

BUILDING NEWS

NEW HOME OF THE WESTERN CANDY AND CRACKER COMPANY.

SIGNS OF SPRING TRADE APPEARING

Lumber Manufacturers Anticipate Better Prices Before Long.

QUOTATIONS DOWN TO LEVEL OF LOGS

Lack of Rail Business Leaves It to Local Trade and Foreign Orders to Keep Yards From Being Overstocked With Material.

Symptoms of approaching spring trade are manifest in the lumber business and millmen look forward to a fairly good condition, although prices are much lower than a year ago. The dead season of the year, from a lumber dealer's point of view, is supposed to be over, and it is held that the market must improve.

Most mills in the city and in the valley have resumed operations after a long shut-down, but many are still working only an eight-hour shift. Poor rail business, owing to the unsettled rate question to points east of the Rockies, leaves no inducement to crowd the plants to capacity since it would only result in overstocked yards. Last fall when orders were abundant the railroads were unable or indifferent about furnishing men and now when business is at a standstill the railroads are caught with thousands of unemployed cars on their tracks.

Foreign business has assisted materially in keeping stocks down among the mills in this city and along the Columbia river for many millions feet have been shipped during the past few weeks. It is considered time, however, for the middle states and California to replenish their yards, now that spring will soon roll around with renewed activity in the building industry.

Lumber manufacturers in many instances declare they are selling their product at the cost of the logs and manufacture and in some cases as low as the cost of logs, which precludes any possibility of a further decline in prices. In rising up general conditions of the lumber trade on the Pacific coast the American Lumberman of Chicago has this to say:

At Puget sound points lately has developed considerable inquiry for fir, spruce and cedar yard stock. This call comes from Montana and Nebraska to a large extent. There has been some increase of foreign orders for fir. Local orders at Seattle continue a favorable feature of the market. Some of the fir and spruce mills are running at capacity on Panama orders. The coastwise cargo trade is still dull. None of the interior Washington mills are running. A decided advance lately has been made in the prices of red cedar shingles. Stars are in active demand with the supply short. The price of that grade is \$2.30 a thousand; with clear at \$2.45 f. o. b. mill. At Seattle prices of lumber are reported indefinite and are attempting to stir up any rail trade.

At Minnesota Transfer stocks of shingles in storage have reached 2,000 carloads and they are held at a varying range of prices. The transit line is small, and it is being sold out. At that point stars are running at a price range in price from \$3 to \$3.30 a thousand, while clear are quoted from \$3.50 to \$4.30. At Linnæus the price reported that a little north coast lumber is being sold in the Dakotas, and dealers report a fair line of orders for fir and cedar specialties from other states.

At Portland, Oregon, inquiries for mill products are more frequent than in the past, while local demand is improving. California is buying little as compared with shipments a year ago. Lumber is quoted at \$3.50 to \$4 a thousand. Several foreign orders lately have been received at Portland. The railroads are contracting for a moderate amount of ties. At San Francisco wood shingles are holding steadily, there having been no decrease in the base price at Eureka.

PLEA FOR FRANK USE OF CONCRETE

Architect Wants New Style of Houses to Look Substantial.

"If you employ concrete, let it look like concrete, design for concrete, eliminate all thought of stone, brick, wood or plaster," says Albert Meyer, a noted expert in architecture. "Let the house stand up and be able to stand to the casual observer. I am solid, strong, substantial, durable, beautiful and of concrete. That which looks right to the trained eye is right.

"For country residences, particularly where there are winding roads, trees, a hillside and possibly rocks concrete treated as concrete looks right." Continuing the same authority says that it would be difficult to evolve from the imagination an original style of architecture, using the materials which have been worked and overworked for thousands of years. The temptation to copy, translate and transplant is too great. It is simpler, better and more in accord with the nature's laws to employ an original style from the employment of a different material than was previously used in the development of the older style. Convenience and adaptability seem to point to concrete as a material best suited to assist in developing what Meyer calls "American Architecture."

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Birx Brothers' New Building at Twelfth and Glisan Streets.

Odds and Ends of Construction News

Architect H. J. Hefty has let a contract for the construction of a four-story flat at the corner of Park and Harrison streets. The building will be two stories high and of frame construction. The two lower flats will contain five rooms each, and those on the second floor will contain six rooms. A dead-end for quieting sounds and deadening doors will separate each apartment. The estimated cost of the building is \$7,500 and it will be ready for occupancy by May 15.

Architect Ernest Kroner has awarded the construction contract for the four-story flat belonging to Mrs. Druse at the corner of Stanton and Borwick streets. The cost of the improvement is estimated at \$6,500.

Mr. Kroner is preparing the plans for a two-story frame dwelling for Fred Nicholas to be built in Tilton's addition, on Belmont street. The building will contain seven rooms and will cost \$3,000.

Plate glass fronts are being installed on the fifth and Stark street sides on the ground floor of the Corbett building, at the southwest corner of Fifth and Stark streets. The brick walls between the window openings are being torn out and the heavy glass squares put in. This work will be completed in about six weeks, when the building will be occupied by J. G. Mack & Co., as a retail carpet house.

Mrs. Anna Schiller will erect a two-story frame dwelling on East Fourteenth street, between Tillamook and Thompson streets, to cost \$4,000. The contract has been let for the Boyd M. Hamilton residence to be erected at the corner of East Sixteenth and Tillamook streets. The building is to be completed by May 15 and will cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

Begin work soon on St. Johns plant. Gas Company to lay eight miles of mains during construction.

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building will be 50 by 100 and will cost about \$15,000. Work on the structure will begin February 15, and the specifications provide for its completion by June 1.

Architect Otto Kleeman has finished the plans for a four-story flat for Mrs. Loveridge and associates to be erected at the northeast corner of Pacific street and Grand avenue. The contract will be let February 15. This structure will be of frame construction and will rest on a full concrete basement. Each apartment will have five rooms and be provided with a separate furnace.

J. B. Lankin is preparing to erect a four-flat building at the corner of Larabee and Dupont streets. Architect Emil Schacht is preparing the plans and will award the contract February 15.

Mr. Davidor announces that work will begin in a short time on the plant of the St. Johns Gas Light & Heat company. Architects Goodrich & Goodrich are at work on the plans of the building. It is proposed by the company to lay eight miles of mains by the time the plant is ready to manufacture gas, and eventually to lay mains over the entire lower peninsula from the eastern limits of University Park to the northern limits of St. Johns.

Under the franchise granted by the St. Johns council, gas is to be furnished the city at the rate of \$1.45 per thousand feet, to be reduced to \$1.05 as the patronages increases. The plant will be located on the site

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LIVESTOCK CASE HEARD MONDAY

State Railroad Commission Will Listen to Complaint of Oregon Shippers.

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Salem, Or., Feb. 8.—The hearing of the livestock shippers for a more favorable shipping contract will take place Monday at the auditorium of the chamber of commerce, Portland, when the railroad companies will be heard, and further testimony taken by the commission on behalf of the shippers. On Tuesday the commission will hear at the same place complaint of the Northwest Logging and Lumber company vs. the Portland Railway, Light and Power company, on a complaint that the latter corporation refuses to make a joint rate on fuel wood from the Gerlinger mill to Portland.

OLD RATE ON PAPERS SENT INTO CANADA

(United Press Landed Wire.)
Washington, Feb. 8.—By an order dated February 1 and made public today the postmaster-general announces that hereafter all legitimate daily papers may be sent from the United States to Canada and vice versa at the regular fourth-class rate of 1/4 of a cent per pound. The order follows the agreement reached between the two countries and cancels the rate made in April, 1907.

formerly owned by the St. Johns Steel Shipping company, which was purchased by the gas company for \$2,000. The total cost of the improvement as now planned is estimated at \$40,000.

New Notaries.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Salem, Or., Feb. 8.—The governor has appointed the following to be notaries public: A. N. Gamble, Alex. F. J. Mayer, James G. Burness, Walter H. Evans and W. H. Waterbury, Portland; John T. McIntyre, Salmon; Clare Sherwood, Coquille; V. W. Tomlinson, Baker City; K. A. Miller, Glendale.



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