Propaganda For High Priced Gas Won't Put Oil Men Back To Work

An Editorial

Why all this propaganda rging motorists to buy nly those brands of gaso-ne sold at top prices es-blished by the major

tablished by the major companies? And just how much real merit is there in the argument that by paying more for gasoline, motorists will put men back to work in the oil industry? Whatever effect this propaganda may have upon other communities, these arguments seem little short of ridiculous to citizens of Torrance, whose industrial life is so closely allied with the petroleum business and consequently its people are in a position to know the facts.

Let us take a specific case. One of the major oil companies recently constructed a new refinery unit on its property in Torrance utilizing the newly patented hydrogenation process which manufactures more than a gallon of crude oil. We are told by oil men that 18 workmen in this new refinery unit can make as much gasoline in a day as over 200 workmen did in the same time at this company's old refinery. Here is the reason for unemployment and one of the reasons for over-production; i.e., 18 men do the work of 200 and deliver more gasoline from less crude. Under these conditions, shy shouldn't gasoline sell for less?

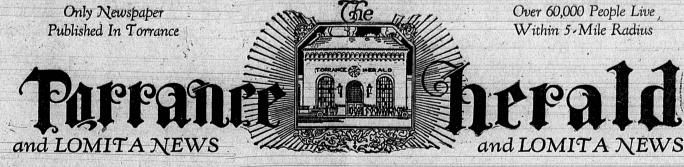
If Mr. Bullock, who is a member of the so-called Business Men's Committee, could sell as much merchandise in his department stores with a force of 18 employes as he does with 200, would he not be willing to reduce his selling prices? And furthermore, if the goods cost him less, would he not likewise sell them for less? Most certainly he would, for the reason that he would have

to do so to meet competition!

Unemployment in the petroleum industry is not due to price wars, but to the importation of foreign oil and refined gasoline by the same companies that are attempting to keep prices up when every other commodity is cheaper. Production in the United States declined 45,000,000 barrels last year, while consumption in creased 9,000,000 barrels. Producers have cooperated by curtailing production and their good efforts have been lost through increased importations. Our guess is that importations are not profitable when gasoline sells at price-war figures, and if

unprofitable.

The argument that a profective tariff or embargo would meet retaliation in foreign countries by a high duty being placed upon our exports and thus do us more harm than good has little merit, for the reason that the United States has already lost its foreign oil trade. We quote from an article in last Sunday's Los Angeles Times:



Within 5-Mile Radius One Section 8 Pages

SEVENTEENTH YEAR-No. 32

TORRANCE, CALIF., THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1931

5c PER COPY

NEXT WATER FIGHT TO BE 'GRUDGE' MIX

Defeated Company Serve Victors Chicken At , Bartlett's House

She Wanted Relief

NAME THREE FOR LEGION COMMANDER

Lomita Annexation Plan Is Abandoned

Motorists Must Report Crashes In Which Any Person Is Injured

CITY VALUED AT \$26,568,860

Unofficial Tabulation of Assessed Valuation of County Cities Shows Torrance in Eleventh Place

Churches Combine Sunday Evening Observances Here

Two Weeks Left Of School Term

Steel to Cut Salaried Workers

Plant Workers Rétain Wages; Great Industry's Earnings Shrunk to Low Level; Hoover Wage Policy Continues

Be Kiwanis Speaker

First Hard-Ball The first Sunday after Said Excessive

DECISION ON CITY BUDGET IN 3 WEEKS

Rev. Young to 'Hit Sawdust Trail' East

Cost of Lomita Street Work Is

Fortin to Apply For Probation

HAPPY TO BE HOME AGAIN!

This Issue

County Road Committee Is MI Claim Heat Encountered On Trips Made Local Weather Perfect

VACATIONISTS

A combined report of all returned local vacationists to date would be something like this:

City Delayed Again

Don Findley Heads Local Group Backing Aqueduct Vote Sept. 29