

GET STATUE OR SET NO BASE, IS MAYOR'S STAND

Marvin's Ultimatum on Eve of St. Mary's Circle Rites

Mayor Marvin announced yesterday that he had served notice on the Columbus Monument association that he will not permit erection of the monument base in St. Mary's circle until he has been given assurance that the statue itself has been purchased.

Financial difficulties which have surrounded the monument project from its inception have caused repeated delays in the erection of the shaft.

"I am not going to let the base go up and have it stand there towering in the air without a statue on top," declared the mayor.

The mayor's ultimatum came just as the monument committee was preparing for the ceremony of laying the cornerstone. Members of the building committee said only yesterday that they expected to announce plans for the ceremony Saturday.

Wants Statue Assured

"I've been questioned about when the monument is going up," said the mayor. "Before I went to Washington and New York, I had a conference with officials of the association. They were desirous of going ahead at once with laying the cornerstones and building the base.

"I told them that the cornerstone and the base cannot go up until they assure me that the statue itself has been bought.

"I am just as much interested in the monument project as I ever was. Everyone knows what I have been thru and the criticism I have faced in my efforts to secure a site which would be satisfactory to everyone.

"I was assured previously that the monument would be dedicated on Columbus day. But it has not been. I don't propose to have that base standing there without a statue on top for another year.

The statue has got to be paid for and on hand not later than planting time in the spring. If it is not, St. Mary's circle is going back to a flower bed."

Meanwhile, the granite for the monument base lies on the barges which brought it here from New York city at the barge canal terminal, ready to be unloaded and laid.

Pier Made Ready

The crane at the terminal is scheduled to start transferring the heavy cases to the central pier this morning. Workmen spent yesterday unloading other lighter cargoes from boats and clearing an area on the central pier where the cumbersome blocks of stone will be stored until plans for laying the cornerstone and erecting the base and pedestal are completed.

Because of the weight of the stone, which approximates 153 tons, it was felt the central pier was the only one strong enough to withstand the load."