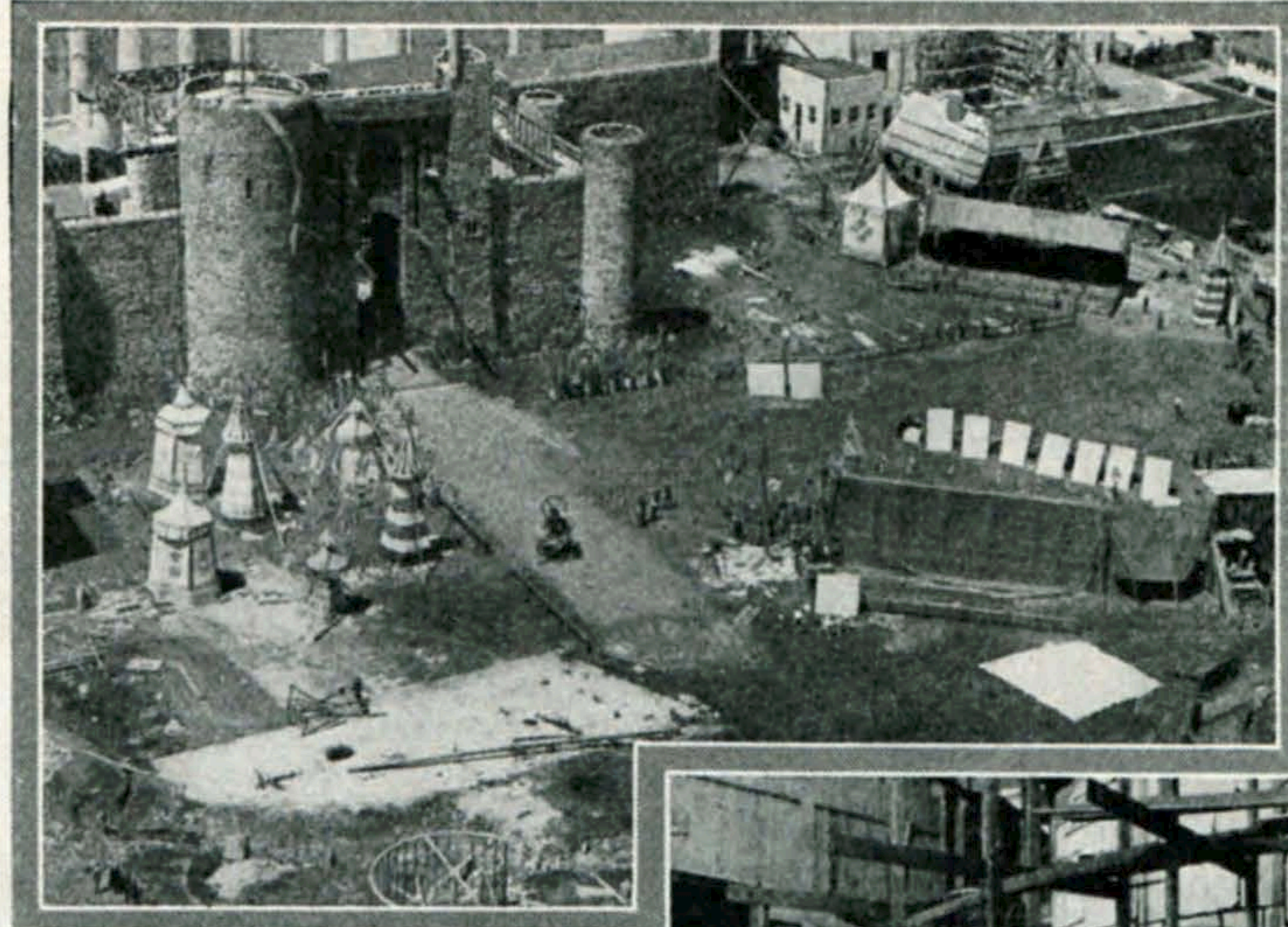


Fairbanks Films "Robin Hood"

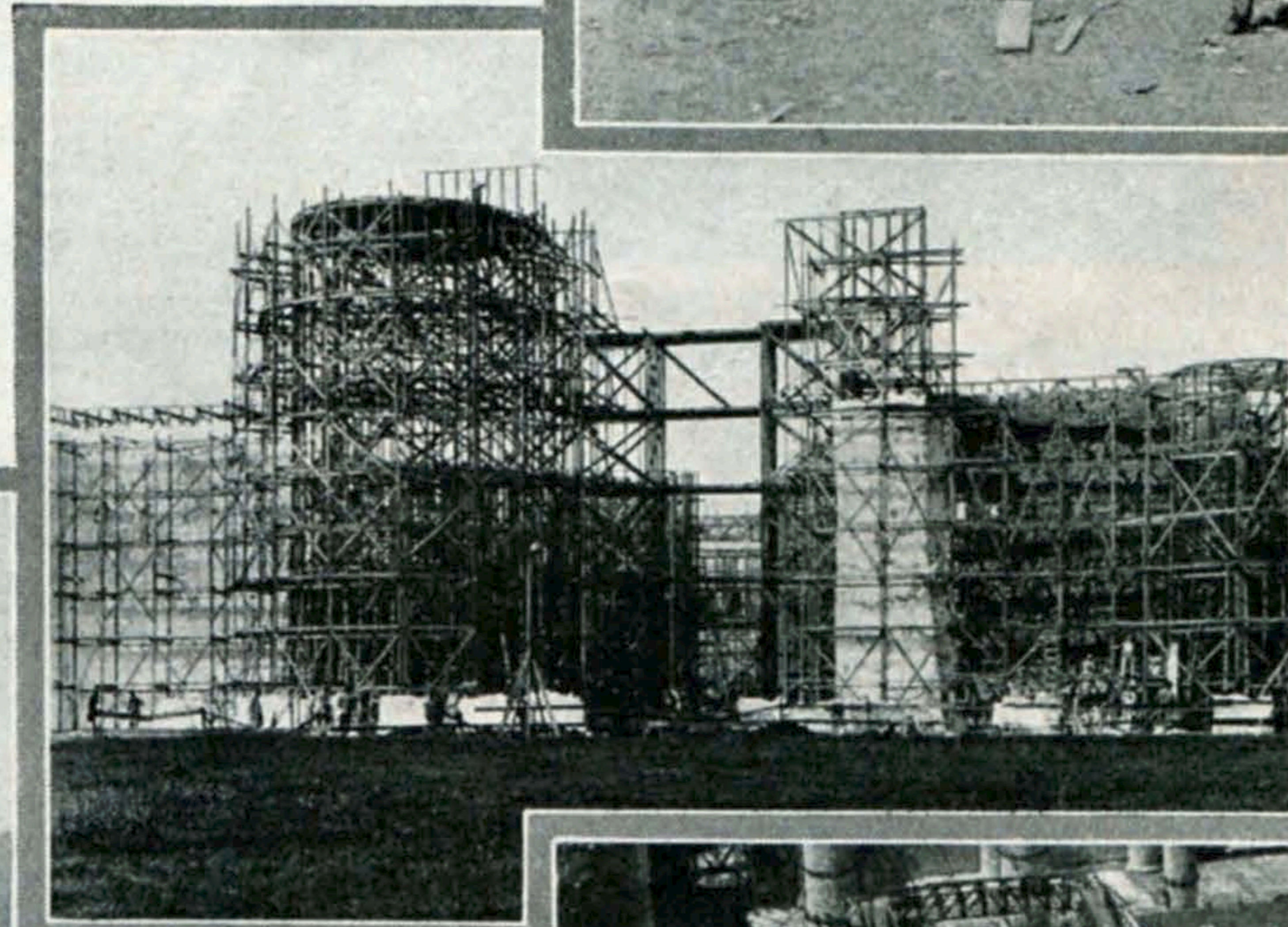
DOUGLAS PUTS A FORTUNE INTO HIS PRODUCTION OF THE FASCINATING STORY OF TWELFTH CENTURY ENGLAND



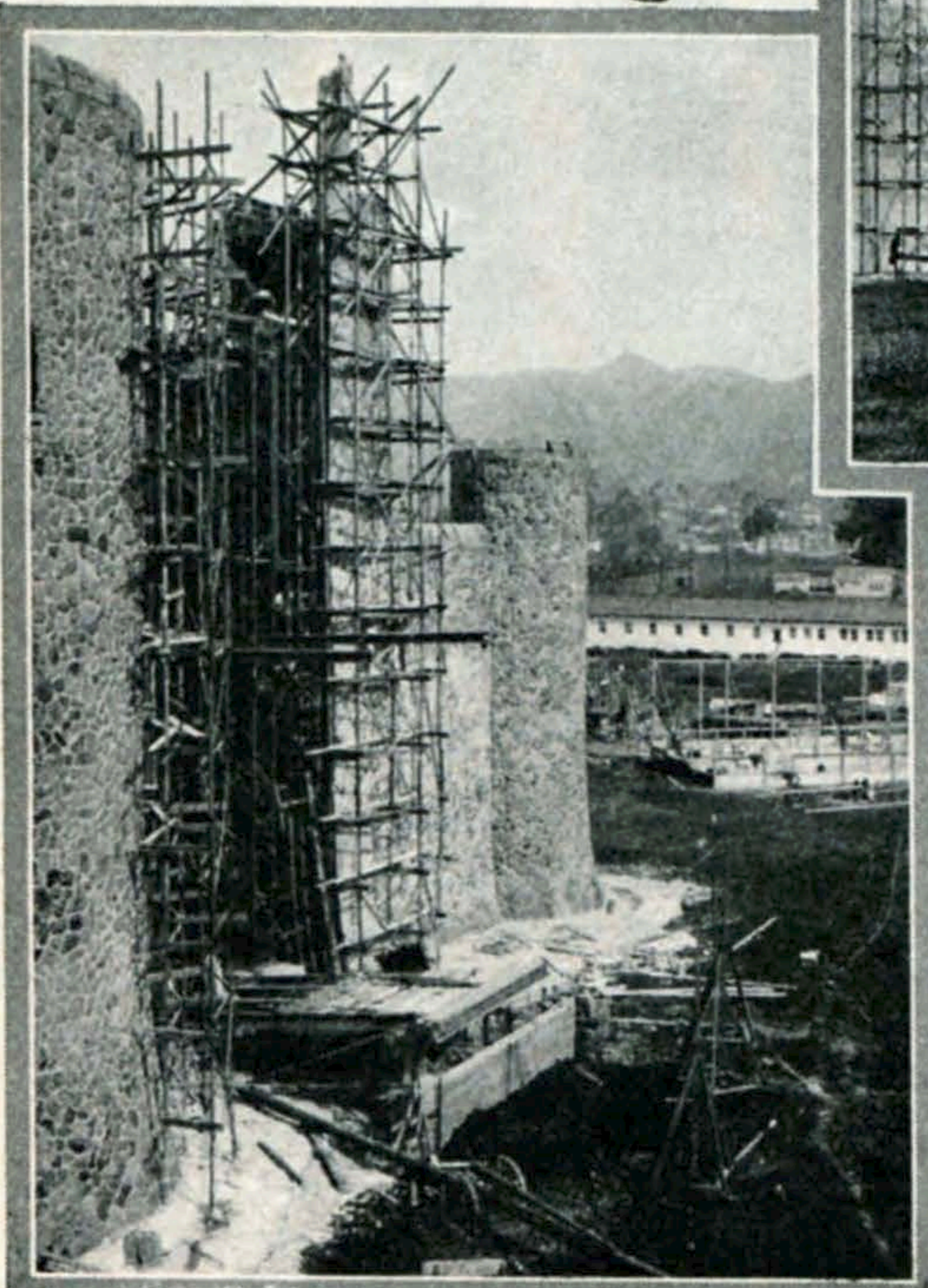
Fairbanks as Robin Hood appears for the first time in his career as the proud possessor of a beard



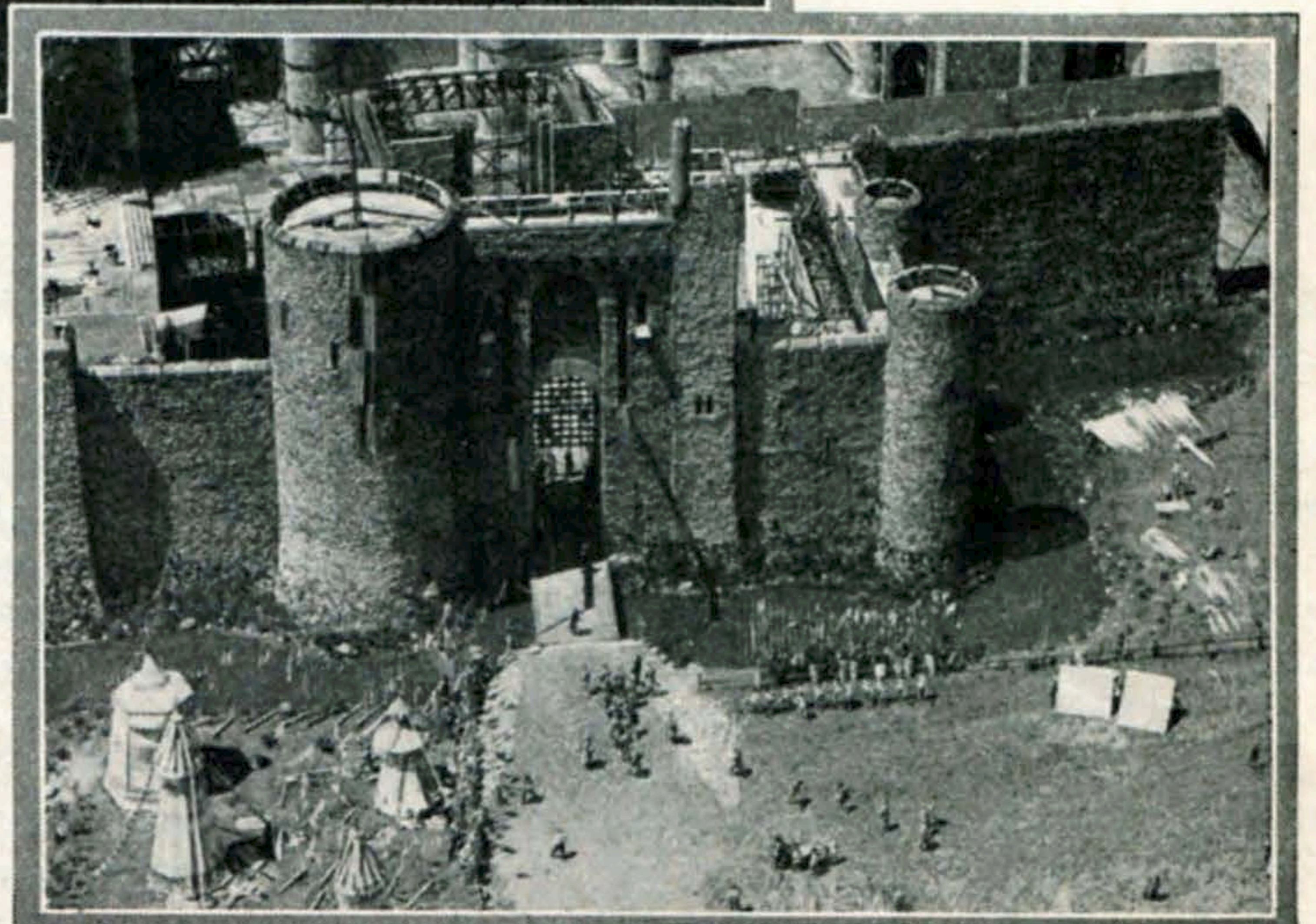
LEFT: The exterior of the Norman castle which Doug is building is 620 feet long and the structure, which is 310 feet high, covers two and one-half acres. Before the castle is a great tournament field. BELOW: A few of the 398 workmen who are building the mammoth sets



The lumber used in building the castle, if laid out in board feet, would cover twenty acres of ground. If placed end to end it would span a distance of 410 miles



There are eight towers in the castle, each of which, if they were water towers, would hold 276,000 gallons. The banquet hall in the castle is larger than the Concourse in the Pennsylvania station in New York



Facts About "Robin Hood"

ASTONISHING FIGURES CONCERNING THE BIGGEST PICTURE TO
BE FILMED IN AMERICA

By Margaret Kelly

IN ALL of the literature of America there is no boy as well known as Tom Sawyer, and in all the world of American films there is no grown-up boy better known than Douglas Fairbanks. In many ways they are alike, particularly in their love of romance and in their imagination.

Tom Sawyer's greatest joy was to play at being Robin Hood. In the woods back of the little Missouri town where he lived, he and Huckleberry Finn and the rest of the "gang" spent many an afternoon with bows and arrows indulging in elaborate deeds of chivalry.

Now Doug, with the same spirit which inspired Tom, is playing at being Robin Hood, but instead of using his imagination and the shadows of the forest as his background, he is indulging his fancy and all the earnings of *The Three Musketeers* and other successful pictures, in building a real Norman stronghold and in reproducing a very real Sherwood Forest. Great castles are rising at his command, knights and ladies are peopling them, and chivalrous deeds galore are being enacted in the manner of the twelfth century under the glowing California sun of today.

You see, Doug is making a picture version of the story of Robert, Earl of Huntington, who became the outlaw, Robin Hood, and robbed the rich to feed the poor. At his new studio in Hollywood greater activity than has ever surrounded one of his productions is going on and sets, equal to if not greater in size than the stupendous backgrounds of recently shown European productions, are springing up on every hand.

Chief interest in the great sets centers in the towering Norman castle, surrounded by the inevitable moat, a perfect replica of the hub of kingly activity of eight hundred years ago. The most interesting single feature of this castle is the tremendous drawbridge which, when raised, makes the big structure inaccessible, thanks to the depth and width of the

moat. It is raised and lowered with precision and serves to support many mounted and unmounted soldiers in numerous dashing charges in and out of the building.

Realism abounds everywhere inside and outside this castle. For example, the moat is filled with beautiful water lilies and live bullfrogs. Within the castle is a banquet hall which covers more space than the great concourse in the Pennsylvania station in New York City. The floor of this hall is composed of large concrete vari-colored blocks said to be exact duplicates of the material and style in vogue in the days of the famous Robin. All the gold ware used in the banquet scenes was faithfully copied from specimens now in the museums of England and the continent.

In the twelfth century the knights and warriors, unafraid of death, considered it the highest honor to die beside their color standard, so great care has been given to the proper reproduction of the flagstaffs of the period. In the Fairbanks production one of the flagstaffs used was fashioned after an historical one used by Richard Coeur de Lion. It is twenty-five feet high, weighs 300 pounds, and is mounted on a wheel base four feet wide by eight feet long so that it can be moved forward with the troops.

There are so many spears used by the players in the new production of *Robin Hood* that Doug has already christened his studio *Spearmint Studio*. All of these weapons—there are 2,000 spears, the same number of swords and about 500 daggers—are exact copies of the instruments of warfare used eight hundred years ago.

Indeed, the entire production is so accurate in detail that it promises to be an invaluable addition to the commentaries on the period. Fairbanks is spending every effort to make the picture a true picture of the days "When Knights Were Bold."

Read These Facts:

It took twenty-two experts five months to do the research work and to design the sets.

146 books were used by these experts in ascertaining the historical facts.

It took 400 workmen twelve weeks to build the sets.

The lumber used, if laid out in board feet, would cover twenty acres; if placed end to end, it would span a distance of 410 miles.

A carload, or thirty tons, of nails were used.

252 tons of plaster were needed to construct the castle walls.

1,500 sacks of cement were used in making the sets.

178,000 square feet of wall-board, plaster-board and button-lath went into the castle walls.

25,400 pounds of fiber were used to hold the plaster together.

20,000 yards of material were used in making 2,500 costumes.

1,000 wigs, made of human hair, were used by the players.

1,000 pairs of shoes were specially made for the production, only one pair of shoes being made from the hide of a sheep.

Three tanneries used up their entire stocks in making these shoes.