

**Now Is Time to Build;
Savings Are Possible**

Now is the time to build, remodel, and to modernize, according the leading contractors and material men. It is possible that the present opportunity afforded by low material costs will not recur in several years to come.

Labor is co-operating effectively in reducing construction costs, not so much by accepting lower wages but by doing more work in a day. Union bricklayers are said to be laying nearly twice as many bricks a day as formerly, while carpenters and other workers have increased their efficiency 30 to 40 per cent.

During the summer and early fall there has been much remodeling, including the replacing of heating plants with different systems which effect large fuel savings. Economy in operating costs is being sought, as well as in construction itself.

By having needed work done now great savings are possible, besides the employment of surplus labor will aid in hastening the return of prosperity.—Scott Bluff (Neb.) Republican.

**What It Costs U. S.
to Operate Railroad;
Alaska Line Example**

The senate committee investigating the causes of the deficit of \$1,300,000 on the Alaska railroad during the last fiscal year has found them to be, as summarized by the Seward Gateway:

"Too much service. Too low freight rates. Too much duplication of jobs. Too much slacking in departments. Too many high-priced and low-action promoters. Too many barnacles inherited from previous managements."

The railroad operates a hotel at Curry at a loss of \$30,000 a year. It formerly ran an electric plant which supplied the town of Anchorage and earned an income of \$60,000 a year, but was turned over to private hands for nothing just before the change of managers on the railroad. More than \$200,000 of overdue freight bills had accumulated with no chance of collection. Alaska coal is required to pay such rates that much coal from Seattle is sold in competition with it.

Coal land leasing and other conservation laws were cited by citizens as preventing development of traffic for the railroad. In fact, the territory is carefully conserved for future generations, while the public money is squandered on a railroad that was intended to develop the country.—The Portland Oregonian.

**Touring in Summer
Sets New High Mark**


Touring during the past summer set new high records, according to the touring bureau of the Chicago Motor club, which reported an increase of more than 63 per cent in touring inquiries this season as compared with that of 1929.

The total number of inquiries received and answered up to October 1 was 346,224, as compared with 212,232 for the same period last year, the motor club touring bureau said in a statement. That total was taken from the main office and branches in 62 counties in northern parts of Illinois and Indiana. The increase in business in Cook county and the "down-state" areas was exactly proportionate, thus indicating that touring is on the increase in the suburban, as well as urban, areas.

The bureau also reported a vast increase in the number of "foreign" car owners in Chicago during their vacation periods.

These figures clearly reveal that Chicago, with its miles of sandy beaches, city parks, adjacent forest preserves, and countless other attractions, possesses a wide reputation as an ideal summer resort region, the statement concluded.

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