

Can He Make Good?

INVENTOR ASKS FOR FRANCHISE.

*Says He Can Operate Mono-
rail on Economic Basis.*

*Council Interested Enough to
Make Investigation.*

*Canadians to Boost Residence
Sites on Palisades.*

SANTA MONICA, March 30.—The members of the City Council spent Thursday afternoon at Burbank, where they were the guests of the inventor of the "monorailway" system. They went for the purpose of inspecting a life-sized working model of his single-track railroad, and if they are pleased with what they see it is promised that something will be doing here right away. The inventor of this railway says he has ample financial backing to carry out the plans proposed by him, which embrace the building of a railway line from tide-water at Santa Monica via Fremont avenue and a private right of way to Los Angeles. He says if the city should grant him a franchise he would build the line as proposed and give the public a 5-cent fare between the beach and the city, operating just as many cars on a rapid schedule as would be demanded by the traveling public.

He says for his invention that travel is safe and rapid and that the road is not expensive in construction, while the expense of operation is so much less than all other methods are not listed as competitors. Trolley lines of the ordinary sort and steam roads or gasoline motor lines cost so much more that higher tolls must be collected than he would ever dare to ask, he declares. A 5-cent fare will satisfy him and the pledge to the city, upon which his application for a franchise is to be based, is that the fare for the trip from the seashore to the city shall not exceed 5 cents.

The members of the Council are interested and have taken the journey to Burbank for the purpose of looking thoroughly into the mechanism and system in general. They say if it comes up to the standard the franchise will be offered for sale as requested, provided the people say they do not desire a competing line of rail.

BUY PALISADES BLOCK.

One of the heaviest and most important real estate deals consummated in Santa Monica recently was closed when Adam and John Brown, prominent Canadian real estate brokers who have been passing the winter here, purchased for a stated consideration of \$10,000 a full Palisades block of twenty-two large lots. This property is located between Fourth and Seventh streets and Marguerita and Alby. The purpose of the new owners is to place this property on the market at once and to have selling headquarters here as well as in Winnipeg. March 10 of the lots is located just west of the city.

Adam Brown of the firm that owned the block is now in the city.

home of Mrs. Tootle, at Fourth and Marguerita, paying \$11,000 for it. Mrs. Tootle has purchased other property and is making her home in Brentwood.

M. MacKenzie, also of Canada, has bought two large lots at Fifth and Idaho, paying \$3250 for them. He plans the erection of a fine residence at once. Joseph Bulke has purchased for \$4150 two lots at Fourth and Washington and will build. John A. Sumers chose Third and Idaho for his home site, purchasing three lots for \$6500.

S. D. Walden was attracted by the Palisades and paid \$4000 for a lot at Fourth and Georgina. William Streeter selected a lot at Fourth and Georgina and paid \$4000 for it.

John Wetzel was favorably impressed with Fourth and Idaho and paid \$1600 for a lot. C. W. Higgins also liked the Fourth and Idaho vicinity so well that he selected and bought a \$4000 lot.

William Lorendo has bought a ten-room residence of Miles & Tegner at Sixth and Georgina for \$12,000. C. W. Beale has just paid \$2600 for a lot at Seventh and Palisades.

All of these new Santa Monica property owners will at once build new homes. Plans for several of these have already been accepted, while for others the orders have been given to the architects to get busy without delay.

The Santa Monica Investment Company has bought three lots at Sixth and Idaho and will at once get busy with the construction of a \$3200 residence. The same company has bought twelve lots on Seventeenth and will improve them as the demand for houses appears to justify.

Mr. Matthews of Ocean Park Heights has purchased from J. H. Rodenburg and Mrs. A. Lee, for a stated consideration of \$10,000, a 100-foot frontage on the west side of Main, north of Ashland, adjoining the new James building. The three cottages now occupying the site are being sold and moved away in order to make room for a handsome brick business block that is to be built at once. This will consist of two stories, the ground floor being divided into four store-rooms. The second floor will be devoted to apartments. It is expected to have the work of construction started within a very few days. The improvement will go far toward stimulating operations along Main street, which has recently been the scene of not a little building activity.

PLAN FINE BUILDING.

Leo and Walter Byrne of San Bernardino will at once build a \$30,000 three-story brick business structure on a sixty-foot lot on Marine street. They have commissioned the F. H. MacCibben Company to prepare the plans, and it is expected that work will be started in the very near future. The front of this building will be of white glazed brick. The ground floor will be divided into three storerooms and the second and third floors will be converted into apartments. It is stated that the building has been leased for a term of years to Los Angeles hotel people.

Another improvement to be undertaken simultaneously will be the construction by the Ocean Park Bathhouse Company of a two-story brick office building.

On the opposite side of the street J. M. Jones is planning to build a two-story brick block, while on the south side, near the Masonic Temple, J. Turner of Los Angeles has in contemplation the building of a two-story brick structure to occupy a full lot.

It is also planned to build a two-story brick building on the corner of Main and Ashland, and a two-story brick building on the corner of Main and Seventh.

April figures promise to be the best ever. Among the new permits are the following: Mrs. M. C. Vallant, brick garage, at Main and Marine, \$6500; Huff & Atkinson, two-story brick building, No. 2331 Ocean Front, \$7000; V. B. Cassitto, frame dwelling, No. 1518 Twelfth, \$1300; J. H. Stillwell, frame dwelling of six rooms, No. 1532 Temple, \$2000; E. F. Parkinson, frame restaurant and store building, at No. 126 Ashland avenue, \$2500; Rosa Borde, additions to the Windermere Hotel, on Ocean avenue, \$8250; Golden West Home Builders, brick apartments, at Ocean and Utah, \$4000, and frame residence of two stories, No. 1128 Fourth, \$3000; E. F. Perkins, frame store and residence, No. 126 Ashland, \$2500; Florence Parkins, frame residence of seven rooms, at No. 1044 Seventh street, \$2000; and Paul D. Howse, alteration on the pleasure pier, \$1000.

A ten-year lease, involving a rental of \$25,000, has been executed, whereby J. W. Brooks has secured from Mrs. Emma Summers possession of the Grand Theater on Ocean Front. A few years ago the single sand lot involved in this lease was sold for \$475. The improvements consist of a \$10,000 picture theater building.

Surveyors are at work in the mouth of Santa Monica and Rustic canyons, planning to subdivide the shady retreat into large lots for rustic homes. The Santa Monica Land Company has decided to sell property here to those who desire to create summer and winter homes where the sea and mountains meet.

At the corner of Third and Oregon A. A. Junipher will, on May 1, begin the erection of a \$25,000 brick block of two stories, replacing one of the city's original frame landmarks. At the corner of Third and Arizona the Santa Monica Investment Company will build a 100-room apartment-house. At Twenty-fourth and Colorado the Los Angeles Pressed Brick Company is rebuilding its plant, and will hereafter pay its attention principally to the manufacture of glazed sewer pipe. The former brick factory was destroyed by fire during the summer.