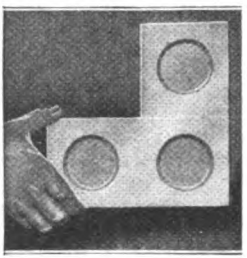
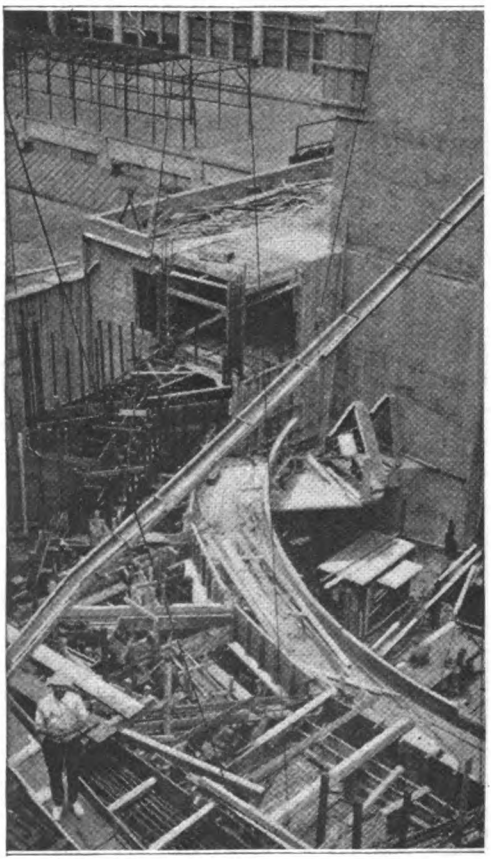
STRONGER WALLS POSSIBLE WITH IMPROVED BRICK

More substantial walls may be constructed with a new type of brick, patented not so long ago by a retired contractor of the Southwest, and known as self-bonding and interlocking, the inventor states. On one side of each brick are two circular, bevel-edged bosses, while on the reverse side, in the same relative positions, are two depressions, into which the bosses fit exactly. The brick is recommended for domes or arches, chimneys, and hollow walls.



GOVERNMENT-BUILT VESSELS SOLD BY SHIPPING BOARD

Ships constructed by the government to counterbalance submarine sinkings during the war are being sold by the Shipping Board to private operators. At a recent sale, seven American concerns purchased 19 steel vessels having an aggregate dead-weight tonnage of 128,472. A total of $27,821,120 was paid for the ships, which ranged in weight from 5,350 to 9,600 tons each. Prices paid per ton were from $210 to $225. Six ships were bought by one company, four by another, and two each by four concerns. One buyer took a single ship. All of the vessels will fly the flag of the United States. The Shipping Board has disposed of 332,045 dead-weight tons of ships for a total of $51,856,620 since the armistice was signed.

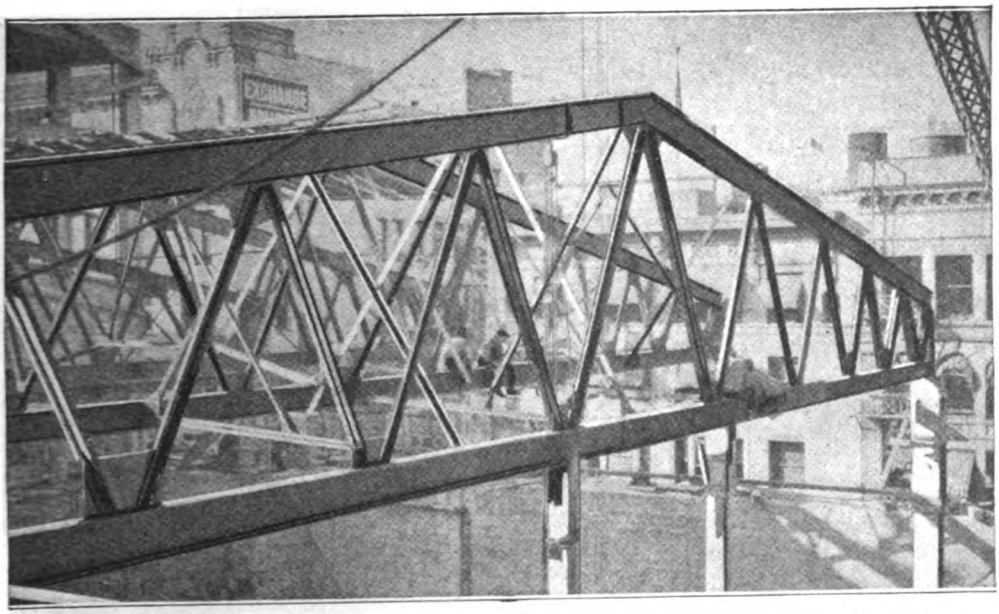


This Picture Shows One of the Concrete Chutes Used to Fill a Mammoth Arch Form in Constructing a Los Angeles Theater Building

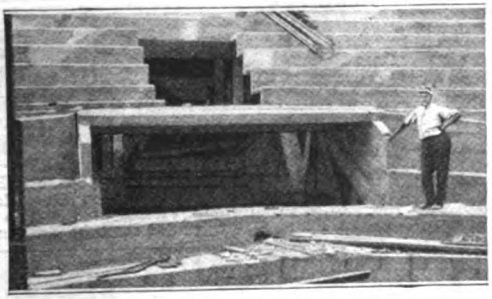
MAMMOTH CONCRETE ARCH IN COSTLY THEATER

Notable not only as one of the most beautiful and expensive structures of its kind in this country, but as one in which for the first time a concrete arch, such as is used in bridge construction, supports the balcony of a theater, a 12-story office and theater building recently was completed in Los Angeles, Calif., at a cost of $1,000,000. There are no posts in the theater because of the arch, for which concrete was used when it was found impossible to obtain steel. The weight of the span is 9,000,000 lb. It is 12 ft. wide and 110 ft. long, and contains 180 steel rods. In pouring concrete into the forms for the arch, chutes made of steel concrete floor forms, overlapping in clapboard fashion, were used. This form of chute is said to be original with the Los Angeles builders. Extremely elaborate are the decorations of the theater, both interior and exterior. Carved wood is conspicuous in the interior decoration scheme. Another feature is the projection room, in which are placed the moving-picture machines and spotlights. This is built of concrete, and placed so as not to obstruct the view of any person sitting back of it. Steel and asbestos doors to this room lessen the fire danger. Steel was used in the construction of the office building.

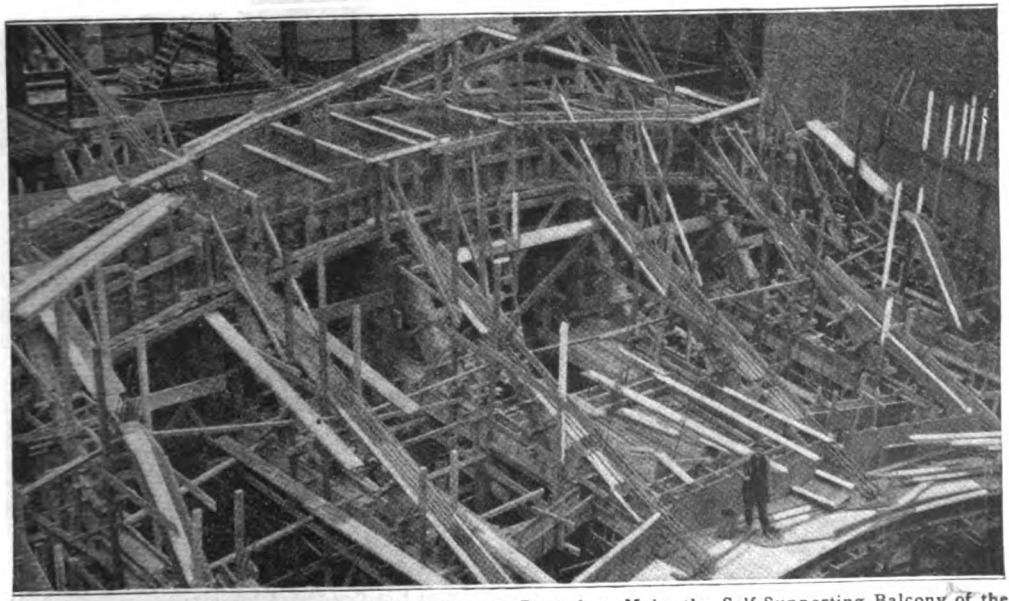
One of the features of the theater is a great jeweled dome, so placed in the ceiling as to appear to be suspended in



How the Roof of the Million-Dollar Theater was Erected: The Lower Girder of This Steel Roof Member Is 108 Feet Long. Cut in Half, It was Laid on Three Half-Inch Steel Cables, Strung between Concrete Pillars, and Then Joined into a Solid Piece. Afterwards the Upper Parts of the Support were Fastened on Top of the Girder, Making a Construction Strong Enough to Hold the Roof

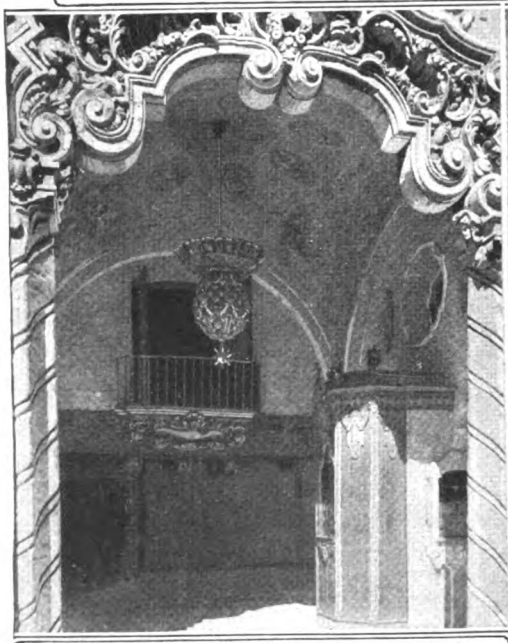


To the Left Is Shown the Fireproof Projecting Room, Built in the Concrete Arch Which Forms the Theater Balcony. Steel and Asbestos Doors Protect the Audience from Fires or Explosions in This Room. It is Placed So That It does Not Obstruct the View of Those Sitting behind It. The Room is Ventilated by a Flue, Which Also Serves to Carry Away the Fumes Which Result from Heating the Film in the Projecting Machine

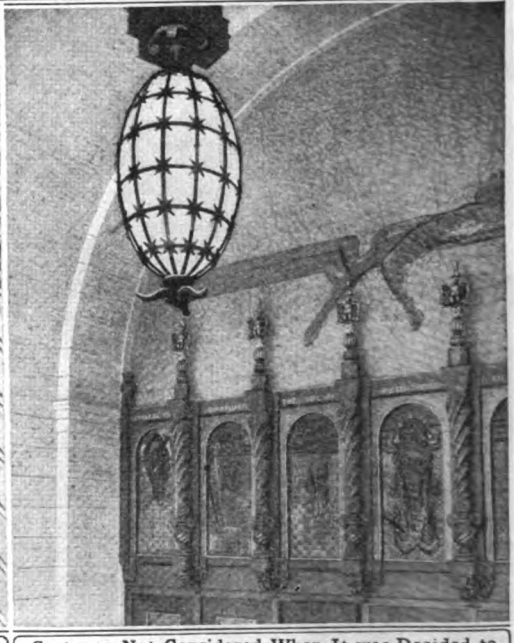


Form into Which 1,620,000 Pounds of Concrete was Poured to Make the Self-Supporting Balcony of the Los Angeles Theater: An Idea of the Amount of Steel Used for Reinforcing the Great Arch can be Obtained by Studying the Interior of the Form. Completed, the Balcony Weighed 9,000,000 Pounds. So Far As is Known, This Is The First Use of a Reinforced-Concrete Arch of Such Size in Building Construction

Interior of Los Angeles' Million-Dollar Theater as Seen from the Stage: There Are No Pillars under the Balcony to Obstruct the View of Persons Seated on the Main Floor. In the Center of the Picture may be Seen the Projecting Room. Visible at the Top Is the Gorgeous Jeweled Dome, Which Appears to Those Sitting under It to be Suspended in the Air

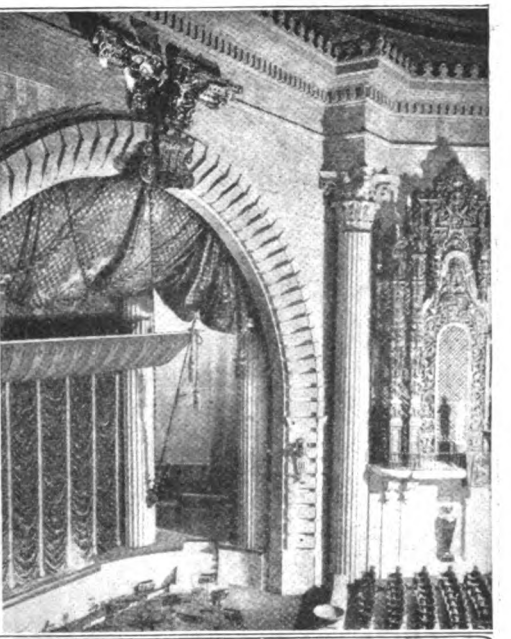


A Look into the Lobby: Probably the Decorations in This Western Playhouse Are More Elaborate Than Anything of the Kind Ever Before Attempted. The Chandelier Shown Here Is of Carved Wood



Cost was Not Considered When It was Decided to Make This Theater a Place of Beauty. The Elaborate Carved-Wood Decorations Seen Here Adorn the Wall over the Doors in the Lobby

One of the Costliest Theater Entrances Ever Built, Photographed in Los Angeles a Few Days Before the New Playhouse was Opened to the Public: Dozens of Artists Labored for Two Years to Produce This Result

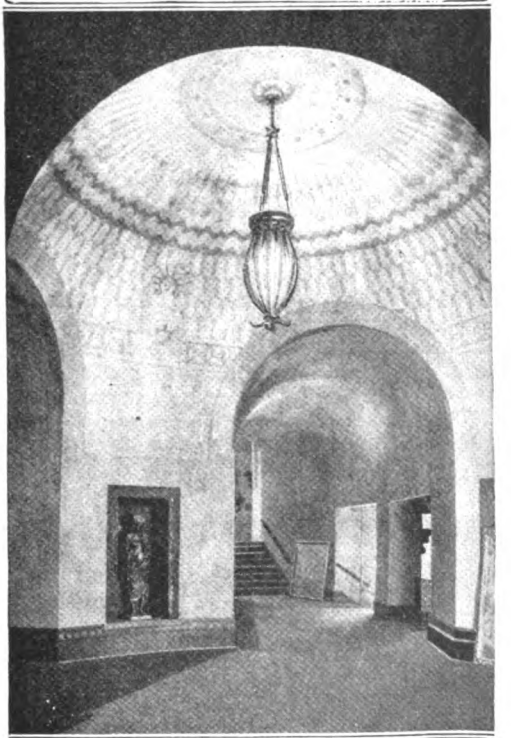


The Artistic Stage: A Noteworthy Feature of This Beautiful Theater Is the Draped Curtain Which Covers the Moving-Picture Screen. The Housing of the Pipe Organ at the Right Represents an Enormous Amount of Labor and Money

the air. Hidden lights, playing on the dome, produce a gorgeous effect. Due to the careful planning of the architects, the acoustics are nearly perfect.

AIR SERVICE ASKS INVENTORS FOR HELP WITH ITS PROBLEMS

The attention of American inventors is called by the Air Service to a number of problems which have long been studied without satisfactory solution. The service is anxious, first, to learn of a gasoline tank which will withstand a volley of fifteen .30-caliber shots fired from 30 yd., tracer, incendiary, service, and armor-piercing bullets being used. Fire must not occur in 10 consecutive tests. A better portable hangar is wanted for field service, also; preferably a large one that will not blow down nor permit water to accumulate in pools. A single engine-driven generator and battery is wanted to furnish power for radio, heating, and lighting; and for the starter, the ignition, and the motor-driven camera. The idea here is to effect a saving in weight, and to do away with the parasitic resistance of the various wind-driven generators now in use. A cranking device, to be mounted on an auto truck for use about an aerodrome, is another invention wanted.



Even in the Halls Leading to the Upper Balconies the Designers of the Theater Spared Nothing to Obtain Unusual and Harmonious Effects. An Example of What was Accomplished is Shown Above

Popular Mechanics features will appear in moving pictures issued by Paramount Magazine