

California Marble Monument & Building Industry circa March 1910

“West Coast Marble News”

From *American Stone Trade*, April 5, 1910, Vol. IX, No. 9, pp. 23

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., March 20. – The Vermont Marble Company is now getting in a large quantity of material for the interior of the Pacific Union Club, and expects to be busy on this job for several months. In addition to this the local works are getting considerable small work. The company is giving much of its attention to the marketing of its Alaska marble on the coast, and Mr. Hawley, the San Francisco manager, looks for a heavy business in this line during the spring and summer. A good deal of it is now being used for small jobs around the city. The company is actively at work on the further development of the Alaska quarries and is installing a number of small channeling machines, derricks, etc., there, as well as a 300-foot dock and large derrick at Takeen, the shipping point. This work has been under way for several weeks, and in a short time the quarry will be able to resume shipment on a large scale. Mr. Hawley says the monument business might be better, but is very good as it is. Frank Hurlburt, of the company’s branch here, is suffering from a slight illness this week.

“Notwithstanding the invasion of Alaska marble and the competition of Italian, California marble is coming ahead quite strongly, and the local quarrymen look for a very satisfactory season. Different varieties of the local marbles have been ordered for several of the smaller jobs now under way, and are specified for several others, on which contracts are to be let within the next month.

“D. F. Baxter, of the Baxter Marble Quarry, is greatly encouraged over the increasing demand for the fancy varieties which he is now getting out. A lot of this material was set about a year ago on the exterior of a building on Market street near Sixth, and according to the architects has stood the exposure better than any similar material on the market. He has taken several good contracts lately one being for a large Market street building, and is starting to ship considerable material from the quarry. Good progress is reported in the development of the quarry.

“The Columbia Marble Company is well satisfied with the development of business on its new fancy lines, ‘Portola’ and ‘Skyros’ marble. Quite a lot of these varieties have been ordered for use in the floors and panels of the Wells-Fargo Nevada Bank in this city, and the University Hotel at Berkeley, California. Several other inquiries have been received.

“The Joseph Musto Sons-Keenan Company have taken the entire contract for setting the marble in the interior of the Wells-Fargo Nevada Bank, which will be finished in verd antique and Blanco P., and select statuary marble. They also have the contract for the interior marble work of the Union Trust Company’s building. The interior will have a white effect, using choice Italian statuary marble with verd antique bases. The company has just executed some beautiful Mexican onyx pedestals to be shipped to one of the northern cities, where they will be used in the exterior of a building. The company is still working on the interior of the postoffice at Eureka, California. Guido J. Musto, secretary and treasurer of this company, will leave in a few days for the East. He will visit New York, Vermont, Georgia and Tennessee, to arrange for the purchase of marble stock for the year’s requirements.

“The American Marble and Mosaic Company has taken the contract for interior marble work in the San Francisco Savings Union building at Grant avenue and O’Farrell street, the job amounting to about \$50,000. The material will be fancy Italian marbles, which are being imported by the Western Marble Supply Company.

“The new Pedrara Mexican Onyx Company, which has a large plant at San Diego, California, is now engaging in the general marble contracting business in the southern part of the State.

“The California Marble Company, which started business at Los Angeles a few months ago, has been making extensive additions to its plant.

“There is now some prospect of the large deposits of black and gold marble in Nevada being developed on a large scale in the near future. It is announced that George Wingfield, the Nevada financier and president of the Goldfield Consolidated Mining Company, has purchased the controlling interest in the Black and Gold Marble Company, of Luning, Nevada, and that arrangements are being made for the establishment of a large cutting and polishing plant at Reno. For inside work this Nevada material excels all other black and gold marbles known, and the supply is practically unlimited. If it can be taken out and placed on the market, there is no doubt that it will find considerable demand all over the country. Heretofore the inaccessibility of the deposits has prevented any effective development.”