

Concrete Paving Record Set In Last Six Months

Expanding Use of Automobile and Resulting Traffic Congestion Main Factors in Enlarged Municipal and Rural Paving Expansion Programs

By J. C. ROYLE
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New York, July 10.—The expanding use of the automobile and its attendant traffic congestion has resulted in establishing a record for concrete street and highway production in the last six months. Over 48,000,000 square yards of concrete pavement was placed under contract between January 1 and July 1, according to the Portland Cement Association. That is equivalent of 4,800 miles of 18 foot pavement. The largest previous amount contracted for in a similar period was in 1922 when 45,000,000 square yards were awarded.

The most notable gains were accounted for by city streets, as is natural, since it is in the cities that traffic congestion is greatest. Fourteen million square yards, equivalent to 800 miles of 30 foot wide pavements were contracted for up to July 1. This is more than was placed in any entire year up to 1922, and two million square yards more than was awarded in the first half of 1923, the best previous year.

About one fourth of the concrete street pavement arranged for this year is in 68 cities of 100,000 population or over. New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Milwaukee, Detroit, Los Angeles, Seattle, Aalanta, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, Kansas City, and other large centers now are engaged on pretentious paving programs.

On January 1 this year about 5800 miles of concrete street averaging 30 feet in width were under contract and contractors carried over from 1923, 400 miles which had been contracted for but not laid. When all the contracts now signed have been completed there will be about 7,000 miles of concrete city streets in this country.

There were 25,627 miles of concrete highways averaging 18 feet wide in use at the beginning of this year and 2500 miles which when completed will make the grand total of concrete highways well above 30,000 miles.

The activity which will prevail in road construction during the remainder of the year can only be estimated but there has been some falling off in building construction and this, with the release of labor from some other industries and its ab-

sorption by highway construction, is having a tendency toward lower costs. Public improvement bonds now are bringing better returns and being more readily absorbed by investors and altogether the prospect is bright for continued activity in road work.

Cement prices have been fairly stable and there is evidence of a tendency to remain so. Since all portland cement is made under a standard government specification, competition and demand and supply are the prime factors in fixing prices in any individual locality. Cement mills must dispose of their output steadily in order to operate successfully. A slackening of demand on any section has a tendency to bring a cut in quotations by those concerns best able or most anxious to supply that territory. Their competitors then must meet such a cut or abandon that territory since price on a standard made product is the controlling influence with the buyer. A continuing demand for road work would, therefore, have a tendency toward keeping prices fairly level in most localities, since the drop in building construction has not been acute.

August usually marks the high mark of production in the cement industry and it is probably that over 14,500,000 barrels will be produced next month with the annual output for the year closely approaching, if not exceeding, the 137,377,000 barrels made in 1923 which was valued at \$207,000,000.

The continuation of highway and bridge construction with attendant consumption of cement, is indicated by estimates concerning the bridge over the Delaware River at Philadelphia which will be completed in 1926. When engineers first drew plans for the bridge, they figured the structure would take care of interstate vehicular traffic for many years to come. A recent survey of automobile traffic in that section however has shown that the bridge probably will not be able to accommodate the increasing traffic beyond 1925.

Another bridge or a tube under the Delaware already are being discussed.

and costly radio sets obtainable. Together with other evidence that he was a radio fan.

Since then detectives had watched and checked all sales of high priced radio sets. They knew O'Connor was still in San Francisco and that he would buy only the best set obtainable. Also, they figured that venturing from his hiding place would be regarded by him as too dangerous and that he probably would order his new radio by telephone.

In the month since Stanton's murder, McLaughlin and Bunner checked up on sales of \$7 high priced radio sets by phone. All \$7 clues failed to lead them to O'Connor. Big Bill, it seems, was repressing ardent desires to tune in on K. G. O., Fairmont Hotel, and other fine programs which are given here every afternoon and night.

Deprived of his radio, O'Connor in the meantime worked up a new bandit urge. Two weeks ago he slipped out of his hiding place with two confederates and pulled off a \$100,000 jewelry store robbery down town. Then he returned to his hiding place.

Early Monday afternoon McLaughlin and Bunner started out to run down the eighty eighth clue. It was a telephoned order for delivery of an \$800 radio set from a very respectable apartment house on Sixth street. Information which they obtained made them think they had a worth-while clue at last. This was confirmed an hour after the delivery of the radio, when they saw Big Bill on the roof of the apartment house arranging aerials. After that came his arrest, but not until more than a hundred shots had been exchanged and O'Connor had been wounded five times.

From his police guarded hospital bed, O'Connor with a desperate grin admits that his radio complex is almost as highly developed as his propensity for taking other people's money unlawfully.

"I overlooked a bet, though, when I phone for them to send up a set," he says. "I could probably have walked down town in broad daylight and got it myself without being pinched."

Among numerous Pacific coast banditries with which O'Connor is charged is the \$250,000 holdup of the Provident Bank and Loan Association of Los Angeles. Police say the evidence in this case is strong enough to send him to San Quentin prison for a long term of years. But maybe Big Bill's tenure there will not be so unhappy. For they have a radio in the San Quentin "Big House" now.

KLAN ORGANIZER IS ACQUITTED OF ASSAULT

Raleigh, July 10.—W. V. Guerard, former organizer of the Ku Klux Klan in North Carolina, was acquitted late yesterday of a charge of secret assault on Hayes Henry, a negro. The judge directed the verdict.

HERE IS YOUR CHANCE

We've just received another big lot of Palm Beach Suits, Straw and Panama Hats, from the factories at closing out prices.

These are of the best colors and make, as to Suits, and the newest shapes and colors as to Hats. And we can save you big money in the price of them both.

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Lure Of Radio Credited With Capture Desperado

Big Bill O'Connor, Notorious Robber Chieftain and Underworld Bad Man, Captured When Could Not Resist Temptation to Provide Himself With Expensive Radio Set

By L. C. OWEN
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San Francisco, Cal., July 10.—To the lure of the radio and his longing for its charms as he hid in solitary loneliness from a city wide police hunt today is being credited—and blamed—the spectacular capture here in a desperate gun battle of "Big Bill" O'Connor underworld bad man, robber chieftain of the notorious California "daylighters" and for the past two years scourge of a score of big city police departments both in the east and the west.

Credit is being given by police officers who, through his purchase of a high priced radio set, were able to trace O'Connor to his hiding place in an apartment house here. Blame is being voiced by Big Bill himself who as he lies desperately wounded under close police guard, profanely laments the fact that he ever permitted himself to become such an ardent radio fan.

O'Connor, who with members of his "daylighters" gang is wanted in almost every big city of the country, and who in the last year has pulled off more than a half million dollars worth of bank and jewelry store holdups in California alone, had been hiding in San Francisco for two months. The police knew he was here, but he was too elusive to be caught. That is, he was too wary until police detectives McLaughlin and Leo Bunner who are radio devotees themselves, found out that Big Bill was a rabid "tuner in" on the nightly wireless programs. A month ago, Jimmy Blanton, member of

O'Connor's "daylighters" was mysteriously bumped off in an exotically furnished apartment house here where he too was hiding out between jobs. Underworld gossip said he had been shot to death for double crossing members of his gang, and that Big Bill O'Connor did the bumping off.

Searching for Blanton's slayers, detectives Bunner and McLaughlin came upon another apartment just across the street from the scene of Blanton's murder that had been occupied by Big Bill. O'Connor was not there however. He had fled just a few minutes before the detectives arrived. Behind him however, he had left one of the most complete

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McCABE & GRICE HAVE PURCHASED THE BRADFORD BUILDING, THEIR HOME FOR 24 YEARS. AND NOW THE FUN HAS JUST BEGUN. THIS STOCK OF MERCHANDISE MUST BE UNLOADED. THERE WILL BE DRASTIC CUTS ON ALL MERCHANDISE. THIS STORE HAS TO BE PAID FOR AND FOR THE NEXT SIX WEEKS WE WILL THROW OUT MERCHANDISE AT BELOW MANUFACTURERS' COST. BELOW YOU WILL FIND A FEW ITEMS ON SALE. THESE ITEMS ARE ONLY A FEW WE CAN MENTION. REMEMBER EVERY SINGLE ARTICLE OF THE ENTIRE STOCK MUST BE SOLD.

- 5 bales of 56 x 60 LL Unbleached Cotton, sale price, per yd. 11c
- 2,000 yards of Hill Bleached Cottons, sale price, yard 18c
- 36 inch Indian Head, linen finish, sale price, per yard 25c
- 9 x 1 Pepperell Unbleached and Bleached Sheeting, unmatched, per yard 18c
- 20 dozen Pepperell Bleached Sheets, 9 x 4 size, each \$1.39
- Lonsdale Cambric, during this great sale, at per yard 25c
- 20-inch Mercerized Napkins, during the sale, each 12 1/2c
- 2,000 yards, 32-inch Ginghams, the 25c grade, sale price 15c
- 10 pieces of 72-inch Table Damask, the \$1 grade, per yard 89c
- Extra large size Turkish Towels, the 30c grade, sale price 20c
- Dimity Bed Spreads, size 63 x 90, sale price, each \$1.79
- Dimity Bed Spreads, size 72 x 90, sale price, each \$1.89
- Dimity Bed Spreads, size, 81 x 90, sale price, each \$2.19
- Dimity, valued at from 30c to 35c, sale price, yard 20c
- 36-inch Pure Linen shrunk from 45 inches, \$1 grade, sale 75c
- Gotham Gold Stripe Stockings, all shades including black and white 81.69
- 50 dozen Ladies' Hose, the 50c grade, sale price, per pair 39c
- 100 dozen pure Silk Stockings, the \$1.50 grade, sale price, pr. 98c
- 30 dozen lace stripe Silk Hose, the \$1 grade, sale price, pr. 59c
- 10 pieces of Tub Silk, guaranteed fast color, \$1.25 grade 75c
- 100 yards pure Silk Summer Ripple, the \$2.25 grade, sale \$1.39
- 500 yards Crepe de Chine, all shades, the \$1.50 grade 98c
- 2 pieces Satin Back Crepe, black and navy, \$1 grade, sale \$2.25
- Men's Pure Silk, Interwoven Hose, sale price, per pair 62c
- 100 dozen Men's black Half Hose, sale price, per pair 8c
- Men's \$3.50 genuine Broadcloth Shirts, with or without collars, sale price \$1.98
- 300 Ladies' Dresses, the entire stock will be closed out at less than cost.
- Just 12 Linen Dresses left. Yours during sale at, each \$3.75
- 699 Men's Suits made by Schloss Bros, J. J. Schoeneman, Heller, Henman and Thompson. These suits will be sacrificed. All re-marked.
- 1,700 Pairs of Shoes must be sold. We have put the knife in these. It will pay you to buy your next Winter's shoes and save from 33 1-3 to 50 per cent.
- 400 pairs WOS Bed Room Slippers, sale price, per pair 79c

This is no ordinary sale. We are compelled to move this stock. We must pay for this building in August. You will find merchandise from this stock lower than the wholesale market.

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