

# The Counties

(Continued)

ference to the power, provided the preference is in the public's interest. Observers thought it was unlikely that the City of Los Angeles would give up its rights in the matter.

Both groups were in secret conference last week studying Mead's proposed plans. Toward the end of the week the Edison Company was said to be on the verge of agreement with the proposals, and at the same time, the City of Los Angeles was also rumored to be near a definite decision as to what action it would take. After several attempts and postponements to bring the Edison and Los Angeles spokesmen together at a meeting with Secretary Wilbur, indication was that the two groups would finally meet early this week. Mr. Wilbur said the representatives of the different interests in their private talks with him, had all seemed desirous of reaching some friendly agreement.

Southern California interest represented at Washington at the meeting, beside the target companies, were: City of Pasadena, City of San Diego, San Diego Consolidated Gas and Electric Company, Palo Verde Mesa Development Company, City of Santa Ana, City of Glendale, City of Burbank, City of Newport Beach, Kathrine Midway Mining Company, Los Angeles Gas and Electric Corporation.

## Kern Land Puzzle

On a surveyor's instrument, a few degrees an acre, was the result of acres. To the Taft City Annex Oil company, a surveyor's mistake back in 1919 meant a loss of 14 acres of valuable oil properties. Also it resulted in one of the most complicated quiet-title actions ever brought up in a Kern County court.

Last week, before Kern's Superior Judge Erwin W. Owen, at Bakerfield, the suit of one George Buckner and the trustees of the Taft City Annex Oil Company, against one W. J. Perkey and a host of other defendants, involved fifty acres of oil bearing lands. Titles to the land were so dim and obscure as to present an extremely baffling case.

In 1919, the fifty acres were purchased by the Taft company. At the time of purchase the land was part of a government section. Later, however, it was discovered that it had been incorrectly surveyed and was fourteen acres short in area. As to where the fourteen acres have disappeared is a mystery that may never be solved, for there exists an immutable law which permit no shifting of government section marks once they have been set.

Problem of the court: To tell the various landowners in the section how much land they own and where it is situated. Beginning with the original government patent as exhibit number one, it is anticipated that forty-five documentary exhibits will be introduced before the litigation is completed.

## Hue Over Hue

Due for re-painting a fortnight ago was the Santa Monica City Hall. Weary were some citizens of the yellow hue suggested, red, green, blue, or other, certain city officials refrained from committing themselves; had no desire to embroil themselves in a color quarrel with municipal elections soon to occur.

Open-minded on the issue was Mayor Michel, whose office will not be affected by the coming election. He listened sagaciously to proffered reasons for suggested colors, refuted arguments for green, blue, declared that Santa Monica was not Irish enough for green, was too cheerful for blue.

Reticent were Finance Commissioner Frank Helton and Public Works Commissioner John Morton, both up for re-election on December 3. Neither took active part in the discussion. They finally suggested in unison that another coat of the present yellow hue would eliminate argument, would be most economical.

## Pueblo Privileges

When Ventura's special counsel L. C. Drapeau was commissioned several months ago to make a study of the City's water rights, he spent much time endeavoring to find out whether the City of San Buenaventura (Ventura's official title) had a pueblo form of government during the Spanish and Mexican sovereignty.

Great was his grief when he was unable to unearth any trace of an original pueblo regime, despite leg-

endary belief that a pueblo had once existed in conjunction with the old Spanish mission.

For, declared Special Counselor Drapeau, had he been able to prove that Ventura had an original pueblo right in the Ventura River, it might have been superior to every other right in water for the whole length of the river, and would have included all the water in the river from bedrock upward, and from remotest sources to the ocean.

## Wild Life

When a high-powered bullet from a deer hunter's rifle killed one of Author Edgar Rice Burroughs' prize hogs, the creator of the famed fiction-hero "Tarzan, the ape-man," registered a protest; wrote to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, suggested that authoritative steps be taken to eliminate danger to residents, domestic animals, to preserve wild life in the Santa Monica Mountains.

Wrote Author Burroughs: "Wild life in this district is a source of pleasure and instruction, if it is permitted to remain. Selfish men from other districts are trying to destroy it."

"Tarzan-creator Burroughs' letter was the first of forty similar missives to be read by the Board of Supervisors last week. Each registered a protest against hunters, equipped with high-powered rifles, who shoot deer in the district between Los Flores Canyon and the Ventura County line.

## Racial Feud?

Last June a San Diego barber shop, owned by "Tony Adamo, was bombed, partially wrecked, fortnight ago, the nearby home of Mr. and Mrs. Mariano Crivello was blasted, partly ruined. Although neither Adamo nor Crivello could give a reason for the outrage, San Diego police last week believed that San Diego Sicilians and Italians were about to engage in a racial controversy.

In San Diego's "Little Italy" both attacked buildings were located in the same district, a source of what similar; caused police to believe they may have been effected by the same individual or individuals. Chief of Police Arthur Hill wanted to know the whys and wherefores of the bombings; last week ordered detectives to "get something tangible." No racial war will be tolerated in San Diego.

## Fire Bug

Building and property owners in San Diego last week slept with one eye open, for flitting mysteriously about the city with a box of matches was a fire-bug whose mischievous activities were believed to have caused six incendiary blazes, during the past fortnight. On the hunt for the pyromaniac marauder last week were many a fire department official.

Lamenting the depredations of the fire lighter was the firing of the oldest lemon-packing plant in California, on the estate of Z. C. Matthews. This was the third building on the estate to be destroyed by fire within the year. The packing plant has been a San Diego landmark for forty years.

Five other incendiary blazes credited to the fire-bug have flared up lately in San Diego during the past fortnight. In each instance the fired structures were unoccupied and firemen gained evidence to show that each fire was purposefully set.

## Dams-Water

The following water projects last week were planned, discussed, throughout the counties of Southern California.

Tujunga. Planned to protect the San Fernando Valley from vagrant flood waters after seasonal rains, arrangements for the erection of Big Tujunga Dam were begun last week. After the County Engineers' office estimated its cost to be approximately \$1,000,000, bids came in last week with the firm of Edwards, Wiley and Dixon offering the lowest, namely, \$717,245, or over \$200,000 less than the estimated cost. The dam is part of a \$40,000,000 flood control project for the Los Angeles basin.

Riverside, San Bernardino and Orange counties came to an agreement lately over the construction of a weir to spread the flood waters of the Santa Ana River east of San Bernardino Valley. The weir will permit the flood waters to sink gradually into artesian basins. As protection to Orange County from possible loss of flow a stipulation in the contract was made to the effect that no water will be taken from the river for spreading and sinking unless the flow reaches a point known as the Chapman Bridge (one-third of State highway between Anaheim and Santa Ana). The building of the

weir will be handled by the Tri-counties Water Conservation Association.

Kern. Farmers last week voiced complaints that irrigation methods of the Kern Canal Company and its subsidiaries were antiquated and gave them inadequate water supply. A throng of farmers unofficially stormed the offices of the County Supervisors, talked the matter over with State engineers.

Santa Paula. Construction on the Santa Clara River basin flood protection scheme was temporarily held up last week after the examination of dam and embankment locations by Ventura County Engineer Petit. He made the investigation to satisfy nervous Santa



A. O. PRITCHARD moderated for Congregationalists. (See Col. 4)

Clara River basin landowners, to assure them that no repetition of the St. Francis dam disaster would come about from the present proposed structures. The construction work is being done under the supervision of the Los Angeles Bureau of Water and Power. Engineers felt that certain changes would have to be made in construction plans before the work could continue.

Taft. Three proposals were presented last week for supplying this city with water from the Cuyama Valley near Ozena. The water would come from land owned by State Senator James I. Waggy (Kern) which has an elevation of 3600 feet, thus guaranteeing a gravity flow. The first scheme is to build the system complete at a cost of \$63,000 a year to the city for its supply. The second scheme, including everything but a distributing system, would cost the city a lump sum of \$350,000. The third proposal would give the city a complete water supply plant minus a distributing system within the city for \$750,000. This latter proposal includes a title fee to the land on which the water is to be developed.

## Oil

### State Battle Won

California's initial court fight to stop the unreasonable wastage of natural gas within its boundaries commenced early last week and continued for five days. Since September 1, when State Oil and Gas Supervisor R. D. Bush first announced that he would vigorously enforce the recently passed gas wastage laws, oil companies have evinced disgruntled opposition. (News Review, Aug. 26-Sept. 1, et seq.)

When the laws first went into effect natural gas was being wasted at the rate of 642,000,000 feet per day. Due to varying conditions in different fields, the law could specify no general wastage ratio in oil production. Instead, it provided that waste be limited to a "reasonable amount," to be determined by Supervisor Bush. It was the State's plan to make the oil companies force all excess gas back into the earth (re-pressuring), thus conserving it as well as providing the oil companies with sufficient gas pressure to take out more oil at little cost.

Without "fear or favor," State Director of Natural Resources Fred Stevenot, not long after the laws had been passed, hid himself to the Superior Court of Los Angeles, filed complaints against the small army of oil companies which were conducting operations in Santa Fe Springs field. He charged them with unreasonable wastage of gas; he hoped too that his complaints would serve to test the natural gas wastage law. Fifty-three of the

Santa Fe Springs companies were involved. But it was not until last week that Stevenot's complaints obtained a hearing. Before Superior Judge Hazlett, oil companies and State oil officials fought primarily over how much gas could be blown into the air and wasted. Concretely, the State wished to take out a temporary injunction restraining the producers from wasting gas.

After five days of bickering, arguing, evidence-taking the Superior Court upheld the State in its plea to show cause why injunctions should not be granted against the private companies. Superior Justice Hazlett, after hearing both sides testify, ruled that the State's suit should proceed upon its own merits. He denied both a motion for a continuance and a motion to bring in lessors and other persons indirectly interested in the production of oil in the Santa Fe Springs field.

So much in accord with California's attempt to regulate gas wastage was the United States Federal government that during the court hearing it sought to join the State in its battle against the oil companies. The government petition set forth that the United States Government has an extensive interest in national resources, in all states, and was willing to aid California on that ground. Also offering to aid the State was the Independent Oil Companies Agency of San Joaquin Valley.

## Religion

### Congregationalists

Largest of its kind west of the Mississippi River is the Los Angeles Association of Congregational Churches and Ministers, included in which are churches from as far north as Santa Barbara, east as Claremont, south as far as Santa Ana. Last week the association held its 43rd annual meeting at Sierra Madre. Present were more than 400 delegates, representing 76 Congregational churches of the Southland. Rev. Arthur O. Pritchard, pastor of the Sierra Madre Congregational Church, moderator of the association, presided over the convention.

Frank Done, voted into the conference was the All Souls' Church of Los Angeles. Its pastor, Charles T. Aked (former assistant pastor of deposed Rev. Frank Dyer's Wilshire Church), thanked the assembled delegates for the inclusion of his church; spoke on the origin of his own church, on Congregational ideals and policies.

Election of officers for the ensuing year occupied one session. Oneon's (Sierra Madre) Rev. Reverend Holland F. Burr was named moderator; Glendale's Reverend Anton H. Hanson was chosen assistant moderator; Claremont's Reverend Albert P. Davis was selected registrar-treasurer.

Whittier was chosen as the place for the forty-fourth annual conference.

Speeches Heard. The theme of the conference proved itself to be "Adapting Ourselves to the Changing World." Among the speakers were Glendale's Blake Franklin who spoke on "Our Problems as Seen from the Pew"; Allen E. McAllester, for 20 years agricultural missionary in West Central Africa, who talked on "The Gospel in Action"; Pasadena's Reverend J. H. Hutchins, whose subject was "Palestine"; Claremont's Reverend George A. Marsh, returned from five years in Greece, whose topic was "In Athens"; Los Angeles' Claremont's Reverend A. F. Stauffer, Oneonta's Reverend Holland F. Burr, all of whom talked on "Emphasis in the Local Church Program." Long Beach's Dr. Henry Kendall Booth, Santa Barbara's Reverend Paul Davies, and Sierra Madre's Reverend Arthur O. Pritchard discussed "The National Trend as Seen Through the National Council." Philosophy Professor Hartley B. Alexander of Scripps College gave an address on "Adapting Our Minds," while the final talk on "The National Religious Outlook" was rendered by Los Angeles' Dr. Carl S. Patton.

### Healthy Parsons

Ministers may understand life's meaning, its philosophy, its ethics better than laymen, but they are not so well-informed when it comes to the art of its use. Such was the contention made last week by Psychologist-Dietitian J. C. Elliott, addressing Southern California Methodist ministers assembled in Los Angeles' First Methodist Church.

Opined Psychologist Elliott: Because the average preacher is either ignorant or indifferent to the basic laws of health, he probably shortens his life five or ten years; thereby lessening his period of service to humanity.

He continued: "The human body with its complicated system of nerves is as much God-given as the gift of prophesy or preaching, and every man, including preacher, is responsible for the use he makes of the divine gift of life. The minister's debt to God and humanity cannot be liquidated by shortening the time of his service to the world."

## Eventful Month

An eventful month has October been for Evangelist Aimee Semple McPherson. During it, she planned to embark on a motion picture career, formed a cinema corporation; celebrated her 37th birthday with due ceremony; quarreled with her first henchman, Assistant Pastor Dr. John Goben, summarily dismissed him; saw four of her Southern friends withdraw from the Four Square Lighthouse organization; meanwhile prepared to strengthen her own dictatorial by denying the asserted right of assembled representatives to name trustees of the church. (News Review, Oct. 7-13, et seq.)

The four churches to secede were Pasadena, Whittier, Lomita, and Santa Ana. Santa Ana's Pastor, Rev. S. A. Brown, announced that he could never be associated with an organization in which he "knew there was sin." Removed also from his pastorate was Pomona's Rev. Willard H. Pope, because of his rumor support of the dismissed Dr. Goben.

Dismissed Assistant Pastor Goben was not dismayed by his dishonorable discharge. He rallied his followers, prepared to start an investigation of the Angelus Temple books; told interviewers that the disagreement between himself and the titian-haired evangelist was not a sudden occurrence, that it had been threatening since Sister Aimee first began to assume a dictatorship; that he had always opposed the feminine evangelist's introduction of a "worldly element" into the Church.

Unperturbed seemed the dictatorial Aimee last week. She raised her eyebrows at Dismissed Assistant Pastor Goben's desired investigation of the Temple's books, declared that they had been under his supervision during the past months; wondered why he felt a detailed scrutiny necessary.

Sister McPherson designated all the turmoil as "pure bosh"; announced that there had been a "disgruntled element in the church," said that she "had gotten rid of it." She denied that the "little matter of Dr. Goben" had disrupted church affairs; declared that "her pastors" had not "done her wrong," promised her their allegiance.

## Milestones

Died. Robert S. Vessey, 71, former Governor of South Dakota (two terms), 1909-1913; at his home in Pasadena; following a heart attack.

Died. Susan R. Crapo Wood, 85, Glendale, of old age; at the Glendale hospital. Oldest member of the Los Angeles Music Teachers Association, Mrs. Wood was a direct descendant of John Hancock, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Died. Alexander Laird, 77, famed Indian fighter, whose experiences included fighting the notorious Apache Chief Geronimo, other active service in early years in the Southwest; at his home in Los Angeles; of natural causes.

Died. Abram K. Detwiler, 81, old California pioneer; founder of A. K. Detwiler Corporation; builder of Los Angeles Detwiler Building, constructor of the Los Angeles Home Telephone Company in many Southern California cities; at the Hollywood Hospital; after a year's illness.

Nominated. Carroll W. Patcher, past president of the Tujunga Piano Club, one of the publishers of Tujunga Record-Ledger; to fill the position of lieutenant-governor of Division Three of the California-Nevada District of Woman's International.

Appointed. Glenn M. Tindall, of Hollywood, to the management of picturesque Hollywood Bowl. Present supervisor of music in the city Department of Playgrounds and Recreation. Tindall was a year of musical experience behind him, including an appearance as guest conductor with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He plays the organ, oboe.