Los Angeles Times
5-7-1904

"We touched yesterday the great core of pentecost. What we need is for all of us to get something more wonderful—pentecost that will cause us to carry grace and power and love to the world."

Then he called all the ministers in the house to the front and asking them to kneel before the altar. The people were requested to kneel in their seats and pray for them and the churches they represented. Finally those who were not kneeling were asked to bow their heads in silent prayer and every one in the audience did so.

"Glory to His name," came in the clapping of hands and the waving of handkerchiefs, led by the venerable Bishop Mathews, concluded this most impressive service.

These pentecostal services have become so popular that it has been decided to hold them on Saturdays as well as on other afternoons of the week.

One of any kind, in regard to the Presidio affair. I have simply heard in an indirect manner that some such offer has been made and that the government has to choose between the old site, the one offered free of cost or some other one that may be offered on terms more or less advantageous. It will be my duty, I presume, to examine all the available sites, study carefully which, in my judgment, it would be most advantageous to the city and the government to accept, and make a recommendation to the secretary of the Treasury accordingly.

"I am no stranger to Los Angeles, having been sent here when the enlargement of the old postoffice building on Main street was first found necessary. I had a good deal to do there with the securing of additional ground, and found the task and altogether an easy one, on account of the high price asked for adjacent property. I thought then we were paying more than it was worth, but I understand real estate has gone up immoderately since then. In that benefit.

"Of course I understand the needs of Los Angeles for a much larger and better building than the early appropriations called for, but the trouble with you people here is that you grew so far that it is hard for Uncle Sam to keep pace with you in the matter of providing facilities for the transaction of public business. It is to be hoped that there will be enough money available this time to provide an adequate site and a building that will be large enough for all purposes for some time to come.

"As I understand it, the bill covering the appropriation for a new building limits the cost of additional ground to the old site to $125,000, that amount being included in the appropriation for the building. Of course if an additional site, or a new one, can be acquired for less than that, or without cost to the government, there will be so much more to go into the building. The amount mentioned is not always the best one, however, as it will be necessary to weigh all the offers made most carefully.

"It is not an agreeable task to make a decision where so many rival interests are concerned, but I would far rather have nothing to do with it, but I am here to carry out the instructions of my superiors and do that which is for the best interest of the public, and will try to arrive at a conclusion reasonably. It is a strictly business proposition and will be handled as much so far as I am concerned."

Mr. Roberts has been twenty years in the employ of the Treasury Department in connection with the location and construction of public buildings, and may therefore be depended upon to have a seasoned judgment. He is withal a pleasant and courteous gentleman to do business with and those having business with him in regard to the selection of a site for the Los Angeles Federal building, may be assured of receiving a respectful hearing.

For the last four or five years Mr. Roberts has had supervision of the construction of the beautiful public building in San Francisco, which, he says, will be completed about a year hence. It will cost $1,500,000, and next to the Congressional Library at Washington, will be the finest building on the American continent. After he gets through with the San Francisco postoffice building, he expects to supervise the construction of the new customhouse in that city, which will cost $1,000,000.

Mr. Roberts has just returned from Honolulu on public building business where he was ordered to Los Angeles.

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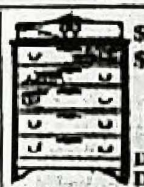

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