishing. It is a handicap race with the ravers spaced a story apart on the start. The building becomes complete on the first floor first and in rapid succession the last touches are put on each rising story.

In the erection of the City National bank at Sixteenth and Harney streets, now approaching completion in the course of a constructive development of remarkable speed, the serial development is being well exemplified.

"The erection of the building with the succession of the stages of development has been absolutely perfect," said H. T. Eastman, supervising architect of the City National, representing the firm of Holabird & Root, who designed the structure. "Each gang has followed the other with precision. The building has been going up symmetrically, each part in perfect union."

Each step in the growth of the building is being recorded by the construction company in daily record. Illustrated each ten days by photographs. A survey of the building on Wednesday illustrated the process by which the big building is coming to completion from the earth upward.

On the top floor the steel framework, painted and painted, the floor framing and

the interior columns fire-proofed of concrete were all complete to the roof, sixteen stories above the street.

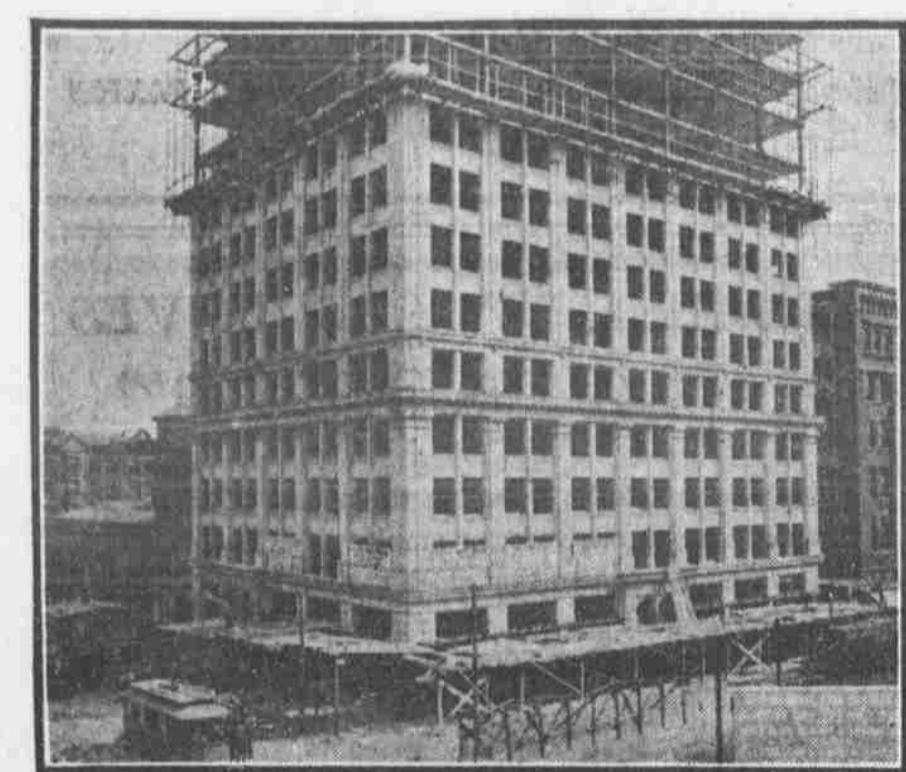
Up twelve stories and a half the leaders in the handicap race, the bricklayers, who are creating the walls supported by the steel skeleton, were at work. Down about a story below the "leaving risers," the conduits through which the steam pipes are to be carried, were being completed in the eleventh story. The story below on the tenth lap of their race were the plumbers. Alongside, as close as structural details permitted, were the electrical workers installing the conduits that are to carry the electrical wires giving light and telephone service.

Fireproof Tile Arches.

Just finishing the ninth story were the workmen laying the "floor sleepers," long strips embedded in the concrete, to which the flooring proper will be nailed. On the eighth story the concrete gang was laying in the covering which goes over the fireproof tile arches which separate the stories one from the other. Two-thirds of the way up the seventh story the installation of the partition framing and "door backs" was in progress. Yet below on the last half of the sixth floor the interior partitions were being put in place. The work of this gang was being covered up on the fourth floor by the rough plaster gang. The smooth or finished plaster coat was following up two stories below, spaced far enough back to allow the rough foundation coat to set before the second coat.

At two stories a week is the prescribed rate at which the City National has been traveling since the completion of the steel frame. The last step in the series will be the installation of the marble and mahogany and bronze fittings.

Each of the half dozen gangs of workmen are started in the race just so far behind the leaders as is necessary to prevent interference with each other. The process permits a view of the internal economy of the building at every stage, from the naked steel at the top to the finished offices on the ground floor.



CITY NATIONAL BANK BUILDING TODAY.

Building Record for March

Building operations were upon a phenomenal scale in March from the standpoint of the money invested. Permits were issued in fifty-two principal cities, according to official reports to Construction News, for the erection of 20,718 buildings, involving a total estimated cost of \$79,565,751 against 17,651 buildings aggregating in cost

\$69,655,184 for the same month a year ago, an increase of 3,237 buildings and \$1,637,569 or 2 per cent. The figures are in wide contrast with those for the preceding month, as they involve twice the amount and there were increases in thirty-three cities as against a falling off in nineteen cities. The figures in detail are as follows:

| CITY AND STATE | No. of Estima'd Bldgs. | No. of Estimated Bldgs. Cost. | No. of Estimated Bldgs. Cost. | -Per Cent. Gain, Loss |
|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| New York, including Manhattan and the Bronx | 382 | \$18,199,625 | 477 | \$22,583,530 +19 |
| Chicago, Ill. | 1,381 | 10,002,900 | 1,254 | \$14,500,000 +23 |
| Baltimore, Md. | 1,024 | 9,000,000 | 1,048 | \$14,500,000 +22 |
| Bronx, N. Y. | 783 | 8,210,929 | 929 | \$14,696,520 +11 |
| Newark, N. J. | 325 | 1,783,501 | 256 | \$12,625,000 -40 |
| Los Angeles, Calif. | 1,061 | 1,719,921 | 788 | \$11,726,000 -49 |
| San Francisco, Calif. | 569 | 3,200,000 | 589 | \$12,671,000 +4 |
| Detroit, Mich. | 563 | 1,651,640 | 374 | \$34,000 -22 |
| Kansas City, Mo. | 495 | 1,622,298 | 495 | \$17,653,000 -5 |
| Portland, Ore. | 1,475,895 | 1,250 | 2,562,075 | +42 |
| Minneapolis, Minn. | 681 | 1,426,160 | 403 | \$12,290,000 -36 |
| Denver, Colo. | 328 | 1,181,900 | 325 | \$14,645,000 +8 |
| St. Louis, Mo. | 1,026,299 | 814 | 1,646,750 | +50 |
| Indianapolis, Ind. | 446 | 959,275 | 290 | \$16,300,000 -38 |
| Baltimore, Md. | 409 | 957,519 | 469 | \$10,745,000 +11 |
| Buffalo, N. Y. | 1,020 | 942,200 | 704 | \$11,100,000 +4 |
| Washington, D. C. | 344 | 926,000 | 305 | \$16,000,000 -29 |
| Pittsburg, Pa. | 557 | 877,641 | 474 | \$14,601,000 -39 |
| Seattle, Wash. | 357 | 863,662 | 408 | \$15,258,000 +19 |
| Columbus, O. | 291 | 765,799 | 237 | \$17,700,000 -29 |
| Oakland, Calif. | 353 | 589,979 | 279 | \$26,650,000 +49 |
| Dallas, Tex. | 238 | 576,275 | 162 | \$12,014,000 -37 |
| St. Paul, Minn. | 126 | 570,000 | 102 | \$12,000,000 -1 |
| Tuluth, Minn. | 119 | 548,820 | 113 | \$29,300,000 +10 |
| Omaha, Neb. | 211 | 500,940 | 149 | \$11,245,000 -17 |
| San Diego, Calif. | 206 | 450,000 | 98 | \$10,825,000 -234 |
| Albuquerque, N. Mex. | 144 | 448,597 | 100 | \$15,100,000 +185 |
| Salt Lake City, Utah. | 161 | 425,700 | 298 | \$19,500,000 -19 |
| Memphis, Tenn. | 371 | 422,257 | 247 | \$17,700,000 -22 |
| Louisville, Ky. | 318 | 398,024 | 198 | \$23,100,000 -2 |
| Tacoma, Wash. | 315 | 355,000 | 232 | \$14,000,000 -3 |
| Grand Rapids, Mich. | 216 | 329,871 | 218 | \$26,152,000 -5 |
| Fort Worth, Tex. | 132 | 313,576 | 348 | \$20,000,000 +56 |
| Paterson, N. J. | 128 | 312,109 | 15 | \$22,240,000 -1,147 |
| San Antonio, Tex. | 162 | 247,422 | 101 | \$25,274,000 -154 |
| Lincoln, Neb. | 92 | 190,590 | 304 | \$27,585,000 +20 |
| Topeka, Kan. | 106 | 186,650 | 144 | \$27,000,000 -36 |
| Wilkes-Barre, Pa. | 81 | 187,454 | 83 | \$17,100,000 -2 |
| Chattanooga, Tenn. | 316 | 180,000 | 191 | \$19,000,000 -35 |
| Terre Haute, Ind. | 130 | 114,819 | 78 | \$16,515,000 -92 |
| South Bend, Ind. | 82 | 110,785 | 45 | \$15,775,000 -2 |
| San Jose, Cal. | 55 | 98,158 | 37 | \$20,000,000 -47 |
| Pueblo, Colo. | 27 | 85,772 | 18 | \$15,215,000 -41 |
| Stockton, Cal. | 35 | 82,610 | 20 | \$20,220,000 -37 |
| Sacramento, Cal. | 9 | 18,900 | 8 | \$26,680,000 -92 |
| Total. | 20,718 | \$70,665,758 | 17,651 | \$69,655,184 -2 |

In New York City there was a loss of 19; Angeles has a gain of 49 per cent, and Seattle has a loss of 42 per cent. Portland a gain of 66 per cent. Oakland has an increase of 49 per cent, while San Diego makes a jump, the increase being 354 per cent, while Tacoma has an increase of 22 per cent. The falling off in Seattle should not be disheartening as it is about time that it should have a lull, because of the tremendous activity which characterized building in that city for some time.

Conditions for a continuation of activity seem good in all parts of the country.

Death Seizes Invalid Doctor as He is Boarding Train

Dr. M. R. Stover, 33 years old, an invalid dentist who has been suffering from heart trouble for four or five years, died suddenly at the Union station Saturday morning while he was being put on a train in an invalid chair.

Dr. Stover arrived in Omaha from Casper, Wyo., in company with his wife and was going to Canada to regain his health. Just as attendants at the station were about to lift the chair, in which the man was seated, onto the train, death seized him.

His death was due to acute heart trouble, brought on by Bright's disease. The attack came on four or five days ago and he was

TIMELY REAL ESTATE Gossip

Recent Election in Florence Assures That Village Greater Activity.

PAVING IS WELL UNDER WAY

Sewers Are Planned and Forty New Houses Are Started, with Many More to Be Built This Summer.

That real estate will move rapidly in Florence this year was assured at this election, when the issue of improving the city was at stake and won out.

Paving of Main street is now half completed and another thirty days will be finished and open for the heavy automobile traffic that always comes with the warm weather. The new underground system for a complete sewer system, that the beautiful buildings on the north can have all the conveniences of city life, as well as the beauties of the country.

About forty new houses are now under construction and many more are planned for erection in the near future.

The hillsides on the west of the city are rapidly being turned into sites of residences for people endowed with a love of nature, for nowhere in the whole state is such a panorama of artistic scenes spread out by Mother Nature for its lovers. Acre tracts near the city are also in big demand and this week two big farms changed hands, to be divided up in five and ten-acre tracts, to be put on the market this summer. There is such a demand for this class of property that it is sold almost as soon as it is put on the market.

As a result of a meeting of property owners living in the Prairie Park addition last week, a club is now in existence whose members are to devote attention to beautifying and improving the Prairie Park district. The Prairie Park club includes all the property owners in the district as members and has the following board of officers: B. G. King, president; W. N. Helen, vice president; M. J. Curran, secretary, and J. T. Brauman treasurer. The club will meet on the second Saturday of each month.

The contract for the six-story Kennedy building which will be erected at the corner of Sixteenth and Jackson streets, has been awarded to F. P. Gould & Son. The bid submitted calls for an expenditure of \$100,000. The work of erection will begin at once.

With the announcement of the probability of the Grain Exchange seeking a new home comes the probability of that concern uniting with the Real Estate Exchange or with the Commercial club to build a building especially for these interests. It is certain that the Commercial club wants new quarters and the Real Estate Exchange is taking about securing a large building which could be designated as the Real Estate exchange building. The Commercial club has a special committee on location which is holding frequent meetings, listening to propositions which are offered.

Contractors are all busy figuring on new work which is now on sight and which is to be done this spring. Residences are being planned in all parts of the city and several blocks are contemplated, some of which will be started at once. Several blocks are also to be built in the jobbing district. Indications now are that Omaha will have an unparalleled period of building this spring. Although work is but fairly started, there is a scarcity of brick and contractors are already feeling the shortage. Cement block concerns are doing a big business and many brick will be imported this summer to fill the shortage.

Dr. H. P. Jensen, who has lately returned from California, is erecting a beautiful home Sunset addition. F. W. Slabaugh is the architect and contractor for the dwelling.

Paul M. Kuhns will begin the erection of a five-story building at the corner of Twenty-fourth and Farnam streets about May 1.

The plans call for three store rooms on the ground floor and forty-two apartments in the stories above. These apartments will be made suitable for bachelor quarters.

The Farnam front will be 108 feet long,

while the Twenty-fourth street side will measure sixty feet. Mr. Kuhn had the property excavated for some time.

Edward Johnston is now erecting three houses in the Field club district. One will be on the northwest corner of Thirty-fourth boulevard and Poppleton and will be erected at a cost of \$8,000. This house will be modern in every respect, with fireplaces, window seats and everything which goes to make a dwelling cheerful. The other two will cost about \$4,000 each and will face south on Poppleton avenue. One will be finished in Craftsman style and the other in English Tudor. All three will be ready for occupancy in about a month. The architect is Lloyd D. Wilms.

Veteran Furnace Man Says Proper Installation is the Big Essential.

The Place and Time to Get Your Iron or Wire Fencing.

Costly Dwellings Building in Omaha

Distinct Individuality is Shown as Well as Ingenuity of Architecture.

Many quite costly dwellings of distinct individuality are being built at this time in various sections of Omaha. On these high class houses, in which their owners take a great pride, the ingenuity of the architect is let loose. The one desire is to have a dwelling that will continue to be a source of pleasure and a place of comfort for many years.

Probably the most costly private residence now being erected in the city is that for Fred Hamilton at 804 South Thirtieth. It will cost, according to the building permit, \$10,000, but to add a few thousand more is no trouble when such a home is being brought to completion. It is purposed to put in a steel bridge across the western channel. Two bridges are necessary at the place indicated, with the island forming the conjunction link.

"Up to recent time," said Commissioner Traub, "we were unable to get Saunders county to share in the bridge expense at all and this offer of one-fourth seems to us good. We could not force them to pay anything in all probability."

New Steel Bridge Over the Platte

Saunders County Commissioners Offer to Pay One-Fourth Cost of Construction and Upkeep.

Members of the board of commissioners of Saunders county are willing to pay one-fourth of the cost of a steel bridge over the Platte river at Valley and will pay one-fourth the cost of up-keep. Their position is looked upon as fair by the Douglas county board and the chances are excellent that a steel bridge will replace the wooden structure carried away some weeks ago by ice.

It is purposed to put in a steel bridge across the western channel. Two bridges are necessary at the place indicated, with the island forming the conjunction link.

"Up to recent time," said Commissioner Traub, "we were unable to get Saunders county to share in the bridge expense at all and this offer of one-fourth seems to us good. We could not force them to pay anything in all probability."

The Stucco house is now the accepted fashion in house architecture.

Any good plasterer can do the work. An architect should be consulted.

Write for full information free by mail.