

W. R. H. #2.

There is no plate glass to be bought in California at present, and no firm will take orders with any promises attached as to delivery. I had to take one of the modelers up to San Simeon this week and convince him that it was a "lovely place" and then have him telephone from there back to the shop that I was veracious, before the cast-cement crew would agree to go up. These are examples.

You were evidently right about getting a country trained builder, for I do not believe we could have held a city man. The San Francisco men sent down on the "bonus" plan have nearly all come back, one turned back at San Simeon some got to the top of the hill and did not unpack, and some stayed a week or more. They all agreed that the living conditions, money and food were all right, but they "didn't like feeling so far away from things". Mr. Washburn is picking up "country" men as fast as he can, as he says the discontent of all hands caused by the last experiment put him back instead of forward.

The better road conditions have made it possible to take up a rented concrete mixer of suitable size, which was not possible before. It was almost in place yesterday.

The trucks you ordered for us arrived last Friday, and will help a lot as one of the old ones is entirely out of commission. I told Mr. Washburn to hire a man who owns his own truck to bring it and make up for this loss.

The Steamer did not discharge until the 31st of March. They began settling at the wharf in San Francisco while loading and 80 tons had to be taken off before she started. Then she sprung a leak trying to head in to San Simeon on the way down and wet our plaster and cement stored below decks to be kept dry; and then lost two days making an landing and unloading on the way up. The Steamship Company does not love us.

The floor of House "B" is poured and the framing for the walls will be started this week. The reinforcement is three-quarters placed in the floor for "C", and concrete work will go in next week. The walls and floors of the lower story of "A" are ready to pour; this is going to take some time as they go way down the hillside. The plumbing piping is well along.

W. R. H. #3

I am sending you as a record the concrete drawings for all three houses as last revised. They do not show finish.

With the present fleet of trucks twenty-five tons a day can be hauled if all the trucks work all day on teaming. There were 600 tons in the last shipment which means 25 days teaming, but undoubtedly there will be some rainy days. The next shipment on the 16th will be 130 tons etc. This leaves no trucks for hauling rock so that I have asked Mr. Washburn to get two men who own trucks, one from Monterey and one from San Luis Obispo, at so much per day for truck and driver. He is looking out for another in addition.

The tile for the roof and the men to put it on are arranged for also everything in connection with plumbing and tiling of bath rooms. In fact, both plumbing fixtures and tile are down there.

As regards floor tile we can get an effect very much like in the photograph of the room in the Villa Palmerie which you sent, with the 6 x 12 dark redish tiles I wrote you of. I thought by using these in the large rooms and the pattern tile and smaller square tile in some bed rooms we could get a rich and satisfactory floor.

It is the only chance we have as not other tile in colors can be had here this summer, and no order given to an eastern firm could be filled in time to meet the various shipping conditions even were it for fall instead of summer.

Yours very truly,

JM:DP