

BUILDING NEWS

LUMBER MEETS BETTER DEMAND

Inquiries From Utah, Nevada and Colorado Look Encouraging.

PRICES ARE DOWN TO LOWEST LEVEL

Local Demand Shows Improvement During Week—Logs Remain Quiet as Compared With Average Demand at This Time of Year.

That lumber has reached the bedrock price at present is the opinion of all engaged in its manufacture and sale, and there is a strong belief that prices will gradually advance as business improves. Low prices have induced considerable business, but reports from the Utah, Nevada and Colorado districts indicate that the markets are toning up and that better demand from there might be looked for in the near future. California is still practically out of consideration, although Portland alone sent 6,000,000 feet into the coast ports during the month of December.

Mills throughout the country are gradually resuming operations on an eight-hour basis, with the intention of increasing it to ten hours as soon as business warrants it. Little is doing in the logging camps, owing to the slack demand for material this winter, but operations will resume when conditions so justify. Several camps are extending the logging roads into new bodies of timber preparatory to a good season's work. Shingle men report a continuation of low prices, but the market appears to be strengthening, and plants that have been idle for several weeks intend resuming operations in a few days. The University Lumber Shingle Company plant, on the Peninsula, will begin cutting during the week with its increased capacity.

AMERICAN CEMENT REPLACES FOREIGN

Dr. August Dyckerhoff, a noted German authority on cement, has been traveling in America, and in a recent interview is quoted as follows by Cement Age on the subject of the decline in German cement importations: "Germany's cement export to the United States has almost entirely ceased. Since the American cement manufacturers have introduced the rotary-oven system, they can compete with the German cement, which, before the introduction of that invention, had almost entire control of the American market. American cement manufacturers could not successfully compete with the German mills, also, because wages in the United States are so much higher."

NORTH POWDER BANK ARRANGES AFFAIRS

Assignee Deals With Depositors on Basis of Half Cash, Half Stock—Plans for the Future.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) North Powder, Or., Feb. 1.—The financial condition of the Farmers' and Merchants' State bank is greatly improved. Its capital stock, which was \$20,000 before the stringency is increased to \$25,000, and after 30 days from January 28 the nationalization of the bank will take place.

This arrangement was brought about at a called meeting of the depositors with the assignee, J. P. Myers, when the former agreed to receive one half of their deposits in cash and the balance in stock at \$100 a share, the assignee agreeing to buy up such stock at the end of the first year and paying interest thereon at 6 per cent.

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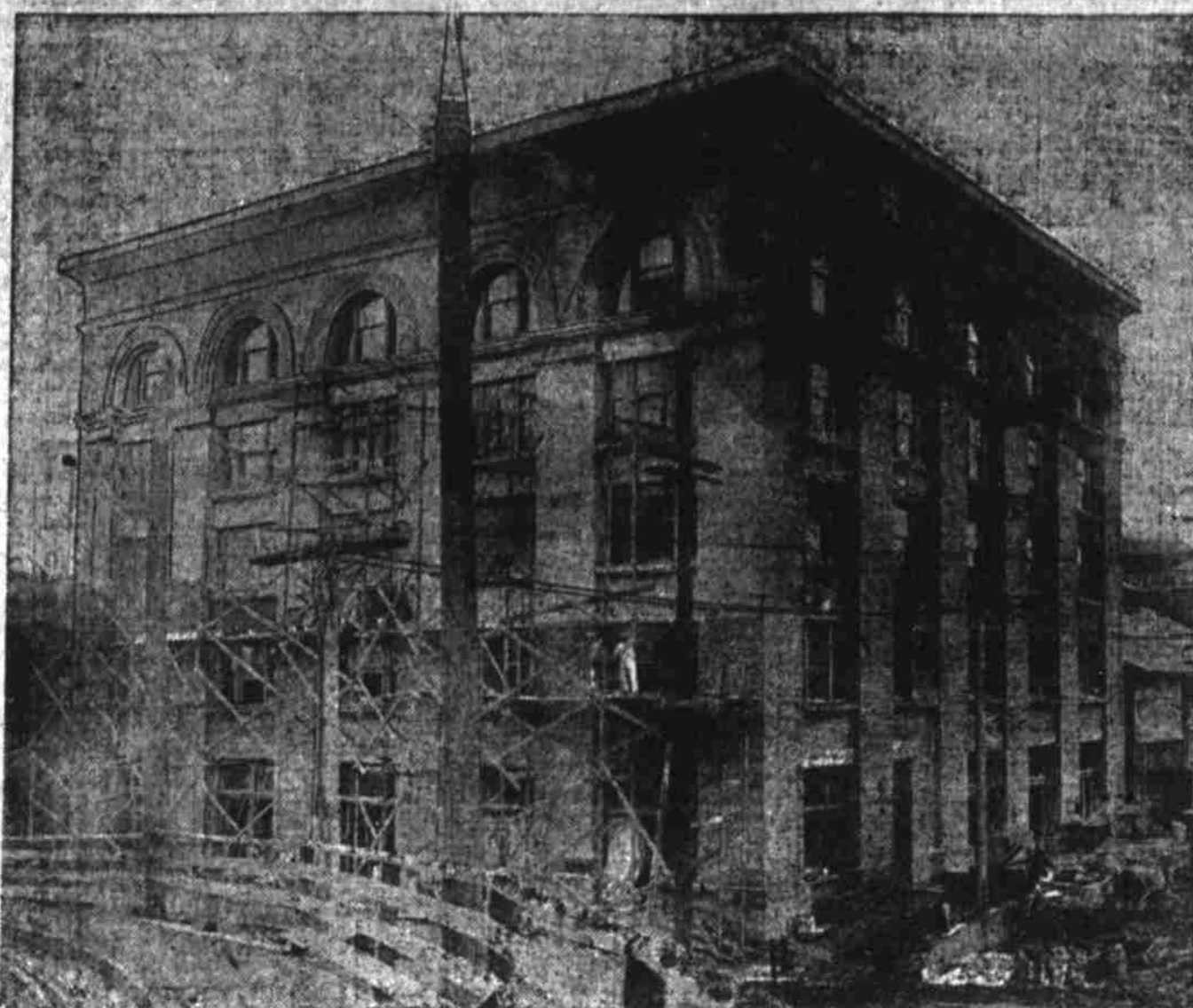
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MOSAIC FLOORS WIDELY USED

Ceramic Patterns Rapidly Displacing Styles Long Used by Architects.

Mosaic floors have become quite popular in American architecture. Twenty-five years ago they were almost unknown; today they are met with everywhere, in bathrooms, vestibules, hallways, kitchens and dining-rooms of private residences and in hotels, railroad stations and public buildings of all sorts. In fact, many enterprising merchants in our large cities have adopted a mosaic pavement for the sidewalk in front of their stores as a method of attracting attention of the passerby. Numerous materials have been used for ceramic work, but the only ones which are hard enough for pavements are marble and ceramic tiles. Although marble and ceramic mosaics have many similarities they have also many technical and other differences with which every architect, contractor, builder or other person interested in building operations should be familiar. Marble is a natural stone, a carbonate of lime. The marble tesserae, as the individual pieces of the mosaic are called, have to be cut and are limited in color to the shades in which marble naturally occurs. Ceramic mosaic is made of plastic clay and is a silicate of alumina, to which other materials in small quantities have been added. The ceramic tesserae are usually molded in steel dies, although in art or cut ceramic they are cut from strips of baked clay. Different varieties of clay assume different colors when subjected to the fire of the kiln, and by the addition of metallic oxides the clay tesserae can be provided in almost any color, shade or tint.

SAYS HE BECAME BENEDICT BY FRAUD

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.) La Grande, Feb. 1.—Samuel T. Booth has filed a suit for separation from his wife, Myrtle Booth, on the ground that the defendant fraudulently induced the plaintiff to become her husband. Mr. and Mrs. Booth were married in La Grande about three weeks ago. Booth is night policeman.

BUILDING BOOM ON IN EARNEST

Architects Busy With Plans for Host of New Construction Work.

From the offices of Portland architects come reports of new construction ordered greater in volume than at any time during the past six months. A large amount of the new building now being planned is in a large measure due to cheaper prices of building materials and a general reduction in the wages of labor. Among the more important improvement plans of which are yet in the architects' offices are the following: A two-story steel frame and brick wall structure to be erected at St. Johns for the St. Johns Gas, Light & Heat company, to cost \$20,000, plans for which are being prepared in the office of Goodrich & Goodrich. Plans for a two-story brick dwelling for E. L. Harmon, to be erected at the head of Loyal street and to cost \$15,000. Doyle & Patterson, architects. A four series frame flat, at the corner of Stanton and Borthwick streets, for Mrs. Drews and to cost \$7,000. Ernest Kroner, architect. Remodeling of the Burkhard building, East Burnside street, between Union and Grand streets, will be ready for Otto Kiepmann, architect. McNaughton Raymond and Laurence announce that bids will be asked for the construction of the proposed Y. W. C. A. building at Seventh and Taylor streets on February 23, and that bids for the structural steel for the Y. W. C. A. building at Sixth and Taylor will be asked for on March 1. Contracts covering all classes of work on the Y. W. C. A. building will be let at the same time, while separate contracts for the Y. M. C. A. will be let as the construction progresses. Plans for the frame residence and double flat of Otto Rothchild, to be erected at the corner of Twenty-fourth and Kearney streets, will be ready for contractors' bids early next week. They are being prepared in the office of Architect Jacobberger. The cost of the two buildings will be in the neighborhood of \$10,000. Architects Goodrich & Goodrich have in preparation plans and specifications for a seven-room bungalow to be erected near Rose City Park for Mr. Needham at a cost of \$5,000. The same firm is getting up the design of a two-story, eight-room frame residence for Miss Fredenthal, to be built on Broadway near Main station on the Waverly-Woodstock carline. The structure will cost about \$4,000. Contractor H. B. Stout has begun the erection of a two-story frame residence, modern type, at the corner of Twenty-third and Raleigh streets. Arthur Oldham will soon begin the erection of a handsome four-room bungalow at Northern Hill, near Portsmouth, which will cost when completed about \$2,500. Doyle & Patterson are designing new fixtures for the Hartman-Thompson bank in the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. M. J. Graham has let the contract for the construction of three one-story frame cottages on East Hoyt street between East Thirteenth and East Thirty-first streets, to cost about \$2,000 each. On East Belmont, between East Thirty-eighth and East Thirty-ninth streets, James A. Gray has begun the erection of two two-story frame residences to cost \$2,000 each. A. L. Whitten has broken ground on Going street, between East Ninth and East Tenth streets, for a two-story frame dwelling. Architect DeLos D. Neer is preparing the plans for a county courthouse to be erected at Baker City. The building is to be of stone construction, three stories high and will cost approximately \$100,000. The plans will be ready for contractors' figures about March 1, the contract to be let soon thereafter. Inspect Rosenthal's shoe store window and get busy.

Fire in Saloon at Echo. (Special Dispatch to The Journal.) Echo, Or., Feb. 1.—Fire from a defective fuse this morning caused damage by fire in the Owl saloon to the amount of about \$800. The Echo fire department managed to save the building. The damage was done by fire and smoke. The saloon is conducted by George Ireland and the building is owned by the Echo Lumber company. Half-pound box of chocolates free. See announcement on the "Want Ad" page.

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PRICE OF BRICK HAS NOT FALLEN

Present Stocks in Yards Were Made by High Priced Labor.

LOWER FIGURES WHEN FRESH KILNS BURNED

Probable That Not All of the Fourteen Yards in the Vicinity of Portland Will Run Full Time This Spring.

Unlike that of other building materials, the price of brick has not been reduced by the manufacturers. The 13,000,000 brick now in the yards in the vicinity of Portland were all made by high-priced labor, and the manufacturers say that the present quotation, \$10 a thousand delivered, is as cheap as they can be sold and leave a fair margin of profit. C. W. Nottingham, of the City Brick agency, says that no reduction from the present quotation may be looked for until after the yards begin burning fresh kilns in the late spring, and not even then unless the demand continues slack. It is reported that one or two companies have cut the price to \$8 per thousand delivered, but investigation shows that these were of an inferior quality. There are 14 brickyards in the vicinity of Portland, with a combined capacity of about 10,000,000 a month. These operate for six months in the year, making the annual output something like 60,000,000 brick. It is not probable that all the plants will operate for the full brick-making season, unless the demand is largely increased by more extensive building operations than are now in sight.

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