

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION FOR POST OFFICE: Supporting the program of local post office authorities the legislative committee of the local chamber has been active throughout the year in its endeavor to secure adequate appropriation for the acquisition of site and buildings for post office purposes. In the tentative apportionment bill eighty five thousand dollars has been allocated to Torrance, and an increase is now being sought to bring this community to par with appropriations pending for similar sections. One hundred and twenty five thousand dollars is the goal designed for Torrance. Early congressional action is expected which should make possible the realization of this program.

ABALONE MEASURE: Under the industrial subdivision of this report a more detailed description of this bureau's legislative activity in behalf of local industry is submitted. Suffice it to say here the local chamber has demonstrated its effectiveness to cope with difficult legislative problems and secure favorable action for the protection of home industry.

COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM: The local bureau, through its committee, rendered valuable assistance during the legislative session of 1931 resulting in favorable action on Senate Bill No. 17, which provided six hundred thousand dollars from the state to assist the proper flood control of Los Angeles county. Failure to secure the passage of this measure would have resulted in an increase of local taxes to make up this revenue, otherwise serious property losses would be bound to result in some of the exposed areas.

EXEMPTING NON-PROFIT HOSPITALS FROM TAXATION: The local bureau was active with committees of the state legislature to secure the adoption of a state constitutional amendment, seeking the exemption from taxation non-profit hospitals. Many hospitals, including our own splendid local institution, do a considerable amount of gratuitous service, especially the Torrance Hospital, which is operating under a special endowment benefit. It, therefore, seems a proper concession that such institutions should be exempt from general taxes, and the effort to secure the necessary statute change was accomplished through the adoption of senate constitutional amendment number six which was approved by the electors throughout the commonwealth.

ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY

ELECTRIC HIGHWAY SIGNS: Serving as a directional sign, as well as an intersection warning beacon, the four, large Neon electric signs located at strategic intersections approaching Torrance, have been maintained another year. Considerable difficulty was experienced the first season when these signs were installed due to the suspension methods which permitted excessive vibration and consequent damage to the electrical elements in the structure. Each of the units was, therefore, reinstalled on a bracket type of installation in place of the cable suspension, and no trouble whatsoever has been experienced since this change was made nearly a year ago. Many favorable comments by people who have observed the benefits of these signs have been received, and inquiries from other communities commenting on their effectiveness have been noted.

GLIDER CLUB MEET: Under the auspices of the South Bay Glider Club, one of the largest glider meets in the history of California was held in Torrance on the Riveria property adjoining Palos Verdes. Municipal and civic representatives joined in the program which was pronounced by representative critics in the aeronautical field to have been one of the best scheduled meets ever staged for this activity. The local bureau furnished several trophies for winning events which were won largely by nationally known competitors. These trophies were properly inscribed, and bear a message of good will from the city of Torrance. News stories and commentaries on this event were carried in papers throughout the country, and many hundreds of inches of favorable publicity, tying this event in with the city of Torrance were carried in these reprints.

LEGION DRUM CORPS EQUIPMENT: Early this season the formidable organization of the local American Legion Drum Corps prompted recognition of that unit by this bureau to provide drum corps equipment to encourage this group to develop an organization that would be able not only to serve patriotic occasions but bear entertainment features that would herald the the good name of Torrance far and wide. The initial cost of this equipment amounted to five hundred and fifty dollars, contributed by this bureau, and which was later supplemented by the drum corps itself.