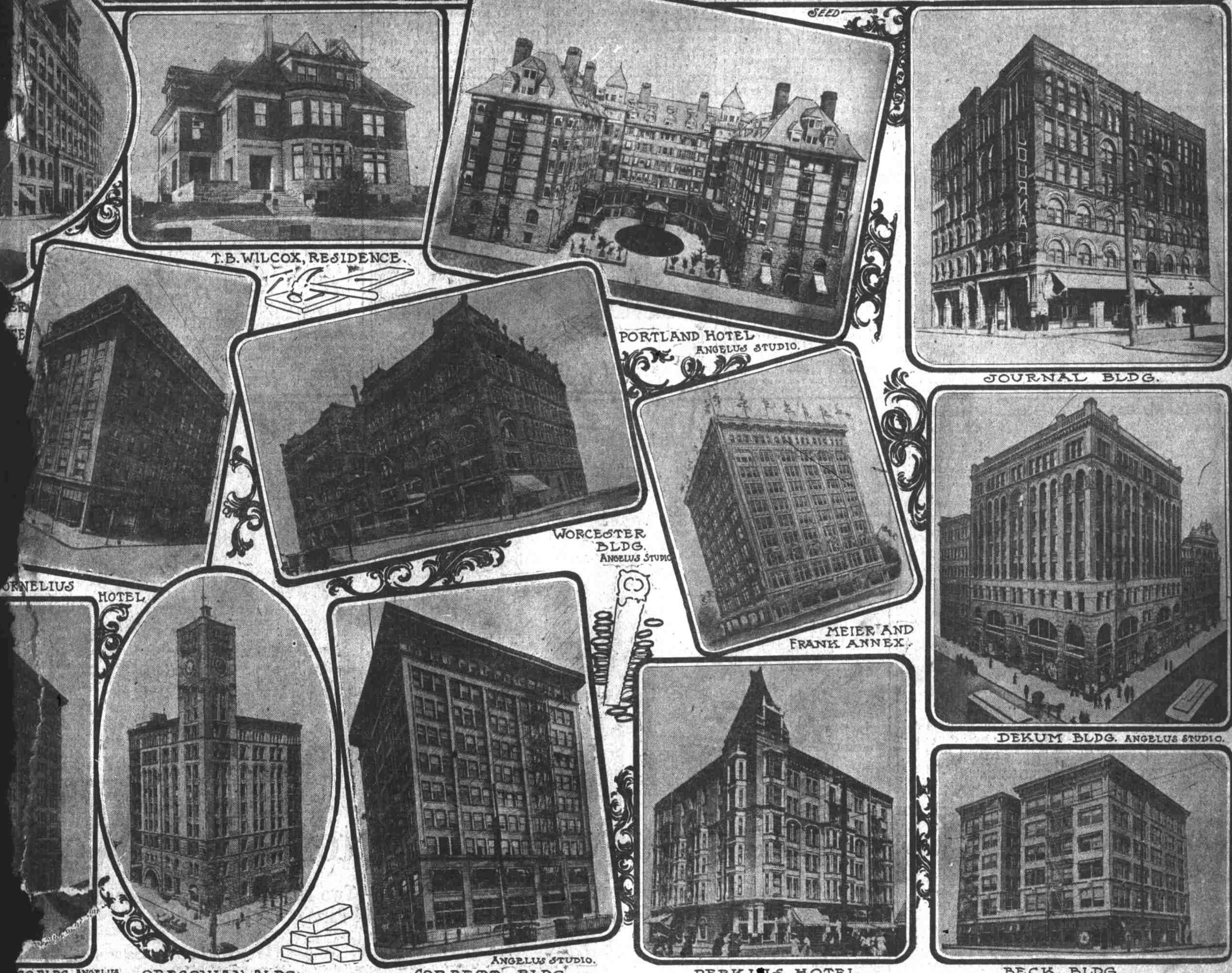


1908 AS TOLD IN A STORY OF PICTURES.



WHAT 1908 HAS DONE FOR PORTLAND

By R. W. Hagood.

and capitalists and to the genius of architects. Buildings considered it is extremely doubtful if there is another city in America that can equal the 1908 record. Portland in the number and character of new buildings erected in the central business district. On every side is seen the towering form of the structures which were completed during the year now coming to a close.

scores of lesser business buildings, every one of which is a distinct credit to the city. Builders with almost one accord discarded the cheaper forms of construction and wooden material, and erected structures which will be a credit to the city when it has a million people within its borders. The watchword of builders and architects alike has been "fire-proof construction." This, of course, has not been always attained, but it is safe to say that Portland now has twice as much fire-proof construction as it had one year ago. Advancement

has been made in construction, in architecture and in beauty, while no late improvement which would add to the safety or comfort of tenants has been overlooked. First in the list of business houses completed this year stands the 10 story steel and concrete Corbett building, given first place, because, with the exception of the Wells-Fargo structure, it represents the largest investment of any office building in Portland. Its cost was near a half million dollars, and while there are other office buildings on the Pacific coast that are larger and cost more

money there is not one more sumptuously finished or better equipped. Next in importance is the Board of Trade, an 11 story reinforced concrete structure that cost about \$350,000. Then comes a host of similar structures of the office building type—the Commercial Club, eight stories, steel construction; Beck, seven stories, steel, concrete and brick; Rothschild, seven stories, steel, concrete and brick; Swetland, seven stories, steel and brick; Medical, seven stories, steel, concrete and brick; Gerlinger, six stories, brick and concrete; Neustadter, eight stories, steel and brick. Then follows a number of costly specialties. For example, the beautiful new home of the Young Women's Christian Association, an elegant five story steel and brick structure, erected at a cost of about \$100,000. This and the new Y. M. C. A. building un-

der construction, were built with the people's money, nearly \$400,000 being raised by popular subscription during a whirlwind campaign. The Masonic Temple, a handsome building of massive proportions, was completed in the early portion of the year. Another costly specialty is the East Side high school, a \$250,000 stone building of beautiful architecture and imposing appearance. These, together with a number of strictly business blocks, all completed during the year, represent a total investment of about \$3,500,000. Of the business blocks for which permits were taken out this year and which are now under construction, 10 are to cost more than \$100,000 each—the cost of one was given as \$482,000 and three will cost nearly \$200,000 each. Seventeen business houses in

the central district, all under construction will cost when completed \$2,250,000; while 36 smaller buildings of the same class, going up in various parts of the city, will when completed represent a total investment of about \$700,000. But this does not tell the whole story of Portland's building in 1908. A number of very costly buildings are in process of erection. The Meier & Frank company have up eight stories of the steel frame of a 10 story annex which, when completed, will cost \$450,000. This is to be a steel, concrete and brick structure, equipped with every up to date improvement in department store construction, and when completed will give to this firm nearly 300,000 square feet of floor space, making it one of the largest and best equipped mercantile places of its character in the west.

Construction work is progressing rapidly on the nine story hotel of Theodore B. Wilcox, at Seventh and Stark streets, which is to be known as the "Imperial," and together with the present Imperial hotel will make a 400 room hostelry, second to none in the city. Charles K. Henry has begun the erection of a seven story office building, opposite the board of trade, which will be as modern and beautiful as money can make it. On a Fifth and Stark street corner Gay Lombard is building a seven story reinforced concrete office structure at a cost of \$1,500,000. Across Oak street from the Board of Trade building the Lewis estate has begun the erection of a 10 story reinforced concrete business and office building.