

**E**DWARDS, J. PAULDING, Consulting Engineer, Investments, Sacramento, Cal., was born at San Francisco, Cal., May 5, 1880, the son of William Stout and Lucy Woodworth (Beebee) Edwards. On his paternal side he is a descendant of Captain John Edwards, who bore the title of Duke, and who was born in Scotland in 1602. Capt. John Edwards was an officer in the army of Scotland, emigrating to America in 1700, becoming one of the founders of the town of Stratfield, now Bridgeport, Conn. Mr. Edwards' paternal grandfather was Dr. David Shelton Edwards of the United States Navy, and his father was a captain in the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey. Mr. Edwards is one of the seventh generation of the name direct from Capt. John Edwards of Stratfield, Conn. His maternal ancestry is no less distinguished, Samuel Woodworth, who wrote "The Old Oaken Bucket," being his great-grandfather, and Selim Woodworth, member of the San Francisco vigilance committee of 1849-50, his great-uncle.

Mr. Edwards married Dollie Bainbridge Tarpey at San Francisco September 9, 1908. To this union there has been born Sumner Tarpey Edwards.

Mr. Edwards entered the University of California in August, 1899. He spent four years there pursuing studies in electrical, mechanical and civil engineering. His first occupation was during the summer of 1901, while on vacation from the State University, when he became technical sales agent for the Locomobile Company of America.

In the summer of 1902 he entered the employ of the Government as Chief Electrician on the U. S. A. Transport "Logan." During this trip he visited Guam, Manila and Nagasaki. After the completion of his college course in May, 1903, he went to Mexico and entered the employ of La Compania Limitada de Tranvias Electricos de Mexico, as student engineer projecting electrical and mechanical railway work, later acting as superintendent of construction on central station plants, steam and electrical distribution lines, transformer stations and railway storage battery stations. He developed special control for economic operation of motor cars, prepared plans and specifications as consulting engineer on hydro-electric development, industrial factory installation and railroad electrization.

He prepared plans of power houses, distribution systems, sub-stations, permanent ways, equipment, telephone and telegraph lines and equipment.

Mr. Edwards spent two years in Mexico, his activities during that time covering a very wide range of service. In 1905 he returned to California and accepted a position as consulting electrical and mechanical engineer with the Northern Electric Railway Company. He personally projected and designed the entire electrical and mechanical installation of this railroad. He subsequently assumed charge as chief engineer of electrization. For this company he designed and built sub-stations, shops, distribution systems, cable and feeder installations, cars, locomotives, office buildings, hydraulic plants and many other necessary parts of a complete electric railway system. The approximate length of this road is 172 miles, high speed passenger and heavy freight service.

In 1907 Mr. Edwards incorporated the Butte Land Syndicate at Sacramento, Cal., an agricultural enterprise in Sutter County, Cal. He was elected president of this company. In 1911 he incorporated "La Hacienda, Inc.," controlling 3000 acres of land in Yuba County, Cal. He was elected vice president and secretary of this company. In July, 1913, he

incorporated the J. Paulding Edwards Company, a development and investment concern, being elected president and treasurer thereof.

In addition to the above interests and offices, Mr. Edwards is Consulting Engineer for the Northern Electric Railway Company, the Vallejo and Northern Railroad, the Sacramento and Woodland Railroad.

He is a member of the Bohemian, Olympic and Transportation Clubs of San Francisco, and the Sutter and University Clubs of Sacramento. He is the inventor of various electrical and mechanical devices and a frequent contributor to technical publications and has recently been vested with the title of "Fellow" by the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Mr. Edwards is looked upon as one of the big men of the West who is pushing ahead its development. Born, raised, educated and trained in the West, his heart is in that country alone, and this, no doubt, has an influence on the splendid work he has accomplished there.



J. P. EDWARDS

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( *Western  
Edition* )

Notables of  
the West

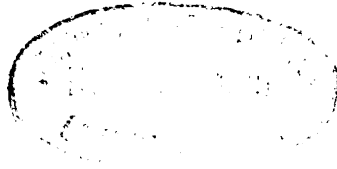
BEING THE PORTRAITS AND BIOGRAPHIES  
OF PROGRESSIVE MEN OF THE  
WEST WHO HAVE HELPED IN  
THE DEVELOPMENT AND  
HISTORY MAKING OF  
THIS WONDERFUL  
COUNTRY



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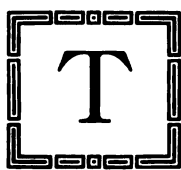


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THE "PRESS REFERENCE LIBRARY" is primarily a publisher's utility library—a work of reference wherein can be found in correct form, the basic facts, from birth down to date, regarding the lives of men of note and substantial achievement, as well as the younger men, whose careers are certain, yet still in the making, together with halftones from latest photographs of the men referred to.

Modern newspapers and periodicals attach great importance to illustration; in fact, most editors regard it as of equal importance with news.

Newspapers require pictures of persons and places for reproduction with current happenings. Although they exhaust every resource to secure up-to-date photographs, they often are compelled to reprint old-style line cuts or wash drawings, and in the majority of cases have no picture at all.

The facts regarding men are often jumbled owing to the necessity of gathering them from whatever source available on a moment's notice.

Every precaution has been taken to have the facts herein correct in every detail and the photographs of recent date.

The work will be the ready reference book of the newspaper editor, writer and artist.

This publication will go to all the International (Hearst) News Service and leading Associated Press and United Press, News Service papers in the United States, and to the leading illustrated weekly and monthly publications under the classification of "National Periodicals." While the natural home of the Press Reference Library is the newspaper and periodical Editorial Room, the work will, in addition, be placed by the International News Service, in all the leading public and college libraries of the country.

Most of the photographs in this publication are from the studios of Moffett, Matzene, Hartsook, Witzel, Steckel and Gibson, Sykes and Fowler, to whom much credit is due for the artistic success attained.

**“The History  
of the World is the Biog-  
raphies of Great Men”—Carlyle**

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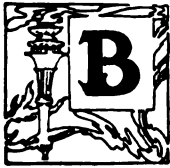
The lives of the men in this publica-  
tion stand out as notable examples of  
the type of men who have lent their  
force or capital, or both, to the up-  
building of the Great West. Many  
of them pioneered through the hard-  
ships of the early days, while others  
battled bravely against toppling booms  
and prolonged depressions of a period  
now past—in this Western country.

Others, while of more recent  
arrival, the West is glad  
to number among  
her own



# A WORD IN ADVANCE

By OTHEMAN STEVENS



**B**ECAUSE the great West frowned on the white man and presented to his advantage its redoubts of desert, mountains, freezing cold, withering heat, vast pathless stretches, inhabited by savage beasts and more savage barbarians, the white man conquered it.

He transformed its frown into a smile; he turned its blasts of desolating heat into the calorics of fructification, and with the calm courage of the superior mind, obliterated or tamed its barbarians, and quenched its aridity by uncovering its hidden sources of water; so that today what was forty years ago the most forbidding, has become the most inviting region of the country—the West.

The reaches which were then cropped only with the desolation of the wilderness, now surpass in return for man's toil, those valleys of beauty and promise which in the beginning of the nation lured with their promise of luxurious ease.

Half a century ago, there was nothing between the outposts of business and cultivation along the Mississippi River and the sands of the Pacific, which promised aught but a heart-breaking struggle with the untoward.

In the time that has passed of one generation, American indomitableness has dotted the West with the bones of gold-seekers and homesteaders; men by the thousands have marched, tortured by thirst, shriveled by pitiless suns, stiffened by icy blasts, fighting, starving, dying, over prairies and towering mountains, then counted worse than worthless, prairies and mountains which today are greater in their returns than all the riches which were pictured in the phantasmagoric dreams of the Argonauts.

In those former days, the Great American Desert filled a large space in the maps in the school geographies; and when, in 1847, by the Treaty of Guadalupe de Hidalgo, the nation secured the larger portion of the territory now forming our greater West, it was obtained for political purposes alone; its value to the list of national assets was as absurd in the public mind as later was the purchase of Alaska, which for a decade caused Secretary of State Seward to be regarded as either an incompetent or a dement.

Nothing brings to the fore more sharply, the capacity of the American to accomplish the impossible, than the facing of the impossible.

What has been brought about by the men of America in what was the West is almost of the impressiveness of a miracle.

A miracle brought about by staunch courage in constant strife, because of the love of strife with Nature in her most fiercely hostile phase.