NEWS REVIEW SECTION

NEWS REVIEW

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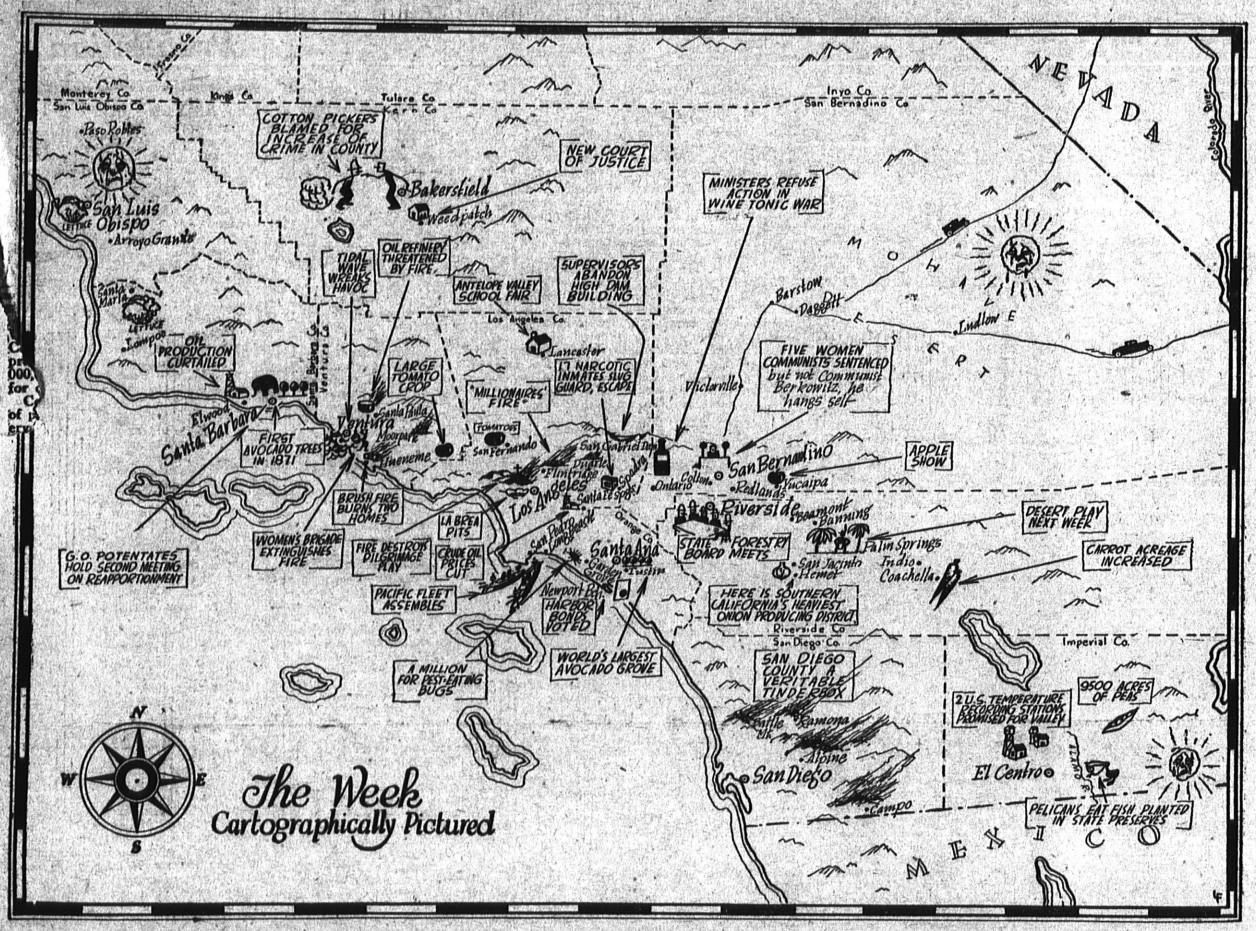

State Affairs

The Governor

Young's Week

When Clement Calhoun Young was teaching English in San Francisco's Lowell High School some twenty years ago, Dr. George Cooper Pardee was sitting in the governor's chair at Sacramento (1903-1907. Last week Schoolteacher Young, now Governor, and white-haired, 72-year-old Dr. Pardee, now chairman of the State Board of Forestry and president of the East Bay (Oakland, Berkeley, etc.) Municipal Utility District, together with many another northern California notable, dined atop a quarter-mile length of dam, above the stream-bed of the Mokelumne River, in the foothills east of Stockton.

Occasion: The dedication of giant Pardee Dam, California's second largest water supply system (358 feet high, cost: $7,000,000).

While Governor Young recited the accomplishments of the former governor, physician, statesman and administrator after whom the dam was named, the crystal waters of the Mokelumne River, released from the concrete barrier, began to swish and gurgle through the spillways 358 feet below, destined for use in homes and industries of the nine cities, 450,000 people, some 93 miles away.

Bayshore Highway. At Visitacion Valley, on the borderline between San Francisco and San Mateo counties, one foggy day in August, 1926, Governor Young, with a common workman's shovel, turned a spadeful of earth, officially started construction of a $3,000,000 arterial highway skirting San Francisco Bay which would cut forty-five minutes from the running time between San Mateo and downtown San Francisco.

On Sunday of last week, Governor Young went again to Visitacion Valley. Assembled there were some 10,000 people, civic, State, county officials. Across the highway, now completed, were two slender Blue and Gold satin ribbons (the State colors). With a bright, shiny pair of scissors, the Chief Executive stepped up to the ribbon barrier, snipped it, officially opened and dedicated the Bayshore Highway.

Edison Declaration. Back at Sacramento on Monday morning, the Governor, finding administration affairs pursuing the even, dull tenor of their way, took time to issue a statement on the fiftieth anniversary of Inventor Edison's perfection of the incandescent lamp.

Said he: "This invention . . . has . . . influenced the whole course of the world's life . . . a boon to mankind . . . a major factor in the progress of America, both officially and economically . . . I am sure that all California citizens will contribute toward making the day (October 21) a memorable occasion."

Roosevelt-Navy Day. As everyone knows, Governor Young was an original Bull Mooser. In 1912, the Governor, then known as "Clem" Young, was one of the first who made the historic bolt from the Taft banner at the cry: "Roosevelt and Johnson."

It was, therefore, no great surprise when the Chief Executive last week eulogized Theodore Roosevelt, reminded Californians that his natal day falls on Navy Day (Oct. 27), that the two events should receive universal observance.

Said he: "Roosevelt, were he alive today, would have the satisfaction of seeing his fondest dream come true—the United States Navy equal to that of any other nation on the face of the globe . . . Let there be no element of militarism in our celebration . . . any plan or motive of aggression . . . but peace and stability . . . reasonable condition of safety."

Routine Affairs. Among others, the following routine matters occupied the Governor's time, attention, last week:

¶ To the State Board of Accountancy, he reappointed three members: George R. Keast, San Francisco; H. Ivor Thomas, Los Angeles; George M. Thompson, Los Angeles.

¶ To the State Board of Barber Examiners, he reappointed: Joseph T. Hayward, San Francisco; Charles L. Butts, Los Angeles.

¶ He received a telegram from Mrs. Joan Madaulo of Tulare. The telegram: "LAST NIGHT SOMEONE STOLE MY SAFE STOP PLEASE SEND SOMEONE TO INVESTIGATE." Governor Young failed to respond to the plea; the safe is still missing.

¶ He appointed nine members to the new State Board of Agriculture (see "The Government").

The Council

Pride, joy, political pet of Governor Young is his Governor's Council, conceived by him and created by the Legislature as a body to co-ordinate governmental affairs, to economize State departmental activities, to prevent overlapping of authority and budget expense. For more than a year Governor Young has been speech-making throughout the State, telling his listeners of his reorganization of State government, of his theory of "spending money to save money."

It was, therefore, a distinct blow to the Governor's pride when a group of northern California newspapers published accusations last week that the Chief Executive had created four new Councilmen, each paying $10,000 yearly, and that his Council (13 in all) and other activities were costing the State too much money.

CHESTER M. KLINE

"A shocking situation . . ."

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Quick to take issue with the statement, to challenge it, Governor Young dispatched his private secretary, Keith Carlin, to the gubernatorial telephone, had him call together all available newspapermen for a conference. When newsmen had gathered in the Governor's office, he let them peruse the journel which showed the account of his outlays. When they had examined it carefully, he explained to them that in the course of his reorganization program a net raise in costs of but $5700 yearly had been made in bringing to the Council table eleven of his 13 cabinet officers, while two others, each drawing $6000 yearly, would effect savings amounting, perhaps, to $50,000 or more yearly.

Despite interpretations of political significance, Governor Young insisted that his answer to the charge of rolling up a $40,000 annual increase in State payrolls was werely "in the interests of accuracy."

Said he: "This is not a campaign statement. The campaign, if I am to be interested in one, is ahead and neither here nor there. I do desire, however, to correct any erroneous impression given that expenditures made by my administration are not in the interests of economy and efficiency."

The four Councilmen in question, heading departments of Penology, Military and Veterans' Affairs, Investment Regulations, and Professional and Vocational Standards, took office last August at the direction of the Legislature (News Review, Aug. 19-25). Two of them were already on the State payroll; another received a salary increase of $1,000, and he fourth, whose position is entirely new, received $6,000 but is expected to effect savings of from $40,000 to $50,000 year-