

## BIG U. S. CITIES STILL IN A BUILDING DECLINE

**Reports Show September 10 Percent Behind Figures for the Same Month of a Year Ago**

A continuation of the downward trend of building activities throughout the country is indicated in the reports made to S. W. Straus and Co. of building permits issued and plans filed in 533 leading cities and towns for the month of September. The total reached \$267,261,008, compared with \$296,607,719 in September of the preceding year and with \$311,936,476 in August, 1928. The loss from last September was 10%.

Unmistakably that portion of the construction industry devoted to the erection of buildings in the cities and towns of the country has entered an era of more restricted activities. These permit figures are not to be confused with contracts, which include such major projects as bridges, dams, highways, etc., but are to be accepted only as an index of building activities in incorporated centers.

### Here's Three-Year Trend

The figures show the trend of building permit issues in the bulk of American municipalities for the last three years and reveal that since the end of May, 1928, there has been a more consistent drift toward lower levels in urban building than at any time during the period under review. The line of activities is now considerably lower than were those either of 1926 or 1927 at this season. It is to be noted also that the recovery of activities which made itself felt at the end of July both in 1926 and 1927 was absent this year and the decline which began at the end of May has continued without interruption.

In the early weeks of 1928 the line followed the same upward trend as those of its two immediate predecessors. It did not in the course of that seasonal development, however, reach the levels of the other two years.

### Permit Records Decline

It is a feature of the present situation that pending building operations, as foreshadowed by building permit records are declining quite uniformly throughout the country. New York City has been able to show improvement more or less constantly until the present time but the September records of building plans filed in the five boroughs revealed a 7% loss from September, 1927. Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco and Cleveland were among the other large cities showing trends toward lower levels.

Figures for twenty-five cities follow:

	Sept. 1928	Sept. 1927
New York (P. F.)	\$57,549,387	\$62,175,357
Chicago	19,670,700	27,340,700
Detroit	10,567,879	15,087,288
Los Angeles	8,505,327	9,274,218
Baltimore	6,605,500	2,263,100
Philadelphia	6,255,770	12,291,340
Milwaukee	4,071,925	3,019,052
Boston (P. F.)	4,003,188	3,818,177
Washington, D. C.	3,967,155	1,774,220
Cincinnati	3,231,990	2,720,991
Newark	3,174,535	2,899,911
Pittsburgh	3,024,349	2,146,312
St. Louis	2,911,732	3,849,203
Akron	2,868,922	1,397,958
San Francisco	2,442,080	3,109,832
Minneapolis	2,234,985	1,405,260
New Orleans	2,115,698	1,219,499
Atlanta	2,097,427	1,237,434
Long Beach, Calif.	2,041,460	775,190
Indianapolis	2,041,038	1,445,084
Cleveland	2,028,725	2,659,075
White Plains	2,010,150	374,400
Houston	1,904,054	1,402,437
Omaha	1,867,835	335,435
Hartford	1,866,465	3,440,402
	\$159,058,276	\$167,461,875

(P. F.) Indicates Plans Filed

### L. A. BOARD IN NEW BUILDING

October 18 has been set as the tentative date for the formal opening of the new Los Angeles Realty Board building. The grounds surrounding the building are being elaborately landscaped.

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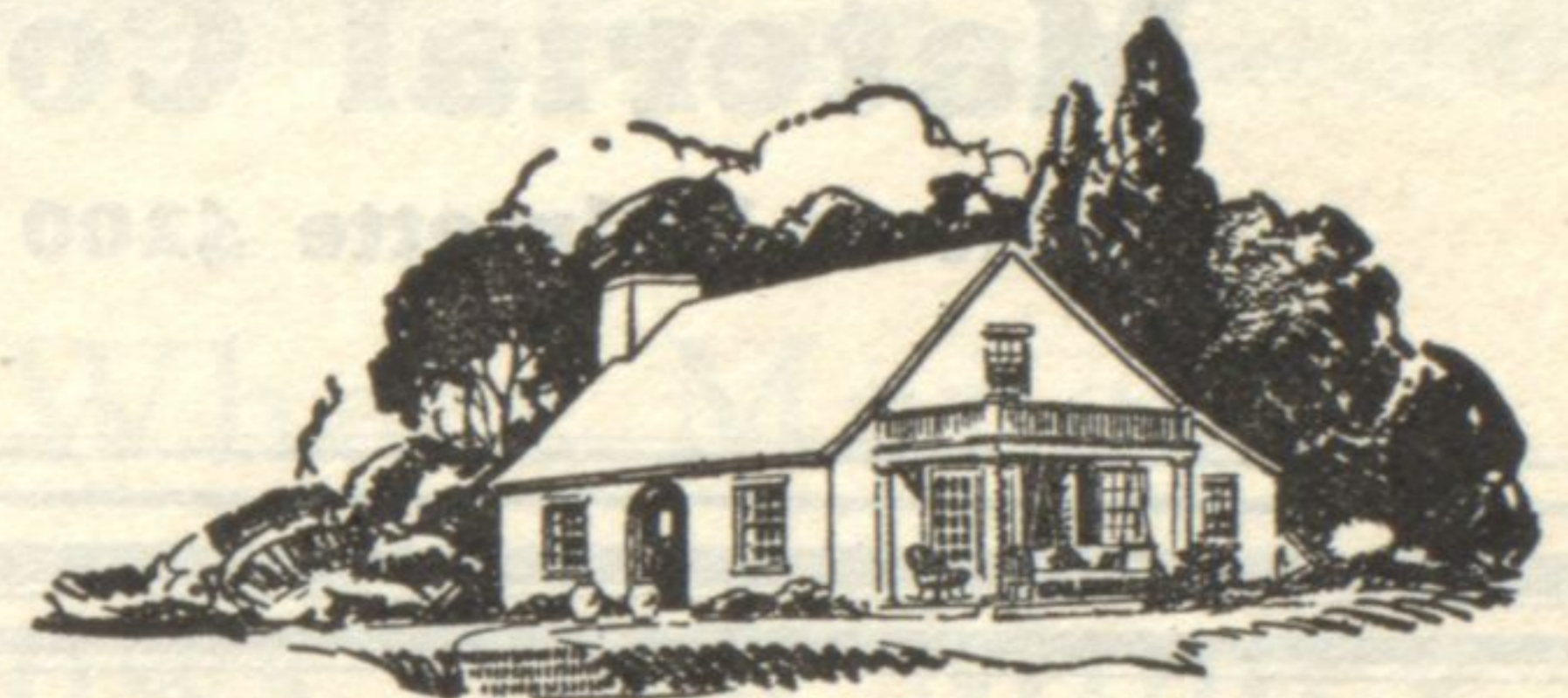
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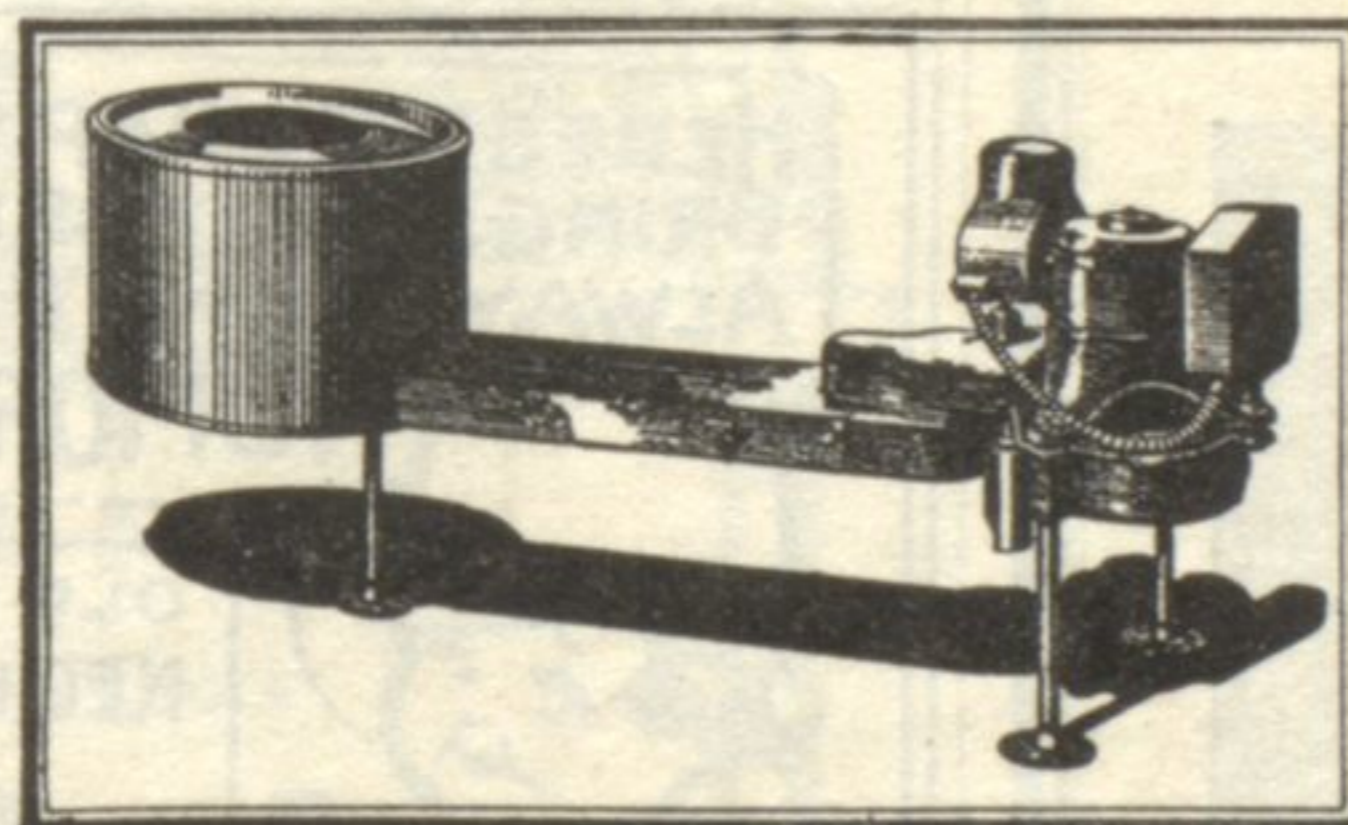
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