

NEW RULES HELP HERE.

*Will Aid Us to Meet Housing Crisis and
Start Big Public Works.*

The imperative need for an immediate resumption of building in Los Angeles to meet the rapidly approaching housing crisis has been carried to the War Industries Board in Washington and there is prospect of early relief.

A telegram was received yesterday by R. W. Pridham, chairman of the Los Angeles division of the State Council of Defense, from the War Industries Board, announcing modifications of recent rulings as to building and other construction work. Representatives of all State Councils of defense were present at the Washington meeting, which was attended also by Secretary of the Interior Lane, Bernard Baruch of the War Industries Board, and Chairman Hurley of the Shipping Board.

An important feature of the modified regulations, as affecting Los Angeles, is a removal of the restrictions on the "construction, maintenance, improvement or development by Federal, State or municipal authorities of highways, roads, boulevards, bridges, streets and playgrounds." This section, it is thought, may easily let in the Second-street tunnel here, which project was halted by the Federal Capital Issues Committee.

Another section authorizes the construction of new buildings involving in the aggregate a cost of not more than \$10,000. This will tend to solve the housing problem at the harbor and will also permit the construction of a large number of small apartment-houses and other dwellings hitherto forbidden.

This relief may be granted Los Angeles in advance of some other cities it is stated, because of the unusual local conditions here. There has been little home building for several years, and the available supply of moderate-priced dwellings is being exhausted. Rents are going up, and home seekers are coming in, and unless a large number of houses are constructed very soon a premium will be placed upon accommodations which will almost have the affect of an embargo.

The first effect of the modified order will probably be to permit the resumption of proposed buildings which were in early stages of construction at the time the ban was placed. W. H. Harrison of the Los Angeles Investment Company says that there are both labor and supplies enough available to warrant an immediate resumption of the smaller and greatly needed home building.