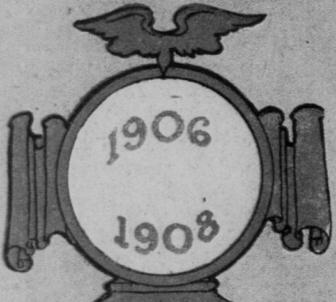


# TWO YEARS THAT SET A BUILDING RECORD FOR THE WORLD



THE pyramid of Cheops is no longer the building wonder of the world. Mighty men built it.

Generations, perhaps, were expended in its construction. In San Francisco mighty men have built, in something less than two years, a vast array of new buildings which, if piled together, would outclass Cheops as a mountain outclasses a doorstep. In the construction of this stupendous monument to California spirit, courage and will, time has been annihilated, ruin and disaster defied. In the very midst of hot and smoking ashes, when all the world stood against at what seemed the destruction of an entire city, plans for rebuilding were conceived, rough sketches of the new homes of industry made, standing on the ruins of the old, and contracts let for their execution.

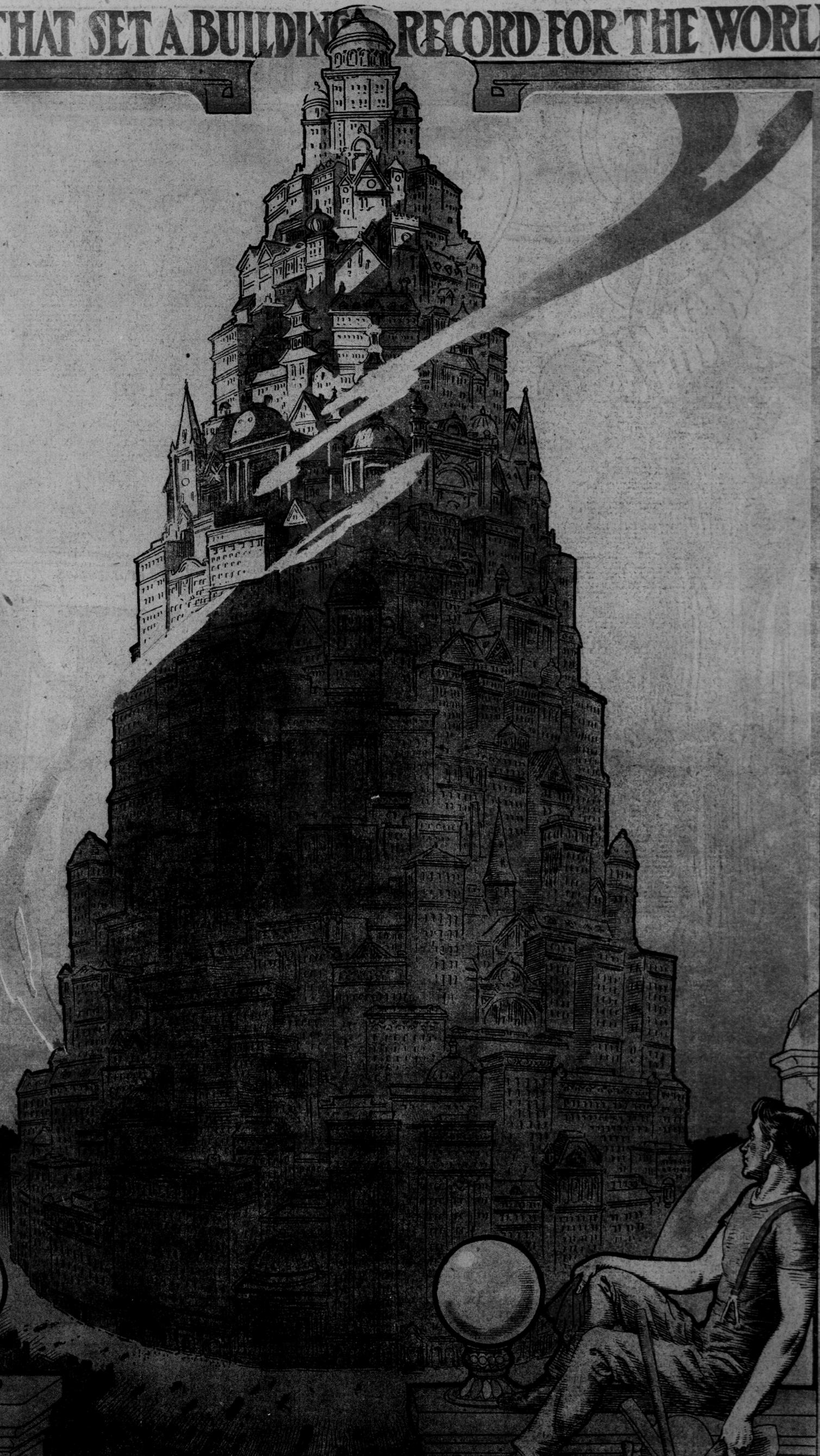
No pigmy plans were these, either. They called for the building of steel frame, solidly walled and windowed structures capable of resisting even the Titanic impetus of a second potential disaster. From all quarters of the world building material hastened toward a leveled city. Masons, carpenters, stone cutters, brick layers poured into the city in a flood. San Francisco became the labor center of the world. Side by side, using the same tools, animated by the same purpose, labored an army of workmen from everywhere. Wages such as were never known anywhere before were common. From \$6 to \$10 a day was the average stipend of a man who worked at any of the building trades, but, even at this rate, he was often asked to work overtime on Sunday, and was paid \$20 for that. The towering San Francisco pyramid was built in less than two years, for, after the fire plans had to be drawn and remodeled and materials obtained before work could begin. It is said that at the average rate of building, maintained with few interruptions for two years, a building went up every 45 minutes.

People visiting the city and seeing 10, 12 and 14 story structures going up everywhere, would shake their heads and say: "Why don't you put up some small temporary buildings to fill the gaps in your streets, and in a few years replace them by something better?" To which the energetic Californian made reply: "No, sir; we're not building only for today; we're building for all time, for we don't propose to be caught napping when our second calamity, if it ever does, arrives." In the reconstruction of his city the Californian struggled on manfully in the face of unnumbered difficulties.

Never has a city risen from the dust of her debris like this one. Never has any building record of ancient or modern Babylon equaled the unrivaled one made by the descendants of the men who bequeathed their unquenchable courage and power of gaiety under any and all circumstances which have proved invaluable to their grandsons in these rebuilding years. Never have citizens danced so light heartedly on the grave of the old times, and turned to feast with the goddess of stone who ushered in the new. No city dwellers, save those of San Francisco can walk through the downtown districts and say: "Twenty-two months ago, sir, this district was as level as a floor, as regarded a whole building left standing. Look at it today. You can hardly see the skyline for the roofs. How is that for two years' work?"

One hundred and twelve million was expended in this work of building in these two years. Architects and contractors declare the work to be the best of its kind. And solidity has not been the only feature looked to. Beauty and grace of line has been a prominent factor in the city's upbuilding. Where once unsightly, three story buildings cut the sky are now the classic lines of buildings modeled after one style of architecture only. Which goes to prove that the building plane is higher in more ways than one.

"Labor conquers all," is an old Latin motto. To which the Californian adds, "And a merry heart, worketh wonders."



FRANCIS