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THE OWENS VALLEY DISPUTE

The Story of Owens Valley, Its Dealings With the City
of Los Angeles and the Dynamiting Attacks
Upon the City's Aqueduct

By DON J. KINSEY

(Editor's Note—This is the fourth
of a series of short articles reveal-
ing the facts in connection with
the Los Angeles-Owens Valley
water controversy. These articles
are published by the Los Angeles
Bureau of Water, Power & Light).

William Mulholland, at the time
he made his preliminary surveys in
1905, had reported that it would
require five years and \$24,500,000 to
construct an aqueduct capable of
carrying sufficient water from Owens
River to supply the needs of
2,000,000 people in Los Angeles.

It was a tremendous task and a
great vision of future growth to be
submitted for approval before the
citizens of a city whose population
then numbered 160,000. Neverthe-
less, the plan was accepted and the
necessary bonds voted by over-
whelming majorities.

Then followed almost three years
of intensive preliminary work. De-
tailed surveys for the project were
made and carefully checked. Along
the 250 mile route of the aqueduct
line, 43 division headquarters, supply
and construction camps were
established. Five hundred miles of
roads and trails were built to give
access to a wilderness of mountain

and desert country to be penetrated
by the far-flung project. Telephone
and telegraph lines were erected
to provide means of communica-
tion. Hundreds of miles of pipe
lines were laid to furnish water for
men and animals and for construc-
tion purposes in desert and moun-
tain camps.

Thousands of tons of material
and equipment must be shipped into
Owens Valley and there was no
railroad to carry this tonnage. Ac-
cordingly, the City of Los Angeles
opened negotiations with the South-
ern Pacific Company, with the re-
sult that this company constructed
a standard gauge railroad 120 miles
long from its main line at Mojave
to Lone Pine in the Valley.

In October, 1908, actual work on
the aqueduct was started, and just
five years later, in October 1913,
the first water from Owens River,
endings its 250 mile journey
through the completed aqueduct,
came tumbling down the San Fer-
nando Cascades into Los Angeles.

When the last bill had been paid
it was disclosed that the aqueduct
including its rights-of-way, had
cost \$24,460,000, or just \$40,000 less
than Mulholland's original estimate.
The Los Angeles aqueduct was
hailed throughout the nation as the
most spectacular and daring engin-

ering accomplishment ever at-
tempted by an American city. Five
thousand men laboring through five
blazing desert summers and freez-
ing mountain winters, under the di-
rection of William Mulholland and
his chief assistant, H. A. Van Nor-
man, had done what many declared
was impossible.

When completed, the aqueduct
included 112 separate tunnels, ag-
gregating 53 miles in length; 12
miles of inverted steel siphons,
varying from 7 to 11 feet in diam-
eter; 24 miles of open unlined con-
duit; 39 miles of open concrete
lined conduit, and 97 miles of cov-
ered conduit. Additional miles were
taken up by three large reservoirs,
the largest of these, the Haiwee
reservoir, being capable of storing
more than twenty billion gallons of
water.

Through this gigantic waterway
there was destined to come rushing
a new tide of prosperity and devel-
opment for Los Angeles and Owens
Valley.

Prior to the construction of the
standard gauge railroad into Owens
Valley, that section of California
virtually had been isolated from the
remainder of the state. The
railroad brought large and profit-



Open Section of Aqueduct in Owens Valley. (Inset) H. A. Van Norman, Assistant Chief Engineer, Los Angeles Water Bureau.

able markets of Southern California
within easy and economic reach
of the Valley farming centers.
Hundreds of the Valley's residents
were given steady employment dur-
ing and following the building of
the aqueduct. At the present time
the payroll of the City of Los An-
geles in Owens Valley amounts ap-
proximately to \$100,000 a month.

In 1905, three years before actual
work on the aqueduct was started,
Inyo county had an assessed valua-
tion of \$2,487,000; in 1915, two
years after the completion of the
aqueduct, Inyo county's assessed
valuation had increased to \$7,628,-
000; in 1926 Inyo county's assessed
valuation was \$11,347,000.

During the past year the City of
Los Angeles paid \$111,000, or 43
per cent, of Inyo county's total tax
bill. In the same period of time
the city expended \$292,132 on im-
provements to the ranch properties
purchased in the valley.

Greater and more far reaching
in its benefits, perhaps, than any
other development growing out of
the city's entrance into Owens Val-
ley was the golden flood of hydro-
electric power released for use in
the valley through the construction
of the aqueduct. Let us then next
give our attention to the Valley's
treasure of white gold.
(To be continued)

REBEKAH NOTES

Next Wednesday, Oct. 26 will be
Past Noble Grand's Night with Trio
Lodge, and members of the local
P. N. G. Association will present
a program and serve refreshments.

A number of Trio Rebekahs will
attend Friendship Night at Compton,
when Vice Grand Beattie Buker
of Trio Lodge, will occupy the
vice grand's chair at Compton.

Friendship Night at Del Mar
Lodge in Long Beach was attended
by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ferguson.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Brumpton, Mr.
and Mrs. Frank Buker, Mrs. R. I.
Hudson, Mrs. H. B. Goodrich, Mrs.
W. S. Morgan, Mrs. Julia Gertzen,
Mrs. John Waite and Mrs. Jack
Nielsen.

A costume carnival is planned
for Saturday evening, Oct. 29, at
Odd Fellows' Temple. The affair
is being arranged by Trio Lodge
and will include booths for pump-
kin pie and coffee, popcorn, candied
apples, etc.; a fish pond and num-
erous other attractions. There'll
be dancing all evening.

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LOS ANGELES

Adele Rowland Heads Varied Orpheum Bill

The inimitable songstress, Miss
Adele Rowland, after an absence
of nearly a year from the stage
will return to vaudeville to head-
line the unusual bill which comes
to the Orpheum next Sunday, Oc-
tober 23. Offering many old fa-
vorites and numerous new songs
which she is sure will become fa-
vorites the star will provide a par-
ticularly dazzling headliner for that
week. She will be accompanied at
the piano by Mildred Brown.

One of the most unusual and in-
teresting features of the present
season will also be on this bill in
the person of Nancy Gibbs, noted
Broadway musical comedy and le-
gitimate stage star, in "Dear Little
Rebel." A musical romance of the
South with a cast of eleven Broad-
way players supporting Miss Gibbs.
It is from the pen of Edwin Burke
and the music was written by
Cliff Hess.

Other interesting offerings will
be Ray and Dot Dean presenting
"Alphus Pure and Simple"; the
hilarious farce, "Amateur Nite in
London"; Pepita Granados, the
beautiful French dancer, and Harry
Holbrook, the young baritone, in
"A Spanish Serenade"; Joe Fong,
the distinguished Chinese tenor and
Carlton Emmy with his mad wags.
Seats may be secured at the Or-
pheum branch office at the Holley
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This Week Is Mr. I. H. Hawkins Week

Our game is like a horse race. One is trying to outbuy the other. Sometimes we lick the bear, some times the bear licks us. Mr. Hawkins has been on his old camping grounds for the last few weeks, and we are here to tell you that he picked up some live bargains. (A St. Louis Purchase).

- Hundreds of Mens' and Boys' Shirts, Attached and Detachable Collars, each \$1.00 (Checked in on Oct. 17)
- 30 dozen Men's Wool Mixed Socks, 3 for \$1.00. A pair 35c (Checked in on Oct. 17)
- Men's Outing Flannel Night Shirts, good weight, good sizes, (Checked in on Oct. 17) \$1.19
- Children's Play Suits, good weight, well made (checked in on Oct. 17), 2 for \$1.65 89c
- New Lots of Children's Hose 2 for 25c, a pair 15c
- Children's 1/2 and 3/4 and full length Hose, 5 pair \$1.00 25c
- Children's and Misses' Hose, 1/2, 3/4 and full length, 4 pair \$1.00 29c
- Misses' and Children's Silk, Rayon and Wool Mixed, 1/2, 3/4 and full length Hose, 3 for \$1.00, a pair 39c
- No seconds. Every pair perfect. Every Pair a Bargain
- Women's Hose, light and dark colors, every pair perfect. Every pair worth more. Ipswich, Nightingale and other good brands, values to \$1.00 59c
- 2 for \$1.00, a pair 19c
- Last call for extra heavy, 36 inch Outing, a yard 19c
- Buy 10 Yards of 10/4 Pequot Sheeting, 90 inches wide, a yard 69c, 10 yards \$6.50
- The Cotton Goods That We Offer at 10c and 15c a yard will soon be no more
- We have no mark up, mark down pencils. We don't need them. Our prices are based on costs, not on the way the wind blows. 27 inch Daisy Cloth, full pieces. All you want up to 1000 yards. A yard 19c
- 30 dozen Mens' Wool Mixed Socks, a pair 25c (Checked in on Oct. 17)
- Children's Sweaters, Slip-over, each \$1.00 (Checked in on Oct. 17)
- We suggest buying a few Sample Handkerchiefs now for later gifts, 5c, 10c, 15c, 19c, 25c, 39c to 59c
- Imported Swiss Handkerchiefs, in boxes of three, 49c, 59c, 69c to 79c
- We offer you standard lines of Women's Hose only. You know every make and you can mark down the lot number and compare prices anywhere, if you wish.
- Ipswich and other standard lines of Rayon Hose, 3 for \$1.00. A pair 39c
- Women's Silk and Rayon Hose. The kind you pay \$1.00 to \$1.50 in regular stores. Bear Brand, Ipswich, Wear Well, Hermosa Knit, Ser-val, Buster Brown, some all silk 2 for \$1.50, 3 for \$2.00. A pair 79c
- Last call for Hope and Truth Bleached Muslin. A yard 15c
- Last call for Good Towels at each 15c
- You have never bought boys' long stockings any cheaper in the last 10 years. Values to 60c, sizes 7 to 11. 5 pair \$1.00. A pair 25c
- Bear Brand and others 100 only. Misses' Dresses and Children's Suits. Choice \$1.00 (Checked in Oct. 17)
- Stock up on J. P. Coats, Star and Society Brands of Crochet Cotton. Not all Sizes. Long Beach Pike stock, 6 for 25c, 12 for 45c. Each 5c

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