

## PUC to Inquire Into Natural Gas Business

The California Public Utilities Commission has announced that its investigation into the entire natural gas situation in California tentatively has been scheduled to open the week of Dec. 4, with the production of gas as the subject of the first phase in the investigation.

All interested parties have been invited to attend and to make opening statements on whether regulation of the production of gas in California would be beneficial to the public interest and would make more effective the commission's regulation of public utilities which sell, transport or consume such gas.

OPENING HEARING tentatively has been scheduled in Los Angeles the week of Dec. 4 with San Francisco hearings starting on Dec. 13. The investigation has been assigned to Commissioner Peter E. Mitchell and PUC Examiner William W. Dunlop. Mitchell said a letter has been mailed today to all regulated gas utilities in the state, to gas well owners, and also to members of all appropriate state legislative committees, the League of California Cities, the County Supervisors Assn., members of Congress, the Federal Power Commission and others.

COMMISSIONER MITCHELL said hearing would be conducted on separate phases of the investigation, which will include production, storage, conservation, reserves, transportation, transmission and sale of natural gas in California. Upon conclusion of one or more phases of the commission's investigation, separate orders might be issued covering that part of the proceeding.

At the initial hearings, Mitchell said, it is planned that the commission staff will present an exhibit containing background material on gas production, which will have been distributed to interested parties in advance. The regulation of producers would include jurisdiction over rates, service, financing, certifications and other activities not now regulated.

Hearings later will be scheduled and announced on other phases of the gas investigation.

## Cotoneaster Family Shrubs Gives Gardener Plants of Many Shapes

Gardeners who seek versatility will find it to spare in the Cotoneaster family. These are shrubs of many shapes, growing high, low and most everywhere in between. What with autumn already upon us, Cotoneasters are worth planting for another reason, too—namely the color of their colorful berry crop. These berries are highlights of many a California landscape in fall, much appreciated in a state with relatively minor seasonal changes.

### Gains and Brains

"To desire the same things and to reject the same things, constitutes true friendship," —Sallust, the Roman. Histories and biographies give accounts of fine friendships between men of different races, creeds and nationalities. Robert Louis Stevenson spent his final years among the Samoans. He treated them kindly. They responded to his friendliness in a manner they had never shown to whites, who usually acted like the South Sea Islanders were oddities. William Penn called Indians brothers, and made real friends, when most white men called them devils. In return, Penn obtained security for his colonists.

HOW BEST to use the Cotoneasters? Well, pick your spot and then pick a Cotoneaster for it. A quick rundown of the California Association of Nurserymen checklist indicates that eight or ten different forms are readily available.

For tall, arching sprays of decorative gray foliage, the Silverleaf Cotoneaster is probably the best known and most grown. It is small of both leaf and berry, but there is no lack of either. This one is good for screens and windbreaks.

More showy among the taller Cotoneasters is the Red Clus-

terberry. The foliage is more luxuriant and of a deeper green than its Silverleaf cousin. And the berries are both brighter and larger. This is an all-around good choice for planting against a wall and can even be pruned to a two-foot height for service as a ground cover.

AS GROUND covers primarily, the low-growing forms are rugged individualists. They are not lush growing, being of a stiff branching habit, often tangled beyond hope of proper training. These unbending

qualities become an asset on rocky hillsides, in neglected parkways. Necklace Cotoneaster, Rock Cotoneaster and Rock-spray Cotoneaster are first choices for low and spreading growth.

There are others—especially some deciduous varieties that are attractive, but not so well known. One in particular, the deciduous Ward's Cotoneaster, is excellent for fall display, bearing bright orange berries and foliage that is just as colorful even in mild coastal weather. For something different, look for them at your nursery.



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