

file

February 1, 1926.

Mr. William Randolph Hearst,
Ambassador Hotel,
Los Angeles, California.

Dear Mr. Hearst:

In regard to the use of California
versus foreign cement --

The San Marcos building at Santa
Barbara did not fail because of salt water
in the cement or sand, but because of design,
(perhaps an element being the shape of the
building itself), and because of the poor
quality of the Santa Barbara sand and rock.

The danger in using foreign cement
is in the possibility of its setting or caking
either because of getting wet in transit or
of becoming too old while in transit and ware-
houses. As foreign cement is usually packed
in barrels lined with waterproof heavy paper
the caking is generally slight and confined
to about an inch at the heads. As local
cement is packed in cloth sacks, unless kept
well protected it runs considerable risk of
caking all over.

In the interest of the work, my
own solution of the foreign cement question
is to call in the specifications for a "brand
of California Portland cement to meet fully
all the standard tests of the American Soci-
ety of Testing Engineers".

Most cities now require regular
tests on all cement used at the cost of the
owner, directly or indirectly, requirements
being the development of certain minimum
strengths in seven and twenty-eight days
respectively.

Yours very truly,

JM-deM