

300,000

## Building and Construction

OMAHA

## PHELAN-SHIRLEY COMPANY

CONTRACTORS

Main Office

1809-1010 Omaha Nat'l Bank Bldg.

OMAHA, NEB.

## BRIDGES &amp; HOYE

Brick Contractors

Brandeis Theater --- Morris Theater

Omaha, Nebraska

## The Bryant-McLaughlin Asphalt Paving Company

Natural Asphalts

Omaha, Neb. Waterloo, Ia. Des Moines, Ia.

Fort Dodge, Ia. Sioux City, Ia. Iowa Falls, Ia.

Head Operating Office,

Merchants National Bank Building, Omaha, Neb.

## The Grant Paving Co.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS FOR ALL KINDS OF PAVING

Artificial Stone Walks and Drives, Curbs and Gutters, Steps and Copings, Reinforced Concrete, All Kinds and Classes of Asphalt Pavement, Bituminous Macadam, Neuchatel Mastic a Specialty.

Omaha, Nebraska

Telephones: Doug. 7342, Kearney 3386. Will furnish Estimates on All Work.

## Buffalo Paving Brick Company

SALES AGENCY

Rooms 303-02-04 Brandeis Theatre Building

Repressed, Vitrified, Paving and Face Blocks

## J. J. HANIGHEN

Plumbing,  
Steam  
Heating...

CONTRACTORS ON:

Brandeis Theater Bldg.,

City National Bank Bldg.

New York Life Building.

1408 Harney St., Omaha, Neb.

U. S.  
QUALITY  
ALWAYSVisit our Plumbing Display Rooms;  
You're always welcome. See the  
Latest Sanitary Fixtures for the  
bathroom. Distinctive Styles.

Heating Supplies, Plumbing Goods, Water Supplies, Steam Goods

U. S. SUPPLY CO.

HIGH ART IN THE  
CITY'S BUILDINGSSplendid Designs Shown Along the  
Streets as Result of Archi-  
tects' Care.

DESIGNERS SHOW THEIR TASTE

Ideas of Beauty Embodied in Many  
Solid Blocks.

DRAFTSMEN EXPERIENCE CHANGE

Effect of the Standard Oil Buying  
Construction Company.

LOCAL MEN NOT YET AFFECTED

New Deal Does Not Interfere with  
the Independence of the Omaha  
Architects, Who Are  
All Busy.Of Omaha architects there are twenty-  
two, according to the latest reckoning,  
though this figure probably will be out  
of date quickly, judging from the rate at  
which the younger draftsmen have cropped  
up in the past.The story of Omaha architects is in large  
measure the story of architects the country  
over, particularly so at the present time,  
when the bigger offices are all affected  
by a new and somewhat disturbing con-  
dition. This is the entrance of the Stand-  
ard Oil company into the building and  
construction world.As is well known the Standard Oil in-  
terests have within a year or so acquired  
control of several—if not nearly all—of the  
big construction companies and have at  
once proceeded to operate on a new basis.  
They are financing their own work, hiring  
their own architects and are thereby pro-  
foundly changing the relation of owners  
and architects. In a number of cases the  
construction companies are agreeing to de-  
liver the complete building including the  
services of the architect for a specified sum  
or for a percentage of the cost.It is easily seen that this revolutionized  
the relation of the architect from that of the  
protector of the owner to that of the  
employee of the contractor. This, it is  
agreed, is one of the causes why at the  
present time the biggest architectural  
offices of the country are comparatively  
idle. Such a condition is known to exist  
beyond any dispute and has been the  
cause of investigations among the archi-  
tectural associations of New York, Phila-  
delphia and Chicago, and Omaha archi-  
tects have also been probing into the mat-  
ter. To some of the larger men in the  
country matters look ominous right now.

Local Men Not Hurt Yet.

This condition of affairs has not really  
hit Omaha architects as yet and the larger  
offices are busy with big work, while the  
smaller architects working on smaller  
buildings are, of course, not affected at  
all, because the construction companies are  
chiefly engaged in putting up sky-scraping  
hotels and office buildings. This is not to  
say that all the big construction com-  
panies are busy with the Standard  
Oil interest, but a number are known to  
be and others are suspected.The erection of apartment houses has  
been a work which has afforded income  
for a good many local architects, while  
some of these apartment houses have been  
put up without the aid of a competent de-  
signer, and the result, unfortunately, shows  
it. The majority of the new buildings of  
this kind are going up after plans have been  
provided of construction. The sum of \$500,000  
has been devoted to this kind of work in  
Omaha since the first of the year and as  
will be more fully explained in another  
column, it is a certainty that the demand  
will constantly increase because under  
modern conditions of city life the apart-  
ment building and the apartment hotel are  
inevitable. The servant question by itself  
plays a considerable role in this, and an-  
other big factor is the desire to live not  
far from "downtown," which renders resi-  
dence districts more and more congested  
as a city gains in population and makes  
the apartment house an inevitable propo-  
sition.

Apartment Houses Better.

The newer apartment houses are not  
any more characterized by devotion to a  
particular historic style than old ones have  
been, but they are, nevertheless, better  
buildings from every standpoint, including  
that of the architectural art. It is not, of  
course, necessary for a building of any  
kind to belong to any recognized period  
of style to have a style of its own, and  
the reverse is also true. Many a build-  
ing which in respect to elements of con-  
struction and detail of ornamentation is a  
perfect example of an historic style has  
no real architectural style at all. Just so,  
too, a building which cannot be pronounced  
to belong to any given style or period may  
measure up to all the aesthetic canons,  
the employment of which distinguishes  
from merely mechanical or utilitarian con-  
struction. A good example of this—and  
not, by the way, the work of an Omaha  
architect—is the residence built for Arthur  
D. Brandeis and now owned and occupied  
by former Senator Joseph H. Millard.Of historic styles, Omaha affords some  
excellent samples. The gothic and neo-  
gothic are common in church architecture,  
which also affords several samples of the  
Renaissance. The Renaissance style is ex-  
emplified so far as ornamentation goes by  
many and many a building of the Byzantine  
style. The Bee building is one of the few  
good—or even bad, for that matter—speci-  
mens in the whole west. The Spanish mis-  
sion style has lately been imported from  
southern California to find illustration here  
in two or three residences.

"Steel Cage" Going Up.

The "steel cage" type of office building  
has seen just now completed one of con-  
siderable example, the new City National  
building, in which the walls are supportedby the frames and therefore made possible  
to be of the same thickness throughout.  
This building, while chiefly interesting as  
a proposition of structural engineering, is  
quite admirable from the aesthetic stand-  
point also, and is noteworthy for the em-  
phasis which has been laid on the vertical  
lines. The story-long cornice is another  
feature worthy of unqualified admiration.  
The new Douglas county court house has  
now progressed far enough to disclose the  
fact that its architect has designed a build-  
ing, which will have great dignity, as well  
as more attractiveness. It is in the modern  
renaissance style and is a good specimen  
of the best results possible in that di-  
rection.

## MILLIONS IN SASH AND DOORS

An Omaha Industry Whose Output Is  
Shipped All Over the Mid-  
dle West.The sash and door business is another  
in which the Omaha concerns are consis-  
tently holding their own with the sash and  
door factories and selling companies in  
other parts of the west. It is probable  
that, in the amount of goods of this nature  
sold in a year, Kansas City, with its much  
larger population, has a bit the edge on  
Omaha, but, with the one exception, Omaha  
has no close competitors for the trade  
of the middle west. Sashes and doors  
are made and sold at both Sioux  
City and Lincoln, but the industry in each  
of these cities is insignificant as compared  
with the amount of that sort of business  
done in Omaha.The territory which secures most of its  
supply of this nature from the Omaha  
manufacturers and jobbers is a large one.  
The Omaha concerns reach out for their  
business over the western half of Iowa  
as well as over Nebraska, Wyoming, South  
Dakota, North Dakota, northern Kansas,  
and northwestern Missouri.Using the term in its common accepta-  
tion in Omaha, the sash and door business  
is by no means confined to the manufac-  
ture and selling of sashes and doors. In  
addition to these articles, screen doors,  
porch building material, staircase material,  
fancy posts, and, in fact, almost every  
product of the millwright's art is manu-  
factured and sold by the local sash and  
door concerns.The manufacturing end of the business  
is confined locally to eight firms. These  
are the Adams & Kelly company, 1302  
Nicholas street; M. A. Disbrow & Co.,  
1201 Nicholas street; The Weir company,  
the Omaha Woodworking company, Rosen-  
berry Bros., the Omaha Planing Mill com-  
pany, A. Bloom & Co., 1508 California street,  
and the T. H. Werrich Fixture company.  
Each of these firms not only manufac-  
tures sashes, doors and other similar  
products, but conducts a general retail  
business within the city and wholesales its  
products to out-of-town dealers. Two or  
three of the largest of these companies  
have a large stock of their manufactured  
products on hand, but with the greater  
number of them the articles are simply  
made up to fill the orders as they are  
filled.In addition to those firms in the city  
which manufacture sashes and doors, the  
finished product is found in the stock of  
most every lumber yard or builder's sup-  
ply company in the city. These firms do little  
or no manufacturing, and in most cases  
buy their stocks from the local manufac-  
turers. They do both a retail and whole-  
sale business in the product, depending on  
whether or not they do a wholesale or re-  
tail business in other articles which they  
handle.With the Werrich company, on North  
Twenty-fourth street, which is not a leader  
in the manufacture of sashes and doors,  
the main interest is the making of office  
fixtures, counters and the like and the  
sash and door business is only a minor part  
of the whole industry.The total sash and door business of the  
city will aggregate between \$1,000,000 and  
\$1,500,000 in a year. These figures, it will  
be understood, include also the other  
articles which are manufactured and jobbed  
by the so-called sash and door concerns.  
Dealers in the article, as well as manu-  
facturers, are unanimous in saying that  
the increase in this line for the year will  
run higher than 5 per cent, some guessing  
the increase at 10 per cent. This is rather  
remarkable when it is realized that last  
year the sash and door business in  
Omaha was far and away ahead of what  
it had been in previous years, and it looked  
rather doubtful that would remain the high  
water mark for some years.

## CRAWFISH RAID CORNFIELDS

Remarkable Story from the South  
Stirs the Department of  
Agriculture.Prof. W. H. Hays, assistant secretary of  
agriculture, has decided to send a special  
agent of the bureau of plant industry to  
Mississippi, with instructions to do every-  
thing possible to save the cornfields there  
that are being attacked by crawfish.The department officials have been  
alarmed during the last few days by re-  
ceiving dozens of letters from farmers  
along the banks of the Mississippi who  
say that their cornfields are being de-  
voured by swarms of ravenous crawfish.  
The animals burrow through the ground  
and attack not only the roots of the corn,  
but actually climb the stalks and eat the  
leaves and ears.The action from which the complaints  
come is low and the soil is naturally dry.  
The water is near the surface and it is  
supposed that the crawfish are attracted  
to the cornfields because of the scarcity  
of food. At any rate, the complaints have  
come to the department in such number  
that Prof. Hays has decided to send one  
of his specialists from the bureau of plant  
industry to investigate and see what can  
be done to save the cornfields.One correspondent asserts that he has  
rather more than 100 barrels of crawfish.  
The pests have appeared in such numbers  
that most of the farmers seem powerless  
to combat them. Mr. Hays says that in  
all probability the crawfish are more  
valuable than the corn crop. He thinks  
that if gathered they could be sold for a  
good price to the restaurant keepers of  
New Orleans and other places where craw-  
fish are regarded as a delicacy.—Brooklyn  
Eagle.

## MAKE ROOFS OF ALL KINDS

Omaha Supplies Buildings All Over  
West with Coverings.

MATERIAL OF EVERY SORT USED

From Shingles to Slate, Omaha Job-  
bers Supply the Demand that  
Grows with the Building  
Up of the Territory.Although the roofing concerns which are  
located in Omaha make no pretense of  
having a monopoly on the roofing business  
of the west or even of the Transmis-  
sippi region, it is a noticeable fact, that  
each year when the totals for the period  
are compiled and made public those which  
represent Omaha's business for the  
year compare very favorably with those of  
its nearest and strongest competitors.The territory which belongs almost ex-  
clusively to the Omaha jobbers and con-  
tractors is, of course, the western part of  
Iowa, Nebraska, and the southern part of  
South Dakota. Their trade is by no means  
confined to this territory, however, for  
every week Omaha firms are placing orders  
for their products in Missouri, Kansas,  
Wyoming, North Dakota and even in Colo-  
rado and state further west.For the Iowa trade, the Chicago con-  
cerns furnish considerable competition;  
for the northern trade, St. Paul and Minne-  
apolis are lively contenders, and for the  
western trade Denver roofing men must be  
fought. The southern competition comes  
largely from St. Louis and St. Joseph.  
Of course, the material most largely  
used for roofing purposes in the past was  
the common wooden shingle and even today  
it holds the first place for ordinary dwell-  
ings because of its comparative cheapness  
and the ease with which it may be put in  
place. The common shingle is, of course,  
handled by the lumber and supply men in  
Omaha as in other cities.But for the larger and more pretentious  
residences as well as for the flat roofed  
business houses, shingles have never been  
practical nor popular. Formerly tin and  
other sorts of metal roofs were used al-  
most entirely for such structures and when  
that condition prevailed, the bulk of the  
roofing work was, of course, handled tin  
shops and metal workers.Within the last decade there has been a  
tendency away from the metal roofs and  
a turning to slate, gravel and, more re-  
cently, to tile as a roofing material. In the  
last few years the tile has been largely  
supplanting the other forms of roofing in  
popularity although, just now, the patented,  
largely advertised roofings which are han-  
dled by every lumber dealer and builders  
supply men in the city are having their  
turning. They will probably never supplant  
the staple materials, however.The bulk of the local business is a con-  
tracting business and it is handled by  
these firms, the National Roofing company,  
the Mica Roofing company, and the Ed.  
Harrick Roofing company. These firms, al-  
though they do a wholesale and retail busi-  
ness in roofing materials, confine their at-  
tention largely to the contracting business,  
receiving their contracts from general con-  
tractors or directly from the builders both  
in and out of the city.The Harrick company confines its at-  
tention to gravel work, but the other two  
will contract for any sort of a roof although  
each focuses its attention largely upon  
some particular sort of roofing. The Mica  
company makes a specialty of a composite  
patented product known as Mica Roofing  
which is made in Canada from mica, lum-  
bage, soapstone and bitumen. The National  
people, who do the largest business in the  
city along with the staple roofing products,  
sing the praises of an especially treated  
felt. This treatment the company adminis-  
ters to the felt, at a plant on North  
Eleventh street.The other firms in Omaha devote their  
attention largely to the selling, at whole-  
sale and retail of roofing materials, al-  
though most any of them will do a bit of  
contracting work on the side. Among  
these firms are the American Supply com-  
pany, the Sunderland Machine and Supply  
company, the J. R. Stevenson Roofing com-  
pany and C. J. Shea Roofing company.The total roofing business for the city  
in one year will reach close to the \$300,000  
mark, although with the business, both  
contracting and jobbing, so split up as  
is the case in Omaha, any such figure can,  
at best, be but a guess.  
Local roofing men do not feel that there  
will be a great increase this year over  
last, but predict that the two years will  
run about equal. Ordinarily there are  
no marked seasons to the roofing business,  
but this year the summer season has been  
unusually dull. This is markedly true of  
the country orders which have persistently  
refused to be forthcoming. This fact the  
local roofers attribute to the drouthy con-  
ditions which until quite recently made it  
very uncertain what sort of a crop these  
districts would produce.

## FISHER and LAWRIE

ARCHITECTS

PAXTON BLOCK

Omaha, - - - Neb.

## CHAS. E. FANNING

Contractor of Public Works

OMAHA, NEB.

Agent Purington Vitrified Paving Block—Galesburg, Ill.

## McGowan &amp; Jacobberger

Jas. M. McGowan

Alphonse Jacobberger

General Contractors

Contractors on O. &amp; C. B. St. Ry.'s New Power House

Office: No. 7 Elks Building

## William P. Deverell

CONTRACTOR

Telephone Douglas 2946. 429 Range Block, Omaha.

## Hydraulic-Press Brick

COMPANY

Omaha Branch: 330-332 Bee Building

A. J. HANLON, Manager. R. W. HESLEY, Asst. Sec'y and Treas.

WORKS, AVERY, NEB.

Operating 30 "Hydraulic" Plants

Largest Manufacturers of

Facing Bricks in the World.

Manufacturing Brick Since 1867.

500,000,000 Facing Brick Annually

OMAHA, - - - NEB.

## M. A. Disbrow &amp; Co.

MAKERS OF

Doors, Glazed Sash, Screens,  
Porch Work, Fine Interior Trim,  
Roofing and Building Papers

1201 NICHOLAS STREET

## Standard Bridge Company

Manufacturers and Builders of

Bridge and Metal Structures

OMAHA, NEB.