

## **Consolidation of Bakersfield and Kern**

Occasional movements for the consolidation of Bakersfield and the rival town which the Southern Pacific railroad founded under the name of Sumner and incorporated later under the name of Kern, resulted finally on February 25, 1908, in an election in which the union was defeated by ten votes in Kern, although the voters of Bakersfield approved it by a majority of 342. On December 21, 1909, however, a second election resulted in a vote of 265 for, to 154 against, in Kern, and 518 for, to 186 against, in Bakersfield. The first election of the consolidated city, held on July 18, 1910, resulted in the selection of the following officers: Trustees, William Vandever Matlack, John Richard Williams, Fredrick Leroy Gribble, Herman Skiles Dumble, Philo Landon Jewett; board of education, Leo George Pauly, George Hay, Hugh Allen Blodget, George Lee Snider and Celsus Brower ; city clerk, Harry F. Murdock; city attorney, Matthew S. Platz ; marshal, James McKamy; treasurer, Arthur W Weaber; recorder, William H. Thomas; assessor, Benjamin Leonard Brundage. In April 1911, the date of the regular elections for cities of the fifth class — which class the consolidated city assumed — the trustees and nearly all the other city officials were re-elected.