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LOS ANGELES

FROM THE MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA

JOHN STEVEN MCGROARTY

WITH SELECTED BIOGRAPHY OF ACTORS AND WITNESSES
OF THE PERIOD OF GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

ILLUSTRATED

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John M. Bowen was educated at Boston, graduating from the English High School in 1897. Later he attended the University of Michigan, graduating with the A. B. degree in 1904. He received his law degree in 1906 from the Georgetown University Law School at Washington. He was admitted to the Massachusetts bar, and from 1908 to 1914 was in the Government Secret Service, and in connection with that work was admitted to the bar of practically every state in the Union. His duties in that service brought him to Los Angeles in 1912, and in 1914 he resigned and began general practice. His offices are in the Van Nuys Building.

He is a republican in politics. He is a member and president of the Jonathan Club, is a member of the Los Angeles Athletic Club, the Automobile Club, the Southern California and the Los Angeles County Bar Association. Mr. Bowen is unmarried.

THOMAS HUGHES. Prominent among the big men of Los Angeles who have so directed their activities and fashioned their careers that they have been able to combine great business accomplishment with marked and constructive civic service is Thomas Hughes, a resident of the city for thirty-six years, and now president of the Hughes Manufacturing Company, one of the largest concerns of its kind in the West. His career is intensely typical of the spirit of many transplanted easterners who have found their opportunities in the west, and his rise from obscurity to prominence forms an interesting page in the business history of his adopted city.

Thomas Hughes was born August 25, 1859, at Rice's Landing, Greene County, Pennsylvania, a son of James and Fanny (Cline) Hughes. His education was confined to attendance at the home schools, and his ambition for success led him, as a youth of nineteen years, to go to Kansas, where he remained a short time. In 1880 he removed to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and engaged in the contracting business for three years, and it was during this time, in June, 1881, that he was united in marriage with Mrs. Perry Mosher. In 1883 Mr. Hughes recognizing the opportunities presented by Los Angeles, came to this city, and while looking for an opening worked for one year in a planing mill. Having made his decision and choice, he invested his capital of \$500 in two machines and embarked in the sash business on his own account. From this humble and modest beginning grew the firm of Hughes Brothers, which in 1902 became the Hughes Manufacturing Company, of which Mr. Hughes is now president, and the plant of which now represents a value of nearly \$1,000,000, employs 500 men, and is considered the largest of its kind in the West.

Mr. Hughes has various other interests, being particularly active in oil production. With Ed Strassburg, he organized the American Oil Company, one of the first formed in the southwest, which has been a steady producer and has been one of the most conservative and profitable of concerns. He has helped organize other companies and is the owner of considerable real estate at Los Angeles and in the adjacent cities of Southern California. Mr. Hughes is a purist in business and politics and has done much to aid the city and to keep its politics clean. In 1917 he was appointed to his only public office, that of harbor commissioner, by Mayor Woodman, and in this position has rendered valuable and valued service.

Mr. Hughes is widely and favorably known, not alone in business circles, but in club and fraternal life, being a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Driving Club, the Los Angeles Country Club, the San Gabriel Country Club and the Union Club, of which he was formerly president.

ERNESTINE DE PONTI is one of the recent additions to the imposing colony of artists who have surrendered themselves to the charms of Los Angeles and Southern California. Mme. de Ponti has for many years been a recognized star in the grand opera world, and her audiences have in fact been world wide, since she has appeared in nearly all the great music centers of Europe as well as America.

She was born at Milan, Italy. Her father, Count Angelo de Ponti, was a member of a celebrated old family which in recent years has devoted its fortunes to the cause of Fiume. She is also a niece of Archbishop Alferazzi and of Don Carlo, at one time a canon at Milan Cathedral. Her mother was of French nationality.

Mme. de Ponti has studied music since her earliest years. Some of her first lessons were given her by her father, who though not a professional musician, had a keen musical knowledge and an artistic sense. When only five years of age she sang "Mira Oh! Norma" from Bellini's classic opera "Norma," which after nearly thirty-five years of oblivion is being again revived. When she was twelve years of age she visited an uncle in Honolulu, then French Consul, who informed the Mendelssohn Quartet, in which she was the leading vocalist. After a stay of about a year and a half she went back to Europe to finish her education.

One particularly auspicious event in her earlier career occurred when at the age of fourteen she sang before Pope Leo XIII at the papal court. In Milan she studied with the celebrated San Giovanni, and later in Paris under Mme. Matilde Marchesi, probably the greatest voice teacher the world has known. Going to London she studied the oratorios under Mr. Deacon. At the age of eighteen she bravely met the lion impresario Lago in his den at Covent Garden and calmly told him she had come to sing. Her very audacity amused him, and after hearing her he at once engaged her as one of his leading coloratura sopranos, and she made her first public appearance at the famous Covent Garden Opera House, London. In subsequent years she again sang in London and principal cities of Great Britain under the direction of Sir Augustus Harris. She was for four years in Germany with Fabrini and has subsequently directed her own opera company.

At the age of twenty she was married to John Cameron of London. Mr. Cameron at that time was a professor of science and later became a mining expert, going to all parts of the world to report on mining properties. It was his report on the Mount Morgan, the largest gold mine in the world, located in Australia, that sent the stock of that corporation up to a value of eighteen million pounds sterling. Mr. Cameron was elected a member of parliament.

Mr. and Mrs. Cameron first visited America in 1888, and later returned every year. Mr. Cameron owned the Canavera mine in California. He was an ardent admirer and supporter of Gladstone and with that English statesman endeavored to unite the Anglican Church with the Church of Rome, a consummation which, in the opinion of Mme. de Ponti, would have been desirable.