BUILDING NEWS

FIRST SKYSCRAPER PUT UP JUST 21 YEARS AGO

Just 21 years ago the first steel frame skyscraper—a mere pygmy affair only 10 stories high—was put up in this country, or as for that matter in the world. The new character of construction was bitterly assailed by many of the leading architects in the country. All sorts of theories were advanced going to show that the building was sure to prove a failure. One of the leading New York architects predicted that the first sou'west gale that tore across New York harbor would leave the structure toppled over into the street. Another noted building engineer said that the rivets would all corrode, causing the structure to collapse. Numerous other reasons were brought forward by men eminent in the architectural world, all tending to show that the life of a steel frame building would prove to be much less than either stone or brick.

Predictions All Fail.

How crude were these predictions and how far wrong were the theorists who made them, may be demonstrated by a walk along any one of half a dozen streets in the business center of Portland, where steel-skeleton structures, 10 and 12 stories high, are standing and will continue to stand, in all human probability, for centuries to come.

While there has been some dispute as to when and where the first American steel skyscraper was erected, it is now generally conceded that the structure that up to a few years ago stood at No. 50 Broadway, and was erected 21 years ago by Architect Bradford L. Gilbert, holds the honor. Architects and construction engineers agree that the Tower building, the name given to the structure designed and built by Architect Bradford, at No. 50 Broadway, embodied those features of steel frame construction which have made New York the home of cloud-piercing buildings, and put the construction engineers of the metropolis at the head of their profession in the world.

When the 10-story steel building was first mooted New Yorkers were shocked at the dangerous innovation. And when in a few years a daring New Yorker had the temerity to put up a 20-story office structure on lower Broadway, all kinds of disastrous fates were predicted for it; some said that it would collapse before it could be completed; others that tenants on the upper floors would be blown out of the windows by the strong currents in the upper air; people who lived next door moved out, while the "wisest ones" shook their heads and threw up their hands, when fire was mentioned.

Old Structures Torn Down.

Yet many of the structures that once caused all this commotion have been torn down to make room for higher ones. Arrangements are even now being made for razing a 15-story steel frame building that occupies a part of the site of the proposed 62-story building to be erected on Broadway by the Equitable Life Assurance association. These early structures served a valuable and useful purpose as models for the steel giants that have since sprung up in all the large cities and in many of the smaller towns in the United States.

Some passing comment has been aroused in the last few weeks over the announcement that a building project had been financed for the erection of a 100-story apartment building on Manhattan island. Speaking of this daring enterprise, a well known New York architect had the following to say regarding it:

"If conditions demand it, the 100-story building will be erected within the next few years. It has taken time, but the public has come to recognize that the steel-frame construction is the safest and most durable ever devised. There is hardly a type of building for which this form of construction has not been adopted—hotels, apartments, schools, office buildings, factories, studios, clubs and hospitals.

Stand Severe Strain.

"Much valuable information was gleaned from the big conflagrations at Rochester, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco. Until the earthquake at San Francisco it had never been known accurately how much a high structure of the modern type would stand. But there is no such uncertainty now. We have learned that the steel-frame structure, encased in hollow tile blocks with walls, floors and partitions of the same material, is in little danger, if any, from collapse or fire.

"This is one reason why the proposed 62-story building has, comparatively speaking, excited little comment. Yes, I think that before many more anniversaries of the Tower building have gone by the 100-story building will be frowning upon the 40 and 50-story structures of today."

Of course, it will be some years before Portlanders will have occasion to get excited over the prospect of a 100-story building going up on one of their prominent corners; but it is not unreasonable to expect a 20-story structure to be erected here in the next year or two. There are a number of unimproved corners in the retail district where such a structure would even now, no doubt, prove a profitable investment.

Filling First Concrete Forms of New Y. M. C. A. Building.

SEPTEMBER RECORD BEATS LAST YEAR'S

Gain of 35 Per Cent in Home Building

Home building in Portland is still at flood tide, with no indication of an early setting in of the ebb. Compared with August, 1907, there was an increase of 35 per cent in the number of residence permits issued last month, while the increase in the value of these improvements is even greater, amounting to nearly 40 per cent. These figures again reveal the great strides Portland is making during the supposedly dull months of the year.

Pursuing the comparison further, it is found that during the first eight months of this year there were 2,154 residence permits issued from the building inspector's office, while for this same period last year there were but 1,569 such permits. Here is an increase of over 37 per cent, a condition which did not obtain in any other Pacific coast city.

One of the best features connected with this gratifying showing is the fact that members of the local building trades unions have been busier than those in any other coast city. And as a consequence the number of unemployed men seen on the streets of this city is much less than in other coast cities.

Permits for Dwellings.

Among the larger dwelling-house permits taken out and contracts let in the past few days are several involving sums of from $5,000 to $10,000.

Louis Burke has broken ground for what will be one of the handsomest private homes in the newly developed residence section west of Twenty-sixth street and along the Cornell road. The building is to be a two-story, finely finished frame structure and will cost approximately $12,000. The site is near the intersection of Lovejoy street and Cornell road.

A. J. Hall has begun excavating for the foundation of a two-story frame flat to be erected on King, near Davis street. The cost is given as $7,000.

A permit has been taken out by J. L. Williams for the erection of a two-story frame dwelling on East Yamhill street, between Fortieth and Forty-first street, to cost $5,000.

Mrs. H. K. Knapp has begun the erection of a one-story frame residence on East Twenty-fourth, between Brazee and Thompson streets. The estimated cost is $5,000.

E. E. Coovert has let the contract for the erection of a two-story frame residence on Halsey street, between East Second and East Third streets; cost $3,500.

At East Sixteenth and Clackamas streets, G. A. Westgate is building a one and one half-story frame dwelling which when completed will cost $3,500.

Mrs. C. R. Holt is having plans prepared for a handsome residence to be erected at the southwest corner of Salmon and Nartilla streets. Architect Otto Kleeman has the work in hand.

Costly Residences.

Architect W. L. Morgan is getting up the design for a double flat for A. C. Going to be erected on Eighth street, near Lovejoy and to cost $4,500.

C. H. Dougherty is having plans prepared for a 7-room cottage to be erected on Cleveland avenue, near Ainsworth street, Piedmont. Completed, the building will cost $3,500.

The Country club directors have decided upon the immediate erection of an administration building, which is to be of the bungalow type, and will be completed on record time, the contract calling for its completion within three weeks. The structure is to be of frame construction, 47x47 feet. It will contain a general office for the management, a room for the directors, committee rooms and a general reception-room.

Architect H. J. Hefty has in preparation plans for a combination store and public hall, to be erected at Hawthorne avenue and East Thirty-seventh street. The building is to be 60x100, and will have four store-rooms on the ground floor and a 57x59 foot hall on the second floor.

Building contracts for the following dwellings have been let in the past few days:

McCormick & Jordan, for $2,000 in alterations on a dwelling for S. D. Stouper, at Sunnyside.

McCormick & Jordan, for a $2,000 bungalow for F. R. Brydle, at East Thirty-seventh and East Mill street.

Gus Bartman, for a $1,700 cottage for A. Mathels at East Thirty-eighth street, between East Harrison and East Lincoln streets.

C. M. Allen, for a $1,450 dwelling for D. J. Merwin, East Twenty-eighth street between Killingsworth avenue and Emerson streets.

E. J. Grahs is building a $1,800 residence for P. J. Merrick at Twenty-first and Pettygrove streets.

East Side Transactions.

W. C. Repars has the contract for the building of a two-story residence for Matt Reig at Hawthorne avenue, near East Thirty-third street, which will cost $3,000.

E. M. Rowley has let the contract for the construction of a cottage at Sunnyside. H. E. Irish has the contract; the house to cost $1,800.

L. Demarest, for a $1,500 dwelling for Davis Dicks, East Nineteenth street, between Mildred and Surman streets, Vernon.

Thomas H. Brown, for a $1,600 cottage for Mrs. W. C. Fraser, Ainsworth avenue, between Concord and Campbell streets.

H. E. Irish, for a $1,600 dwelling for Charles Kalyx, East Forty-seventh street between Belmont and East Morrison streets.

E. M. Schenerman has begun the erection of a $1,600 dwelling on Grant street between East Thirty-sixth and East Thirty-seventh streets.

J. L. Ennis is preparing to erect a cottage on Vernon avenue, near Alberta street, which will cost $1,800.

C. H. Robinson will build a $1,500 house in Kerby street between Prescott and Skidmore streets.

H. G. Lucas will build a $1,000 cottage on East Nineteenth street, between Nehalem and Spokane.

H. A. Klipstein will put up a handsome, two-story cottage on lots recently purchased by him in Waverleigh. The building will cost about $2,700.

E. W. Reder will build a $1,800 home on East Main street, between East Thirtieth and East Thirty-first streets.

F. A. Vorpahl will build a $2,000 house on East Fifty-first street, between Tillamook and Hancock streets.

C. H. Turner has a permit to erect a $1,200 dwelling on East Twenty-first street, between Brainerd and Alberta streets.

A $1,000 cottage will be built by J. H. Finnegan on East Thirty-second street, between Grand avenue and East Harrison street.

L. B. Menefee has let the contract to J. O. Tremblay for the erection of a $6,000 residence on Myrtle street, Portland Heights.

NEW CONTRACTS DURING WEEK

Among the residence contracts announced this week are the following:

Contractor V. I. Routledge for a $3,250 dwelling, two-story frame, for E. B. Hyatt, on East Thirty-third street, between Hawthorne avenue and East Market street.

The same contractor for a $3,350, two-story residence for Ed Sandbug, corner East Twenty-fourth and East Everett streets.

J. L. Burgess for a $1,500 cottage for Mrs. May L. Macey, on Ellis avenue, between East Twentieth and East Twenty-second streets.

W. W. Petty for a cottage for Alice I. Petty to cost $1,800, on Delano street, near East Eightieth street.

J. E. Tate has begun the erection of a cottage on East Grant street between East Thirty-eighth and East Thirty-ninth streets. The building is to be a two-story frame and will cost $2,000.

F. A. Silvernail will erect two dwellings to cost $1,750 each, on East Eighteenth street, between East Alder and East Washington streets.

PLAN COMFORT OF EMPLOYES

In preparing the design for the 10-story annex to the Meier & Frank stores, ample provision has been made for the comfort and convenience of the hundreds of employes of this mammoth institution. On one of the upper floors a spacious resting-room, containing a choice selection of books and magazines, together with couches and writing desks has been set aside for the use of the employes.

A dining-room to seat 125, which will be furnished by the firm, will also be at the disposal of the clerks. An electrical range, where meals may be prepared with the current supplied from the firm's own dynamo will be installed. These and many other free accommodations will be put at the disposal of the firm's employes.

Building Permits.

S. F. Richardson, erect dwelling, East Thirteenth, corner East Morrison, $2,000; J. H. Rinehart, erect dwelling, Fargo between Gantenbein and Vancouver, $1,500; Mrs. R. A. Morrison, erect dwelling, Jessup between Borthwick and Albina, $1,200; J. T. Ennis, erect dwelling, East Seventeenth between Wygant and Going, $2,000; D. Muir, erect dwelling, East Thirty-eighth between East Yamhill and Belmont, $2,000; C. H. Henry, erect wall, Fourth between Stark and Oak, $1,000; J. W. Millington, erect dwelling, Webster, East Eleventh and East Twelfth, $1,000.

STRONG DEMAND FOR BEST GRADES

Lumber Dealers Find Business Improving in Good Shape.

The lumber market has shown a great improvement during the past 10 days and a number of mills are unable to supply the demand for uppers for which the demand is especially strong everywhere. Prices are gradually stiffening but it will be some time before they get back to the prices of a year ago—which even lumbermen admit were too high to last.

While local business is excellent, rail shipments also show a healthy revival. Salt Lake and Montana territories are buying quite liberally and from the east come orders of considerable magnitude. Dealers returning from inspection trips in the east report conditions much on the second back there and confidence returning with a more general spirit of optimism.

The foreign demand for lumber is not as strong as it was a few weeks ago, but some business was closed in that line recently. Heavy purchases were made by buyers in the orient and Australia when prices were at bedrock and for that reason purchases from those sections will perhaps be rather light for a while.

California is said to be in better shape for lumber than it has been for a long time. Uppers meet with as strong demand in California as anywhere else just now, dealers down that way having evidently come to the conclusion that by holding on to their stocks of uppers they will be in position to recoup some of the losses of the past several months.

Logs are stiffer than a week ago, some loggers having advanced values about $1 per thousand feet. The advance has not been general, however. Most of the camps along the Columbia are now working or ready to begin operations. Full crews will not be put on for a while unless conditions show a radical improvement.

Shingles are still weak and can be had at much lower figures than a year ago. The new rate on cedar shingles from Portland to Salt Lake is considered a bar to business since it will give the redwood shingles of California an advantage of about 16 cents per thousand and place the Grays Harbor shingles on practically an equal basis so far as freight is concerned, the rate from Portland being but 2½ cents lower per 100 pounds than from Grays Harbor points. Shingle men here say this places them at a disadvantage because they have to pay more for logs.

What About National Reforms?

From the Baltimore News.

Either the reforms the president stands for are worth fighting for or they are not. If they are, there can be no relaxation of public earnestness in their support. If they are not worth fighting for, then all the travail, all the exposures, all the excitement of the past few years have been noise and fury and nothing else. In our judgment, to take a backward step now would mean that the work would have to be done again, and under still more discouraging circumstances.

HOPPITY HOP.

Are you just barely getting around by the aid of crutches or a cane? Unless you have lost a limb or have a deformity—if your trouble is rheumatism, lumbago, sprain, stiff joints or anything of like nature use Ballard's Snow Liniment and in no time you can throw away your crutches and be as well as any one.

Price 25c, 50c and $1.00. Sold by Skidmore Drug company.

TREASURE SPOT

TABLE ROCK

See Page 5.

Who gets the $100

Watch for Columbia Woolen Mills Co.'s "Reason Why" Contest in Sunday Papers.

The poorest furnace ever built will heat your house if properly installed. But IF you're looking for the lowest priced furnace—will it be properly installed? Cheap work usually goes with cheap furnaces. We sell good furnaces! The best we know of; --better still

We know how to install them and do it.

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Don't Get Stuck!

By purchasing hardware of questionable value because the price is a cent or two lower at one place than that asked at another—the difference in quality probably outweighs the difference in price. Deal only with a reliable house, such as Avery's, where you are certain of getting what you pay for; where goods are as represented and a dollar buys a dollar's worth.

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ROBNETT FAST NEARING 100,000 VOTE MARK

Herewith is presented the seventeenth score in the Educational Contest. There will be only two more publications of the score before the close and from this time on every contestant must hustle to keep in the lead in his district.

Ralph Robnett is fast nearing the one hundred thousand mark and several other contestants are getting within range and no doubt publications next week will show remarkable changes.

One of the most sensational gains is in district No. 4, where Miss Gladys Rogers now leads in her district by over 12,000. This young lady is coming to the front fast and it will be well for each and every contestant in this district to watch her closely.

While there is no particular change in the other districts, every contestant shows some improvement and some of them are fast crawling to the front.

District Number 1.

This contest district is made up of Multnomah county and includes Portland. Contestants in this district compete with one another, and at the same time with all contestants in other parts of the northwest.

1—Ralph Robnett, 347 Stanton street	92,645
2—Lenna B. Melton, 815 Grand avenue north	73,615
3—Harry Crain, 463 East Eleventh street north	26,995
4—Myrtle Rogers, 1931 Endicott street	16,315
5—G. Adrian Smith, 142 Curry street	15,475
6—David McK. Wilson, Linnton, Oregon	14,090
7—Royal H. Cross, St. Johns	13,990
8—Clyde Cooley, 497 Tenino avenue	12,845
9—Frank Kennell, 331 Grand avenue	8,030

District Number 2.

Contest District No. 2 comprises all of Willamette valley except Multnomah county (which forms a district by itself) as far south as Eugene. Contestants in this district compete with one another and at the same time with all contestants in all parts of Oregon.

1—Freda Lauher, Dallas	72,605
2—Olive Williams, Monmouth	67,100
3—Gladys Nelson, Oswego	39,285
4—Adela Vollstedt, Albany	37,160
5—Beulah Gilkey, Corvallis	34,965
6—Paul A. Nunan, Salem	16,500
7—H. Earl Jackson, Forest Grove	15,925
8—Lester Bennett, Philomath	12,315
9—Charles Hibbard, Silverton	5,870

District Number 3.

Contest District No. 3 includes all that part of Oregon south of Eugene and the counties of Oregon bordering on the Pacific ocean. Contestants in this district compete with one another and at the same time with contestants in all other parts of the northwest.

1—Vernice Gilkey, Grants Pass	49,200
2—Sena Berkrem, Gardiner	33,085
3—Freda Hockenyos, Medford	31,895
4—Ray Haines, Myrtle Point	20,560
5—Grace H. Ryan, Gold Hill	13,520

District Number 4.

Contest District No. 4 comprises all of eastern Oregon and eastern Washington. Contestants in this district compete with one another and also with all other contestants.

1—Gladys Rogers, Baker City	47,970
2—Ray Harper, The Dalles	35,520
3—C. Frances Gordian, The Dalles	28,535
4—Grayce McKinney, Blalock	28,525
5—Carl Powers, Pendleton	27,095
6—Miss Dolon Lilly, La Grande	24,895
7—Margrette McCoy, La Grande	9,925
8—Etta Shelton, Union	9,020
9—Kenneth Murray, Dayville	7,050

NEW LOCATION FOR NEW BRIDGE

A mass meeting of South Portland citizens was held last night at East Twelfth and Division streets at which M. O'Neill, an influential resident of this part of the city, spoke in favor of a new bridge to be 125 feet above the river and not to cost more than $1,500,000. It was decided to hold another meeting in the near future at the Harrison hotel at which permanent organization will probably be brought about.

Following is the resolution passed at last night's meeting:

"Whereas, the apparent necessity of a bridge across the Willamette river in the southern part of our city, and the practicability of such a bridge being constructed from First and Sherman streets on the west side to Ninth and Caruthers on the east side, and

"Whereas, the most convenient and suitable point for a bridge approach on the east side is at Ninth and Caruthers streets, be it therefore

"Resolved, that we join with the citizens of the west side, in a petition under the initiative and referendum to the voters of Portland, praying for a sum not to exceed $1,500,000 for the purpose of constructing a suspension bridge 50 feet in width across the Willamette river from First and Sherman streets on the west side to Ninth and Caruthers on the east side, and be it further

"Resolved, that the chairman of this meeting appoint a committee of five to solicit subscriptions to defray the expense in circulating petitions under the initiative and referendum to be presented at the next general election to the voters of Portland."

A Sartorial Question.

From the Delineator.

Little Newman's mother had faithfully tried to answer his question in regard to death and the future life and he had been told that when he died his soul would go to heaven.

One day he came running in from his play and in excitement cried: "Mamma, mamma, if just my soul goes to heaven, what am I going to button my pants on to?"

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