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EXPENDITURES FOR HOMES HIT PEAK; 55 PER CENT OF TOTAL NEW CONSTRUCTION

Washington, D. C. — Expenditures for the construction of homes reached an all-time monthly high in November, although the value of total construction activity dropped below the October figure, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

November figures showed an increase of 26 per cent over the same month last year, the BLS reported and said that the decline below the October level was less than is usually recorded at this time of year.

Construction contractors dropped 42,500 employees in November. Nevertheless, their average employment for the month, 1,852,000 workers, was only 3 per cent under the postwar peak reached in September, and exceeded November, 1946, employment by 8 per cent.

Privately financed construction of new non-farm homes resulted in expenditures of \$525 million, \$10 million above the October figure. This new home-building in November accounted for 55 per cent of all dollars spent and all workers employed on privately financed projects.

Since last May, expansion in commercial construction has continued to keep pace with housing. Expenditures for warehouses, stores, restaurants, etc., were close to \$100 million in November, registering an 8 per cent increase over October. Most other types of privately financed construction

30,800 HANDICAPPED GOT JOBS IN OCTOBER

Washington, D. C. — Secretary of Labor Lewis M. Schwelienbach reported that 30,800 physically handicapped workers got jobs through the United States Employment Service during October, a peacetime record.

Robert C. Goodwin, director of the service, said that three-fifths of the placements were handicapped war veterans. He said that for the first time the total number of unemployed disabled veterans registered at public employment offices fell below 100,000. October placements cut the disabled veteran registration to 92,000.

either maintained about the same level or dipped moderately.

A 15 per cent drop in the dollar volume of publicly financed construction resulted from decline in outdoor work normally affected by the onset of winter weather.

By the end of November, construction contractors had spent close to \$13½ billion for new and minor repair work in 1947, one-fourth more than was spent during the comparable period of 1946. More than half this increase in dollar volume occurred in privately financed residential construction.

Noteworthy was the proportionate increase in construction of educational facilities. While the Veterans' Educational Facilities Program tapered off earlier in 1947, contracts by state and municipal authorities have increased, bringing expenditures for publicly financed educational buildings to an amount ¼ times greater in 1947 than in 1946, when the first 11 months are compared.

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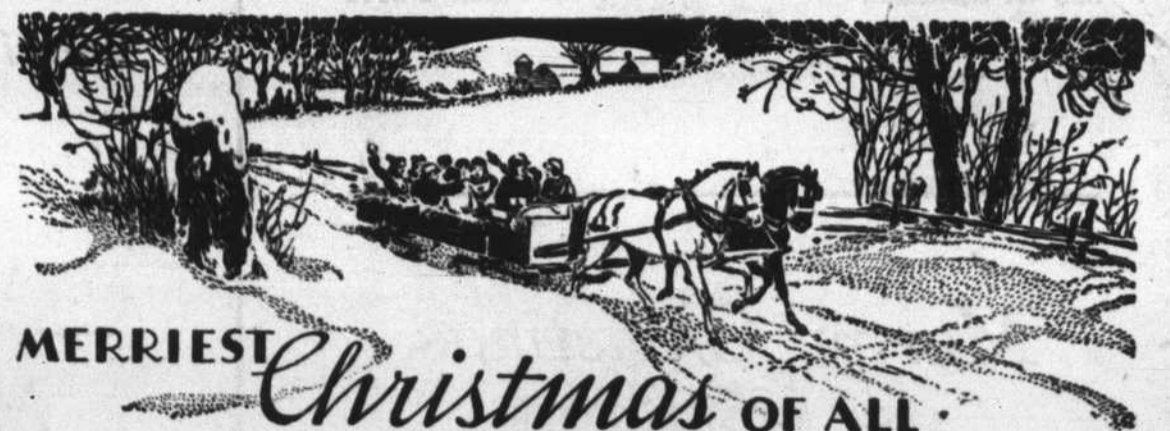
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