

Architects Search World for Good Building Stone

Marble Highly Valued From Earliest Times.

Washington.—One of the most strikingly beautiful buildings in Washington is the new United States Supreme court building. Its exterior is fabricated from white marble, while its interior is enhanced with columns and panels of the same stone but richly colored.

"Among the most ornamental of all building stones, marble has been valued by architects from earliest times," says the National Geographic society.

"White drums of marble from Mt. Pentellicus reared toward the clear blue sky of Athens, the graceful temples on the Acropolis. Domed Byzantine structures and Roman buildings were floored with mosaics of vari-colored marbles, veined and mottled. Visitors to the Pantheon may tread on a marble floor polished by the pacings of august Romans over 1,800 years ago.

Favored by Sculptors.

"Not only has marble been a popular building stone, but it is the favorite among sculptors. From it Phidias, Praxiteles, Canova, and many other artists carved their masterpieces. Carrara, in northwestern Italy, which supplied Michelangelo with marble for his famous statue of David, still supplies modern sculptors with some of their finest working material. In Carrara, a city of quarrymen and marble cutting factories, even the humblest of the homes have white marble lintels and steps.

"The most beautiful foreign marbles come from Italy, the French Pyrenees, and Belgium. In the United States, marbles underlie most of the eastern mountains from Vermont to Georgia, and part of the Rocky mountains. Vermont supplies 60 per cent of the amount quarried in this country.

"Marble is merely an altered form of limestone, transformed by heat and strong pressure. Limestone is much softer than marble.

"Limestone is found in many colors ranging from pink and red, through yellow to green and blue. From quarries in Indiana and Kentucky comes the variety best known in the United States.

"Although limestone is durable, it deteriorates under acids in the air and rain, especially under the sulphuric acid contaminating the air of cities. How waters containing chemicals affect the stone is dramatically shown in Mammoth Cave, Kentucky, where subterranean streams have eaten away the beds of limestone, hollowing out vast underground caverns.

Granite Is Valuable.

"Granite, igneous rock that has cooled, is a building stone valued for its hardness, strength, and durability. Unlike limestone, it is little affected by chemicals in the air and rain, but abrupt changes in temperature frequently cause it to crack. In regions where the temperature drops 80 degrees in a day, granite has been known

to shatter into boulders, gravel, and sand.

"Because it is so hard, the cost of cutting and polishing granite once prohibited its use except in a roughly dressed state. But now that less expensive methods have been discovered, it is one of the most popular building stones.

"Porphyry, another igneous rock, usually a beautiful red in color, was prized by the Romans, but is little employed by modern architects, because of the difficulty and expense in cutting and polishing it.

"New York city's famous 'brownstone fronts' are made of sandstone, a popular building stone composed of grains of sand held together by a cementing material.

"The new air-conditioned home of the National Geographic society contains stones from many states and foreign countries. Its front steps are of pink and gray North Carolina granite. Limestone blocks and columns of the facade came from Bedford, Ind.,

Pilgrims Take New Highway to Mecca

Jerusalem.—The opening of a new direct route between Irak and the Hijaz is causing considerable worry in Syria.

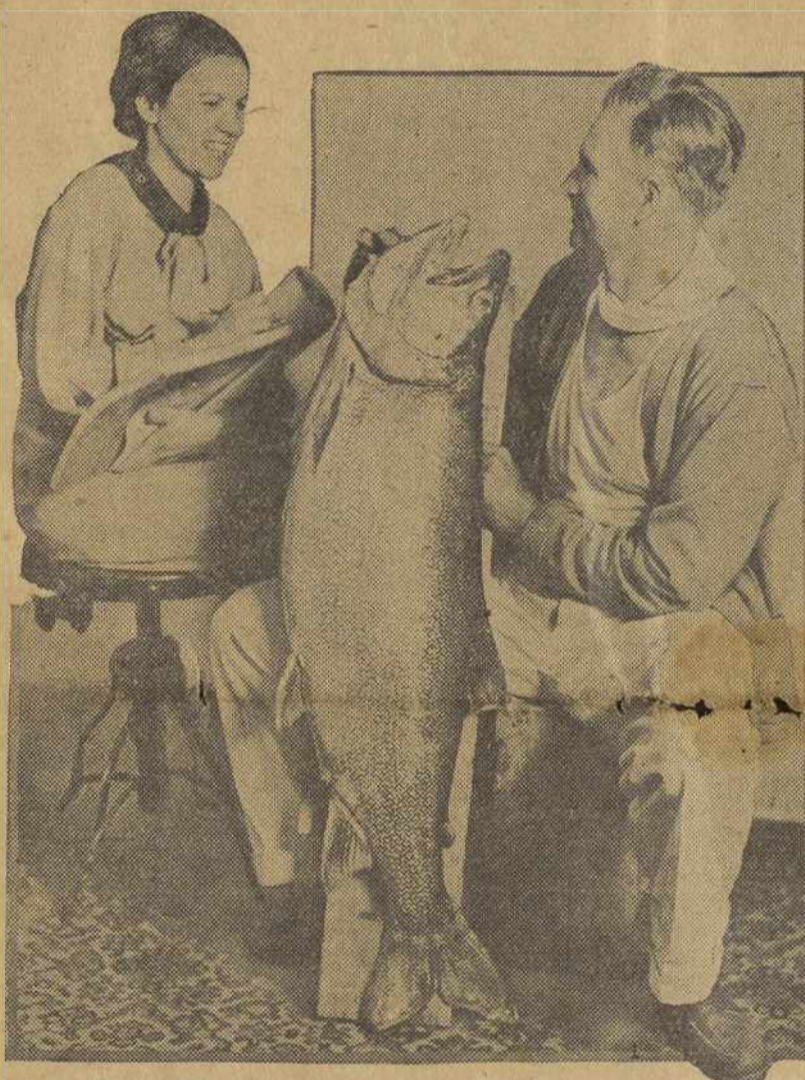
The protest is from the merchants of Damascus and outposts on the old Syrian route. On the new route, agreements have been reached with the governments of Irak and Hijaz for establishment of a sanitary post and a passport office at Idha.

To date 2,000 foreign pilgrims have journeyed over the new highway. Pilgrims from Mecca will not be allowed to carry cameras. The reason for the ban is to prevent photographing of the rites and scenes sacred to the Moslem religion.

and green marble spandrels from the French Alps.

"In the foyer gleam reddish-brown pillars and pilasters of polished Rojo Alicante marble from Spain. Walls are of lustrous Italian Botticino marble, a rich cream color, above a base of Belgian black marble. Brown Sienna and gray Roman travertine form a large eight-pointed star in the floor."

All-Time Record Mackinaw Trout



Justus Smith of Beulah, Mich., is telling Miss Lucille Provencher of the Traverse City, Mich., chamber of commerce, how he caught the all-time record Mackinaw trout in Grand Traverse bay. The fish weighed 43 pounds and measured 45 inches in length and qualified Mr. Smith for membership in the Traverse City Che-Ge-Gon, Ottawa for "big fish club." The previous record Mackinaw weighed 39 pounds.

Fence Posts Show Return of Prosperity

Demand Unfailing Barometer to Woodsmen.

Escanaba, Mich.—Woodsmen in the upper peninsula of Michigan do not have to read the agricultural journals in order to get an idea how the farmers in the corn belt and other sections

HEADS AMERICAN BAR



William Lynn Ransom, New York utilities lawyer, who was elected president of the American Bar association over James M. Beck, former Pennsylvania member of congress and former solicitor general of the United States. Mr. Ransom was a justice of the city court of New York city at the age of thirty.

of the country are faring. There is an unfailing barometer of the changing weight of the farmer's pocketbook, and that is the insignificant-looking fence post.

When the farmer is hard pressed, as he has been during the last few depression years, he allows his fences to fall into a state of disrepair. But when money starts to jingle in his jeans again he takes the usual pride in them and becomes a heavy buyer of posts.

The peninsula division of the Chicago & North Western railway is reporting unusually heavy shipments of posts this summer. A large percentage will be used for replacements, but the trend toward diversification of agriculture is also a factor. Western grazing lands, for instance, are being converted into small farms, necessitating the construction of field enclosures.

There is a noticeable increase in the summer volume of pulpwood traffic. Railroad officials attribute this upswing to the manufacture of many new paper products, such as table covers, curtains, bakery supplies and wrapping paper.

With the increasing demand for paper products, the lowly jackpine has taken place beside the spruce and balsam pulpwood. This heretofore useless wood is now the important element in producing paper of fine texture such as that used for waxed papers. The United States forest service has worked out plans for considerable reforestation of jackpine and other pulpwood to meet the demands of the paper industries in Michigan and Wisconsin in the future years.

OXFORD LECTURER



Chief Aces Blue Eagle of the Pawnee and Creek tribe of Oklahoma, sailed for England on the Normandie to lecture in Oxford on the subject of American Indian art and dancing. He is pictured in full regalia which is part of his "props." He is just as much at home in evening attire.

Four Sets of Twins in Family of Ten Children

Orangeburg, S. C.—When it comes to birthdays, the Betsill family has to operate on a severely reduced budget. There are ten children in the family, but among them they can only manage to celebrate six birthdays. The reason: four sets of twins.

Washington Digest

National Topics Interpreted

By WILLIAM BRUCKART

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Washington.—A plainly worded and simple announcement forthcoming the other day from the

Will Plant More Wheat

Agricultural Administration, presented one of the sharpest reverses in policy yet promulgated under the New Deal. Dozens of experiments have been tried out since President Roosevelt came into office and almost as many have run their course and have been abandoned. Many of them were tried out with high enthusiasm but the enthusiasm died long before the recently created agencies themselves went out of existence. Such was not the case, however, in the instance to which I refer because the simple announcement by the AAA resulted in the addition of 5,200,000 acres to the wheat planting area of the United States for the 1936 crop.

Not alone did this announcement represent a change in administration agricultural policy. If one is to believe the undercurrent of information available around Washington, one cannot escape the conclusion that the increase in wheat acreage to be authorized represented something of an answer to the protests, even boycotts, that have been evidenced in many sections of the country against an increased cost of living.

It is unnecessary to repeat here how hundreds of women have boycotted meat markets in Detroit and how one delegation after another in other sections of the nation have written or telegraphed to the Department of Agriculture or to their representatives and senators in congress in complaint against the high and ever increasing food prices.

Of course, boycotts and riots and demonstrations are rather silly. They just don't get anywhere successfully. About the only result one ever sees flowing from that sort of activity is a lot of publicity.

So, when Secretary Wallace and Agricultural Adjustment Administrator

More Hogs Comes Next

Davis agreed to raise the wheat acreage from 85 to 95 per cent of the available acreage for the next crop, the consensus was that the administration felt it might have gone too far in its crop reduction program. Probably all restrictions will be lifted on hogs very soon because hog prices have sailed higher than a kite and the shortage of available live stock for packing has come to be almost appalling. Certainly, the city dwellers who constitute a big element in the market for pork products regard the shortage as appalling and they are not to be appeased by any promises from Washington.

Secretary Wallace was rather angered at published newspaper accounts from various cities to the effect that the AAA program was responsible for the high prices. He insisted that the drought of last year was responsible and that the destruction of several hundred thousand sows and several million pigs had not affected the market situation at the present time.

But Mr. Wallace's statements did not go over so well. In the first instance the bulk of the city dwellers simply will not believe that the drought had resulted in killing off a sufficient number of hogs and cattle to cause the current high prices. In the second place, wiseacres around Washington who have a habit of blurting out their thoughts without regard to feelings of others, promptly inquired what good had come from the AAA corn-hog control program if the drought alone was responsible for the price increase. These same individuals were mean enough to inquire also why some experts in the Department of Agriculture had released statements to the press to the effect that meat prices, especially pork, will continue to skyrocket until the summer of 1936. They pointed out that a great shortage in supplies existed and that it was to be expected the upward trend would continue until a new crop of hogs of packing size is marketed next year.

Then, we here in Washington heard suggestions from men whose job it is to understand market conditions in which imports of pork products were predicted for the forthcoming winter. Now, importation of any commodity does not take place unless the domestic supply is short of the requirements. Thus, crop control program or no crop control program, drought effects or no drought effects, it is possible that this, one of the greatest hog producing nations in the world, may witness sub-

stantial imports of a food item for which it has always been noted as a producer.

As regards the reversal of form in the wheat control program, Mr. Wallace said in his announcement that the increase had been authorized "primarily to assure domestic consumers of continued ample wheat supplies."

He said that the wheat carried over this year was about 152,000,000 bushels and that on the basis of present estimates of production for next year it seemed advisable "to use the flexibility of the Agricultural Adjustment Act at this time to provide for somewhat larger production to assure adequate supplies of all types of milling wheat."

In theory, of course, the AAA control plan should permit production of sufficient wheat next year to take up the slack of left over requirements and should have the effect of maintaining American stocks at about normal. But, in practice, a different result is threatening. This nation always has exported a considerable amount of wheat. It has, therefore, had some influence in the world market and to that extent has influenced the domestic price. It happens, however, that the world wheat crop ahead of us is likely to be smaller than usual. If the United States had the wheat, it is pointed out variously, there could be a considerable return to the farmers from the export market. As it stands, possibilities of taking advantage of that situation just do not exist.

Without further reference to the practical operation of this theory, some experts have mentioned to me the fact that the 1936 American crop may not be as good as in times past. Then, not only will the American farmers be unable to take advantage of a foreign market, but they will not obtain the maximum return possible for their domestic sales because of their own shortage.

In answer to this, AAA officials point out they can use the flexibility of the Agricultural Adjustment Act as a benefit to the farmers. Their view of the situation is that the American wheat industry will be in a strong position, due to the shortage of world wheat, and can again exert its influence.

The divergent opinions of those who favor crop control and those who think the theory will not work have created many arguments even among officials. There are those who think only of the farmer's position and there are those who think only of the plight in which the city dwellers finds themselves when prices are high. The whole thing, when simmered down, is simply another way of stating the age-old problem in which we find on the one hand those who produce the food and on the other those who eat it. Adoption of the principle of crop control has not solved that problem nor does it hold any prospect of solving it. It seems to me as a matter of cold judgment that the Agricultural Adjustment Administration is not any more fair with the people as a whole than are those who promote boycotts or seek to tear down gains made by agriculture. The department officials have given out statements carrying only their side of the case. Those who attack higher prices have made only their side of the argument. Neither has added much to the sum total of human knowledge or human comfort.

The New Deal plans for giving employment may not have been so effective outside of Washington, but no one can question the result in so far as the federal pay roll is concerned. Late figures reveal that since President Roosevelt came into office more than 150,000 persons have been added to the federal list of employees. The total of workers on federal pay rolls in the executive branch of the government at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, was 717,712, whereas the total was 566,984 at the end of March, 1933—the end of the first month after Mr. Roosevelt took office. It has always been the claim of political parties that "to the victor belong the spoils." It is true under the Roosevelt administration to a remarkable degree. This is shown by the fact that the civil service list of employees in the federal government has gained very few while those appointed to jobs without the necessity of passing a civil service examination account for the bulk of the new workers.

Federal Pay Roll Grows

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