The following list of articles are included in this document:

* Recutting Stones from an Old Building
  (excerpt from article) “…Twenty-one years ago a fine residence was erected by Charles H. Senss on the northwest corner of Madison Avenue and Forty-first Street. The building was designed by Carrere & Hastings and was of Indiana limestone. Recently the property was sold to the Fred F. French Company…who are erecting a large commercial building on the site....”
* “Previous Stones Inlaid in Marble” (at the Taj Mahal, at Agra)
* “Quarries Barred in City Limits When a Nuisance” (in Montana)
* “Skyscrapers Here and Elsewhere” (in London, England)
* “Building Activities in New York Cities”
* “Colossal Statue of Columbus in Marble” (in Buenos Aires, Argentina)
* “Activity in the Indiana Limestone Field”
* “A Cathedral Hall a Century in Building” (the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Colman at Queenstown, Ireland)
* “The Great Potash Deposits of Germany”
* “Good Limestone in Peru”
* “Will Develop Arkansas Marble Deposit”
* “Novel Garden Ornaments”
* “Sand from the Great Lakes”
* “The Road Building Problem” (the American Association of Engineers convention)

These articles, which begin on the next page, are presented on the Stone Quarries and Beyond web site.

http://quarriesandbeyond.org/

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We have no means of knowing when men first began to work stone, but we do know it was very shortly after the scattered, wandering tribes ceased to be nomadic and settled down to build themselves into nations. Indeed, there was a certain working of stone long before this, for in inmemorial ages past the rudest savages chipped flint pebbles into weapons and implements. What we term the Stone Age, with its two divisions of Paleolithic and Neolithic, has, properly speaking, no relation to chronology, but is merely descriptive of the stage of development of any people. Ingrained in every human creature are two closely related traits, one an insatiable curiosity as to the past of the race, and the other a desire to leave some imperishable record of his own existence for the ages to come. To gratify this latter whim, he naturally turned to the great imperishable tablets that Nature spread before him, the living rocks. Before written language was invented, the savage scratched on the walls of caverns rude representations of his battles with men and beasts. As his hand grew deft, he progressed from flat outlines to carvings in the round, and instead of contenting himself with caves for shelter, he built up walls of hewn stone. Entire races have perished from the earth and left no records save those that they cut in stone. We should know nothing of the prehistoric nations of Easter Island were it not for the monster heads they carved in volcanic lava. Pyramids, temples and monuments, covered with elaborate carving, still standing in good repair in the jungles of Mexico and Central America, tell of a strange civilization that flourished on our continent long before the coming of Columbus, but all the rest is dark. The greater part of the history of Egypt is written in carven stone, and has come down to us in no other form. It is true that one of the greatest gifts of Greece to humanity, epic poetry, was saved to us at first by oral tradition, but the other priceless heritage, Grecian art, would have perished utterly had not its media been the marbles of Pentelikon and Paros.

The civilization of the world today is due in large part to what mankind has been able to dig from the bowels of the earth. The various metals have made possible our material advancement, while two of the most important of the arts, sculpture and architecture, have depended almost wholly upon stone for their expression. For thousands of years, marble, granite, limestone and sandstone, have been hewn into form, cut with loving care, perhaps, in elaborate ornamentation, and laid up in humble houses or princely palaces, heathen fanes or christian churches, public memorials to conquering heroes or simple head-stones for the household dead. Because these things were wrought in imperishable stone, they have survived for the wondering admiration of succeeding ages.

It is the durability of stone, as well as its natural beauty, that has commended it as the choicest material for architecture. Stones cut hundreds and even thousands of years ago still stand as the master craftsmen laid them up, and time has but softened the outlines and mellowed the colors. Indeed, it has been the prac-

(photograph) “Block of stone from an old building being recut. Indiana limestone from a twenty-one-years-old residence dressed for use in a new commercial building.”
tice for untold generations when a building has out-
lived its usefulness to set the old stones in a new
structure. The Colosseum served as a veritable quarry
in the middle ages, and two-thirds of its vast walls
found place in the homes and palaces of Rome. Hun-
dreds upon hundreds of marble columns that played a
part in the worship of Venus or the feasts of Bacchus,
now adorn the Christian churches of Europe, and even
the houses of rich Americans.

The marvellous growth of this country and the
rapid shifting of population has made necessary an
amount of rebuilding entirely unknown in the old
world. Most of the buildings that give way to
modern improvements are of cheap and perishable ma-
terials that have long outgrown their usefulness and
are fit only to be scrapped. Occasionally, however,
a fine stone structure stands in the way of necessary
development. Always the most prodigal of people in
the squandering of our wealth of resources, we are
learning thrift. We have discovered that natural
stone, “durable as the eternal hills,” outlasts any
structure built by human hands, and can be used again
and again in buildings without deterioration, and each
time as fresh and beautiful as if it had just been
taken from the quarry.

There have been many instances in recent years of
the recutting and resetting in new buildings of stone
from older structures that have been torn down to
make room for more modern ones. One of the most
interesting cases is now to be recorded in this city.
Twenty-one years ago a fine residence was erected by
Charles H. Seuss on the northwest corner of Mad-
ison Avenue and Forty-first Street. The building was
designed by Carrere & Hastings and was of Indiana
limestone. Recently the property was sold to the Fred
F. French Company, architects and builders, who are
erecting a large commercial building on the site. There
is no stone that weathers more perfectly than Indiana
limestone, and that in the Seuss house is just as good
as the day it was set in the walls, twenty-one years
ago. It was determined, therefore, to use the old
stone in the new building, particularly desirable at this
time in view of the high costs of all building materials
and the transportation difficulties. Because of the
totally different character of the two buildings, the
stone has to be recut. We are giving herewith photo-
graphs of one of the large carved blocks from the old
house being worked over in a planer, and also of a
pile of the recut blocks. The stone, of course, looks
just as bright and fresh as when new. All of the stone
was cut for the original building by John Sinclair,
and is being recut by John R. Smith’s Son, Inc. There
could be no stronger tribute than this to the durability,
beauty and true economy of natural stone as a struc-
tural material.

Precious Stones Inlaid in Marble

The famous Taj Mahal, at Agra, is universally
acknowledged to be the most beautiful building in
the world. Erected by the Emperor Shah Jehan
as a mausoleum for his favorite wife, Mumtaz-i-Mahal, it was finished in 1632, says an exchange.
Twenty thousand men were employed for twenty-
two years in its construction. One of its most re-
markable features is the jewel-work with which the
structure is adorned. In what is known as the
“style of the Moguls”—though no other building of
their ever approached the Taj in this respect—it is inlaid with semi-precious stones. All the angles
and more important architectural details are thus
ornamented with agates, bloodstones, jaspers, etc.,
in wreaths, scrolls and frets.

Ornamentation of this kind is bestowed with special lavishness upon the tombs of the emperor
and his wife—the latter occupying a central posi-
tion beneath the great white marble dome, which is
eighty feet high and fifty-eight feet in diameter.
Inlaid in the marble, the gem-stones employed in
the manner described furnish the most exquisitely
beautiful adornment known to architecture.

Quarries Banned in City Limits When a Nuisance

The Montana Supreme Court has handed down a
decision that quarries may not be operated within
city limits or in residential sections when they are a
public nuisance. The decision was in a suit brought
by William F. Fagan against Joseph Silver, the plain-
tiff claiming that his home was rendered uninhabitable
by flying rocks and dust from a quarry and crushing
plant owned by the defendant. Silver appealed on the
grounds that the quarry was operated by an inde-
pendent contractor who was getting out stone for him.
The court holds on this point, that “An employer may
not divest himself of the primary duty he owes to
other members of the community by contracting with
others for the performance of work, the necessary or
probable result of which is injury to third persons.”

Skyscrapers Here and Elsewhere

The question is being hotly debated whether Lon-
don and other English cities should now, in the
interests of economical building, run to “sky-
scrappers” in the New York fashion. The latest
convert to the idea is Sir Martin Conway, whose
view it is that the East End of London should be
“flattened and then up-ended,” says a writer in the
Manchester “Guardian.” His supporters picture
Whitechapel Road, for instance, as a series of green
spaces, with buildings of 20 stories or so at intervals,
which would amply house more than the present
population. His critics do not hesitate to suggest
that only his pre-eminence as a mountaineer can ac-
count for his wish to see the city landscapes domi-
nated by such architectural peaks. The more serious
opponents of the change hold that the real remedy
for congested cities must be found in the develop-
ment of garden suburbs, and that the building of
skyscrapers would only retard a sane and healthy
distribution of population. Some real good may
come of the controversy, for at least it sets people thinking of the essential character of the cities in
which they dwell, and the form that changes in that
character should take. The London building line is
at present about 100 feet. Where that is exceeded
it is by the spires and domes of great national and
religious buildings. A general license to forego
the limitation would alter the whole face of London,
and buildings that are not less jewels because they are
small, such as the Abbey and a score of lesser churches,
would be dwarfed by vast commercial and
residential structures.

New York is a freak city. It has made, in a
wonderful way, the very most of its physical handi-
caps. It could not run to length and breadth, and
it has therefore run to height. London, Edin-
burgh and Dublin are under no such limitations,
and it will be an ill day for their distinctive beauty
when a Woolworth Building looms over Princes
Street or Piccadilly. On the other hand, there is
something to be said on the aesthetic as well as the
practical side for the solidly-built flats that dis-
tinguish Glasgow and Edinburgh, some parts of Lon-
don, and almost all the great continental cities. So
far as appearance counts, they afford a chance for
architectural treatment, for dignified facades, and
noble proportions, such as the cottage dwelling can-
not have. From the point of view of convenience,
run on the communal principle, with central heat-
ing, a restaurant, and a general domestic staff, they
fill a want for which there is a growing demand in
city life. Their ideal height will be dictated by the
safe rule that it should not exceed the breadth of
the road on which they stand. If that limitation be
faithfully observed, building might in this country
run to height more than it does, with both practical
and artistic advantage.

Building Activities in New York Cities

The total estimated cost of building work authorized
in March was 39 per cent greater than the February
total, and was nearly three times as great as the total
for March of last year, as reported by the building
departments. The March, 1920, total for the ten
cities is $33,713,799, of which $28,314,494 represents
work authorized in New York City. The gain from
February to March was considerably greater in up-
State cities than in New York City. The Schenectady
and Utica estimates of the cost of building work
authorized in March are above normal and probably
do not represent a condition that will be sustained.
Considerable increases are also reported for Albany,
Buffalo, Rochester and Troy, and smaller increases for
Binghamton, Syracuse and Utica. In New York
City, Richmond Borough shows the greatest gain of
the month. Queens Borough and Brooklyn also show
considerable gains from February to March. Little
change appears in the figures for Manhattan and the
Bronx.

Although the March total estimated cost of building
work authorized is considerably higher in 1920 than in
any of the previous five years, the actual amount of
work represented was probably greater in 1915 and
1916.

Colossal Statue of Columbus in Marble

As voyagers entering the harbor of the greatest city
of North America behold the majestic Statue of
Liberty, so within the present year those coming to
the greatest city of South America, Buenos Aires,
will behold a majestic sentinel, a towering statue of
Christopher Columbus.

The monument of the great navigator will not, like
the Liberty Statue in New York, stand in the harbor,
or Buenos Aires has no real harbor, but will rise
nearly 100 feet in height from a point near the water's
edge. The site selected is in the broad Paseo Colon,
in front of the Government House, whence the statue
will overlook the beautiful Plaza Colon and the wide
expanse of the River Plate as it enters the ocean.

Representing ten years' labor of the sculptor, Arnald
Zocchi, appropriately a native of the country in
which the discoverer of America was born, the monu-
ment soon will be shipped from the artist's work-
shop in Rome to Buenos Aires, according to recent
advices. The image of the navigator is itself 22 feet
high, carved out of a single block of marble.

Critics who have visited the sculptor's workshop
recently and seen the work virtually completed write
that, for symbolic beauty and grandeur of propor-
tions, the monument will be one of the most impres-
sive in the world.

"The column supporting the statue of the navigator
is placed upon an ample socle covered with sculptured
scapes and figures," says a Rome correspondent of
La Razón. "The front part of the socle is the bow of
a Latin ship about to be launched into the sea by four

(photo caption) “Blocks of recut stone. Indiana limestone taken from an old building and prepared for use in a new building.”
youths with naked torsos bent with effort. The scene represents the start of the caravels of Columbus from the port of Palos, Spain.

"High up on the bow of the vessel is the figure of Civilization. In the toga of a Roman matron, she extends with naked arm the torch which illuminates the new lands and toward which a youth beside her—Genius—gazes with inspired comtemplation.

"From this base rises the pedestal, slender as the tower of a light-house, and on its summit, straight and up-standing, in his hands a navigating chart half unfolded, towers above all the yet youthful figure of Christopher Columbus."

Activity in the Indiana Limestone Field

There is most unusual activity in the Indiana limestone district, in the quarrying and shipping of stone. The demand for the stone is unprecedentedly large from all parts of the country. A representative of the Consolidated Stone Company writes as follows of the activity at the Dark Hollow quarry: "All of our stripping is completed for the season and we are now quarrying in five openings. In one opening, without an additional penny to be spent for stripping, we have work of construction having occupied about half a century. The outer walls are of blue Dalkey granite, with cut stone dressings of mellow limestone. The columns of the nave, shrines, and confessionals are of Irish marble from the quarries of Fernady, Middleton, and Coramara. The tower is faced with Newry granite, but the spire is of limestone.

The Great Potash Deposits of Germany

The potash deposits of Germany, which were discovered by the Prussian Government in 1843 at Stassfurt while boring for rock salt and which occur in upper layers of rock salt in the plains of northern Germany, have been estimated to carry a volume of 10,790,000,000 cubic meters and to contain 20,000,000,000 metric tons of potash salts, corresponding to about 2,000,000,000 metric tons of potash (K2O), a quantity sufficient to supply the world for 2,000 years at the present rate of consumption. These beds, according to the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, were first exploited about 1860, and have furnished practically the entire world’s supply of potash for many years.

Good Limestone in Peru

Trade Commissioner Carlton Jackson is of the opinion that the importation into Peru of good lime, both hydrated and unslaked, would be a profitable enterprise. The lime made in the city of Lima has probably “less than 50 per cent of the efficiency of the first-class American product,” states Mr. Jackson, and yet it sells for $3 gold per barrel of 240 pounds. Pure limestone is known to exist in the mountains, but is inaccessible because of lack of transportation facilities.

Will Develop Arkansas Marble Deposit

John Cockrum, a farmer living near Lone Rock, Ark., has just sold a valuable deposit of marble which lies near Lone Rock, to a Missouri company. The company will develop it. The deposit underlies several hundred acres along Mill Creek, and is mentioned by Brauner in his report on the stone resources of the state. The marble is white, red and gray and can be used for both exterior and interior work.

Novel Garden Ornaments

There is a constantly growing trade in stone garden ornaments in this country. This is true in our large estates there are often elaborate terraces, with pergolas, balustrades or even colonnades, fountains and pools. Even small and modest gardens make use of benches, sundials, vases and the like. There is nothing that gives a more attractive finish to a well laid out and well planted garden than a bit of stone carving. Charles Maurice Dunn, a member of Marble Cutters Local, No. 4, New York, has occupied

(photo caption) "One Month’s Quarrying. Stack at the Dark Hollow Quarry of the Consolidated Stone Company, Bedford." (Indiana)
his leisure hours in designing a number of novel garden ornaments, and he has carved models of these in Caen stone. We take pleasure in showing photographs of two of these. The leading motif which Mr. Dunn has employed is the five-pointed star, and this should make appeal to American patriotism. This is used very ingeniously in one of the designs, which shows the star from whichever point it is viewed. Mr. Dunn is a stone-cutter of many years' experience, and has worked on some of the most notable stone jobs in all parts of the country. He also designed and cut in miniature in stone two architectural novelties. One is a double spiral staircase, a beautiful and intricate construction. The other is of somewhat similar design, but substitutes for the second staircase a winding ramp or chute. This latter suggests interesting possibilities in construction, either for the bringing of automobiles to the higher levels of a building, or as a means of fire escape. For the latter purpose the staircase would give uninterrupted egress from the building, while the firemen could drag in their hose and fight the fire by way of the ramp.

Sand from the Great Lakes

Canadian builders and construction interests will suffer most by the passage of proposed amendment to the Ontario beach protection act now pending before the legislative assembly of that province. The amendment forbids the taking of sand from Lakes Erie, Huron and Ontario on the Canadian side of the border without a license issued from the office of the lieutenant-governor.

This is the opinion of the executive committee of Great Lakes Sand and Gravel Producers' Association, which points out that while some sand and gravel is taken from Canadian waters, especially in the vicinity of Pelee Island in Lake Erie, a great amount of building sand and gravel is obtained only in lake waters adjacent to the American shore.

"If American firms are prohibited from taking material from Canadian waters," a statement issued by the board says, "they will not be interested in furnishing sand and gravel to Canadian builders from American waters. This is not a one-sided affair and should be regarded as a reciprocal proposition."

The Road Building Problem

At the sixth annual convention of the American Association of Engineers, held in St. Louis the past month, A. N. Johnson, consulting engineer, said: "The problem of building roads in America is limited by transportation. There is approximately $650,000,000 to be spent on roads this year, whereas only a fourth of that amount was available last year. The amount of road-building that can be done is measured by the number of cars that can be secured. In Illinois and New York, road contracts have been stopped because of this. It is up to the railroads to say how many of the roads can be built."

(photo captions) "Garden Ornament Featuring the American Star. Model cut in Caen stone by Charles Maurice Dunn of the local Marble Cutters’ Union.” & “Model of Garden Ornament. Cut in Caen limestone by Charles M. Dunn, showing the five-pointed star.”