

"HOUSE AND LOT"--The Times' Weekly Review of Real Estate and Building.

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FACT AND COMMENT:

A REPORT has gained currency that the high prices paid for labor in the local market have had the effect of interfering with building operations, and that work on several blocks had been stopped. Inquiry shows that this is only true to a very limited extent. Carpenters now receive a minimum wage scale of \$3.50 per day. Hod-carriers receive \$3.50 per day, unskilled laborers in brick yards \$2, and laborers on the streets from \$1.75 to \$2. These wages can scarcely be considered as excessive, except possibly in the case of the hod-carriers, although that is arduous labor, especially during the summer months. In San Francisco they are said to receive \$6 per day. The extraordinary demand for residences and office and store rooms will, undoubtedly, encourage owners to continue building operations, even should wages go somewhat higher than they are now. At the same time, the fact should be understood abroad that there is no surplus of labor in Los Angeles, even at the above rates, which are higher than those prevailing in almost all other American cities.

Rapid Building.

One of the noteworthy features of modern building is the great rapidity with which large improvements are made. A man may leave town for a few weeks, and on returning find a big brick block standing completed, where there was only an excavation for a cellar when he went away. Our forefathers, who were accustomed to spend years in the construction of a building of any importance, would be astonished at the way we do things nowadays, in this line—and not only our forefathers, but the slow-going folks in Europe today.

Clean Up.

A correspondent of The Times suggests that residence and property owners along the lines of electric railroad that have been recently built out of Los Angeles should clean up their premises, especially where the back yards abut upon the road, so as to give visitors from the outside a more favorable impression of the country, and also, incidentally, to improve the value of property.

A Tall Yarn.

One of the latest wild-eyed yarns circulated in Los Angeles is to the effect that there is a project under consideration to erect here the tallest office building in the United States, twenty-eight stories high, somewhere in the southern part of the business section, the project being to increase the value of adjoining property, owned by a syndicate. One would suppose that such a building would have the effect of decreasing values in the neighborhood—especially about the time that an earthquake should come around.

A Mountain Railroad.

As mentioned in the news columns of The Times, a few days ago, Col. Eddy, who built the Angels' Flight railway, has made application for a franchise for a scenic railway, extending to the high peak in Griffith Park, known as Griffith Peak, from which a magnificent view may be obtained in all directions. This enterprise was suggested in this column a year or more ago, as one which would undoubtedly prove highly profitable to the constructor. With a pavilion on the summit, and other accommodations for visitors, there is no doubt that such a trip would become immensely popular. It takes too much time and money to make the trip to Alpine Tavern, for that trip ever to become generally popular with the masses, and then again, there is nothing to be seen when you get there, unless you journey some distance farther, from the end of the road. With a round fare of 50 cents, or even less, from the center of the city, thousands of people would, undoubtedly, make the trip to the summit of Griffith Park every month in the year. Another fine point of view, where a still cheaper scenic railroad might be constructed, is the elevation in the northern part of the city, known as Lookout Mountain, the highest point within the city limits.

Hollywood.

Progress continues active out at Hollywood in the Caluenga Valley, where a number of sales of lots have been made in the Ocean View tract during the past month, and work commenced on several fine residences. Several of our best-known citizens have added their names to the already long roll of those who will make Hollywood their permanent home. Work upon the tourist hotel is being actively pushed, and it will soon be ready for occupancy, also the two-story store building adjoining it on the north. H. J. Whitley has let, within the past few days, contracts for four first-class residences, to be built on his property adjoining the Ocean View tract. Along the foothills, to the north of Hollywood, are some romantic and picturesque sites for suburban residences, such as cannot be found in any other direction, within the same distance of the city.