



Building and Improvement



OREGON GAINS IN BUILDING

Slightly more than the usual June-July decline in building permits throughout the country was shown in reports to S. W. Straus & Co. from 48 cities and towns made public yesterday. The loss, in fact, was about eleven per cent from June and also from July 1925.

At the same time, the volume of building continues large, the July figures from the 48 places being \$357,831,650 compared to \$402,845,819 in July 1925 and \$404,093,951 in June this year.

Twenty states showed gains and

among the twenty-five leading cities thirteen were ahead of July, 1925. The twelve Southern states, 117 cities reporting, had a loss of eighteen per cent, despite the fact that seven of the twelve showed gains. Florida had a July-July loss of 49 per cent, but Texas had a gain of 22 per cent.

Among the 25 leading cities of the country those which showed gains over July, 1925 were: Los Angeles, Cleveland, Milwaukee, Newark, N. J., Gary, Ind., Pittsburgh, Portland, Ore., Columbus, Ohio, Cincinnati, Minneapolis, Birmingham, Ala., Jacksonville and Memphis.

New York, Chicago, Detroit and Philadelphia showed losses both from July 1925 and June this year.

Oregon Near Front.

The states showing gains over July 1925 were: Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, In-

Danger Spot in Mexican Situation



Independence monument in front of a cathedral shown in the background at Puebla, Mexico. This is said to be one of the danger spots in the present Mexican situation because of its historic association.

Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Montana, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Texas, North Carolina, North Dakota and Oregon.

In view of the fact that practically these same places showed only a 5 per cent loss for the first half of the year, the July decline of 11 per cent may indicate more than the usual midsummer slowing down.

Cost Figures.

A grand total of 12,871 building permits were issued during July in 93 cities of the Pacific coast states, involving \$46,818,752 in construction costs, reflects a 12 per cent increase over the comparable figures of last July, as shown by an analysis compiled in the Pacific coast section of the national monthly building survey.

While this total shows a 42 per cent reduction from the June total, properly attributable to seasonal influences, the Straus survey shows that 35 of the 93 cities report increases over June and more than half of them show gains over last July.

Oregon Cities Gain.

British Columbia, Idaho and Oregon cities, as a whole, show substantial gains over the compar-

able figures of both June and last July. California shows a slight gain over last July. In many of the cities a notable activity is indicated and in others a marked recovery from recent depression is shown.

DOESN'T WANT RAIN.

MEDFORD, Ore., Aug. 17. (AP)—While upstate sections revelled in end of a drought, the Rogue river valley enjoyed a cloudy sky and a cooling breeze. Rain at this time would delay the picking and shipping of those peaches which began this week.

The Shakespeare Memorial theater at Stratford-on-Avon has burned, Shakespeareans now hope that a beautiful structure will replace the ugly brick edifice that stood so long as a monument to lack of imagination.

In its forty years before the public, Ben Hur has earned—as book, play, and movie—more than \$20,000,000. It was written by General Lew Wallace, of Crawfordsville, Indiana.

Although 20 monkeys escaped in Paris not one American tourist was caught in the ensuing chase.

THE "THROW DOWN"



PLANT BRANCH LOCATED HERE

Walter E. Johnson and H. E. Butler, formerly of Baker, have established Eastern Oregon headquarters of the Washington Nursery or Toppenish in La Grande and will be here permanently in the interests of the company they serve.

Both men are landscape gardeners and part of the company's system of service is to provide experts in each territory to consider each person's landscaping problem. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Butler will not open an office but will be located at 2801 Spruce street and 1811 Washington avenue.

Besides serving La Grande, they will cover the territory bounded by Walla Walla, Wash., Enterprise and Baker, Ore., including Pendleton.

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Butler state that the Washington Nursery is the largest and best equipped plant of its kind west of the Rocky mountains in the Northwest country. A complete line of nursery stock is maintained.

La Grande Selected.

"We selected La Grande as headquarters because of its central location," they said, "and after looking over the territory, we feel that we have made no mistake."

The Washington Nursery company did considerable business in La Grande last year, furnishing several large landscaping projects in the residential district.

PARK PERSONALS

THE PARK. (Special)—Marie Miller was a Medical Springs visitor the first of last week.

Mrs. Bert Vandevanter and children, Mrs. George Looney and children and Lester Miller were visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Miller, of Pleasant valley, Sunday.

Mrs. William Wigglesworth and her daughter, Mrs. Mira Gethell, were visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. DeVore on Catherine creek.

Clarence Vanorder and little son, Chuck, were Medical Springs visitors last week.

Oella, Jean and Donald Vandevanter and Gay and Merce Lay were visiting at The Park Sunday.

Ella Vanorder is spending a week with Ida Hunter at Catherine creek forks.

Everett and Clifford Whittan, of Medical Springs, were visiting at the Joe Lay home recently.

Max Devore, who has been helping Frank Wigglesworth put up his hay returned to his home on Catherine creek Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Waltz, of North Powder and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Devore, of Catherine creek, were at the Frank Wigglesworth farm Saturday evening.

George McDow was a Union visitor recently.

Three Children Hurt: One Hit by Automobile

EUGENE, Ore., Aug. 17. (AP)—Three children are in local hospitals today as the result of two accidents yesterday. Two of the children are seriously injured.

One Mae Bond, 12, daughter of H. F. Bond, suffered a crushed chest and laceration on her body when she was run over by an automobile last evening. C. E. Lillard, driver of the car which struck the girl, said that she stepped into the path of his machine when she saw another car coming in the opposite direction. Her left arm is blood-soaked as a result of the accident, and her condition is held to be critical.

Alec Nichols, 11, will lose an eye as the result of an explosion of what is believed to have been a dynamite cap at Goshen last night. His sister, Isabel, 4, is also in the hospital, but her condition is not considered serious. The two children were walking along a road at Goshen, carrying an ax with which they prodded the ground. The ax struck something which exploded.

A Philadelphia bank recently was quoted to the effect that in that city 55 per cent of all phonographs, 75 per cent of all automobiles and washing machines, 65 per cent of all vacuum cleaners, 40 per cent of all pianos, 25 per cent of all jewelry and 15 per cent of all radio sets are sold on the installment plan.



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