



Building and Improvement



MORE BUILDING IN NORTHWEST

(Contributed)

You can give the merry old "Hi-Ha" to the next misinformed brother who tries to tell you that building conditions in the Pacific Northwest are afflicted with any form of the doldrums. Facts show that, on the whole, the volume of building in the cities of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana is very, very obviously on the up-grade.

Of some 35 typical cities that was included in this month's Pacific Builder and Engineer building survey, about 20 report increases that range from 30 to 500 per cent. Others report gains of smaller, but still substantial, proportions.

Of course conditions in certain centers are dull, comparatively speaking. Everett, Astoria, Illi-

ings, Missoula, Rosburg, and Marshfield are examples of towns whose building programs this year do not equal those of 1925. Portland, Eugene, Spokane and Tacoma are large centers whose building totals have not approached the peak figures of last year. Seattle is about on a par with 1925.

But every year has its crop of cities which slow down a bit to get their "second wind," so to speak, for another period of record-breaking building programs, such as have marked these cities in the last several years.

In the meantime look at the figures in the accompanying column. You will see that all of the cities enjoying building increases during the first six months are continuing their growth into the second half of the year, and, in addition, a number of other cities are joining the ranks of those enjoying increased building programs.

Permits for Seven Months Exceed 1925 Totals.

The capital cities of both Oregon and Washington have issued permits for buildings costing far more than the structures built in

JULY BUILDING PERMIT TOTALS FOR THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST					
Showing the trend of building in typical cities of Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.					
CITY—	July, 1926	July, 1925	First Seven Months, 1926	First Seven Months, 1925	June, 1926
Portland	\$ 3,353,675	\$ 2,205,390	\$29,572,135	\$25,194,115	\$ 2,710,765
Seattle	2,126,185	2,178,930	20,756,955	21,067,520	2,670,380
Vancouver, B. C.	665,575	470,180			
Salem	445,150	189,736	1,903,170	1,352,055	151,850
Spokane	319,250	114,715	2,088,591	2,851,381	210,850
Klamath Falls	321,095	301,105	1,313,667	958,200	300,715
Tacoma	318,235	719,715	1,973,335	5,619,516	603,025
Bellingham	211,870	109,610	1,175,592	835,358	253,715
Aberdeen	205,765	260,000	1,035,728	917,095	171,691
Yakima	751,284	12,185	695,696	530,292	73,270
Longview	108,985	270,318	1,000,692	1,776,376	50,558
Wenatchee	86,925	30,975	191,055	336,190	28,760
Eugene	85,050	200,210	1,082,875	1,618,195	271,325
Everett	78,390	102,585	717,050	1,258,983	107,810
Boise	66,139	38,236	320,237	336,201	17,800
Walla Walla	66,080	15,510	388,705	81,580	33,110
Great Falls (Mont.)	65,768	60,382	185,600	301,109	12,1675
Butte	62,195	11,175			
Hogusiam	51,350	31,197	336,656	225,185	55,631
Medford	41,785	62,703	513,785	537,078	111,000
Anacortes	39,785	8,000	111,875	11,550	5,050
Oregon City	35,000		157,710	112,601	16,000
Port Angeles	30,100	71,390	192,620	127,615	16,050
Marshfield	28,250	81,250	117,980	271,050	21,915
Rosburg	22,550	6,400	565,195	127,515	15,970
Lewiston (Idaho)	20,200	19,950	169,450	213,572	8,600
Kelso	18,000				76,000
Moscow	17,775	13,955	603,370	378,192	103,790
Olympia	16,800	11,600	197,977	159,287	17,000
La Grande	16,785	5,150	192,570	91,865	92,725
Grants Pass	16,025	12,025	131,810	276,805	28,855
Billings	16,500	12,000	21,000	69,005	
Astoria	4,110	80,865	88,355	491,295	18,500
Hayes (Mont.)			178,000		

either city during the entire year of 1925. Building totals in such centers as Walla Walla and Lewiston to date are greater than for all of 1925.

Klamath Falls, Bellingham, Hoquiam, Aberdeen, Port Angeles, Vancouver and other cities have building totals that almost equal their 12-month record for 1925—and in each instance 1925 was a record-breaking building year.

Building Heavy in Washington.

Building totals in the Wenatchee and Yakima valleys show the following gains: Wenatchee, 250 per cent over July, 1925; Yakima, 200 per cent gain over July and more than 20 per cent gain over the first seven months of last year; Walla Walla, 500 per cent gain over the first seven months of 1925.

Western Washington is the scene of similar increases. Bellingham, for instance, issued permits totaling \$211,570 last month, as compared with \$108,410 in July, 1925. Hoquiam's gain for the first seven months is, in round figures, 26 per cent. Vancouver and Aberdeen are far ahead of the same period of 1925. Anacortes shows a gain of about 350 per cent for the first seven months. Mount Vernon keeps no building records, but is having a substantial building season.

Big Structures Mark Seattle's Program.

Seattle's fall program is assured. Contracts will be let this year for two theaters costing a total of \$3,000,000; for the \$1,000,000 Liggett building; for a \$750,000 10-story apartment designed by Quonter and Saunders for Dr. S. Malmgren; and a \$250,000 class "A" store and office structure, designed by Andrew McQuaker, to be erected at 6th and Pine; a \$125,000 store-apartment-office building designed by J. R. Nexius and other similar structures. Residential building will continue increase in the Queen City.

Lewiston Reports 420% Increase.

Lewiston leads Idaho with a gain of about 420 per cent. Boise and a slow start this year but in July issued permits totaling \$66,139—about twice the figure for July, 1925. Moscow continued its substantial building program.

Great Falls, Butte, Hayes, Shel-

by and other Montana cities report substantial gains.

With such gains as those recorded by statistics throughout the Pacific Northwest, there is little reason to doubt the well being of the building industry in this section of the country.

While Portland showed a slump during the first six months, the Rose City showed a million-dollar gain in July and indications are that the Oregon metropolis will experience a steady program this fall.

Wenatchee Expects Good Month.

Wenatchee, reports Fred J. Sharkey, city engineer, will have a better month in August than July. Commercial buildings costing \$50,000 and residences costing at least \$15,000 will be started this month in the Apple City, he predicts.

Many cities which have had comparatively light building programs so far this year have increased building programs this fall. Among these is Medford, where commercial and residential building this month will total \$90,000, according to H. E. Rinsberger, building inspector.

Construction in Oregon City will be limited to residences this month, reports J. R. Stafford, city engineer.

While Tacoma shows a slump for July, 80 new residences were started in the Lumber Capital during the month. A steady growth is reflected in increased demand for housing and as a result Oscar P. Volk is contemplating the construction of a \$250,000 apartment and at least one other large apartment is being contemplated there. Commercial and public building probably will be light.

HILGARD PERSONALS

HILGARD, (Special)—Ira Cantrell was a Hilgard visitor Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Wainwright have moved to La Grande.

Mrs. J. C. Hoffman and family are preparing to leave the last of this week for Twilight station where they will pick fruit for the remainder of the summer.

Amil Able was a Hilgard visitor Thursday.

Synthe brothers shipped several

McCRACKEN WILL DIRECT AMERICA'S CIVIL AVIATION

CHICAGO, Aug. 10, (AP)—A federal air-control bill like a college football will be America's first director of civil aviation.

William P. McCracken Jr., of Chicago, already at 37, secretary of the American Bar association and a distinguished lawyer and flyer, cleared his desk today and prepared to go to "talk to my new boss"—about the appointment conferred upon him yesterday by President Coolidge, to the post of assistant secretary of commerce in charge of civil aviation.

Mr. McCracken planned to go to Washington late today to begin his new work. The post was created by the last congress.

"It is a virgin field," he remarked, "and there are three things we must prepare to do. Under instructions of the act creating the post the department is to furnish aids for air navigation—mapping routes, supplying lights, weather reports, emergency landing fields and similar conveniences; it is to foster the aeronautic industry, as well as the actual business of flying; and it is to regulate and license planes."

"I believe the civil aviation business is ready to go now. I don't want to say boom, I hope it doesn't boom, but it is ready for a good consistent healthy growth."

McCracken is counsel for the National Air Transport company, and a military aviator of 1900, war experience, during which he was an instructor for thirteen months at Texas fields.

carloads of sheep from here Thursday.

Eugene Solis, of La Grande, visited at Hilgard last week.

Miss Georgia Baker made a trip to La Grande Friday, branch. Howard Stairer visited in La Grande Friday, taking Robert Watson to his work there.

Here And There

HEILE AND THERE BOX —JX

SALEM—First unit of new junior high school will cost \$15,000.

SALEM—Remodeling of historic land & Bush bank building will cost \$100,000.

MEDFORD—Work rushed on new Seventh Day Adventist school.

MEDFORD—Woodmen of World to build \$12,000 lodge.

KIAMATH FALLS—\$25,000 store building being built here.

McMINNVILLE—Work begins on new telephone company office building with switchboard for 500 phones.

BARLOW—New concrete store building being built here.

KIAMATH FALLS—Southern Pacific starts work on new terminals.

McMINNVILLE—Building permits for five months reach \$150,000.

GARFIELD—New \$40,000 high school will be completed for fall opening.

HILLSBORO—Two large buildings being erected for county fair.

COTTAGE GROVE—Architect employed to draw plans for new city hall.

HILLSBORO—Frame buildings on Lyons block to be replaced by modern structures.



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