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LAND OWNERS SHOULD BUILD HOMES FOR WORKINGMEN IN HARBOR DISTRICT, SAYS BAKER

Head of Shipbuilding Concern Offers Suggestions, and Gives Reasons Why Worker Should Be Taken Care of in Progress Movement

(By S. B. Troob)
The property owners of our harbor communities are failing to take advantage of the golden opportunities now being offered by our phenomenally growing shipping and oil industries. They are retarding the growth of the harbor cities through their lack of sufficient enterprise to provide homes which workingmen can buy or lease, according to Fred L. Baker, president of the combined lumber and shipbuilding plant now employing upwards of 2000 men in the west basin of Los Angeles harbor and shortly to increase that force very materially.

"The San Pedro chamber of commerce held a meeting which I attended in the schoolhouse in 1917 for the purpose of discussing the housing question of San Pedro. At that time the harbor shipyards were employing around 25,000 men on government shipbuilding contracts. The industry was looked upon purely as a war industry likely to be discontinued almost entirely at the close of the war. The popular impression was that only the most temporary of facilities should be provided for housing the workmen. "The argument was advanced by myself and a few others that while the shipyards had been built on a large scale to meet the national emergency and could not be expected to provide employment for so large a number of men after the war contracts were finished, nevertheless that shipbuilding and repair work must continue to be represented on a smaller scale among the permanent industries of our harbor community because we were confident that the port of Los Angeles would develop substantial shipping business following the war and that shipping would require moderate shipyard facilities. We therefore urged the property owners and civic organizations to commence the improvements of property and provide housing facilities for which the demand has been constantly and steadily growing.

"In the days when San Pedro was a small harbor town before any war activities were developed its total industrial payroll was around \$3,000 per day. During the peak of the war work the payroll mounted to around \$130,000 per day. "Today with all war work a thing of the past, and with greatly diversified harbor industries on a permanent basis, the daily payroll has grown to the surprising figure of \$267,000. These figures, I think, very fully substantiate the claims which certain of us advanced in 1917 as to the need for the provision of housing accommodations on a very substantial and permanent scale.

"During the past year my associates and I have added lumber to our other activities and are now completing No. 1 unit of a lumber remanufacturing plant which comprises saw mills, planing mills, box factory, and dry kilns, and which in itself will provide employment for several hundred men on the most permanent of all industrial classifications. In connection with this lumber enterprise we are operating our own steamship line between the port of Los Angeles and British Columbia ports.

"Through the Los Angeles Steamship company, I am associated with

an enterprise which is maintaining four big passenger liners sailing from Los Angeles as their home port. The crews of these vessels number from 125 to more than 200 each.

"Other operators in different branches of industry centering their activities around Los Angeles harbor and employing very large numbers of men, doubtless feel just as we do in regard to the employees of the companies with which we are connected. We are handicapped in our activities through the inability of our employees to find suitable living accommodations within a reasonable distance of their work. "My plans for the upbuilding of the harbor industries are not yet completed. I hope to be continuously active in this direction and aim at all times to employ the most responsible type of workman, the man with a family who naturally desires to live reasonably close to his work, who takes pride in his home, and is a valuable addition to any city. It is this type of home buyer or tenant that is now literally knocking on the doors of property owners of the harbor communities. Surely it is not asking too much to expect those property owners to wake up and make it their business to provide for men of this type homes that they can buy or lease within their means.

"That great stretch of waterfront and industrial property reaching from San Pedro through Wilmington to Long Beach is, in my opinion, but at the beginning of an enormous general industrial development. It offers conditions unparalleled in any harbor in the United States today. Industrial concerns are providing employment for the highest type of American workman. It is up to the property owners throughout this section to provide the homes and by doing this they will not only reap rich profit, but will indirectly aid in this great movement of port development.

"To few people realize that within thirty miles of Los Angeles harbor the production of oil is today amounting to more than one-fifth of the total oil production of the entire United States. That not only means employment for oil workers, but for the allied industries, including that vastly important industry connected with the export of oil in great tankers out of the port of Los Angeles to Atlantic coast and world ports.

"In my opinion the next two or three years will take the measure of the property owners in the different harbor communities. Those of them who realize the situation and improve their properties with suitable homes for workers will attract increased industrial activities and, consequently, greatly advanced values for their property. The communities made up of the progressive property owners will rapidly outstrip the other communities, because above all the employer of labor wants satisfied and comfortably housed workers, and he will quite naturally seek to locate where these conditions are obtainable. Undoubtedly this is a time when civic organizations should make a concerted move to induce property owners to build attractive, permanent homes, not merely to meet the present demands, but to keep ahead of the rising tide of industry."

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Improvements Under
Way at Catalina Villa

In preparation for the 1923 summer season Mr. Wrigley has ordered the enlargement of Catalina's Island Villa at Avalon to the extent of one hundred additional bungalows, which will be built on the ocean front immediately adjoining the bath house. This portion of Island Villa will have a separate office and lounge room with complete facilities for guests, making this a de luxe "open air hotel" of one hundred rooms, European plan, in a location unrivaled for the enjoyment of all of the many pleasurable features of Catalina.

These villas will be constructed very substantially with wall board sides, screened doors, and windows and shingled roofs. Each villa is rented the same as a room in a hotel at moderate European plan rates. It is contemplated to call this cluster of bungalows "Ocean Villa" as it will be located immediately across the street from the Avalon bathing beach. The date of completion of "Ocean Villa" has been set for June 1, in order to have it in readiness for the early summer arrivals.

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INCOME TAX NEWS

Auditors sent from Washington to examine the office of Collector of Internal Revenue Rex B. Goodcell reported that although the staggering sum of \$187,090,000 had been collected during the period covered by the examination, the office balance to a cent. The years 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922 came under the audit.

In reporting to Collector Goodcell the chief auditor declared that the handling of \$187,000,000 without any discrepancies was a remarkable feat. The collection of the \$187,000,000 involved the handling of \$75,000 active annual accounts and 500,000 active monthly accounts.

That Southern California is considered the "wonder district" of the treasury department, as a producer of federal revenue, is indicated by the announcement from Washington that in percentage of collections for 1922 as compared with 1921, the Los Angeles district led all internal revenue districts in the United States, barring North Carolina, which depends upon tobacco tax for 75 per cent of its receipts, and, therefore, its percentage does not reflect true business conditions.

The following figures announced from Washington show the shrinkage in collections of the principal internal revenue districts in 1922, as compared with 1921:

Los Angeles, 12%; San Francisco, 35%; Portland, 33%; Seattle, 34%; New York, 32%; Denver, 43%; Columbus, O., 37%; Boston, 35%; New Orleans, 43%; Chicago, 30%; St. Louis, 30%; Philadelphia, 29%.

All records for sales tax collections in the Los Angeles district were smashed by the January receipts of Collector of Internal Revenue Rex Goodcell's office. Total sales tax receipts were \$545,345.35, showing a gain over January, 1922, of 37 per cent and reflecting upgrade business conditions that are peculiar to Southern California.

An outstanding feature of Collector Goodcell's report was the collection of \$261,792.43 for tax on admissions to motion picture theaters and other places of entertainment, indicating that \$2,700,000 was spent by citizens of Southern California during December for amusement. These figures break the record for any previous month in the history of the Los Angeles district, showing an increase of approximately 45 per cent over the corresponding period of last year. The theater

Stephens to Run For Congress to Succeed Osborne

Former Governor William D. Stephens is seriously considering entering the election to succeed the late Congressman Henry Z. Osborne, who died Thursday. He represented Osborne's district in 1913 to 1916, resigning to become lieutenant governor. He also served earlier from the Seventh district.

Stanley Benedict, formerly of the state board of control and state railroad commission, also is being considered a possible candidate. Benedict served Stephens' unexpired term in congress, but was later defeated by Osborne.

tax collected in January represents a tax-paid and tax-free attendance at motion picture theaters and other places of amusement for the month of December of 15,600,000. In other words, every man, woman and child in the district visited places of amusement eleven times during the month.

Collector Goodcell, in pointing out the enormous growth in attendance at the motion picture theaters, referred to the fact that the total admission tax collected for the entire year of 1918 was only \$582,606, as compared with receipts of \$261,792.43 for January of this year alone. Tax on ten-cent admissions and passes included in the 1918 receipts does not figure in the 1922 collections, as this tax was repealed last year.

Taxes collected on jewelry amounted to \$149,811.56, as against \$107,149.24 for January, 1922, an increase of 40 per cent. This tax represents sales by retail dealers of approximately \$3,000,000 worth of jewelry during December, compared with sales of \$2,150,000 in December, 1921.

Manufacturers' excise tax collections for January were \$126,333.55, against \$116,526.75 for January, 1922, indicating a healthy growth in local manufacturing.

Income tax receipts were \$430,926.06, an increase over January, 1922, of 26 per cent, as compared with decreased income tax collections for the United States as a whole of 30 per cent.