The Southern Counties

Municipalities

Between municipalities there should be understanding, friendship, co-operation; particularly when all are part of the same State, are confronted by similar problems, are aided by the same solutions. So believed representatives of California municipalities more than a score of years ago. Therefore they organized the League of California Municipalities, met annually.

Last week the League of California Municipalities held its meeting for 1929; 500 delegates assembled in Oakland, attended discussions on pertinent topics, listened to addresses, reports; elected new officers, chose Long Beach as next year's meeting place, appointed committees to investigate common problems, to offer solutions.

Work Done. Los Angeles' Planning Director Gorden Whitnall was chosen president; Palo Alto's H. A. Mason was named treasurer; Alameda's W. J. Locke was recommended by the nominating committee for executive secretary, subject to the Board of Directors' approval. (Decision soon will be forthcoming from the Board regarding a resolution to make the office of executive secretary a full-time salaried position; also hinging on this decision is the proposal to establish permanent League headquarters either in Los Angeles or San Francisco. Present temporary headquarters are in San Francisco).

Specific Accomplishments: The convention approved investigations by the United States Senate of the country's telephone systems; expressed a belief that the State Railroad Commission should have more money for examination of municipal problems; asked the State Motor Vehicle Department to supply examiners to cities to carry out provisions of the new drivers' regulations; recommended that all League cities use standard zoning symbols comparable to those in Los Angeles; indorsed safety measures.

A committee of five was appointed to investigate recent rulings on cities' liabilities in accidents involving municipal employees, and to clear up misunderstandings now prevalent regarding the creation of standard insurance policies to eliminate the controversy.

To promote unity and co-operation between heads of municipal utilities, a new department was formed. Frank W. Hanna, chief engineer of the East Bay Municipal Utilities, was named head. The department is to be known as the Municipal Utilities' Association.

The convention concluded, the 500 delegates left Oakland, returned to their cities throughout the State; gave detailed reports of conference's accomplishments, made ready to put suggestions received, decisions reached, into action.

Mexican-Indians

Separate schools for Chinese, Japanese, or Indian children are permitted by the State of California; Mexican pupils are to attend the regular schools, are not to be discriminated against. So ruled Attorney-General U. S. Webb a fortnight ago when the Carpinteria School Trustees refused to admit three California-born Mexican children, sired by California-born Frank Montoya (News Review, Oct. 7-13).

Last week the Carpinteria School Board protested against Attorney-General Webb's ruling; said that their school code considers Mexicans as Indians, therefore bars them from the regular schools. Board members requested Attorney-General Webb to investigate the matter more fully, to make another ruling, more satisfactory to all concerned. Webb promsied reconsideration.

Not so easily will the issue be settled, however. Carpinteria Resident Frank Montoya, whose three children were denied admittance to the Carpinteria school, last week declared he would force the board to prove his California-born offspring were Indians, and were thereby ineligible to attend the Union school. Montoya's Attorney Van Bever announced the case would be carried to the final court of appeal.

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Last week Attorney-General Webb issued a memorandum at the request of the California Joint Immigration Committee; declared that the Indian or red races in Mexico were ineligible for American citizenship. Statutes permit naturalization of any persons of the white race, of African nativity, of African descent; Mexican Indians, being the red race, are thereby not included.

A. R. HERON

A prison, a hospital, a wild women's home.

Orange's Colleges

Long a subject of discussion have been facilities for higher education in Orange County; many have been the suggestions made, voted down, permitted to hang fire while school superintendents met, argued, "tabled" motions. (News Review, Aug. 19-25, et seq.)

Orange County now has two junior colleges, one in Fullerton, another in Santa Ana. Both are located in the northern half of the County; unsolved still is the higher educational problem for the coast cities.

A fortnight ago, representatives of the new Newport Beach-Costa Mesa High School District discussed possibilities for a Coast Union Junior College region. Costa Mesa's Chairman D. J. Dodge presented statistics which indicated that Newport Beach and Costa Mesa had this year paid into the Santa Ana High School treasury the sum of $89,545.43, into the Santa Ana Junior College fund $21,015.73.

Chairman Dodge pointed out that this money would help to construct, maintain the proposed high school for the new district, should also be used for a similarly-located junior college.

At the next meeting of the Orange County Coast Association, to be held at Huntington Beach, Delegates LeRoy Anderson, Charles Way were authorized to present the junior college project. They will seek to organize Huntington Beach, San Juan Capistrano, Tustin, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach into a Coast Junior College District.

"Reds" Punished

Democratic in its inception, the United States nevertheless does not tolerate Communists who teach that its principles are wrong, that they should be substituted by Communist ideas. Therefore, San Bernardino police officers last August abolished a children's camp near Yucaipa when they saw the Red Flag of Communism hanging from a flag-pole (News Review, Oct. 7-13).

Last week, almost two months after the camp had been done away with, the trial of seven Communists accused of teaching Communistic ideas to children (conspiracy against the United States Government) came to an end. Six out of the seven defendants were found guilty of conspiracy. The seventh defendant proved she was but a visitor to the camp at the time of the raid, was dismissed.

During the two months of the trial, and events leading up to it, this Communist camp in the lonely San Bernardino foothills aroused world-wide interest among the radicals. Therefore, last week at the culmination of the trial Attorney John Beardsley, Los Angeles liberal, announced that radicals from all over the world had contributed money, a defense fund, to finance a new trial for the condemned Communists. Beardsley said he would move for a new trial.

Three Institutions

To Southern California, to Los Angeles, last week came State Director of Finance A. R. Heron. His mission: to study matters pertaining to the location and construction of three new State institutions in Southern California, representing a total investment of $1,850,000 in State funds. The three institutions: (1) a $1,000,000 hospital for mental cases; (2) a $475,000 prison for women misdemeanants and felons (Wild Women's Home); (3) a $375,000 prison for first-term youngsters on the path of crime between the ages of 18 and 24.

In the Associated Realty Building, at Los Angeles (State headquarters in Southern California), Director Heron last week met with a committee of State Senators, chairmaned by Los Angeles' Joseph Pedrotti. For two long months Pedrotti's committee had been inspecting sites in Riverside, San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino counties. Last week Senator Fedrotti told Director Heron that the committee had tentatively picked a number of prospective locations in Los Angeles County; that the committee was ready to make final selections as soon as Governor Young appoints the directors of the three institutions, and the directors had opportunity to meet with the Senate committee.

Said Director Heron: "I will ask the Governor to call the committees together in Los Angeles immediately. (Possibly late this week). At that time a chairman will be named and possible sites cut down to three or four. After this is done we will want an engineering report on water supply and other matters pertaining to the sites. When all this is done we will name the locations."

* * *

Plans for the women's prison call for a farm in connection in order that habitual offenders against society and drug addicts, whom it is planned to send there, may literally work out their own salvation. Women felons confined in San Quentin also will be transferred to the "Wild Women's Home" (so named by opponents during the last Legislature).

The hospital to care for mental cases is to be established close to Los Angeles proper,it is reported, and the two prisons given more isolated locations.

For the prison sites, the Senate committee was deluged with offers of property. For the mental hospital, offers were comparatively few.

Body-toting Cult

Spiritually connecting him with the supernatural, religion plays an important part in the life of mankind. Many a religion is basically the same, but in the form of worship, many are the variations. Last week, back in the distant reaches of the Santa Susana mountains, government investigators came upon the stronghold of a religious cult, strange and uncanny. High up on a peak at the western end of the Santa Susana Pass, the crescent shaped "temple" of the cult looked commandingly down on a colony of faithful subservients, housed in board cabins.

Hitherto unmolested, the cult headquarters was last week visited by police, suspicious concerning the disappearance of some of the cult's members. First investigated was the death of Willa Rhoades, 16-year-old cult member who was found embalmed under the flooring of a Venice house. Cult people, it was said, had been toting the dead body about for three years, first packed in ice, later embalmed.

When investigators came upon the scene of the cult's religious activities they found a golden throne, guarded by a fully armed negro, who later was arrested; the graves of four "sacred" horses; and a man to whom it has been suggested that he would soon become the "Messiah," that he would occupy the throne. Big, black and glowering, the negro guard threatened questing newspaper men with a pistol when they came toward the temple, but subsided on advice of Cult Leader Mrs. Otis Blackburn's attorney, one Wade Cochrane. Fantastic among the furnishings of the temple was a group of chairs, bible-etc., known as the "God's furniture set." These were to be used by Cult Leader Mrs. Blackburn and her husband, Mr. Blackburn, and Mr. and Mrs. Young.

SENATOR PEDROTTI

. . . deluged with sites.

Merritt Wooddell said he thought he was to be the new Messiah. All he was waiting for was an angelic message which Mrs. Blackburn was supposed to get, in preparation for which she had obeyed other supernatural instructions, purchased four horses, a white, black, red and brown one.

All last week detectives dug in the earth, suspecting that the missing persons had been buried nearby. Only dogs, presumably sacrificed during cult rites, were found. Earlier, detectives had been informed by nearby ranchers of secret burials and mysterious performances, had asked police to investigate.

Pioneers

Little more than a half-century ago, San Bernardino Valley was a sagebrush wilderness; coyotes howled, Indians rampaged, white settlers lived many miles apart, and a trip to Los Angeles was an event of great consequence.

Last week Chino's Rotary Club gave a "pioneer party," invited old-time residents, asked them to reminisce concerning their pioneering days in Southern California. The pioneers assembled, compared notes, recalled much of the early history of San Bernardino County.

To Chino's E. H. Pine went the record for longest residence. When Indians became too active in San Bernardino in 1864, his parents moved to Chino's more peaceful surroudings; he has lived there ever since.

Park, Civic Center

Last week the Alhambra City Commission surveyed two petitions from Alhambra citizens. One asked that the city buy the Community Hotel Corporation property for a civic center; the other requested that a park site in the southern part of the city be purchased. Both suggested that payment be made from the $175,000 fund recently received from the sale of Alhambra's share in the tri-city farm acreage (News Review, Sept. 30-Oct. 6).

While the petitions were being considered the City Commission authorized advertising for bids on land to be used for a civic center, a park; designated the sections of town in which the offered sites must be located.

City Attorney R. D. Wickham announced the bids would be opened November 5; declared the city would not be obligated in any way to buy any of the proffered plots.

Miniature Tokio

Los Angeles, deemed the melting-pot city of a melting-pot nation, contains within itself sections so like the native countries of its inhabitants, that a casual onlooker might believe himself in a miniature Chinese town, a pocket edition Tokio.

Last week was printed in U. S. C.'s Sociology and Social Science Magazine an article by Graduate W. T. Katoaka, based on a survey of Los Angeles' Tokio made by the article's author.

Stated the article: Los Angeles has a population of [illegible] Tokio [illegible] in 1900 [illegible] [illegible] Tokio [illegible] [illegible] Tokio [illegible] [illegible] Tokio