Live In Torrance

The Torrance Herald

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TORRANCE ESCAPES FLOOD DAMAGE

ANNEXATION CASE TRIAL IS DELAYED UNTIL NEXT THURSDAY

POSTPONE ANNEXING HEARING

Parties Agree to Delay Trial Until Next Thursday Morning

CASE SET FOR TODAY

Company and City Unprepared and Continuance Mutually Agreeable

By agreement between the parties, hearing of the annexation suit brought against the city of Torrance by the Huntington-Redondo Company was postponed a week. The hearing was scheduled for this morning before Judge Shaw in Superior Court.

The decision for postponement came Wednesday afternoon when representatives of the company and the city both agreed that they had not had sufficient time in which to prepare their cases for hearing.

The hearing will be held next Thursday morning before Judge Shaw.

Trustees Argue Pacific Electric Fare Boost Move

20 Percent Increase Request Brings Caustic Comment From Board

Remarks for and against the proposed 20-percent increase in Pacific Electric passenger fares were prompted at the Board of Trustees meeting Tuesday night when the board received notice of a hearing on the P. E. request for boosted fares.

The city was notified that the hearing would take place on Thursday, March 10, before the State Railroad Commission. The company is requesting a 20-percent raise in all fares except those prevailing between Los Angeles and Pasadena. The round-trip fare from Torrance to Los Angeles would be increased from 82 to 98 cents if the company's request were granted. The 20-percent increase, if granted, would affect commutation tickets.

Said Mayor John Dennis: "I think the P. E. cars that run to Torrance are the poorest, oldest bunch of cars I have ever seen anywhere."

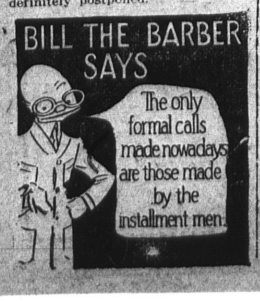
Said Trustee Brady Wolfe: "I think the P. E. is charging too much now."

Said Trustee Willis M. Brooks: "If Torrance officially is represented among the cities fighting the increase I cannot see where it will help the case any. Costs of all material used by the P. E. have doubled since 1914. The P. E. has never paid a dividend. If the company makes money the shops here work full time, which certainly helps Torrance."

No action was taken.

DINNER POSTPONED

The dinner planned to be given tonight by the Women's Guild of the Episcopal Church has been indefinitely postponed.



Plans $50,000 Business Block For El Prado-Cravens Corner

ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF PROPOSED CENTRAL BUILDING

Early construction of a new business block on the northwest corner of El Prado and Cravens avenue was announced yesterday by M. B. Korman. Mr. Korman's plans call for eight stores and twelve offices. At the corner a clock tower will be erected.

The building will be of Spanish type to conform with the city hall and the Dominguez Land Corporation's new building on Cravens avenue.

Mr. Korman said that the cost of the building would be between $50,000 and $60,000 and it would be known as the Central building.

Plans of the building are at the Torrance Investment Company's office on Cabrillo avenue, where they may be inspected by contractors who may wish to figure on the construction job.

Mr. Korman said that he will favor local contractors and workmen when he builds the block.

"Torrance," said Mr. Korman, "is entering a period of great growth. I know of no city in Southern California with such bright prospects."

A LETTER TO THE PUBLIC

From the Board of Directors Mission Playhouse

The Mission Play, John Steven McGroarty's world-famous pageant drama, "How California Began," is now permanently established in the new Mission Playhouse at old San Gabriel, as a result of the untiring efforts on the part of the directors of the non-profit corporation organized for the purpose of securing and maintaining the benefits of this historical play to California forever.

This corporation was gotten together by W. I. Hollingsworth and his board of directors, at the instance of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. The new Mission Playhouse is now completed, having cost the officers, directors and their associates a sum exceeding $600,000.

The furnishings have not yet been financed. We are therefore giving the patriotic and public-spirited citizens of this state the opportunity of donating one hundred dollars or more to the furnishing fund.

The donors to this magnificent enterprise will be known as the patrons and will be listed in the souvenir program opening night. Only the personally invited guests of the officers and directors will be present on this occasion. The officers and directors are inviting to the opening night dedication of the new Mission Playhouse, which will be Saturday, March 5, all of the patrons who have subscribed one hundred dollars or more to the furnishing fund.

The subscription blank below is for your convenience.

W. I. Hollingsworth — L. L. Bentley — George I. Cochran — Samuel K. Rindge — Arl Bahr — Harry Chandler — E. L. Doheny — Jr. — E. Bledsoe — Joseph Scott — John W. Hunt — Frank A. Miller — Ed J. Dodd — M. Dain — Arthur G. Bent — Milton Kaufman — Wm. G. Mott — Harold Jones — Ernest G. Carter — Elis Clark — L. E. Behymer

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK, FURNISHING FUND

New Mission Playhouse, San Gabriel

I hereby subscribe.....Hundred Dollars ($.....) to the fund for the furnishing of the new Mission Playhouse.

Mail to Norman Sprowl, Business Manager, 813 Taft Bldg., Hollywood, Calif.

Make checks payable to The Mission Playhouse Corporation.

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone No. .....

Madrid Avenue Is Slated for Curbs And Sidewalk Job

Sidewalks and curbs for Madrid avenue between Carson street and Sierra avenue on the east side and Carson and Redondo boulevard on the west side are called for in a resolution of intention introduced at the Board of Trustees meeting Tuesday night.

The date for protests was set at Tuesday night, March 15. The owners of property fronting on the street will be assessed for the work.

FORTY PHONES OUT

Upwards of 40 telephones were out of order in Torrance Wednesday, due to broken wires and fallen poles.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsal for the minstrel show to be presented by the Women's Club of Torrance at an early date will be held Friday evening at 7:30. All those who have parts are requested to be there promptly.

Consolidated Lumber Co.—Adv.
Everything in building materials.

Four Square To Erect Temporary Church in City

The Four Square Gospel was granted a permit by trustees Tuesday to construct a temporary frame church building on the rear of the lot at the corner of Cabrillo avenue and 218th street.

CITY BUYS SCRAPER

Purchase of a scraper by lease contract with Schultz, Peckham and Schultz was authorized by the Board of Trustees Tuesday night. The scraper will cost $350.

Baby Swallows Open Safety Pin; Undergoes Knife

Little Robert Leech Doing Well After Serious Operation

Little Robert Leech, 8-months-old son of Mr. and Mrs. James Leech of Amapola avenue, is recovering at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital from an operation for the removal from his stomach of an open safety pin which he swallowed Tuesday afternoon.

The little fellow was hurried to the hospital Tuesday. Physicians took an X-ray of his stomach and located the open pin. An operation was immediately performed and the pin extracted from the stomach.

Wednesday physicians reported the child's condition as good as could be expected and predicted his recovery. Mr. and Mrs. Leech were not permitted to see the child after the operation, as complete quiet and lack of excitement was advised so that the boy would more readily recover from the surgical shock, which is acute with an infant.

Mr. Leech is manager of the Torrance office of the Liberty Bank of America.

Chamber Board Re-Elects Heads For Next Year

Four Directors Renamed and One New Member Is Chosen

With four members re-elected and one new member named on the board, directors of the Chamber of Commerce Tuesday afternoon re-elected all officers and organized for the ensuing year's work.

The following were re-elected directors to serve for two years: J. W. Post, George Proctor, Dr. George P. Shidler, and W. Harold Kingsley. Harry H. Dolley was elected to serve a year.

The following officers were re-elected by the board: President, George Proctor; first vice-president, W. Harold Kingsley; second vice-president, W. Rufus Page; secretary, Carl L. Hyde; treasurer, James W. Post.

Committees for the year will be named next Tuesday, Mr. Proctor announced.

The results of the election of directors was as follows: J. W. Post, 117; W. Harold Kingsley, 90; George Proctor, 88; Dr. George P. Shidler, 69; Harry H. Dolley, 64.

Other nominees received votes as follows: James Leech, 53; J. C. Smith, 53; Alfred Gourdier, 50; Charles T. Rippy, 50; J. W. Barnes, 46.

One hundred and forty-one votes were cast by 236 members.

Observations

New Laws and High Taxes—Steam, Electricity and Labor—The Giant Oil Industry—Railroad Costs and the Public's Bill

THE record of more than 13,000 new laws enacted by state legislatures in 1925, out of a total of 40,956 bills introduced, will probably be broken this year. Legislatures are meeting this year in all states except Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Virginia.

A survey reveals an increasing number of new law-promoting groups representing active minorities and special class groups, including religious, social, civic, labor, women, and other bodies. Each has its own panacea or special class advantage in mind and is endeavoring by legislative decree to restrain, reform, or arbitrarily control the conduct, morals, business methods, and domestic lives of others.

A heavy crop of bills designed to regulate or restrict industrial and commercial operations and for new forms of taxation, together with many anti-crime and social welfare proposals, is indicated by the survey.

* * * *

"AS steam revolutionized our industrial processes, so we now find electric power working a great transformation," declares William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor.

"The general use of electric power has enabled the workers to raise their standard of efficiency and productivity until America has established its industrial supremacy throughout all the nations of the world.

"It is clearly evident that electric power will be utilized and applied in an ever-increasing way in all lines of industry. As the amount of electric power supplied to each individual in industry is increased, in like proportion his efficiency and productivity are increased."

* * * *

ABOUT $11,000,000,000 capital is invested in the petroleum industry. It pays national, state and local taxes precisely as other property does, and in addition an astonishing variety of special taxes and fees. In some states as high as 40 percent of the total state revenues come from the oil industry.

While foreign countries turn but 5 to 11 percent of crude petroleum into gasoline, our oil companies extract about 35 percent gasoline, and every year the proportion is increasing. This fact, in spite of exorbitant taxes and increased cost of production, gives the United States the cheapest gasoline in the world.

While house furnishings increased 126.5 percent in price from 1913 to 1926, anthracite coal 125.5 percent, woolens and worsteds 189 percent, and farm products 33.7 percent, gasoline increased but 24.8 percent—the least of a group of 20 classifications.

* * * *

THE transportation law passed by Congress provides that railroad rates shall be such as to enable the railroads to earn a fair return on the value of their property.

The Interstate Commerce Commission has fixed 5¾ percent as a fair return.

While this is not a guarantee, but a restriction of earnings, it makes it plain that any expense imposed on the railroads by legislation increasing their payrolls, taxes, or restricting efficient and economical operation, must be borne by the public.

The railroad payroll now represents about 63 percent of total operating expenses. "full-crew" laws require the employment of more men than needed. The public is concerned in this because the public finally pays the bill through the medium of rates.

The "full-crew" laws passed by the various state legislatures at the instigation of the railroad labor organizations, for no other purpose than to create more jobs, have added millions of dollars to the expense of operation, and to a like extent not only made rate reduction impossible, but necessitated rate increases. This type of "job-creating" legislation is now before the California legislature, and will undoubtedly be agitated in many other states.

Shippers and producers who are complaining of high rates and seeking reductions would do well to take these matters into consideration. We cannot hope to escape rate increases, to say nothing of rate reductions, if by legislation we not only increase the cost of operation but go further and cripple operating efficiency.

* * * *

"A SHIFT from a 'mining' to a 'cropping' system of timber utilization" is a new phrase used to describe the changing attitude of the American people with regard to making forest lands more productive.

The old system consisted in extracting timber much as metals have to be mined from the earth, making the most of available supplies. It looked upon a stand of timber as upon a lode of metal—to be used once. The cropping system looks upon trees as upon any other self-perpetuating crop, to be so developed as to give the highest yield over an endless period of time.

One of the principal advantages of the cropping system is that it often improves the entire stand by removing trees that are too crowded and by eliminating underbrush which often leads to forest fires. As the success of the large lumber companies in applying this system becomes known the small owners of forest lands throughout the country will doubtless be induced to take it up.

* * * *

DISCUSSING the tariff, Senator Reed Smoot asks "What is the essential difference between an inadequate tariff such as that of 1913 and an adequate tariff such as that of 1922?" And answers his question:

"The difference between domestic success and failure. The width of this chasm is determined by circumstances that may differ in each case or commodity. That is a matter of investigation and inquiry. A 'competitive' or low tariff under the plea of 'tariff reform' was tried in 1894 and again in 1913. Neither worked to the advantage of American industry or labor. The facts of economic history prove this."

An equalizing tariff is neither class legislation nor a tax on the many for the benefit of the few. The slight increase in the cost of some articles which may be occasioned by a tariff on them is made up many times by the benefits accrued through operation of these industries.

"The tariff of 1922 is not perfect," says Mr. Smoot; "no tariff ever was or will be. But its essential principles are sound."

* * * *

"GROUP management" of public utilities will develop further and survive present attacks being made upon it, Arthur W. Thompson, president of the United Gas Improvement Company, predicts.

The system by which light and power companies, and in many instances electric railways are being combined throughout the country for unified operation and financial direction by holding corporations or engineering concerns is defended by Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson, in commenting on recent assertions by Prof. William Z. Ripley, who holds the chair of economics at Harvard University, that groupings of utilities tended to put the public at the mercy of monopolies, said:

"Statements such as those by Prof. Ripley tend to cause a feeling of distrust in the securities of the utility companies, whereas the grouping of such properties makes the securities a safer investment. Under this management the bonds become a lien against many properties, and an antagonistic attitude by municipal author-

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RAINFALL MOST IN YEARS

Good Drainage Prevents Flood, but Wind Kills Power at Plants

SHUTDOWN TEMPORARY

Some Local Factory Wheels Idle Tuesday Afternoon When Wires Fall

Snapping high power wires, uprooting trees and telephone poles, the storm that whipped the Pacific Coast this week damaged Torrance to the extent of $10,000.

All of the damage here was the result of wind, which broke power lines, necessitating temporary industrial curtailment. Natural drainage carried away the waters so rapidly that no homes and no factories were affected by flood conditions which blocked traffic and halted work in almost every other part of Southern California.

Torrance could be reached from Los Angeles and San Pedro by trucks and cars even at the worst stages of the storm. The loss here from the wind was temporary, and all factories were running on regular schedules from Wednesday morning on.

The gale that bent trees double Tuesday afternoon ripped out the main high tension wire of the Southern California Edison Company and tied up industry for several hours.

The line that went out runs along the alley behind Cabrillo avenue. Witnesses say that the display of pyrotechnics was brilliant as the line went down in six places, shooting great sparks into the air as the broken ends of the wires contacted the earth.

Damage to Torrance industries due to the shutdown while an Edison crew was repairing the line is estimated at $6500.

Plants with their own power units were affected only by the shutoff of lights.

Halts Temporarily

Production at the Union Tool Company was halted temporarily until the company's own power plant could be hooked in.

Partial and temporary shutdown at the Columbia Steel Corporation was necessitated by the break in the power line.

The American System of Reinforcing plant was idle for two hours while the line was being repaired.

At the Eno Rubber Corporation's plant production stopped when the lights went out. The company has its own power unit. Rushed with orders for immediate delivery, the plant worked Tuesday and Wednesday nights until about 9 o'clock.

Work at the Torrance Flat Glass Company's new plant was temporarily halted.

Other industries in the city, with the exception of the Pacific Electric shops, suffered loss of production owing to the power shutoff.

Power in some parts of the city was off and on intermittently Wednesday.

Flood Closes School

The Torrance Elementary School was closed Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday on account of the flooding of the boiler room and the inundating of motors. Water rushing through a partially caved in foundation put the motors completely out of commission and totally flooded the boilers. Workmen Tuesday and Wednesday were installing new motors and mucking out the boilers.

City Street Superintendent William Gascoigne and his crew were busy Tuesday and Wednesday clearing streets of fallen trees. A number of trees fell to the ground in different parts of the city, particularly on Plaza del Amo and Cedar avenue. Plaza del Amo was closed to traffic to prevent accidents.

The city crew was hurriedly topping trees Wednesday to prevent their falling.

Drainage Is Good

The falling of the trees and snapping of power poles was at-

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