Building Time

Building Labor Costs Continue To Increase, Recent Survey Shows

Indication of a runaway labor market is not so evident as during the earlier months of the year, although the tendency toward higher building labor costs is continuing pronounced, according to the national monthly labor survey compiled by the Building Construction Research Bureau of G. L. Miller & Company, nationally known investment bond house specializing in building construction financing. The survey said:

"The tendency toward higher building labor costs is becoming more pronounced, although both skilled and unskilled labor is already receiving the highest wages in the history of the construction industry. Building trades employers made little headway toward forestalling wage increases during the spring adjustment period. The peak in labor costs is undoubtedly still to be reached, although indication of a runaway labor market is not so evident as during the earlier months of the year.

Building Trades United.

"Settlement of the long standing jurisdictional dispute between the sheet metal workers and the carpenters' union has had a most stimulating effect on the entire building industry. This long inter-union fight over the installation of metal trim was responsible for interrupting hundreds of millions of dollars worth of construction in many localities during the last five years. It was also responsible for the withdrawal of the carpenters from the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor and all local building trade councils.

"Under the terms of the agreement between the two unions which has already been given the signatures of the international officers, the carpenters are granted the majority of their major demands. This arrangement practically reverses the decision of the National Board of Jurisdictional Awards, which awarded the greater part of metal trim installation to the sheet metal workers.

"Ratification of the settlement plan will undoubtedly result in the re-affiliation of the carpenters' union with its 400,000 membership, to the Federation Building Trades department. It will also mean the re-establishment of united action and peace and harmony in the local building trade circles throughout the country.

Many Increases Granted.

"During the last thirty days nearly a hundred wage increases ranging from 5 to 25 cents an hour were granted to building crafts in a score of cities, including Atlanta, Baltimore, Buffalo, Grand Rapids, Indianapolis, Houston, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Washington, Savannah, Ga., Newark, St. Louis, White Plains and Niagara Falls, N. Y.

"One of the most significant wage adjustments made was in Minnesota Building Employers' association, representing 'open shop' contractors in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Duluth, have granted widespread increases. Twenty trades in St. Paul received increases ranging from 5 to 12 1-2 cents an hour, and in Duluth ten crafts received similar advances. Five trades in Minneapolis received upward adjustments in their scales.

"Little significance was attached to the announcement of decreases in wage scales of some crafts in Seattle, Washington, Youngstown, O., and Florida cities. The reductions were small and affected only minor trades, and were more than offset by increases granted the more important crafts, such as electricians, hoisting engineers, carpenters and bricklayers.

Labor Demand Heavy.

"The demand for labor continues heavy, except in a few remote localities. Little is heard regarding a labor shortage, although some of the larger cities report the need of more skilled workers in the mason trades. In the middle west, some surplus in labor has been reported, but this condition is not general.

"Despite the widespread demands for wage increases, strikes are comparatively few, and both labor and employers appear to be showing a disposition to get together, except in a few of the larger centers, where the five-day week and 'open shop' has developed as the paramount issue.

"There are now active strikes in nearly a score of cities throughout the country, but only one or two crafts in each locality are affected, and a settlement in a majority of the disputes is expected in the near future. In Los Angeles, San Francisco and adjoining territory, a strike of more than 10,000 carpenters against the 'open shop' is still going strong, and much building is reported tied up. In Cleveland the settlement of the laborers' strike has resulted in a resumption of activity, but the painters, paperhangers and glaziers are still continuing their fight for a wage increase and the five-day week. Other cities from which strikes were reported were Kansas City, Indianapolis, Paterson, N. J., St. Louis, Philadelphia, Providence, R. I., Boston, Hammond, Whiting, and Gary, Ind.

Tranquil In New York.

"In New York city the labor situation is tranquil and practically all of the building crafts have been granted increases since the first of the year. In Chicago, where a number of increases have been granted, progress has been made in signing new agreements for the year, and the possibility of any serious labor dispute is remote.

"While the five-day week movement in the building crafts has not played as prominent a part in the wage demands of the workers as expected, it has been gradually gaining ground. The following trades in the industry are now working on the shorter week basis: Glaziers, Newark; electricians, Seattle; lathers, Boston, Buffalo, and Seattle; painters, Boston, Bridgeport, Newark, New York, Portland, Ore., Scranton and Seattle; plasterers, Boston, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Providence, and Seattle; plumbers, Seattle; steamfitters, Seattle; bricklayers' tenuers, Seattle."

STATE OF MICHIGAN,
County of Oakland, ss:

Suit pending before George B. Hartrick, a Circuit Court Commissioner for Oakland County, between The Meyering Land Company, Plaintiff, and Anastasias Ballas, Defendant

Summons having been issued in this cause and having been returned unserved, and it appearing by affidavit on file that the defendant's address is unknown.

IT IS ORDERED, That said defendant appear at the court room of the undersigned, at his office in the City of Royal Oak, Oakland County, Michigan, at nine o'clock a. m., Eastern Standard Time, on the ninth day of August 1926, to defend the complaint filed in this cause, or judgment will be entered by default; and that this order be served or published as required by statute.

This suit is brought to terminate the interest of the defendant in a certain land contract for the sale of premises described as: Lot Numbered Two Hundred Twenty-four (224) in Woodward Hills Subdivision situated and being in the Township of Royal Oak, Oakland County, Michigan, according to the duly recorded plat thereof as recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds in Liber 26 of Plats on Page 4 Oakland County Records.

GEORGE B. HARTRICK,
Circuit Court Commissioner,
Oakland County.

Dated: July 2, 1926. 12-13-14

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WEEK'S BUILDING IN U.S. REACH HIGH MARK

Huge Total Of $68,238,000.00 Is Record Of Construction In Country.

Construction activity for the entire country, measured by the value of contracts let, was much higher in the past week than in the same period a year ago.

The value of contracts let totaled $68,236,000, which compares with $62,965.00 in the preceding week, and $20,163,000 in the corresponding week a year ago, Engineering News-Record reports.

The minimum costs observed in the totals are $40,000 for industrial buildings and improvements, $150,000 for commercial buildings, including residential projects, and $15,000 for public jobs.

The money value of contracts let in the United States from January 1 to date amounted to $1,492,984,000, as against $1,204,311,000 in the corresponding period a year ago. In the total to date private work absorbed $921,558,000 as against $672,430,000 a year ago.

Prices for materials showed little change in the past week, with the tone of the market fairly steady. Labor rates are not expected to go much higher between now and the end of the year. Higher wage rates in the skilled building trades, effective May 1 to July 1, inclusive, have brought the level o fconstruction cost above that of 1925.

Prices of materials niceus, however, have followed a steady downward trend since the first of the year. Present construction cost, labor plus materials, is higher than at any time since April, 1925.

Among the principal labor developments of the past week were the engineers' strike in Chicago and the granting of $14 a day to New York structural iron workers, effective July 1.

A SHOVEL FOR THE ASHES

First Collegian: Gotta match?
Second Ditto: Sure.
First Collegian: Gimme a cigarette.
Second Collegian: Want me to light if for ya?
First Ditto: If ya don't mind.
Second Ditto: How ya fixed for spittin'?—Carolina Buccaneer.

SPOILING THE RECORD

A crowd of visitors, who had just finished a sight-seeing trip through a mid-western penitentiary, were waiting to be counted out the gate, when a convict came running up to them with a pocketbook.

"Hey," he panted, "did any o' youse drop dis poke?"

"Oh, thank you!" exclaimed one of the ladies in the party, her face beaming with pleasure. "That's mine!"

"Well," replied the prisoner, handing her the purse, "I wish youse'd be a little more careful. Things like dis give the joint a bad name."—Goblin.

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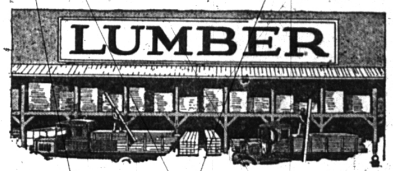

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