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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE C. P. ROBERTS......Publisher and Owner

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The spectacular fire on Carson street in the Torrance oil field recently sent dense black smoke high into the sky and could be seen for several miles. It attracted hundreds of motorists and proved an enjoyable spectacle to many. It was the first oil fire near Torrance, but the intense heat and roaring flames leaping into the air as the tank of fuel oil was rapidly consumed set many Torrance property owners thinking of the future fire hazard from this source.

The oil field is approaching the heart of Torrance as resistlessly as an ocean wave sweeps up the beach. Already a derrick has been erected within about a block of residences on the west side of Torrance. Many derricks are within the city limits but there are but few houses near the present wells. The industrial section of the city has but recently been opened for drilling purposes. Several blocks along Amapola street adjoining the present drilling territory on the west of the city are now being considered for drillthe city are now being considered for drill-ing sites and owners of lots are looking for-ward to the more than possibility of this sec-tion being part of the oil fields.

tion being part of the oil neids. There have been many buildings erected in this section of the city and there are more under construction at the present time. All of these dwellings are of frame construction. Or these dwennings are of frame construction. Owing to the prevailing strong winds from the west, an oil fire at one of the close derricks would prove a menace to not only this par-ticular section of the city, but could easily consume the entire city. consume the entire city.

The present fire-fighting apparatus would the present meengining apparatus would be powerless to check a conflagration origi-nating from the ignition or explosion of oil or gasoline stored near dwellings. This fact was sufficiently demonstrated when both the Torrance and Redondo fire trucks were present but unable to control the flames from the

burning tank of oil that burned itself out. The same day this fire occurred in the Torrance field a similar fire threatened lumber yards and houses at San Pedro. Twelve per-mits were recently issued for wells to be drilled within the southern limits of Torrance. It is none too soon to begin considering the possibility of a disastrous fire occasioned by storage tanks of oil being allowed near houses. There is need of control of the situation by a regulation of distance or districts for oil tanks and adequate fire equipment for combating oil fires. The need of protection for the rapidly growing city from fire hazards was vividly demonstrated by the recent burning of a tank of oil.-H. M. R.

SUMMER IN TORRANCE

With a tang of salt in the air and a sea breeze sweeping across the four miles that lie between Torrance and the Pacific Ocean, there is no urgent need of a Torrance resident desiring any other summer climate. With the invigorating air, cool nights, and absence of oppressive heat, Torrance is a favored spot that might be well advertised as a summer resort.

resort. A few minutes' spin in the auto takes one to the blue Pacific, where the surf or a salt water plunge may be enjoyed. One may look eastward along a street bordered by pepper trees and see the jagged edge of the moun-tains cutting the clear sky. Or to the south-west may be seen the opalescent Palos Verdes Hills, whose soft contour is ever interesting to the eye that loves the beauty of nature.

If the call of the mountains becomes irre-sistible, a few gallons of gasoline will take the flivver to elevations where icy water splashes between narrow canyon walls and where snow balls may be had for the making. Still closer are orange groves and beauty

The official dedication of the Masonic Hall in the new Masonic Temple on Sartori street was an event of importance to more persons than are enrolled as members in the local lodge of Master Masons. The fact that when this lodge received its dispensation, October 13, 1913, there were but thirteen members, while there now about one hundred and forty members of the Torrance lodge is not the most significant feature of the dedication. The outstanding feature is the Torrance spirit the new building represents so thoroughly. Less than ten years ago this lodge began its meetings in a shack with but a baker's dozen members. As factories brought more men and the barley fields began to give way to the city of Torrance a better lodge room was desired. A hall was secured in Lomita, but the Torrance spirit did not long endure the inconvenience of that arrangement.

THE TORRANCE SPIRIT

Plans were formulated and ways and means decided by which Torrance should have a lodge building that would be a credit to the city as well as the lodge. The result of the careful planning and hard work of the va-rious members of this order are to be seen in the magnificent Masonic Temple now completed.

The outward substantial and artistic appearance of the edifice is in harmony with the interior two floors and large hall occupied by the lodge. In point of size and fix-tures the lodge hall will compare favorably with anything in cities of larger size. The entire building would be a credit to a

city five times the size of Torrance. It is a monument to the Torrance spirit that believes in looking into the future and being prepared It is the same spirit that prompted the founders of Torrance to put down well constructed streets, sewers, water mains, and all the equipment of a well organized city, before a house was built. The new Masonic Temple exemplifies the same spirit that prompted men of vision to erect substantial factories here when the present townsite had known nothing but the plowshare for years past.

This splendid new edifice will be an inspira-tion to every citizen and will impress every visitor with the Torrance spirit of doing things well.--H. M. R.

"OUR" HARBOR

Plans for the expenditure of many millions to further develop the inner and outer harbor are to be presented to the voters of the Big City June 5. At this election the voters will have an opportunity to decide whether bonds shall be sold at this time to provide fifteen millions of dollars for harbor development purposes. It is unfortunate that many other bond issues involving four times this amount are to be voted on at the same election. But the harbor bonds have the support of civic bodies as well as leading citizens and will no doubt receive careful consideration at the hands of the electorate.

If there is any doubt as to the wisdom of spending additional money for the develop-ment of the harbor, a visit to the busy port eliminate that doubt. The sight of scores of ships halling from ports of foreign coun-tries, as well as costwise ships, loading and unloading products of varied nature, is proof positive that a day's delay in providing for the constant needs of shipping now using and desiring to use "our" harbor is imperative.

Torrance is seventeen miles nearer the harbor than the Big City that proposes to expend many more millions to provide additional ac-commodations for the new shipping coming to the harbor. In many ways it is "our" har-bor in a very material way. Though we will bor in a very material way. Though we will have no vote on the present bond issue our moral influence will be used at least to aid a program of harbor development that will not alone react to the benefit of the Big City and Torrance, but will be of unlimited bene-fit to the whole region west of the Rocky Mountains.

Two recent industrial enterprises may be cited to illustrate how the harbor may be pected to assist in the growth of the entire southwest. The Columbia Steel Corporation is now expending millions at Provo, Utah, in opening up coal and iron deposits which will be made profitable by reason of the accessibility to an ocean harbor. Torrance, being close to that harbor, has been selected by the Columbia Company as their factory location for the manufacture of various iron and steel products. Because of harbor facilities, sixty millions of dollars are being invested in oil refineries southeast of Torrance. These re-fineries will employ hundreds of men whose buying power will add to the already huge payroll of Torrance. Our harbor is one of



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