

**HIGHWAY BUILDING
PLANS ARE BEING
ALTERED BY BOARD**

**EARTHQUAKE RESISTIVE
DESIGNS WILL BE
PROVIDED**

Montana's new highway commission building, construction of which with gasoline tax money was this week authorized by the state supreme court, will be built along earthquake resistive lines despite the fact that it means the preparation of a complete new set of plans, it was said yesterday by D. A. McKinnon, state highway engineer.

When the highway department contemplated the construction of a building and planned to apply with the PWA for a grant to aid in the project, plans were drawn. Soon after their completion Helena was visited with earthquakes and subsequently an injunction suit was filed with the supreme court in an attempt to enjoin the commission from erecting the building.

Plans Revamped

Plans as drawn remained unchanged until the supreme court Wednesday upheld the highway commission and authorized construction of the building. State Engineer McKinnon said yesterday that the plans now are being altered so that the \$138,000 building will be earthquake resistive.

The chief engineer said that the project would be pushed as rapidly as possible and that it would be under cover by January, when the regular session of the legislature convenes. With the senate chambers now being utilized by various divisions of the department, it will be necessary for the new building to be ready for partial occupancy by that time.

When the separate highway building is completed it will house all of the Helena organization, including the following divisions: administrative, maintenance, construction, plans, bridge and planning survey. The testing laboratory will remain in the basement of the statehouse.

Although the location of the site is undecided, original plans called for its construction immediately east of the state board of health building.

Highway Building To Be Earthquake Resistant

Clipped By:



seabix1

Sun, Jun 13, 2021