

Fairness is the Foundation of Good Journalism

Torrance Herald

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

THE CRIME OF THE MODERN OIL INDUSTRY

TOO many American oil companies have their feet in the great trough of our natural resources. What took place in the lumber industry is now taking place in the case of petroleum.

We are wasting our riches. Millions of feet of gas, some of it containing as high as a gallon of gasoline to each 1000 cubic feet, is passing into the ozone every week—a total loss.

Oil from the great natural reservoirs underground is being brought to the surface, where it is piped to tanks. Evaporation from tanks is tremendous. The waste is great.

Exploitation of this country's resources since men started to hew a civilization out of the North American wilderness has been a story of repeated waste.

First it was lumber, then coal. Now it is oil. While the great British fields are restricted on the matter of close drilling, English-owned companies are operating in the United States, helping waste American oil, while conserving their own.

Of course we cannot object to their operating here, for they are incorporated under our laws and obey American statutes.

It is a shame, nevertheless, that we permit

our own and these foreign companies to waste American oil, by taking it out of the ground before it is needed and letting it evaporate in the air.

As little as most of us like government regulation of business, we would welcome the economic expedient of government or state regulation of the drilling of wells.

As long as there is no regulation nobody can blame owners of oil-bearing land and independent operators for wasteful drilling programs. The law of human desire dictates close drilling when no other law is in operation.

There is only so much oil in the ground. Conservative drilling would get it all out with much less waste than the close drilling that now prevails. The return to the operators and the land owners might be spread over a longer period, but it would eventually reach the same grand total.

On another page of this paper is recorded some interesting data concerning the decline of the great oil field at Santa Fe Springs. It is a story of waste—a story of government neglect.

Read it and decide what you think about the advisability of government regulation.

NOOSES TOO GOOD FOR THESE GENTLEMEN

TWO BILLION DOLLARS for disabled war veterans have been appropriated by Congress. And only five hundred millions have been used for benefit of those disabled soldiers.

The rest went into the congressional pork barrel.

We are sorry that we are unable to write an editorial bitter enough to express our opinion of this colossal crime.

Great hospitals have been built in places far from cities, where modern conveniences have been installed only at enormous expense.

Contracts awarded to manufacturers in the

east for teaching trades to disabled veterans have been mere legal instruments to cover absolute thievery.

Companies have been paid so much per month for every man taught a trade—and have allowed the man to report day after day for months—without getting instruction.

Who is to blame?

It is hard to tell, exactly. The whole tragic fiasco is fairly well covered, as far as personalities are concerned.

If individuals who have contributed to this enormous crime can be found out and convicted, they deserve gibbets higher than Haman's.

WHAT WILL LAND HERE BE WORTH IN 1930?

ABOUT all it takes to make money in real estate in this rapidly developing district is a little capital and a little more nerve.

Some day the value of land in Southern California may reach the peak—but until the territory is populated thickly from the mountains to sea—until there are some 25,000,000 persons living in the state—the increase in property values is going to keep right on advancing.

Land in some districts will advance more rapidly and with more certainty than property in others.

But in no part of the state will this advance be more certain and regular than in the areas destined to become the great industrial center of the Pacific coast country.

That area is right here—between Los An-

geles and the harbor.

A transcontinental railroad is busily at work building a line that will tap the district. Watch the industries come in to flank that railroad.

Nothing increases land values more surely than industries.

The Torrance, Lomita, Harbor City and Keystone district is destined to become a great factor in the industrial history of California. The thousands of men who eventually work in the future industries of the area will live near their work.

Don't be afraid to invest in real estate. Somebody is going to take a lot of profit out of the inevitable increases in land values. It might as well be you.

Put a little something into real estate every month.

SHORT JABS AND JOLTS FROM FAR AND NEAR

Now we know why Governor Walton has so much to say. He started life as a barber.—Tampa Tribune.

About the only use we can see for a billion German marks nowadays is to buy some wild-cat oil stock.—Houston Star-Bulletin.

Our guess is that the inventor of scopolamin, the truth-forcing drug, grew weary of listening to golf scores.—Colorado Springs Gazette.

It isn't the style of the Bible that makes it unpopular with moderns, but the fact that it cramps their style.—Pasadena Evening Post.

Roy Hagges talks of putting the liquor situation on the screen. In the customary five reels, it would be staggering.—Pacific Coast Service.

Speaking of Hallowe'en, it looks like that Pynchot boy had tied something on Cal Coolidge's doorbell.—American Lumberman (Chicago).

One of the very latest books is named "Bank." We had thought our fiction writers frank, but this takes the prize.—Boston Traveler.

In Sweden the speed limit is twenty-two miles an hour in the city and twenty-eight miles an hour in the country. It is about the same over here, only an American adds them together.—American Lumberman (Chicago).

Every time the prime ministers of Britain and France have a chat, the peace of Europe breaks out afresh.—Washington Post.

"Is any law fully enforced?" asks the Raleigh News and Observer. Well, there is the law of gravity.—Springfield Republican.

Another eternal triangle that causes trouble is a masculine appetite, a bride, and a carpenter.—Bridgeport Star.

Somehow the homeopathic system of medicine doesn't appear to work very well in Oklahoma politics.—Tacoma Ledger.

Culture made some progress when the Lit. Dige. succeeded the Police Gazette at the barber-shop, and the time may come when one can totter down to the tonsorial parlor to read the Atlantic Monthly.—Oklahoma City Times.

The Turkish government has ordered the prohibition law rigidly enforced in Constantinople. Another scheme to drive out the "Christian" population.—Houston Post.

Secretary Hughes says that the duty of the American university is to inculcate the desire for serenity, reflection, reason and calm judgment. Now we understand why the universities encourage football.—Detroit Free Press.

Maybe that great increase in the manufacture of whisky glasses, reported at the convention of the American Federation of Labor, is because the kind of stuff they put in them nowadays breaks so many of them.—Industry-olis News.

Pagrus was accorded a great ovation upon his arrival in New York. This was probably due to the fact that Americans realized that he couldn't give lectures.—Punch (London).

Some of the scientists insist that as an explanation of earthquakes the leakage theory won't hold water.—Little Rock Arkansas Gazette.

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