

ABSENCE OF TRAINED MEN

There are no trained stone-men in the west, that is, in our west, in groups or singly, and out of the labor I used in establishing the plant originally I have been able to select men acquainted with mine drilling who had the mentality and the disposition to yield to careful training, the training necessary to block roughly the figures that we are producing. I have, in the course of these years, been able to gather about us some half a dozen to a dozen men, loyal, reliable, - in their place - useful. The drillers are controlled by the pointers, as stated, Lincoln is in charge of these. This pointing, up until two years ago, has been handled by the foreman or special men guided by myself, but now a definite staff is being formed preparing a complete system of measurements that will be recorded, saved, and available for all future reference. You will find in appendix sample sheets of the work of 1931, 1932, 1933, and 1934.

The Washington head, or face, was cut, as I have said, in ten weeks. There are a great many people who do not see any difference in the work we had at that time and the work we have today. However, the photographs show the progress.

The Washington face could have been completely finished in all its fine modeling, the likeness perfected in all its details, over two years ago. That is, it could

have been finished the year following Dennison's departure, had there been no interference with my employment of able trained men, compelling me to use local laborers. In 1931 I sought two or three stone-men and after considerable argument in an effort to educate local judgment, I managed to get one from Chicago on the work. His life was made so unpleasant that he was practically useless, and I never attempted to re-hire him. In 1932 I went without any at all, placed Villa in charge of the work, and paid him personally half of his \$20.00 a day, attempting by the close supervision of a semi-artist to over-come the absence of trained stone-men. The experiment was not successful. You have got to have brains and knowledge in the fingers handling the drills. That is training.

In 1933 I notified Tallman and my son, Lincoln, who was here painting, that I was bringing with me as assistant, a semi-sculptor who had been with me off and on in the east for twelve years, a powerful, capable granite man, whom I had converted into an efficient marble cutter. I was immediately notified that his presence here was objected to and that the Rapid City office did not want him. I ignored this and put him immediately in charge of the work and workmen on Washington's head, meaning the face and wig.

He complained to me within a week of the treatment he was being accorded from the Rapid City office,

rudeness, inscience and petty dickering about wages. He remained here on my orders and my account, but, he will never come again. He will, however, form one of my head men at Stone Mountain. He is worth any three men I could find in America, for this particular type of work, here and now, but Mount Rushmore is not managed that way and doesn't want that kind of service. He entirely out-classed everyone on the hill, and his knowledge was an embarrassment to their amateur efforts and lack of knowledge, lack of experience and lack of judgment. He is the only man besides myself who has been on the work who knows the problems and how to instantly solve them. His absence is a great loss to this work this year.

Because of these conditions, I have left the head of Washington unfinished. It will remain unfinished in the vital points until interference with the executive work of the sculptor on the Mountain is stopped. The eyes, the nose, the mouth and chin, where the hair touches the face, will not be touched until men capable of handling such work are welcomed to the work. I intend to protect all the rest of the fine work on the Mountain in precisely the same way, and shall risk none of it until I have competent men to do it.

PUBLICITY

It was at the White House, under Mr. Hoover's administration, that the question of proper presentation

worked this all out and planned the undertaking accordingly five years ago.

What happened?

Our power plant was wrecked. I have protested each year against this outrage and plead for its correction without often the courtesy even of an answer. The statement "the cost of buying power is about the same" is neither true nor does it answer. We have been able to buy only a third enough power necessary. Our engine made power for sixteen drills. Last fall I rebelled and made independent arrangements, which were, under stress, accepted! Hence, "order nothing without permission". The lack of power-air and the lack of trained workmen has been serious and the most destructive elements in the entire work. We have been, and are, hog-tied and limited to one-third the strength the sculptor originally made provision for.

The memorial work, because of the above easily remediable conditions, is behind about two years in accomplishment. The finishing is at a stand-still.

The loss of Bianco will probably prevent the finishing of the Washington and Jefferson heads this year. The Jefferson ~~head~~^{HEAD}, however, will be carried as far as the Washington head is.

I have, the last two weeks, added two outside men - one from the east and one from the north west; men trained in light shop work, but unacquainted with the kind