



• **JARED SIDNEY TORRANCE,**
in a Characteristic Pose, from
a Snapshot by Mrs. Torrance.

The Founder of the Modern Industrial City Placed a Record of Achievement on Southern California's Pages

IT TOOK a remarkable man to look at the broad, sandy, windswept acres of potatoes and beans in 1911 and to envision in their stead a modern industrial city that would lead the world in many features, 25 years hence.

And it was a remarkable man who did it. Jared Sidney Torrance, father of this twentieth century wonder development, had begun life as a lumberman in western New York state, then had branched out into realty operations and banking before he came to California.

In 1754 the great-grandfather of Jared Sidney Torrance, Robert Torrance by name, came to California from Mayoghle, County Derry, Ireland. Locating first at Woodbury, Conn., he and his wife, nee Lucy Peck, subsequently settled at Middlebury, Vt.

Revolutionary Ancestor

TWO SONS were born to this union. The elder, Robert, was a "Green Mountain boy" who served in the French and Indian wars, and, during the Revolutionary war, was engaged in casting ordnance in a factory at Litchfield, Conn., owned by the famous patriot, Ethan Allen. Perhaps the modern machine development so well exemplified in modern Torrance owes its roots to the strain in the Torrance family displayed in this early-day American mechanic.

The second son, Styles, settled in western New York and established a large woolen mill near Buffalo. He married Matilda Hubbard, and their

son, Cyrenius Chapin Torrance, was to become the father of Jared Sidney. Educated in law, Cyrenius Torrance was attorney for the Seneca Indian nation from 1852 to 1855, and was district attorney of Erie county, which includes Buffalo, from 1861 to 1864.

Born In 1852

JARED SIDNEY TORRANCE was born at Gowanda, some 30 miles southeast of Buffalo, August 3, 1852. He attended the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale University, whence he graduated in 1875 with the degree of Ph. B. His business career as lumberman, realty operator and banker was begun in his old home town, Gowanda, but his failing health necessitated a change of climate. Two years were spent in Stralsund after which, in 1887, he settled in Pasadena, where he engaged in realty operations and developed the electric lighting system of that city.

From that time until his death he was an officer or director in over 140 corporations, including such diversified fields as educational, industrial, land, cattle, oil, electricity, transportation, banking, bonds, agriculture, horticulture, real estate, and various public utilities.

Tycoon of Business

CHIEF among these corporations were the Union Oil Company of California; Edison Electric Company (of which he was vice-president); Palomar Land and Cattle Company, owning 2,000,000 acres of grazing land in northern Chihuahua, Mexico; Chino Land and

Water Company; Los Angeles Trust and Savings Bank; Pasadena Electric Light and Power Company; Ventura County Power Company; Union Tool Company; California Industrial Company; Torrance, Marshall and Company; Dominguez Land Company; Dominguez Land Corporation; Chester Fireproof Building Company; Los Angeles Public Market, Inc.; McKinley Home for Boys; LaVerne Sanitarium; Southwest Museum; and the Barlow Sanitarium Association. Over 100 of the corporations with which he was connected were each capitalized at \$1,000,000 or more.

Mr. Torrance was a member of the Valley Hunt Club of Pasadena; California Club of Los Angeles; and Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Politically he was an independent.

Twice Wedded

HE WAS twice married, his first wife being Annie Laurie Fowler, of Oakland, whom he wed at Pasadena, February 13, 1889; and his second being Helena Hedy, of San Francisco, to whom he was married June 6, 1914. Two sons, Jared Sidney, Jr., and John Fowler Torrance, were born of the first union, their mother dying in 1893.

When Mr. Torrance died at his South Pasadena home, on March 29, 1921, he left an estate valued in probate court at \$2,918,581. In addition to providing for his widow and relatives, his will included generous bequests for many charitable institutions, including the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital.