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August 12, 1930

Mr. William Randolph Hearst
137 Riverside Drive
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Hearst:

The theater carpet and chair coverings are selected and ordered, -- the hanging being lined -- the theater being plastered -- many of the pilaster-caryatids are cast and ready to set. The hanging covers the side walls from stage platform to music room entrance, both walls, but no more. There are several solutions for the balance of the wall surfaces, which can wait your return.

The walls around the tennis courts are being formed. As telegraphed, the recreation wing is stripped, and the new tower from music room to main building is being formed -- the necessary tearing out done. We had to resort to steel members to do this -- some are being placed now. The effect is going to be of a very large building as seen from the "hog-back".

The north terrace work is completely poured and will be stripped this week. The new stairway from the terrace to the esplanade provides an unexpected vista from the esplanade. *J. J. J.*

The marble seats and fountain basin on the upper terrace are all at San Simeon and setting will begin next week.

We have used up all the columns held in Alameda on the pergola, which has carried it about as far as Mr. Rossi's steam shovel had gone before it was requisitioned for the Burnette road.

The fire took the nursery at the greenhouse site below "A", which looks so badly, am moving the remaining greenhouse items to the new site.

The garden work is progressing smoothly and happily, using the rose man as a temporary header up -- distinctly not as head gardener.

There were few fruit trees lost, but much planting on the edges, -- olives, redwood, sequoias, eucalyptus. Mr. Keep hopes the rains will bring out

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new growth in many cases. With Mr. McClenahan, the oak tree specialist -- together they have "spotted" a large number of small oaks and laurels down off the Burnette road -- Mr. McClenahan's plan being to box, and move immediately to the new site. He has been very successful in handling this way. Mr. Rossi, of course, to provide the cranes and trucks -- but no one advises attempting the removal until sure of the first rains as water is under normal.

We have been spending more than we should have, but want to average up next month.

The chicken farm construction work to extent agreed, I believe, is done, anyway to the extent of the appropriation ^{plus} and the fire line which was done at the end.

The Jolon work is progressing well, I will hold back the tower toward the mission until you come, as it can be cut off. The plastering of the interior was done as agreed, but the weather has been so very hot, no attempt has been made to plaster the exterior. It will be less expensive anyway to do the exterior plastering as one job. Many tourists are mistaking the new buildings for the Mission, -- it was really quite amusing this last visit. *The ranch people are moved into the pit. My -*

This I think gives a fair picture of conditions.

The ranch people are occupying the kitchen and dining room wing.

Yours very truly,

Shall Mr. Keep order the necessary replacements for the banks down into the burnt area? This is, I know, to come to him through Mr. Parks -- but Mr. Parks thinks a few years will make replanting unnecessary

*added to car H
letter 8/12/30*