

California Stone Monument & Building Industry circa November 1906

“The West Coast”

From *Rock Products: Stone Edition*, December 5, 1906, Vol. VI, No. 1, pp. 19

This article, which begins on the next page, is presented on the
Stone Quarries and Beyond web site in the California state section.

<http://quarriesandbeyond.org/>

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May 2011

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“San Francisco, Cal., November 22, - Building construction has increased at a rapid rate during the past month with continued fine weather. The building permits issued during the first half of November showed an increase over any previous month. The total for the first fifteen days of the month was 274 permits for buildings ranging above \$1,000.00 in cost, authorizing construction to the amount of \$3,418,000.00. Of the total value of the improvements authorized, about two-thirds was for brick, steel, stone and concrete construction. The permits issued for permanent buildings during the month of October, numbered 628 and total cost was placed at \$5,365,000.00; the increase of 103 permits and \$1,103,000.00 over the preceding month's record for the same class of structures.

“Sufficient building stone is being quarried in California for the needs of the near future and if the building boom next summer develops vast proportions some of the quarries, such as the one from which Colusa sandstone comes, can increase their output greatly as they are practically inexhaustible. There are many quarries in Oregon and Washington that can be drawn upon in an emergency. In British Columbia there are quarries of fine stone from which the material was supplied for the erection of some of the older buildings in this city.

“Work is to be commenced soon on the construction of the new army supply depot in San Francisco harbor at Fort Mason near foot of Van Ness avenue. It is proposed to spend \$1,500,000.00 in the construction of wharves, docks, warehouses, officers' quarters, etc. Rankin, Kellogg & Crane, of Philadelphia, have secured the general contract. Capt. F. B. Cheatham, U.S.A., has arrived from the East to assume the general supervision of the new work for the government. The Southern Pacific has surveyed an extension of its tracks into the military reservation for the purpose of delivering the materials needed for the work.

“The cost of repairing the 18 story Claus Spreckels building at the corner of Third and Market streets, is estimated by Reid Bros. architects, at \$200,000.00. Nine contracts have been closed for the work of repairing the fire damage. Kyune sandstone, quarried near Ukiah, Cal., will be furnished by the McPhee Stone Co. for replacing the damaged portions of the walls. The original material was brought from a quarry in Oregon which is not in operation. The stone from Ukiah has about the same color and texture.

“The walls of the great Parrott building, which was occupied by the Emporium department store at the time of the fire, are to be torn down at once and a new steel frame building erected on the site at a cost of \$1,000,000.00. The principal features of the old structure will be reproduced and there will also be an arcade with an approach from Market street.

“Wells Fargo & Co.'s six story steel frame and stone building at the corner of Second and Mission streets is to be repaired and two stories will be added. The plans are by Meyers and Ward. Gray Bros. have taken the contract to complete the work in seven months. The debris resulting from the fires has been removed from the interior and the work of reconstruction will

be rushed. The stone walls and the steel frame do not show much damage. The cost of the improvements is estimated at \$250,000.00.

“Final arrangements for rehabilitating the Mills building are being made by J. M. Robinson of New York, who has superintended the construction of all of the buildings erected for D. O. Mills in New York. He recently arrived in San Francisco accompanied by five Eastern contractors who will submit figures on the stone, steel and other work necessary to restore the ten story marble and brick structure. It is probable that at least two-thirds of the material composing the walls will have to be removed. The expense of making the building as good as new will probably reach \$1,000,000.00. The walls of the first two stories are of marble which was badly spalled by the fire.

“A fund of \$100,000.00 has been pledged by the American Jewish Committee in New York to assist in rebuilding the Jewish synagogues and educational buildings wrecked by the earthquake and fire in San Francisco.

“Plans are to be prepared for a new stone building on the campus of University of California at Berkeley. The sum of \$100,000.00 has been donated by Mrs. Boalt for the erection of this structure for the use of the law department as a memorial to her husband, the late Judge Boalt, of San Francisco. The Hall of Law, as it is to be known, will be erected south of California Hall and on the same terrace with it.

“The Trans-Atlantic Insurance Co. listed here as among the ‘welchers,’ has taken a new tack in defending itself against paying claims growing out of the San Francisco fire of April 18. This is shown in its answer to the suit of M. J. Hawley, assignee of the Vermont Marble Co.’s San Francisco house, for \$2,500.00. This concern carried about \$100,000.00 insurance with a number of companies. The Trans-Atlantic claims that its insurance form make it liable for the value of the buildings at the moment that the fire commenced, and that the earthquake had made the buildings worthless before the fire started. It also seeks to evade payment by alleging that fire in the neighborhood had greatly increased the risk, one of the terms of the policy voiding it if the fire risk is increased within the knowledge of the owner.

“The Lutz Marble Co., of Los Angeles, Cal., has taken the contract for furnishing \$3,000.00 worth of marble for the new Bixby Hotel at Long Beach, Cal. B. B. Collons secured the contract for the mosaic flooring for \$3,150.00.

“The Long Beach Asbestos Mining Co., which owns a mine of material seventy miles from Sacramento, will establish a plant at Long Beach, Cal., to manufacture the finished product. A site has been selected at West Long Beach on the Wilmington Boulevard for a factory costing \$12,000.00.

“President Perrine, of the Colton Marble Co., of Colton, Cal., has visited the marble deposits located by H. L. Hewetson twelve miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. A force of men has commenced developing the quarry.

“Al. McRae, A. C. Edson, D. J. White and E. Moore, residents of San Bernardino, Cal., are said to have discovered a large deposit of pure white marble of great value on the desert slope of Old Baldy, near San Bernardino. Negotiations are under way for the sale of a controlling interest to Los Angeles capitalists. A fine grade of cement rock is also reported as existing.

“Jellison Bros., of Boise, Idaho, who own large marble beds on the Snake river near Huntington, contemplate developing these deposits soon. A modern quarrying plant will be installed. Machinery is to be operated by electric power generated by water from Rock Creek.

W. E. Lindsay, of Carson, Nevada, is said to have located a large deposit of black and gold marble near Mina, Nevada.”