

MODERN SKYSCRAPERS

Cities Under a Single Roof which are Marvels.

EVERYTHING IS PROVIDED

You Need Leave Only to Sleep—All Other Necessities of Life to be had in the Office Building—One of them With a Population of 15,000 Persons.

Tenants of the newer office buildings in New York City have comforts and conveniences under their roofs that in a smaller place it would be necessary to go over the entire town to get. Everything virtually but sleeping quarters is provided, even to gymnasiums and musical entertainments. The latter may be enjoyed from the top of some lofty structure while the patron is eating an excellent meal and gazing over the picturesque harbor of the greatest city in the world.

A business man needn't be annoyed if late in the afternoon he hears from friends visiting the city and needs it necessary to entertain them on short notice. Of course, he is not dressed for the occasion, but that is a matter easily attended to. First of all, he steps into the elevator to the ticket office in the building and secures tickets for a theatre. Then he steps into the tailor shop.

If he hasn't taken the precaution to leave his evening clothes in one of the lockers there he is able to have his business suit pressed while he waits, or in a place he may rent some after dark wearing apparel. If his linen is a trifle soiled, it takes but a minute to step into the haberdasher's on the same floor and replace it.

After a session with the barber and the manure attendant has a bath ready for him at the proper temperature. While he is having his hair trimmed a long distance telephone call comes in from Chicago.

He has informed his office assistants of his whereabouts and the operator switches the connection to the barber shop. A portable telephone is brought to the business man, and without leaving his chair or even interfering with the barber he carries on a conversation over the wire.

That reminds him that it is not a bad idea to save time by having his friends meet him at dinner in the building. After calling up the caterer—upon the roof or wherever the restaurant happens to be, for maybe it's one of the rathskeller kind—to reserve a table he wiggles the receiver hook, gets central again and notifies his friends uptown of the arrangement.

He's able to dictate a letter or two over the telephone to his stenographer while having his shoes polished, and after ordering some flowers and candy for the women of the party at the florist's outside the barber shop to be delivered at the restaurant later he goes back to his office after an absence of less than an hour, during which he has lost little if any time from business.

The friends arrive just as the business man is signing his letters. They have come by the elevated railroad which has a special entrance into the building, and they will leave later through a tunnel from the bottom of the elevator shaft into a nearby subway station.

But before they start for the theatre several hours may be comfortably spent at dinner in the building, made more enjoyable by a good orchestra.

One of the large Broadway buildings besides sheltering a theatre also boasts of the following luxuries that tenants there may have under one roof: a physical culture school, a fencing academy, tailor, dyer and cleanser, massage establishment, billiard and pool rooms, bowling alleys, restaurant, saloon, shoe shining stand, tobacco store, jewelry shop, where the bulky time piece may be looked after; telegraph and cable office, booths, barber shop, dentist doctor, and for the comfort of the women a hairdresser's and a millinery establishment.

Several buildings which are used largely by lawyers and engineers contain splendidly equipped libraries, while in others in the financial district, there are branches of banks, or the main establishment, so that customers who have large deposits to make regularly are assured of increased safety by moving into these quarters.

One of the new buildings not far from the automobile belt up in the Forties has added a well adapted garage. This is a feature that is bound to come to many other buildings. And so one comfort innovation follows another. It is not beyond possibility that the time is not far hence when a man may sleep, carry on his vocation and live in the same building.

The modern skyscraper is coming to be a complete community in itself, and a mighty big one when measured by the standard of towns elsewhere, especially in the case of the new structure that is to house some fifteen thousand workers in its five thousand or so offices.

A web two and a quarter miles long has been drawn from the body of a single spider.

TIMBER AS A FARM CROP.

Profitable Use for Soil Not Suitable for Farming.

In every state of the Union there are many tracts of so-called agricultural land, which, owing to their hilly character, poor soil, or numerous boulders, are not suitable for farming. The owners of such tracts are often at a loss to know what to do with them.

Without question, the best use to which land of this kind can be put is to plant it with trees. One of the fundamental principles of forest economics is, that soil which is not good enough to make the growing of cereal crops profitable should be devoted to the production of wood crops. This does not mean that trees grow better on poor soil than on fertile soil. But, in proportion to the money invested, better returns are secured from trees planted on the less valuable land.

Most of the cone bearing trees and many hardwoods as well will thrive in soil of medium fertility. All trees, however, do not thrive on poor, sandy ridges or on hillsides where the soil is thin. Black walnut, hardy catalpa and white oak, for their best development, require a deep, fertile soil, well watered and well drained, and it is not advisable to plant them where these requirements are not met.

An Ohio farmer is solving the problem of what to do with the worn-out farm. He owns an old homestead of sixty acres, which he is desirous of keeping in the family. He does not live on the place, however, and farming has been a losing proposition. He has, therefore, decided to plant the entire tract with trees. He has already planted 35,000 Norway spruce, set three and one-half feet apart each way on an area of about eleven acres. These trees will be cut as they become large enough for Christmas trees.

Chestnut seedlings will also be planted in the spaces left by the removal of the spruce, and it is expected they will begin to come in bearing when the last spruce is out. In addition to the spruce, hardy catalpa, black locust, elm, basswood and sycamore have been planted. It is planned to put the entire sixty acres in forest within the next five or six years. The owner is wise in planting several kinds of trees instead of confining himself to one species. His forest will be producing six or seven kinds of lumber, chestnut and Christmas trees at the same time.

SELLING SHOES IN BRITAIN.

American Salesman Tells of the Multiple Stores System.

The method selling shoes in Great Britain has been improved to such an extent within recent years that they are just a little bit ahead of us now," said the foreign representative of one of the largest shoe manufacturers in this country. "The shoe business there is a good deal like the cigar business here, and the benefits to the public are many.

"The big English shoe stores are called multiple shops, and are managed from a central depot, which is always located in a great shoe manufacturing town, such as Leicester, because the head of the multiple store wants to be in close touch with the manufacturer. An order from the multiple is naturally large, and the head of it, who always has cash to settle his order in full, is often able to squeeze the manufacturer below the cost price.

"Sometimes the manufacturer falls for that reason, but the only one to suffer is the leather man. The multiple store man has made a good bargain, the people buy their shoes cheaper and they are not inclined to waste any sympathy on the manufacturer or the tanner.

"The stores are well managed, but from an American point of view the managers are poorly paid. These stores have worked wonders with the British style of dressing shoe store windows.

"Not long ago it was common to see the old brass rods with men's and women's shoes placed side by side soldier fashion, each bearing a plain ticket. To-day the shoe shop windows rank with the millinery stores in the matter of displays.

It is interesting to note also that in spite of British conservatism American styles are now being widely imitated. At a recent gathering of shoe men in London a man who is at the head of one of the biggest shoe distributing concerns openly said that America now led the fashion in shoes as France does in millinery. At present the modified form of the bulldog toe is worn by all young bloods, and the newest season's samples all appear to have been made on lasts copied from American models.

"I am not surprised at the success of the multiple shoe stores in Britain. Before they went into business the average shoe store was a dark, dismal, evil smelling hole, and the storekeeper was in keeping with his business. The quantity of stock was insufficient for the customer's demands and the smart fittings of today for the various sizes of shoes was unknown.

"That is all changed now, and although many a small retailer has been squeezed out of business it has improved the trade, and now there is intense competition between the big concerns themselves."

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