

Hello again,

Sorry we've not been into print lately but there just hasn't been much to say, - Not the sort of thing that anybody would want to read anyway.

Now after several months "in the doldrums", during which we found ourselves alternately wondering about the state of Mr. Rocafort's health and the state of progress on the development, we have a bit of news, so here goes.

Mr. Tremblay recently returned from a six weeks' "vacation" in Grenada, during which he appears to have spent most of his time finding out about the state of things on the Island generally and Mount Alexander in particular.

On his return he had much to tell us and a meeting was held on March 14 so that we could all have a chance to hear his news.

The meeting started promptly on time after a short delay and the "business" was soon disposed of, after which the "floor" was handed over to the speaker.

Mr. Tremblay began by showing us a number of colour slides showing the progress on the development. He tells us that three roads have already been bulldozed in; Old Mill, Belleview and Hacienda, not just tracks but 26 feet wide roads ready for the crushed rock and paving. Next on the program he says, are Nutmeg, Beach Road, Laurent Point and Grenadine.

The following is a brief resume of the main points brought out by Mr. Tremblay during the evening:

Mr. Rocafort intends to open the road down to the Marina as a matter of priority in order to bring in supplies by sea and so save considerably on transportation costs.

The equipment situation is looking up at last.

The two bulldozers are serviceable, at the time of his visit one was being used to train an operator and the other was getting a coat of paint.

The following items of equipment belong to the Mount Alexander Development Co. and are presently available:

- 2 Bulldozers
- 1 Front end loader
- 1 Grader
- 2 Rollers
- 2 Asphalt laying machines
- 2 Dump trucks

Anybody need their driveway patched?



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One house is under construction for a doctor and, once details of changes to the plans are settled, work will proceed on Mr. Rapicault's Hotel.

On the question of costs Mr. Rocafort feels that right at present he could probably do better than the prices supplied by Mr. Allen. Of course with the continuing rise in building costs, the cost of any given house will depend on when it is to be built.

Mr. Rocafort's daughter, who is in the final stages of her architectural training, is now in the Island working with her father. Mr. Rocafort says that if anyone wishing to build would send down a rough floor plan and details of the type of roofing, floor tiles, windows and any other specifications that we might have in mind, they will draw up a sketch of the house and give us an idea of the cost. This can then be used to finalize the design.

The present cost of construction is \$20 - 25 W.I. per sq. ft. The floor area is measured to the perimeter of the roof - including overhang.

This cost again may come out cheaper if plans work out, for instance, it is hoped to quarry and crush stone right on the development, the saving in transportation costs may be well imagined by anyone who knows the Island.

As an aside, on the subject of costs, Mr. Tremblay remarked that before going down there to live it might be wise to re-investigate the price of furniture. It seems to have risen since we first looked into it, but there again, it depends what we are interested in "Danish-Modern or Locally made!"

On financing, Mr. Tremblay saw Mr. Brown of the Royal Bank of Canada in St. Georges and Mr. Lester Johnson of Barclays. Summing up the discussions, it seems that at present at any rate, loans are available, with government approval, at the present rate of  $9\frac{1}{2}\%$  (which could drop if the bank rate goes down). The loan would be for  $66\frac{2}{3}\%$  of the total appraised value of the land and house. The loan can be for 15 years but must be cleared by age 65.

What does it cost to live in Grenada today?

For two persons, groceries, meat and fruit for 25 days, (including buying grapefruit!) Total Cost \$104. W.I. or about \$2. W.I. per person per day. This does not include Rum or other frivolities of course. Anybody want to check those grocery tickets?

Regarding the political climate in the Island. Mr. Tremblay said that there does not appear to be any problem that the man in the street would be conscious of and the government is very anxious to maintain the happy relationship that exists on the island. Recently legislation has been introduced, designed to discourage agitators from outside.

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The time eventually arrived when we all felt that we had put Mr. Tremblay through the wringer enough and so the meeting closed with a word of thanks for a very fine effort.

Those who left immediately afterwards missed some excellent coffee and doughnuts, our thanks to Mrs. Banfield.

This letter has been a rather long-winded affair but it is difficult to decide what to leave out, so please bear with us.

Until next newsletter then, lets hear from you if you have any news to pass on.

Happy Holidays,

*Gordon Ayer,*