

GOV. GILLETT VISITS INYO COUNTY

AS GUESTS OF INYO GOOD ROAD CLUB THE GOVERNOR AND PARTY MAKE THEIR FIRST TRIP TO OWENS VALLEY

We wonder if the early settlers of Owens Valley—those hardy pioneers, with their loyal wives and families—ever thought of the proportions the country they were settling back in the 60's would grow to in the next half century. We wonder if they ever laid by their camp fires and dreamed of the many eyes that would be turned to the beautiful valley bounded by the high Sierras—the range of mountains which in the near future will become the playground of tens of thousands every year. We wonder if during their early hardships and troubles with the Indians if there was not some supernatural power that guided them, so that Inyo county would some day come into its own—the most wonderful county in the state.

The visit of Governor Gillett and his party this week is, more than anything in the past, the signal for that transformation that must come. The event, fathered by men who are doing their best to boost the valley under the title of the Inyo Good Road Club, marks a new epoch in the history of the valley.

In Governor Gillett's party were Col. Gaillard Stonely, of the Governor's staff; Walter E. Dennison, State Harbor Commissioner, of San Francisco; A. G. Briggs, editor of the Pacific Motor, of San Francisco; Sidney Sprout, one of the foremost electrical engineers in the United States; J. L. Whittmeyer, chief of construction of the new S. P. railroad building into the valley; and Harry C. Shaw, special correspondent on the trip for the Los Angeles Times.

W. G. Scott, secretary of the Inyo Good Road Club, and the man who has taken charge of the entire affair, met the party at Mojave Tuesday morning.

grounds in Independence which had been appropriately decorated. Here the party stopped for an hour meeting the people and indulging in a fine watermelon feed.

Leaving here the next stop was at Fred Eaton's poultry ranch near Big Pine where the new highway, El Camino Sierra, which in years to come will probably be the most traveled highway in the West, was formally dedicated. An appropriate sign on an iron post, placed in a mound of different ores taken from Inyo county mines and set in cement, draped with a large American flag, was unveiled by the Governor. This spot was selected for the ceremony as Mr. Eaton has built here at his own expense a fine piece of road, and will immediately complete a road of the same kind for a distance of 1 1/4 miles along the frontage of his property. A trip was made through Mr. Eaton's ranch, which he expects to make the finest poultry ranch in the world.

Big Pine was reached at 1:15, and a stop was made at Geo. Hall's new hall. Here the Women's Improvement Club had tastily decorated the hall and furnished as fine a lunch as anyone could wish for. Seats had been arranged for 120, but even then all the people could not be seated at one time. At the close of the lunch Gov. Gillett spoke to the school children who marched in, and after this delivered an address to the rest. He spoke of the spirit of improvement he had noticed through the valley. He told of the wonderful benefits to be derived from good roads, saying that when people were satisfied with cow trails instead of good roads it was merely a sign they were living a hundred years in the past. He spoke

Many Autos

Independence presented a lively appearance Tuesday morning when the autos from Bishop began rolling into town on their way to meet the Governor. The first machine to arrive was Dr. Doyle's car, with Dr. and Mrs. Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Luffingwell. Then in quick succession came Earnest Ray with Jean and Dan Smith; W. W. Waterson with Dave Pitman, Chas Collins and W. J. Tinder; Russell & William's car with Percy Ernest Williams, Misses Williams Butler; Fred Hess' car with U. G. ...; Will Smith's car with W. A. ... and W. B. Solender; Chas. ... car with Mrs. Morton, Miss Pauline Foorman, A. A. Forbes, W. W. Yandell, Ernest Halliday and Jake Hodge; E. C. Hall's car with Misses Yandell and McGee. Mrs. W. L. Hunter, Lloyd Summers, Chas Bigelow and Harry Shaw. P. W. Forbes who was already here with his car accompanied the rest down the valley. Later in the day F. B. Remington's car came through from Benton with Bill Beaver, Mr. Loomis, proprietor of the Angeles hotel, Sam Musser, and Mrs. Helen Kidenbaugh.

Two Fires In One Day

Last Monday afternoon the house just north of the Masonic hall, belonging to the estate of Pat Reddy, and occupied by Mrs. Corbin and her three daughters, was totally destroyed by fire, together with all its contents. Mrs. Corbin is in Los Angeles and no one was in the house when the fire started. The origin of the fire is unknown. When discovered there was absolutely no chance of saving the building, and the energies of the fire fighters were soon turned toward saving the hall. A bucket brigade was formed and they certainly did splendid work. At first it seemed that there was no chance to save it but finally the danger passed. The land office caught fire from flying embers, but was soon extinguished causing very little loss.

After it was found that the hall was safe, and nearly every one had left the scene, the cry of "fire" was heard again. It was found that some burning embers had set fire to E. Robinson's house a half block farther north. By very hard work the fire was put

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W. G. Scott, secretary of the Inyo Good Road Club; and the man who has taken charge of the entire affair, met the party at Mojave Tuesday morning. On account of some misunderstanding there was no locomotive there to pull their train. Mr. Whittmeyer at Olancho was wired to and he sent an engine to Mojave. In five and one-half hours from the time the engine left Olancho the Governor's party was landed at the end of the road—making 168 miles the engine traveled in that time, including stops, switching, etc. This shows as well as anything could the high standard the new road is being built on. At Olancho a stop made for a fine lunch prepared under Mr. Whittmeyer's direction. At the end of the line they were met by nine autos from the valley and immediately proceeded to Lone Pine.

Lone Pine had been appropriately decorated for the occasion. While the program here was entirely informal the entire party entered into it with the hearty good fellowship that marked their stay during the entire trip. Trap shooting and a general social time occupied the afternoon, most of the members of the party trying their luck at the clay birds.

To Lone Pine fell the lot of staging the first scene on this novel trip. On an outdoor platform lighted by a locomotive headlight, with Mt. Whitney in the distance, Governor Gillett, the only governor of California to ever visit Inyo county during his term in office, made his first speech. He was introduced by P. W. Forbes, who delivered the address of welcome. Mr. Forbes spoke briefly of the good that was bound to come to this county through the advent of the railroad and the people who would come on account of it. He explained the brevity of his remarks by saying that he felt like the sinner at St. Peter's gate—somewhat unprepared.

Gov. Gillett's response was brief and interesting. He spoke of the desire he had always had to visit the one county in the state he had never been in—Inyo. He told of the advantages of the new railroad; he praised the fruits he had had that afternoon, saying that none better were raised in the state. In fact one could see that the Governor, appreciating the advantages of Inyo, was fast becoming a convert. He promised that he would return when he could for a fishing trip, such as only our lakes and streams afford. A string band furnished the music. A special lunch was served at the Mt. Whitney hotel during the evening. A fine ball,

the rest. He spoke of the spirit of improvement he had noticed through the valley. He told of the wonderful benefits to be derived from good roads, saying that when people were satisfied with cow trails instead of good roads it was merely a sign they were living a hundred years in the past. He spoke of the vast amount of money that was poured into Europe every year for trips to the Alps and other places, all of which could probably be excelled in the High Sierras of Inyo, and that these people would come here if the fact was only made known to the world, and that fact could be made known if the people here would only realize it.

From Big Pine the next was Bishop. Main street had been finely decorated for the occasion, and on each side of the street crowds of people were on hand to welcome the Governor. All the school children were in line, and waving their small flags they presented a most attractive scene. A Governor's salute of 17 guns was fired just as the auto's were rolling into town.

Gov. Gillett first spoke to the school children on the street, and then all adjourned to the opera house, where he delivered a fine address.

At 7:30 in the evening a banquet was served at the Hotel Isabella, covers being laid for 100. After the banquet, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all, Dr. Doyle, president of the Inyo Good Road Club, in a few well chosen remarks presented the Governor with a large key, made of gold, silver and iron, as a souvenir of his visit. Gov. Gillett responded in a very pleasing speech. After dinner speaking now being in order addresses were made by L. C. Hall, W. G. Scott, A. G. Briggs, Fred Eaton, I. B. Potter, W. B. Sollen-der, Col. Stoney, Walter E. Dennison, A. H. Swallow and W. O. Quayle. Dr. Doyle acted as toastmaster.

Yesterday morning at 5 o'clock the party left Bishop for a trip to Mammoth. At Crooked Creek a fine trout breakfast had been prepared, which was served in the open air, and everyone enjoyed themselves to the utmost. From there the party went through Long Valley, by the Casa Diablo Hot Springs, on to Mammoth, where stages were waiting to take them up to the lakes, where some fishing was indulged in. They returned last night to Bishop and the Governor and two of his party came down the valley this morning on their way home. The rest will not leave for several days.

The entire trip was a most enjoyable one and all the guests were loud in their praise of the hospitality shown them by the people of the valley. They were surprised at the resources Inyo county possessed and predicted with one accord that the time was at

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Return to Independence

Mr. and Mrs. James Wheeler returned home yesterday from their honeymoon trip to Southern California. Last evening the chivari band made tracks for the new couple's home and entertained them for a short time. They were soon greeted by the bride and groom and were treated cordially. Soon after refreshments were served, and instrumental and vocal music was indulged in until about nine o'clock, and then the jolly crowd went to the T. F. B. hall and enjoyed dancing for several hours.

New Highway From Ocean to Ocean

The completion of the Western Pacific Railway from Salt Lake City to its Pacific Coast terminal at Oakland, Cal., and the inauguration of passenger service recently, is an event of national importance, as affecting the transportation interests of the country. This piece of road, 923 miles in length, is practically an extension of the Gould system westward, and means that a new factor has entered the field in the distribution of trans-continental traffic. The Western Pacific connects with the Denver and Rio Grande railroad at Salt Lake, so that the Gould lines are now continuous from Pittsburg and Detroit to the Pacific Coast, and with these connections are able to supply through freight and passenger service from the Atlantic, the Gulf and the Great Lakes, to the terminal city of Oakland, located on the continental side of the Bay of San Francisco, from which ocean lines will take traffic to all points on the Pacific Coast to the Orient.

California is now in a position to compete with the East in manufacturing in the score of saving, in cost of motion power, while its climate, free from extremes of heat and cold, gives a maximum of labor efficiency at all seasons.

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A man who had been sent to Mt. Whitney for the occasion burned red fire there as soon as it became dark. The clouds were hanging low and the effect of the red light on them was beautiful.

Wednesday morning all the autos available started up the valley. The first stop was made at the court house

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The entire trip was a most enjoyable one and all the guests were loud in their praise of the hospitality shown them by the people of the valley. They were surprised at the resources Inyo county possessed and predicted with one accord that the time was at hand when the county must take its place as one of the foremost counties of the state, a county which has more attractions than any other one county. The only things necessary are good roads and publicity.

Too much credit cannot be given the Inyo Good Road Club for the energy and enterprise they have shown in getting the Governor and his party here. The good that it will do cannot be

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estimated, and it is probably only the first of many excursions that will visit the valley in the near future, the preparations for at least two more being under way now.

W. G. Scott in handling this matter has proven himself the right man in the right place. No detail was too small for him to attend to, and to his untiring energy, devotion and ability can be credited the greatest part of the success of the trip.

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