

DUTY OF DIRECTORS In the Management of Corporations Not Clearly Understood. THEY HAVE BUT LITTLE TO SAY. The Parade of Their Names Merely a Piece of Arant Humbug. INTENDED TO DELUDE THE IGNORANT.

For many years trust companies have enjoyed a continuance of such prosperity that the only concern of capitalists has been to judge of their relative merits. The quotations of the stocks of some of them have soared aloft into the region of four figures, and the very poorest of them have been considerably above par. That one among them should make less money than the others should make more, and even go into bankruptcy, was something not expected.

As usual, too, when an unforeseen calamity occurs, those who suffer by it begin looking for somebody to blame. That is not surprising, for the stockholders of the American Loan and Trust Company should feel sore over the ruin of the company and the disappearance of the capital they had invested in it. Losing money is never pleasant, and it is particularly unpleasant when it happens unexpectedly, and in a place where it was supposed to be profitable.

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FOURTY STORIES HIGH. No Reason Why Buildings Cannot Be Built Up in the Air. FOUNDATIONS ARE THE DIFFICULTY. But the Problem Has Been Solved and Put Into Practice. BY STRUCTURES GOING UP IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, July 26.—There is nothing impracticable in the erection of buildings 30 to 40 stories in height. Such is the conclusion reached by Mr. Dankman Adler, one of the firm of architects by whom the Auditorium was built, after a study of the subject covering many years. Mr. Adler has been writing a series of very instructive articles on this subject in a weekly publication in this city which have been read with very great interest.

The tendency to high building has been nowhere so marked as in the business center of Chicago, and if it can be established that it is safe and practicable to go higher than 20 stories, nothing is more certain that capital can be found to embark in such an enterprise. And if buildings of that height can be built and operated successfully in Chicago, the world is sure to follow in her footsteps sooner or later.

In this city the greatest difficulty with which architects have had to contend has been to get a suitable foundation. As everybody knows, the city is built upon a series of prairie swamps, and until you reach a stratum of blue clay, at a distance of perhaps fifty feet below the surface, the soil is soft and mushy, and very unreliable for building purposes. It has been assumed all along that about 3,000 pounds per square foot was all the weight that could be put on a given area. If the weight were greater, the building, it was thought, would be liable to settle so far and so unevenly as to make it unsafe.

Public buildings which settled. This theory seemed to find strong confirmation in our experience with the Custom House and the county building, both massive stone structures four stories in height, which have settled so much and so unevenly that each is in a measure unsafe. The former, especially, is in a very unsatisfactory condition. Every one who has seen the breaking of a column or a pillar or the bulging out of a wall gives its inmates a feeling of uneasiness. Under the Government building is a massive foundation of cement blocks, which form a single slab covering the entire surface upon which the building stands. And under the county building is a foundation of piling.

Both proved unsatisfactory; the varying weights resting upon different parts of the monolithic foundation of the Government building caused the bed of cement to crack and break into pieces. In the county building the piling did not prevent similar uneven settlements of the various parts of the building, though the results have not been so bad as in the former case.

In the light of these two experiments the use of piling alone and the use of cement blocks for the foundation of buildings are both out of the question. The cement and steel foundations which have become so marked a feature of Chicago's architecture, were adopted in their place. These consist in most instances of a bed of square timbers, usually oak, upon which is laid a bed of cement—usually imported Portland cement—and upon this is laid courses of steel rails or steel beams, the spaces between being filled in with cement, and upon these are placed a number of steel columns by which the main part of the weight of the building is supported.

SOME FOUNDATIONS THAT STAND. In this way has been built the foundations of the 13-story Tacoma building, the 14-story Oving's building, the 13-story Women's Temple, the 16-story Monodnock building and the Masonic building. It is to have 19 stories in all. In each instance the utmost care was taken to have the foundations and the supporting columns so arranged as not to exceed the safety limit of pressure per square foot of surface, and, perhaps, in every one of the instances named, the architects would have gone higher into the clouds had their clients, Mr. Adler, in this series of papers, has come to the conclusion that, in discarding the pile driver, the Chicago architects, himself, had made a great mistake. He found that in the case of the great grain elevators, pile-driven foundations had proved capable of sustaining constantly varying weights without any appreciable settling, even where the pressure per square foot of surface was greatly in excess of 3,000 pounds.

WHEN THE ENERGIES FLAG. Use Smith's Aromatic Phosphate. Dr. T. C. Smith, Charlotte, N. C. says: "It is an invaluable nerve tonic, a delightful beverage and one of the best restoratives when the energies flag and the spirits droop."

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