

BUILDING SPEEDING UP SUBURB REPORT SHOWS

North Shore Playing Important Part in Activity—Evanston Moves Forward

Suburban building construction in September amounted to approximately \$6,000,000, showing that building construction outside the city is still continuing at a rapid rate. This estimate of building is based on the 24 principal suburbs reporting whose total volume for September was \$5,582,048.

Glen Ellyn had the leading percentage of gain in September over the same month a year ago of 142 percent. While Evanston had a September to September loss of 11 percent its traditional rival, Oak Park, made a gain of 82 percent; however, in comparison with August this year Oak Park made a loss of 30 percent and Evanston gained 21 percent. Other suburbs making September to September gains and their percentages of gain were as follows: Blue Island 44 percent, Des Plaines 17 percent, La Grange 24 percent, Niles Center 42 percent, Winnetka 33 percent and Hammond 11 percent.

Those suburbs making gains over August and the percentage of gains were: Aurora 30 percent, Blue Island 70 percent, Chicago Heights 112 percent; Evanston 21 percent, Highland Park 8 percent, La Grange 11 percent.

Evanston Makes Gain

For the first nine months this year Oak Park lead all other suburbs as compared with the same period last year. Oak Park, for the first nine months this year, had a volume of \$6,017,065 as against \$4,943,402 for the first nine months in 1926, or a gain of 21 percent. Evanston, the only other large suburb making a gain in the nine months' comparison had a total construction volume for this period of \$13,112,475 as against \$11,783,970 for last year, or a gain of 11 percent. While Gary's nine months' volume was almost as large as that of Evanston or \$13,164,518, it was 27 percent behind its own nine months' record of last year.

The development of apartment house dwellings is particularly noted, especially in the larger suburbs. According to an officer of S. W. Straus & Co., the next five years are to be a period of substantial growth in the multi-family type of construction in the suburbs.

"Our experience in the suburban areas of New York, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco and several other large American cities, has demonstrated the availability of the apartment house for suburban residence," said an officer of the company. "People are finding out more and more that it is now possible to combine the advantages of a suburban or semi-rural environment with the perfected conveniences they have known in the city."

Suburban Life Favored

"No one can gainsay the desirability of living in such suburbs as Evanston or Oak Park. From every standpoint, including transportation facilities, they are surpassed by no other city in the country, and when to these pleasant surroundings are added the comforts of the modern Chicago apartment an unsurpassed standard of living is attained.

"That the public is becoming more cognizant of these facts is shown in the present growth of apartment house construction in the metropolitan zone."

Ten Years Ago

"Ninety-one Wilmette men reported at the Central avenue school and took the oath of allegiance required for membership in the Illinois Volunteer Training corps.



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