



LA MESA, CALIFORNIA

February 25, 1924.

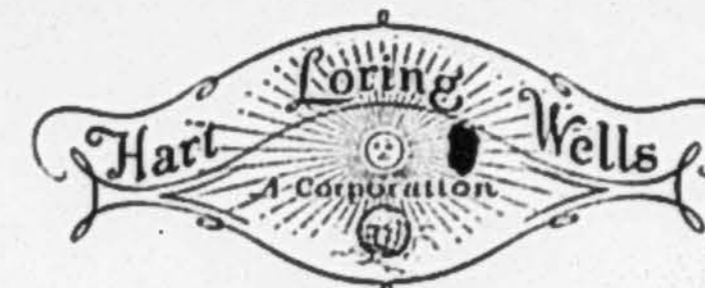
Col. Ed. Fletcher,  
916 Eighth Street,  
San Diego, Calif.

In personal, unofficial interview with you, dear Colonel, sometime since, you exclaimed, "Why didn't you come and consult me before?" (Referring to S-L-Studios' affairs.)

I believe the time has come when the tables might be turned the other way, and I might ask, "Why don't you come and consult with me?" And this is my explanation:

After many months of waiting - waiting in comparative obscurity and inactivity as to outward signs, but busy enough inside, keeping down worry, impatience, harsh criticism of others, etc., etc., I believe the time has come when I should call attention to a fact evidently considered of apparent little value hitherto, but which I purpose from now on to turn to some definite power and use in the future; viz., that in a very large degree, I am, financially, the Rescuer (savior, if you like) of S-L-Studios, with at least the moral right to expect all those financially interested in said Studios to come and consult with me regarding anything appertaining to the welfare of S-L-Studios.

Against the advice - even the pleadings and direful warnings of friends and advisors - amongst them Judges, Bankers, Attorneys and those in places of high-calling, urging that I place no more funds in S-L-Studios - yet, in spite of them all, have I never flinched or failed in times of crisis, when failure and disgrace stared the Studios in the face, to fling out the funds needed for safe delivery from catastrophe, until now, there has been mutually contributed by myself and associate, who shares with me a great vision of what grand good work can eventually be accomplished thru the S-L-Studios - there have been contributed funds sufficient to more than submerge all the other contributions put together; and yet, Colonel, I have been the least considered of all; - the wholly unconsulted one of all, as one almost unknown, unheard of and, if you please, unhonored, whilst others, possessing, perchance a few shares of stock, have flourished mightily - and "flourished" is a significant and descriptive term to use; they have risen



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in their small-sized, petty-shared might to assume a quasi-dictatorship for determining and shaping the state of S-L's affairs according to their own ideas, regardless of any consideration for those who, you might almost say owned S-L-Studios.

So, not having been sought out and deferred to, and being generally not much inclined to thrust myself into public notice, I have stepped aside without protest, hitherto, so to leave the way open and uninterfered with for those assuming the unearned right of more or less holding the guiding hand over the fate of S-L-Studios, that I might see what they could accomplish in the way of alleviating the appalling conditions then existing: But alas! time and effort in those lines seemed but to make the knot more impossible of ever being disentangled.

Then came to our rescue our Great Deliverer, Raymond Wells, whose keen sense of justice was aroused as affecting his friends who had, thru personal sacrifice and loyalty to a principle, rescued the Studios from absolute failure, time and time again - and saved loss to its shareholders; He it is who has achieved the supposedly impossible - the disentangling of the hard knot, and has brought back to creditors and shareholders alike, hope and confidence; who has as good as assured those holding stock in the Studios, of the beginning of payment of Dividends ere long, and of creditors soon receiving final settlement of debts.

And yet - and yet - and yet there are those who, at this time of success and relief, still would continue to intrude an interfering hand, liable to bring back again suspense and anxiety.

Now, be it known, dear Colonel, that we who have saved S-L-Studios from catastrophe - and own it, as you might almost say - are satisfied to bury everything pertaining to the past - bury it all in the pit of oblivion - bury it deep, in conjunction with all the other shareholders - with the few, indeed, hardly holding a visible claim to the title of shareholder, yet who are clamoring for the carrying out of some designs on their part - we are willing and satisfied, I repeat, to bury the past with all its losses and worries and animosities - bury it all forever out of sight and remembrance: AND WE CALL UPON EVERY SHAREHOLDER TO DO LIKEWISE!!



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It is our conviction that nothing good or worthwhile will ever come of further examination or auditing of the Studios' books and papers in the hope of finding some incriminating evidence upon which to base legal proceedings; - the books have been expertly and properly kept - as testified to by public accountants, who also testify that no incriminating evidence is discoverable on the part of any of the previous Trustees and administrators of the S-L-Studio Estate.

Even if it were possible, at the present date, to squeeze out something that might be construed as being possibly legally assailable, there is probably no one living now who would see the end of such litigation - and barrels of money might be squandered in the attempt - and a cloud continually allowed to hover over the good name of a fine undertaking held in operation thru a few self-sacrificing ones; and when victory is even now in our possession - victory and relief and success - and prosperity - all in sight - and above all, harmony and freedom from all strife and discord - all here and now in our very midst as a possibility, if not molested.

Now, dear Colonel, what we, who stand at the head of this grand undertaking, propose to do, is this: - We propose to personally appear before every club, organization, society and association of every kind in this City - civic, religious, social or whatever, wherever we are permitted, and openly declare what the present conditions are, what their future prospects, and what we have done for the prosperity and fame of this City of San Diego; and we trust there will be nothing existing of untoward nature to have to cover in our talks before San Diego's family of clubs, societies, associations, etc.

Very truly and sincerely yours,

*Robert Hart*

*cc - Mr. White*

RH/L

February 29, 1924.

Mr. Robert Hart,  
Hart, Loring and Wells,  
La Mesa, California.

My dear Mr. Hart:

I appreciate the motive that prompted you to write me your letter of February 25th. I personally appreciate the sacrifices you have made in this matter on your own volition.

To my certain knowledge thirty or forty stockholders of the S. L. Studios want a thorough audit of the books made by competent authority to find out what the facts are. The trustees of the S. L. Studios are not doing their duty in refusing to cooperate with us.

I am not going to condone a crime if a crime has been committed, and writing to you purely as a friend. I wish to say that if Mr. Sawyer's credit on the books is a legal one, I think you have done very well in selling him preferred stock in lieu of cash.

It will cost \$150 or \$200 more to have the books experted out there, and two or three weeks additional time.

I would like a definite statement from you as to whether or not you are going to let us have the use of the books for a few days to complete the audit. Please let me know by return mail.

Yours very truly,

RF:AH

*Copy*

La Mesa, Cal.,  
Sept. 10, 1924.

Mr. H. R. Jackson,  
Industrial Secretary,  
Chamber of Commerce,  
San Diego, Cal.

My dear Mr. Jackson:

We are thinking over the suggestion you most kindly made the other day, by which you thought the wheels of publicity might be set in motion for furthering the interests of Hart-Loring-Wells.

But it occurs to us more and more strongly that as this is a matter of vastly more prospective importance to San Diego in Industrial lines than anything that has ever before come to it for consideration according to our belief, there is needed a far different treatment of it than is held in the usual, conventional scope.

It means that there is an urgent call for the "Unusual" in this instance, even to the breaking in upon the old order of things -

Actionizing rather than publicizing! Staunch, active cooperation along the whole line!

Do you remember the tone of despair in D. C. Collier's words on the night, recent months ago, when the Chamber of Commerce gave a banquet in his honor, while he declared he felt no such cooperative spirit 'mongst the present day San Diegans as was manifested and operative during pre-exposition days when the Impossible vanished before the onslaught of the Possible in the shape of a marvelous cooperative energy kindled by the fire of enthusiasm; - adding (in effect) that not until there was a return of that great spirit of truly genuine worth-while cooperation and wide-awakeness to meet the "Unusual" at every turn, would there be much remarkable accomplishment of really Big Things in Industrial lines in San Diego?

Now, here in your very midst is a grand work undertaken, not by outside experimenters - not by strangers of uncertain character values; but by earnest, sincere people who hold San Diego's future growth into glory and renown as a goodly part of the interest and purpose of their work here. For are we not brother Chamber-of-Commercemen?

The Educational Pictures of Hart-Loring-Wells - fascinating and entertaining elements, too, weaved into the Educational always, hold ways and means already arranged

2.

necessary for the compassing of the Globe for appearance in the theatre and out of the theatre; in fact everywhere there is installed a projecting machine: and on every Picture Curtain the name of good old San Diego will be blazoned forth before the eyes of over fifty millions of theatre-goers weekly, and before multi-millions of people a week outside the theatres.

Is it so much of a "chance" proposition then, in view of the marvelous prospects possible - indeed very possible if treated right - NOW - that any Chamber-of-Commerceman should hesitate a moment to subscribe, say, for one to fifty shares of Hart-Loring-Wells stock - common stock (only) at Ten Dollars a share (no preferred issued)? It's such a little thing to do, Mr. Jackson, and yet such an important one worthy and suitable for the breaking of all the old order of things, and the adoption of the "new method" of "actionizing" - (instead of publicizing for to get the "other feller" interested and responsive.)

Let us Chamber-of-Commercemen then, both senior and junior chambers, endure to throw to the winds the red-tape of rigid conventionalism, and just break loose, for this "oncet" and actually do the practical, direct act, ourselves, immediately - no waiting - and "shell out" (each one) our ten to five hundred dollars worth of subscriptions, which we'll hardly miss, under such arrangement as our esteemed Brother Jackson shall suggest. We confidently expect, from the prospects in view, that in a couple of years or less, this stock will not find market at less than fifty times its present value - if the project is NOW finely supported. - Delay fatal.

This one conspicuous, overt act - NOW - may, perchance happily start a motion of cooperative spirit here in San Diego like unto that our noble Collier predicted would have to come, before San Diego, awakening from its somewhat lethargic state sufficiently, enters into a united body of masters over all things pertaining to the growth of this much favored City - this destined place of beauty and renown - this powerful magnet to draw in the hosts of desirable citizens to be,

Let us take the dare!

Let us thrust aside all petty, old time timidities!

Let us do something out of the usual NOW!! for to develop ye honorable "big things" in Industrial lines. There's millions in this grand undertaking which Hart-Loring-Wells have scheduled for colossal development in due time.

3.

Allow, please, a repetition of a passage out of our letter to you of Aug. 18th: "We believe we have the right and privilege to call on high heaven and nearby powers - Chamber of Commerce powers - for aid in sending out a mighty, explosive energy so to shake this region roundabout into a startled, quickened "sit up and take notice" state whereby may be realized the fact that Hart-Loring-Wells are here to stay! and to work out a grand destiny for this community and themselves. And the sooner our Brother-Chambers of-Commercemen put their activities and interest - moral and financial - into boosting, effective motion of cooperation the sooner the beneficial results to all concerned."

Thanking you for your kindness and courtesy,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Robert Hart

LA MESA SCOUT  
HART-LORING-WELLS 8/29/24  
RESUME ACTIVITY AT  
S-L STUDIO GROUND

Mr. Robert Hart, heavy stockholder in the Hart-Loring-Wells concern, has submitted for publication an open letter, explaining to a degree the affairs of the company, and its future plans and purposes.

It is understood the company has resumed building operations on its leased land at the S-L Studio site, and that next week will see Mr. Wells, the director, rehearsing the cast for the first episode of his big picture.

Following is Mr. Hart's letter:

In the first place, we feel the urge to emphasize the fact that "San Diego-La Mesans" need no longer entertain a thought of anxiety as to the successful status and operation of the affairs of S-L Studios. This is being here mentioned because the memory of its past unfortunate condition has unfavorably affected the attitude of the people of this community towards the comparatively recent "new-comers" in motion picture lines—Hart-Loring-Wells.

Although no outward activity is visible in "S-L" locality at the present time, yet the good work is going on under the management and guidance of a strong and capable board of trustees, viz: Col. Ed Fletcher, Frank M. White, Judge Chambers, Raymond Wells, William R. Wheeler. In a quiet way these trustees are gradually preparing to bring into outward manifestation the consummation of their present plannings for big things in the near future. They are men who cannot and will not allow anything short of success to ensue from their contact with "S-L" affairs.

Also should be emphasized the fact that no longer should it be said of "San Diego-La Mesans" that they "have no faith in Hart-Loring-Wells and their future prospects of success." Here are some of the reasons for this assertion. In the first place, there is the well deserved reputation of Raymond Wells. He has turned out remarkably fine and successful pictures, a notable example of which is his "Sacred Films" (Biblical series) which were originally bought outright by the New York Christian Herald for special distribution; and now, after over three years' constant service, (a year's service is considered about the usual limit), it has been recently bought from that paper by the U. S. government for free distribution!

Ancient history, beginning with early Egypt, is receiving Mr. Wells' present professional attentions. Unlike the hasty work put into many pictures which are hurried into the money-making mart for quickest financial returns only, without careful regard to accuracies in the handling of subjects, Mr. Wells has devoted several years to careful research work into ancient history data, including visitations to centers of authoritative information in foreign countries, etc.

Will Hays, head of the motion picture industry, writes encouragingly and co-operatively; San Diego's noted archaeologist, Dr. Hewitt, is greatly interested and helpfully so; Magoffin, head of the University of New York, and author also of valuable works on ancient history, is earnestly backing up Mr. Wells, even to the extent of holding himself in readiness, at the finish, to vouch for the 100 per cent accuracy and authority of the output so that it may prove worthy to successfully go down to posterity alongside of text books.

The most prominent of distribu-

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The most prominent of distributors, releasers, exhibitors, etc., are already bidding for the handling of Mr. Wells' picture—especially those who in the past have been in closest work-a-day association with him. On our files there is no dearth of evidence of a healthy, wealthy, welcome awaiting the appearance of Hart-Loring-Wells' educational pictures, holding within them, as they do, the lure and fascination of entertainment as well as of instruction, and so amply equipped to enter successfully the two fields of service—the theatrical and non-theatrical; which means they will appear in whatever place there is installed projecting machines, such as schools, colleges, churches, associations, U. S. navy ships, etc., etc. Through these two avenues—theatrical and non-theatrical—there is unusually promising prospect of fabulous returns financially as well as realization of worth-while service to human kind generally; and the world is so ready now for non-depressing happily wrought screen diversions!

One phase of lack of faith and confidence in Hart-Loring-Wells has for the first time been brought to our attention today. 'Tis the asserted conviction that the present actually tangible showing of affairs on the Hart-Loring-Wells location does not match up with the amount of funds expended thereon. This indeed seems a case of condemnation without investigation—a judging from circumstantial appearances only; and this status of opinion has seriously militated, we find, against our winning favorable response to calls for stock subscriptions. Investigation into our financial status would show that in addition to what is outwardly visible to the visitor's eye—such as

(Continued from Page 1)

office building, carpenter's shop, sets, etc.—there must be taken into consideration the expenditures on salaries of those in executive service and those in the various departments where work has been applied to pictures that have already been filmed, and to pictures that shall be taken in future episodes, etc., etc.; then there are the hundreds of costumes and appurtenances, etc., etc., already made up for future use; also "properties" already used, and those made up in advance to meet future needs—all this work mostly dependent upon the skill and experience of professional, artistic co-workers. Then there is the expense of actors that have been employed to take part in pictures already taken; involving building of smaller sets here and there, transportation to distant locations for certain picture effects, etc. Films have also been used; and unused films, some of them are on hand for future service; they are expensive. Then during past picture "shooting" there was the camera department with all its expensive details, including a high class cameraman, etc. Besides these, many other details of outlay could be gone into, but it is reasonable to believe that enough testimony has already been produced to prove how easy to go astray it is in forming conclusions based upon circumstantial evidence minus investigation of real facts; and in this case causing serious embarrassment and the holding back from easier accomplishment of their high aims, faithful, earnest souls in their strenuous labors to bring benefits and improved conditions to the world in general, and to this community in particular, including themselves.

But, now after all is said, we gladly push aside all these shadows of the past, and we ourselves wish not in any way to condemn; we want to make our work-a-day stay in your midst fraught with joy and happiness in mutual co-operation. We want to be proud of San Diego

La Mesa and to have San Diego-La Mesa proud of Hart-Loring-Wells. We believe a grand and glorious opportunity is now offered us to all work on together, and, too, that a responsibility rests upon each one to see to it that nothing is left undone for the furtherance of success in this undertaking.

Sincerely yours,  
ROBERT HART.

3133 Front St.,  
San Diego, Cal.,  
March 5, 1925.

Col. Ed Fletcher,  
920 Eighth St.,  
San Diego, Cal.

Dear Colonel:

In conversation with Mr. Eckels yesterday, I read to him a copy of my recent letter to you; and showed to him as clearly as possible the great injustice I consider is being done me in the matter of "S-L" adjustments as they now appear.

I had, of course, to admit that technically (legally) Judge Chambers' decisions in the matter were ~~unassailable~~ unassailable: but in one instance wrong, as to comparing my case with a \$1,500.00 stockholder.

This stockholder was "desirous" of making her "investment" whereas R. H. was, as it were, forced to "contribute" against his will and desire, in order to keep the undertaking a-going; but, by freak of fate, never dresming that an occasion like the present one might arise, instead of taking evidence of indebtedness of some kind, as the mortgagees did - he took "stock", which act placed him as a fixture on the list of stockholders, subject to the rulings allotted to them.

I stated to Mr. Eckels that I honestly believe R. H. has done more to give the Studio a chance to make San Diego and community proud of its existence than the mortgagees; that both mortgagees and R. H. were equally comrades in misfortune in that even now we were still not only losing interest on funds we had put into the Studio, but were actually "paying out" interest because of them.

Equal in misfortune

But unequal in the eyes of Justice and Fairness! as to our allotted divisions in the matter of settlement!

Not equal as to moneys involved, either.

Not equal as to  motive in placing said funds: that of the mortgagees being for business profits; that of R. H. being the unselfish one for the upholding of an undertaking he felt sure would some day put San Diego with distinction on the map - while at the same time opening the way for some big, uplifting world-work to be done.

2.

And yet!

And yet!

In spite of the greater work he has done, R. H. is pushed pretty nearly out of sight in matters of adjustment, while the mortgagees flourish and are cared for in great consideration, merely because there was a chance trick of fate by which such result could be accomplished in conformity to "legal" permission.

I asked Mr. Eckels, being decidedly "in a hole" financially, and having hundreds of dollars to pay out within the next two months (mostly on moneys borrowed for "S-L" contributions), if his people could not buy of me stock for the amount of funds standing to my credit on the "S-L" books (over \$1,200.00); also would he not consult with his people as to dividing up with me the big amount of stock they hold as compared with my pittance of allotment - and so have the pleasure and satisfaction of doing an act of merecommon justice and fairness, which the legal status does not admit of, unless possibly some official resolutions might bring about some legal permission.

Then, too, Colonel, I have your promise, made before signing my name of acquiescence to the reorganization proceedings - when I asked you how I was to be taken care of in view of the inequalities coming to me - that you would take good care of me in due time.

The by-laws of Grossmont Studios show that an auditor is to serve its needs at a salary of \$50.00 a week: why not select R. H. for that position?

Very truly yours,

Robert Hart

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160-1

March 2, 1929.

Mr. Robert M. Hart,  
4346 - 44th Street,  
San Diego, California.

My dear Mr. Hart:

A special meeting of the Board of  
Directors of the Grossmont Studios, inc. is called for  
10 A. M. Tuesday, March 5th, 1929, at the office of  
Ed Fletcher, 1020 Ninth Street, San Diego.

Yours very truly,

GROSSMONT STUDIOS, INC.

By \_\_\_\_\_  
President

KLM

May 11, 1929.

Mr. Robert M. Hart,  
4346 - 44th St.,  
San Diego, California.

NOTICE is hereby given that a  
Special Meeting of the Directors of GROSSMONT STUDIOS, INC.,  
will be held at 1020 Ninth Street, San Diego, California,  
at nine o'clock A. M., on the 15th day of May, 1929, for  
the purpose of considering the request of Ed Fletcher  
for a quitclaim deed of the real property on which  
Grossmont Studios is located, in consideration for the waiver  
of interest accrued since May 15, 1928.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary



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State  
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Miss May:  
Take this up at the next meeting of the Grossmont Studio directors.  
E. F.

Dear Colonel

Not wishing in any way to intrude upon your activities---your most praiseworthy activities---in the matter of reorganization of the Grossmont Studios out of the once-known S-L Studios, I have refrained from sooner calling attention to the great injustice that might be done me were not due and proper consideration given to my interests which may have escaped general notice.

Although receiving Stock for the \$50,000.00 contributed to the old "S-L" Studios, yet, virtually, what I placed in it was a "Loan" put forth against my desires for the only purpose of keeping, at critical moments, said Studios from utterly and forever being put out of commission, carrying with it the interests of shareholders, mortgagees and creditors alike.

Now, the selling of my securities at short notice in order to realize "hurry-money", meant great sacrifice from "shrinkage": also I have been, and am paying interests on mortgages on my properties because of said contributions to "S-L"---the amount of such mortgages running into five figures! All these sacrifices have proven to be the protection of the interests of the Mortgagees, especially.

"They built" because they "wanted" the job  
"I contributed" but did "NOT want" the job

**30743**

**RETURN RECEIPT.**

*Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.*

Robert M. Hart  
(Signature or name of addressee.)

(Signature of addressee's agent.)

Date of delivery, MAY 14 1929

Form 3811 11-2118

**RETURN RECEIPT.**

*Received from the Postmaster the Registered or Insured Article, the original number of which appears on the face of this Card.*

V. S. [Signature]  
(Signature or name of addressee.)

(Signature of addressee's agent.)

Date of delivery, May 14 1929

Form 3811 11-2118



Dear General:

I am writing in reply to your letter of the 14th of May, 1929, in relation to the matter of my resignation from the position of Chief Clerk of the War Department. I have been thinking over your letter and the fact that you have given me the opportunity to explain my position to you. I am glad to have your consideration given to my resignation. I have no other business to attend to at the present time and I am sure that you will understand my position. I am sure that you will find my resignation in your interest.

Yours truly,  
[Signature]

AND YET ?      AND YET ?

Robert Hart, the one who "paved the way" for the relief of these Mortgagees in this unfortunate matter--is - by the present ruling--to be deprived of two-thirds of the value of Stock he so reluctantly had to take in exchange for moneys advanced by him!

Whilst "they-the Mortgagees"

who have profited by the overtures of the said Robert Hart, receive full values for the whole amount now due them by the old S-L Studios

And "they" now possess

nearly twice the amount of new Stock as Robert Hart does under the present allotment

Just reversing former conditions

where Robert Hart held nearly twice as much Stock as they did.

How is that for Justice?

What a reward for acts of unselfishness?

Now, Colonel, I never was actually "hard up" before, in my life, but I am just that now----while waiting for Hart-Loring-Wells to get fully on their feet. I have now, at the present time, to pay interests on many thousands of dollars of mortgages incurred through my loyalty in holding on to the old "S-L" Studios, also have to pay overdue taxes and other items of outgo.

And I am going to ask you if you will kindly see to it that I get a check within the week for the running account of funds advanced by me to "S-L" Studios, a year or so ago as per statement I left with you a short time since, amounting to something over \$1,200.00. And in conclusion, will only say that I would like to hear from your good self as to your views of what might be done in the matter of straightening out the unfair conditions now existing as covered in the early part of this letter.

Do you not think, dear Colonel, that at last R. H. really deserves some kind of worth-while recognition for what he has been doing at such great sacrifice during the past year and a half, and which may be of such value, in due time, to this Community?

Very truly yours,

3133 Front St.,  
San Diego, Calif.,  
Feb. 22, 1925.

*Robert Hart*

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 10 Folder: 9**

**General Correspondence - Hart, Robert**



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