

Opponents of Proposition 13 Defend Senate

Joseph A. Beek, chairman of the California League for Preservation of a Balanced Legislature, today charged that proponents of Senate Reapportionment, Proposition No. 13 on the November ballot, are trying to hoodwink the rank and file of labor organizations into believing the state senate has neglected the working man's interests.

"On the contrary," Beek asserted, "many of the most progressive and liberal acts on the books of California law originated in the senate."

"Senate bills favorable to labor include the Workman's Compensation Act and No. 55, which provide for refunds to workers for unemployment insurance; No. 189, providing for mediation and conciliation in labor disputes; No. 256, death benefits under workmen's compensation; No. 259, permitting workers to collect both temporary and permanent disability payments for the same injury."

Beek, who lives in Balboa and is secretary of the Senate, further said the senate passes nearly twice as many assembly bills as the assembly passes senate bills.

"If they are trying to tell us it is harder for a lobbyist to get special interest bills through the senate than the assembly, they are right. Senators in general, having had more experience than their younger brothers in the assembly are more on guard against special interest measures and less optimistic about legislative panaceas."

Truckee, Nevada County, is reported to have been named "Captain Truckee," one of Mont's faithful Indian guides.

Iron Foundries Sampling Own Smoke Stacks

A self-imposed investigation of possible contribution of smoke and fumes to the atmosphere was launched yesterday by 36 gray iron foundries in the Los Angeles metropolitan area, according to the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

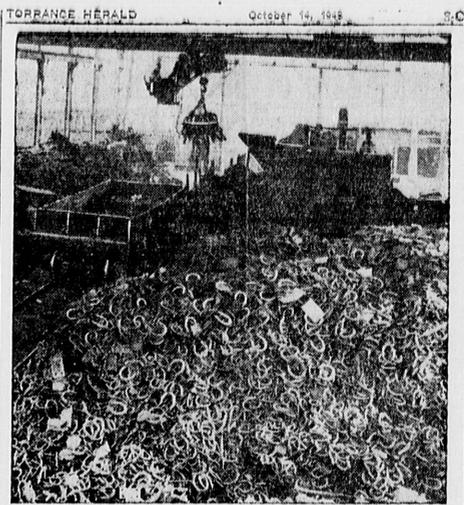
E. V. Grover, who heads a chamber committee of foundrymen, said the industry, co-operating with Dr. Louis C. McCabe, administrator of the Los Angeles County Air Pollution District, is taking samples from foundry stacks to determine the character of emissions and to recommend adoption of remedial equipment and practices if plants are found to be violating anti-smog ordinances.

First samples were taken yesterday at the American Brake Shoe Foundry on 51st and 9th avenue, by Industrial Air Control Associates, a non-profit group of local scientists and engineers retained by the foundrymen to analyze smoke emissions.

"However, all gray iron cupolas go through an interval when they are being lighted in the morning, when it is difficult to control smoke emissions," Grover said. "We hope to find a way to eliminate this source of nuisance."

Present at the sampling at the brake shoe plant were Dr. McCabe, Col. Rufus Putnam, chairman of Industrial Air Control Associates, and consulting engineers supervising the sampling operations.

"If the bonds are voted, this county can provide a Juvenile Hall to accommodate 550 children under favorable and humane conditions."



TIMES HAVE CHANGED—In 1906 old horseshoes formed an important item of scrap metal, as shown by this photograph. Today the horseshoes are replaced by old automobile engine blocks, in about the same proportion. Photograph was obtained from Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, which is observing its 60th anniversary.

Kier's Discovery

'Oil Progress Day' Recalls Industry's 'Pot Still' Days

One day some 90-odd years ago a tall, stoop-shouldered canal boat man named Samuel M. Kier was stirring a sticky, evil-smelling brew in an iron kettle which squatted on a stove in the cellar of a shack just outside the city limits of Pittsburgh. The mess on the stove was a sample of Kier's Rock Oil, a patent medicine in which Sam had invested heavily but which tasted so vile that few people would buy it. Kier was trying to salvage his investment by seeing what would happen if he ran the unsavory stuff through a primitive still.

As the petroleum began to boil vigorously, Kier slapped a home-made "worm" on top of the kettle. A dribble of colorless liquid ran out of the still. He touched a match to it and the liquid burned slowly. Inspired, he put some of it in an empty whale oil lamp. The lamp glowed brighter than it ever had before!

That was how Sam Kier discovered kerosene and became America's first petroleum refiner. The petroleum industry, which is paying tribute to Sam Kier, to all of his successors and to the pioneering spirit of the American people as a whole during the observance of "Oil Progress Day" on Oct. 14, has come a fabulously long way since those ante-bellum years.

Instead of a handful of struggling companies, the industry now consists of 34,000 competitive firms. Instead of one well—but brought in by Col. E. L. Drake at Titusville, Pa., in the summer of 1859—oil

companies have drilled around 1,200,000 wells and oil is produced in 25 states.

Today, some 428,000 of these wells are producing oil. Instead of a transport system consisting of a few rickety wagons and canal boats, the oil companies have a remarkable system of 150,000 miles of pipelines, plus large fleets of ocean-going tankers, inland-waterway tankers, barges, railway tank cars and tank trucks.

Instead of peddling their products in 5-gallon tin cans, oil men now include thousands of wholesale distributors, and operate a quarter million modern, clean and efficient service stations.

Today, oil and natural gas supply almost half of this nation's heat and power requirements. From crude oil comes a grand total of more than 1200 useful products—products which everyone uses almost every day of his life.

"Oil Progress Day" is being observed this week. Members of the industry will report such things as the above to citizens of the communities in which they operate.

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