

Feb. 13, 1926.

Hon. James Rolph,
c/o Hind, Rolph & Co.,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Sir:

Believing that the memories of the days when sailing vessels carried the world's commerce should be preserved in a tangible form, we are endeavoring to establish, at this port, a maritime museum which will keep alive these rapidly fading traditions.

It is the purpose of the Zoological Society of San Diego to establish such a museum, and to place therein not only a collection of relics of the sea, but also a small, well equipped aquarium. Various structures have been proposed, and it has finally been decided that by ~~far~~ the most appropriate way in which to house these exhibits would be in an old sailing ship. The vessel, with all of her rigging intact, would be moored somewhere on the waterfront. Alterations to her interior fittings would make her suitable for museum purposes, but would, of course, render her unfitted for further commercial use.

We understand that you are contemplating the sale of a number of your sailing vessels. The Golden Gate and James Rolph have been mentioned specifically. The purpose of this letter is to learn if any of your sailing ships are available, and if so, at what figure. It might be added that, as we are obliged to go before the public whenever funds are asked, the financial question is an important one.

The idea of a ship museum seems to have met with some success on the east coast, notably in the cases of the ships Charles W. Morgan and Benjamin F. Packard. Both of these vessels, however, are of wood; and the warm climate of San Diego would render a wooden ship of questionable use. We now boast of one of the finest zoological gardens in the country, and it is our desire to expand in such a way as to give the public further exhibits of this nature. The educational value of such an undertaking would be tremendous, not

no reply
H. F. M.

