



Building and Improvement

CONSTRUCTION IN LA GRANDE PAST \$250,000

Building Here More Active Proportionately Than on Coast

During the month of September 28 building permits calling for \$18,599 were issued from the city recorder's office, a less figure by several thousand dollars than the records for September, 1925, show.

However, during the first nine months this year the building permits totaled \$252,457, or more than \$2,000 above the quarter million mark.

In the first nine months in 1925 building permits issued aggregated \$2,12,127, which indicates a healthy increase over last year's building activity in this city.

Permits This Month.

In addition, the number of permits issued the first 10 days of October swelled the total to considerable extent, and gave promise that this month will equal if not surpass September.

Building throughout Oregon in September was heavy— heavier in proportion than in La Grande. The figures taken from the S.

W. Straus & Co. survey follow, with comparisons.

	Sept. 1926.	Sept. 1925.
Astoria	\$ 151,875	\$ 41,000
Eugene	82,650	256,500
Klamath F.	189,535	155,892
Medford	19,320	39,950
Portland	45,930	229,990
Salem	2,617,586	2,539,685
	251,750	112,050

Total* \$3,387,290 \$2,396,290
*Plus La Grande figures.

During the first nine months this year total construction in Oregon was \$33,349,276 which is less than during the first nine months of 1925, when the figures were at \$38,828,951. Oregon, then, as a state, did less building in 1926 than in 1925, which indicates that La Grande, by increasing its total, is proportionately constructing more than the remainder of the state taken as a whole.

Less Construction.

Throughout the Pacific coast the building this year is less than last. At the end of the third quarter, the total stood at \$34,143,274 for 36 leading cities compared with a record of \$417,399,987 for the first nine months in 1925.

Among the cities which have shown the most substantial building activity are: Tucson, Ariz.; Burbank, Cal.; Glendale, Hollywood, San Bernardino, San Leandro, Ventura, Vernon and Whitier, Cal.; Lewiston and Twin Falls, Ida.; Klamath Falls and Salem, Ore.; Ogden, Utah, and Belling-

AN ATTRACTIVE SMALL HOME



By W. W. PURDY

This little home about to be built on a North facing lot. It contains four rooms, the large living-room, combination dinette and kitchen, and two good sized bedrooms on the second floor.

The front entrance is from the stone stoop into the vestibule, where a nice coat closet is located. From this vestibule one goes direct into the large living-room. In the front is located the massive stone fireplace with open shelved bookcases. The room is literally filled with casement sash, giving an abundance of light.

The stair to second floor is located in the rear, up three risers to a platform large enough to permit a telephone stand. An iron rail encloses this landing. The balance of the stair is enclosed, with the combination effect, to permit one reaching the landing from the kitchen.

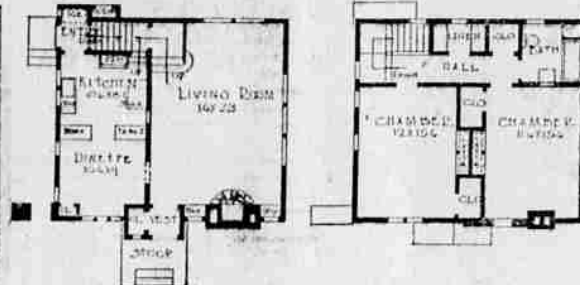
The recess in the dining-room permits a space for a buffet, a china closet is located in the corner, while a sliding French door separates this room from the living-room. A built-in work table is

ham, Vancouver, Walla Walla and Yakima, Wash.

Portland stood in fourth place among coast cities.

The building was so named because of its skill at fighting bulls in the sport of bull baiting.

Maine goes Republican again and there are seven days in a week.



all that separates the dinette from the kitchen, drawers, flour bin, etc., being underneath. The kitchen is complete with space for range, sink under windows, ironing board, etc. The box is located in the rear entry with cupboards over. A closet is worked in adjoining this box addition, large enough to permit the storage of a lawn mower, rake, hose, etc. Note the large closet on the second floor, the well arranged bath, with built-in bookcases in each of the chambers. The basement is complete, with the newest type boiler, laundry, fruit and storage rooms. The trim throughout is of birch, painted green in the kitchen portion and ivory enameled elsewhere, with pine floors with linoleum throughout, except bath.

The cost is placed at \$5,500 to \$6,800, exclusive of heating and plumbing. The exterior is cement plaster with stained shingle roof, stone trim.

The Garden

MULCH BEDS AND SAVE THE MULCH

All plants are benefited by a mulch of straw or autumn leaves. It takes the place in our climate, where snows do not remain long on the ground, of the natural cover most plants enjoy in their native haunts. The object of a mulch is not to keep the plants warm but to keep them cold and maintain the ground in frozen condition once the frost has gone into it. It is best not to put on the mulch until the ground is slightly frozen.

The purpose of the mulch is to keep the plants dormant until the frost leaves permanently in the spring. It is not the cold that does the damage but thawing and freezing, starting the plant into growth only to be suddenly checked. The strain on the roots by the heaving due to the thawing and freezing sometimes breaks the roots and throws the plant out of the ground. It is sometimes forced to the surface by this heaving. A mulch prevents it.

Heavy mulch is not necessary except where it is necessary to keep the frost from penetrating too deeply. Its main purpose is to protect the frozen soil and the plants in it from the rays of the winter sun. It is in reality merely a shade. Place just enough mulch upon the beds to cover the soil lightly but completely, concealing the leaves of the plants.

In the spring the mulch should be saved as we now have means at hand to convert it in the course of a few weeks into well-rotted manure to be spread into the garden through the new chemical compound devised by the English experiment station at Rothamstead and commercialized for distributing by an English nobleman, Lord Evershed. It has proved to be as efficient in decomposing dry vegetable refuse as the English scientists claimed.

The proceeds from the commercial sale of the preparation are devoted to further experiments in fertilizers at the English station. It solves the problem of getting stable manure to furnish humus for the garden which has been a troublesome one for some time.

BOHAR WANTS DATA
INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Oct. 11. (AP)—Thomas H. Adams, publisher of the Vincennes Commercial and today he had received a request from United States Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho, for information as to the charges of political corruption which Adams has been making.

No one appreciates the perils of motorizing like the pedestrian.

Home is where the coal shortage is going to be before long.

Building Costs Change Little During Month

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11.—Construction costs are showing little inclination to change. During September they remained on the level they held throughout the previous month, according to statistics compiled by the Associated General Contractors of America. By maintaining this position, they continued for the second month to be on the lowest plane registered since March, 1923.

There has been only one change in the level of costs since June, and that occurred when reductions in prices of materials purchased by contractors caused the August figures to show a small decline from the July position.

During September no change was noted in either the wages paid in the construction trades throughout the country as a whole nor in the prices of building materials. In only one month during the past five years have the average

prices for building materials paid by general contractors been lower than they were last month.

Wages in the building trades held fast to the level which they assumed in June after dropping slightly from the May figure, which was the highest recorded for any month during the past five years.

The September index number for construction costs in general, based on the 1913 average, was 194. The corresponding index number for average prices of materials was 176, while the figure for wages was 226. Thus the total costs are shown to be following a line virtually mid-way between the trend of wages and the trend of material prices. This has been the tendency since early in 1923.

Queen Marie Has "Nothing to Wear"

PARIS, Oct. 11 (AP)—Queen Marie of Rumania, on arriving in Paris had the usual woman's complaint—"nothing to wear". Now she has too much. All her ornate trunks were filled to capacity and others have been ordered to take the creation of famous modistes and milliners to the United States. So large is the queen's new wardrobe another baggage car must be added to the train which will take her and her party to Cherbourg tomorrow to board the Leviathan for New York.

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In the ladies' nail-driving contest Saturday, Mrs. C. E. Johansen of La Grande drove 82 S. penny common nail in 5 minutes and won a \$20 gold piece as first prize; Mrs. C. C. Conrad of Imbler drove 75 nails, second prize, \$10; Mrs. Ethel Whittenberg of La Grande drove 71 nails and received a \$5.00 gold piece. In the girls' contest Annabelle Hamilton of Caldwell, Idaho, drove 44 6-penny common nails in 3 minutes and won \$5.00 as first prize; Ruth Drumsmith of Laid Canyon drove 43 nails, second prize, \$3.00 in silver; Rose Jeffries of Oia Town drove 41 nails and won \$2.00 in silver. There was a large crowd attending and 50 women and girls entered the contest. Jim Randall, a prominent contractor of Cove, fired the pistol shot for the starting and stopping of the contest. Someone remarked that no doubt Pratt will raise the price of lumber now to get his money back. We had never thought of anything like that, in fact we have already forgotten it. We have a whole year to get our money back and the same old price will prevail just the same as ever.

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