

## THE BEE'S HOME BUILDER'S PAGE

## OMAHA AMONG FEW CITIES IN BUILDING GAIN

Sharp Slump Noted From High Level in New Construction Work for 1920.

Cumulative deterrent factors have operated to diminish materially the prospective building which might have been in store for 1920. May building statistics reflect this decline very plainly. Returns from 492 cities to the American Contractor give an estimated valuation of only \$128,370,237 as compared to a valuation of \$199,155,821 from 200 cities for the month of April.

There is only a 20 per cent gain over May operations of 1919, whereas April operations showed 115 per cent gain. Of course, in 1919, May showed a total fall in excess of April because during both months the long swing upward to the record-breaking June and August months was in progress.

The decrease from April activity is more noticeable in the larger cities. A comparison of 178 cities for the two months reveals losses in 108 and gains in 70. The only large cities showing gains are St. Louis, New Orleans, San Francisco, Seattle, Omaha, Buffalo and the Borough of Brooklyn.

Great diminution of activity is reported from Baltimore, Detroit, Kansas City, Louisville, Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Newark, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, Tulsa and Tacoma.

A comparison of activity in 14 identical cities for the first five months of 1920 with activity in 1919 and with average activity from the six-year period from 1914 to 1919, gives a clear-cut picture of the sudden letting down in issuance of building permits due chiefly to the increasing chaos in transportation.

The combined valuation of permits in these cities tabulated in approximate millions of dollars is as follows:

January, 1920	12,000,000
February, 1920	12,000,000
March, 1920	12,000,000
April, 1920	12,000,000
May, 1920	12,000,000
June, 1920	12,000,000
July, 1920	12,000,000
August, 1920	12,000,000
September, 1920	12,000,000
October, 1920	12,000,000
November, 1920	12,000,000
December, 1920	12,000,000
January, 1919	12,000,000
February, 1919	12,000,000
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October, 1919	12,000,000
November, 1919	12,000,000
December, 1919	12,000,000

The most significant conclusion to draw from this comparison is that while 1920 operations started on a very favorable basis as compared to 1919 operations and progressed to a marked peak in April, the May recession has brought activity within 20 per cent of 1919 activity at a time when nothing but further recession seems to be in store.

The average value of permits per city for May, as may be expected, has decreased about in proportion to the recession total for the total of cities. The figures are \$668,500 per city as against \$995,800 for May, \$784,000 for March, \$585,000 for February and \$610,000 for January.

## Watermelons

By FRANK RIDGEWAY.

With the proper kind of soil and an early variety of seed, watermelons planted now will reach maturity before frost. A sandy loam, or a light soil containing plenty of humus, is needed to grow melons of high quality.

If only a few hills are planted in the home garden, the soil may be easily fitted for melons. The soil is heavy, work well rotted manure into the hills before planting. Plant the seed in hills made by digging a hole about two feet in diameter and deep enough to allow room for a forkful of decomposed manure in the bottom. When the hole is filled to the top of the hill should be two or three inches below the surface. Hills made in this way do not dry out so quickly. The hills should be about eight feet apart each way to allow room for the vines.

Plant eight seeds evenly distributed in each hill. Cover the seed with fine soil to a depth of about one inch, and firm the soil with the hands or a board. When the melon seed is planted a row of lettuce should be sown around the rim of the hill. This serves as a trap to catch cutworms that are so destructive to the seedlings of vine crops. A circle of lettuce should be planted around the hills of cucumber, cantaloupe, and similar vine crops.

The success with melons often depends on the care given the plants when they are small. Keep the crust broken around the young seedlings. The ground should be cultivated between the hills at least once a week. Stirring the soil immediately around the plants is especially important. If the weeds are kept down and watering is thorough the plants will grow rapidly at this time.

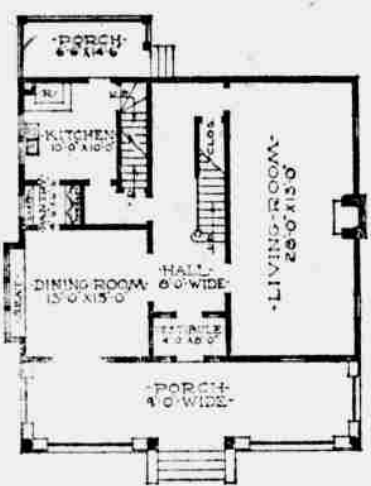
The vines will soon begin to run in all directions, and when they nearly cover the ground hoeing will have to be discontinued. At this stage, usually late in July, they should be handled carefully in making the last cultivation between the rows. Lay them over out of the middle and give the ground a shallow cultivation.

If properly cared for the melons should be ripe in August, and bearing should continue until frost kills the vines.

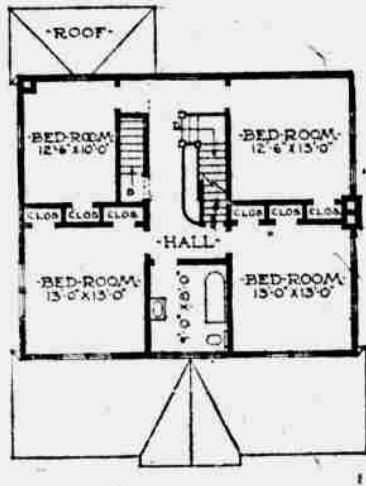
## Modest Home Sold.

The C. L. Modest home at 3510 W. 10th avenue has been sold to J. F. Johnson for \$18,000.

## An Attractive Suburban Home



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

## HOUSE BUILDING IS HELD BACK BY MONEY SCARCITY

Realtors See Serious Housing Situation Here This Fall As Result of Curbed Credits.

A. T. Elmer, member of the advertising committee of the real estate board, and other realtors, believe the money tightening that occurred six weeks ago is going to make the housing shortage more serious this fall than it was a year ago.

"I know of several men," Mr. Elmer told the committee last week, "that intended building new apartment houses this year, but they didn't build because about the time they were ready to start money became hard to get."

"Although the money market is now beginning to lighten up, and probably will be normal in another month, it is too late for starting new apartment houses this year."

"I simply mean that the demand is growing, with no additions to the supply of places to rent."

In spite of the growing shortage, Mr. Elmer is opposed to any very large increases in rents.

"My firm has recently lost some clients by refusing to handle their property at the increases they were demanding in rents."

"A few owners will take advantage of these shortages and make raises in rents that are not necessary in order to meet their increased costs. Unless considerable building of homes is done by individuals, I anticipate a much more serious housing shortage than at any previous time."

Mr. Elmer says several realtors are advising their clients not to make excessive increases in rents.

## Weak Legged Chicks

It is common for chicks only a few days' old to lose control of their leg muscles. They are unable to stand erect. At feeding time they are cramped on, and either die or fail to grow properly, and are always undersized.

Leg weakness is believed to be due to various causes, including indigestion, too much heat from improperly ventilated hovers, something lacking in the feed, and not enough exercise.

It has been noticed that with the improvement of outdoor conditions the trouble is not so serious. It is more dangerous to overfeed young chicks than to underfeed them, especially during wet weather when the chicks are kept in close confinement. Chicks confined to limited space should not be given more feed than they will clean up in a comparatively short time. Meat scraps and tankage are desirable and even necessary for chicks, but such protein feeds should be given with great care. Experts claim too much feed of this kind may cause stiff legs and twisted necks.

Leg weakness usually can be prevented. For the chicks kept in the back yards of the city or suburban homes there probably is no better practice than to keep pieces of grass sod and hard coal ashes in the runs. If overfeeding is avoided and the chicks are forced to exercise regularly, leg weakness will give little trouble.

Leg weakness improves rapidly and often is overcome entirely if the chicks are kept out on grass lots for four or five hours a day. They should be allowed free range on grass from about 10 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. or later at this time of the year. In the rainy weather provide green feed, ground bone, milk, fresh water, and see they get plenty of exercise every day. Then little trouble with leg weakness will occur.

## Setting Hens

Hens that have not been set by the first of June should be put back in the laying pen. This is usually a troublesome season in the laying pens for most poultrymen, for many times a third or more of the hens are broody and consequently fall in the class of nonproducers. Hens that are broody do not pay their feed bill.

Broody hens should be broken of the habit of remaining on the nest as soon as possible, for they will not lay. The sooner this is done the sooner they will go back to laying. Various methods have been tried in an attempt to break the hen of her broodiness, but none have been found that is so simple and effective as the old-fashioned system of confining them to a small coop where there is no nest. A coop raised off the ground and one with a slat bottom is the best. Straw or other nesting material should be kept out of the coop. Some with-hold feed from them while they are confined but this is not necessary. Plenty of fresh water should be kept in the coop and a week or ten days of such confinement will usually break the average hen.

As soon as she is released from the coop the hen should be started out on a regular laying ration, such as the one recommended by poultrymen of the Ohio university poultry farm. For a scratch use three parts corn, two parts wheat, and one part oats. Give a light feed in the morning and a full feed at night. It should be fed in a litter. Along with this feed a dry mash made of corn meal, four pounds; wheat middlings, six pounds; wheat bran, four pounds; meat scraps, four pounds; oil meal, one pound; alfalfa meal, one pound; charcoal, one-third pound, and salt, one tablespoon. The mash should be kept before the birds all of the time, and in order to prevent the hens from scratching it out should be in a hopper. Green feed, such as cabbage, mangels, grass clippings, or similar plants, must be given freely. Grit and oyster shell may be fed in hoppers.

Fred L. Heyn Opens Real Estate Office of His Own

Fred L. Heyn, who, after returning from the army, had office space with the Benson & Myers Co., has taken rooms at 443 Omaha National Bank building. Mr. Heyn was associated several years with the Benson & Myers Co. He became a member of the Real Estate board several months ago, going into business for himself, but until this month was unable to obtain office space.

## Pasture Crop

When live stock and grain farming are combined, as in the middle west, a crop rotation which includes a pasture crop is necessary. No factor is so vital or gives so much trouble as the management of clover and grasses in the rotation, particularly clover.

Running too many animals on a clover pasture is one of the most dangerous practices or grazing land of any kind. The careful farmer never allows his live stock to run in the pasture in the spring until the sod is firm and the grass has made a good start. Patches rooted up by hogs should be leveled down and reseeded.

Poor grasses and weeds may be eliminated and clover and good grasses substituted if the right kind of plant food is applied. Nitrogen fertilizer is needed for grasses. It stimulates the growth of Kentucky bluegrass, white clover and phosphoric acid tends to bring back clover. Since clover is desired, the fertilizer should be rich in potash and phosphoric acid. From 200 to 400 pounds to the acre is a profitable amount for top dressing pastures. It is best to spread it on the ground when the grass turns green in the spring.

A fertilizer containing 12 per cent phosphoric acid and 4 per cent nitrogen is recommended for a pasture on a sandy loam soil. For a loam soil a fertilizer with 2 per cent less nitrogen is about right, while on a clay soil phosphoric acid alone is most profitable.

## HOME BUILDERS WIN CONTRACT FOR HOSPITAL

Work On \$150,000 Structure at Columbus Already Under Way—Reinforced Concrete and Brick.

The Evans hospital of Columbus, Neb., recently awarded to Home Builders, Inc., of Omaha, the contract for the \$150,000 Evans Hospital building. Grabe & Helleberg, architects.

W. Boyd Jones, manager of the Home Builders construction department, says that work has already been started, the foundations and basement being well under way.

The building is to be constructed entirely of reinforced concrete and brick. It will be three stories in height exclusive of basement.

The placing of all administrative offices, emergency wards, X-ray laboratory, kitchen and garage, with ambulance approach on the first floor, allows use of the second and third floors for patients.

Site Declared Ideal.

On a commanding site, the hospital is removed from the noises of business and traffic, with nothing to impede free access of sunshine and ventilation.

Colonial in style, the exterior of the building is to be finished in oak-bark var-colored brick, with terra-cotta sills, belt courses, and cornice. The interior finish will be simple in character.

The hospital will be under the personal direction of the Drs. Evans of Columbus.

## Onion Maggot

Tobacco dust is a simple and effective remedy for controlling the onion maggot. This pest is perhaps the most destructive insect to onions in this section. It often destroys the entire bed or field and is becoming a serious drawback to the raising of onions.

The onion maggot lives on the bulbs, and causes subsequent decay. It does its destructive work beneath the surface, beginning on the seedlings soon after they start growing. There is no entirely satisfactory means of combating it. A preventive measure is the rotating of vegetable crops so the land will not be planted to onions more than once in three years.

Trouble may be expected from the onion maggot during the next few weeks or longer, for two or three generations may be expected during the growing season. The onion maggot, like those of the cabbage, corn, radish and turnip, hatches from eggs deposited by flies resembling the house fly but smaller.

The stems and leaves of tobacco pulverized into a dust and scattered close to the onion plants form a cheap common remedy. This has not always given satisfactory results. It has been found the flies like sweets about as well as the ordinary house fly, and poison baits have been prepared to kill the flies when they come to lay their eggs on the young plants.

The arsenate bait is considered most effective. It is made by dissolving one-fifth of an ounce of sodium arsenate in a gallon of boiling water and adding a pint of cheap molasses. This amount will be sufficient for the average onion bed in a small garden.

If there is no danger of poisoning poultry, the bait may be applied in large, scattering drops. However, the best plan is to put the bait in four or five small pans or can lids and scatter them over the onion bed. Keep the pans supplied with bait until the danger is past. To make it safe for poultry the pans should be covered with screen of a mesh too small for bees to enter, but coarse enough so the flies can get in.

## BUSINESS OF ONE FIRM SHOWS BIG REALTY GROWTH

A. P. Tukey & Son Announce Sales Amounting to More Than Quarter-Million in Few Weeks.

A. P. Tukey & Son announce sales amounting to \$229,000 made in their office during the past few weeks. This is very good evidence that Omaha real estate is still in demand, as the list includes business properties, homes and several speculative pieces of property.

The Tschuck estate, which this firm has handled for several years, sold their last piece of property at 1518 Burr to Harry Ferer. Miss Vera Williams sold at a handsome profit the piece recently purchased at 2563 Dodge street, to Frank Wena.

Nathan Horn, who has bought so much property recently sold his store building at 507-9-11 South Thirteenth street, to Thom S. Lynch. The Independent Realty company sold a brick store building at the southwest corner of Sixteenth and Martha streets, to George H. Heintze, who also purchased from Peter Gravert a store building at 2814 Cumming street.

Rev. F. T. Rouse, formerly of Omaha, and Hans Thompson, who each owned half of the lot at the northeast corner of Twenty-third and Izard streets, sold the same to a syndicate headed by C. E. Corey.

Tukey purchased for an Omaha investor, a half interest in the Dodge Street investment company from Harry M. Christie, the northwest corner of Twenty-fifth and Dodge streets. A large piece of ground, 198 feet on Dodge street, with two large houses on it, for a sum said to be around \$75,000.

J. A. Langan sold his large home at 225 South Fifty-fifth street, which he purchased from Paul Kuhns about a year ago, to Chauncey Abner Jr. This is the second large home sold by Tukey recently at prices around \$50,000.

## PEAS

The pea is a member of that family of plants known as the legumes, which by means of nodules on the roots gather nitrogen from the air to enrich the soil. This has given rise to the erroneous belief of many gardeners that ground on which peas are raised will not need manure or other fertilizers. This is wrong. The plant adds nitrogen to the soil, but it takes large quantities of phosphoric acid out of the soil.

Peas as a rule do best when planted early in spring while the ground is cool and moist. They never do well in hot weather. They do not even come up well if planted in hot, dry soil. Smooth peas should be planted as early as possible. With the present late season there is still time left to plant them.

Wrinkled peas are larger, tenderer, and of better quality than the smooth varieties. They should be planted before the first warm weather. Peas need a fairly rich soil, but it must not be too rich or they will run to vines. This is also true if they are raised in a shady place.

When planting has been delayed, as this season, gardeners have found it wise to scatter a small quantity of nitrogen fertilizer on the soil to give the peas a quick start. The nitrogen manufacturing bacteria do not begin work until the soil warms up.

An application of acid phosphate is especially important on the soil for peas, as a lack of this element often limits their growth. Good peas are always well filled and plump. The filling and plumping is aided greatly if potash is applied along with phosphoric acid, as the plants are hardened off, especially the pods, and this makes them more resistant to diseases.

The common practice is to scatter one of the garden fertilizers, usually a 3-10-2, over the ground about a week before planting. The young pea plant is extremely tender and easily injured if kept in contact with either manure or fertilizer for any length of time.

## Mule Gives Merry Hee-

Haw to Fresh Elephant

Kane, Pa., June 19.—A bored elephant in a circus parade here, as if to relieve the monotony, raised its trunk high in the air and brought it down with a resounding thud on a mule at the curb, quietly watching the sights.

Although hitched to a delivery wagon, the mule wheeled about, took aim and kicked twice. His hoofs caught the elephant squarely on the trunk. The elephant stopped for an instant, but sought no further interchanges and finished the parade with a decided limp.

## Nicholas Buys Site for

Storage Tanks in Benson

L. V. Nicholas Oil company has purchased a block of trackage property at the junction of the Northwestern railroad track and West Main streets in West Benson. The sale was made by Hastings & Heyden. The company expects to use this ground as an unloading station and site for storage tanks.

## Every Vacant Lot Is Sold

At This Special Sale

One of the most successful vacant lot sales conducted this year was that held last week by the Home-Builder's company of 104 lots in Hampton Place. These lots ranged in price from \$300 to \$600. Every lot was sold. Hampton Place is between Forty-eighth and Fiftieth streets, from Maple to Bedford avenues.

## Morsmn Buys Corner Lot From Waterloo Creamery

R. P. Morsmn has purchased from the Waterloo Creamery Co. property at the north east corner of Twenty-fourth and Leavenworth streets for \$15,000. This property has a 23.1-foot frontage on Leavenworth, and a 96-foot frontage on Twenty-fourth street, with a small one-story building. The price is slightly above \$640 a foot.

## Twenty New Houses Are Built Now in Yale Place

Sidewalks will be built in the Yale Place addition this week, and water mains will be laid in about 10 days, according to the agents, the Payne & Carnaby company, and the Slater company. Twenty new houses have been built in Yale Place. All are now practically completed.

## Marshall Buys Site for Manufacturing Plant

Sale was completed last week by Alex Beck to the Marshall Manufacturing company of two lots at the northwest corner of Sherman avenue and Wirt street, for \$19,000. This company will manufacture household specialties. C. H. Marshall is the head of the concern.

## Fowler &amp; McDonald Sales

Sales totaling \$82,100 reported closed by this firm recently as follows: Three houses, known as Nos. 116-120-124 South Thirty-first avenue, to Charles M. Garvey, \$29,250; 6552 Florence boulevard, six-room modern bungalow, to Joseph W. Calley, \$7,500; 9616 Florence Heights boulevard, seven-room, two-story modern house with two acres, to Roy C. Merritt, \$7,500; trackage lot, 33x132 feet, on Cass, near Twelfth street, to Edward Cackley, \$5,250; 5335 North Twenty-fifth street, six-room semi-bungalow, to George E. Mitchell, \$5,000; 1341 South Twenty-seventh street, five-room modern house, to Charles E. Barber, \$3,750; 7617 North Twenty-eighth avenue, four-room house, partly modern, lot 66x132 feet, to Stewart B. Dale, \$2,750; lot, 50x121 feet, east front on Thirty-sixth avenue, near Cass, to C. T. Webb, \$1,100.

## Ex-Soldier Awaits the Arrival of Own Corpse

St. Louis, June 19.—After his father has repeatedly resisted attempts of the government to force the insurance money on him, Herman H. Phillips of Berdan, Ill., formerly of Company E, 166th infantry, Rainbow division, is now in the position of awaiting the arrival of his own body.

The body is coming in a government coffin direct from the cemetery at Chateau-Thierry, and Phillips is wondering what he will do with it. Phillips recently made a trip to Washington, but was unable to convince the officials he was not dead. The records show he is dead and the department stands on the records.

## Pays \$7,500 for Hog

Luverne, Minn., June 19.—Hogs is hogs in Minnesota. Juhl Bros. of Beaver Creek township paid \$7,500 the other day for "Creator," a prize Duroc Jersey boar. This is believed to be the highest price ever paid for a "porker" in this state.

## AWNINGS



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## Arrest Makes Omelet Of Peddler's Prisoner

Newark, N. J., June 19.—Jake Diamond detected two boys stealing eggs from his peddler's wagon in Central market. He shouted and the boys fled with Diamond, a traffic policeman and several pedestrians in pursuit. "Grab 'em by the neck," shouted Diamond. "Don't break the eggs."

One of the boys escaped. Diamond closed with the other, and to

save himself on the uneven pavement, grabbed the boy around the waist. The lad, looking like a cross between a Welsh rabbit and a Swiss sunset, was discharged with a warning in court.

**Henry Johannsen** Glass & Paint Company GLAZING Phone Douglas 349 114 So. 14th St., Omaha, Neb.



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