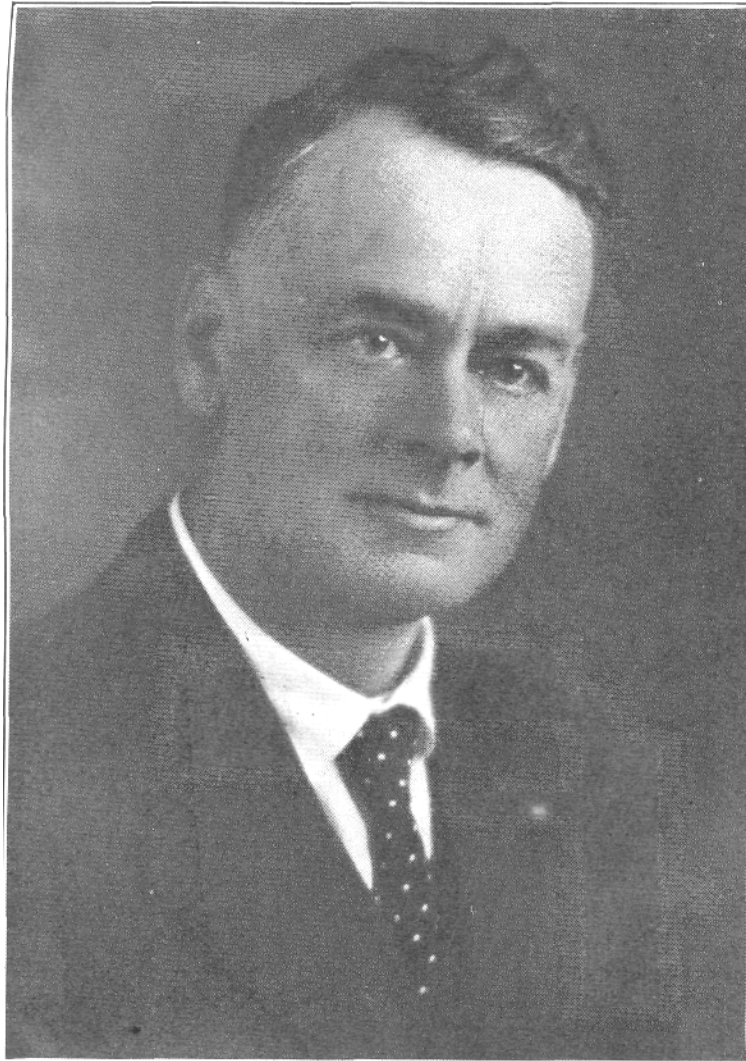


THOMAS JAMES WALKER



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T. J. Walker, whose death occurred February 3, 1926, was one of the pioneers in the avocado industry, being one of the charter members of the Avocado Association and serving as a director and secretary for several years. In 1916 he was sent by the United States Government as a member of a committee assigned to investigate agricultural and horticultural industry in Cuba, Costa Rica and Guatemala, and in this connection he gave characteristically effective service.

Until his death he had a large avocado nursery and set out many acres both in the San Fernando Valley and at Solana Beach, San Diego County. He was always very

enthusiastic over the outcome of the industry and spent his time and money freely in anything that would help avocados gain a foot-hold in California.

Thomas James Walker was born in Birmingham, England, April 3, 1868. He came to the United States in 1882. He took a course in telegraphy at the Janesville School of Telegraphy, Wisconsin, and was the youngest student that ever graduated from that institution. He came west in 1891 and became a ticket agent for the Santa Fe Railroad system in Los Angeles. Later he served in a similar capacity at Pasadena and San Bernardino. About the year 1904 he came to San Fernando and organized the San Fernando Valley Bank, from which was eventually developed the First National Bank, now the Bank of Italy of San Fernando. He served as cashier of this Bank until 1919. He then turned his attention exclusively to the growing of trees and planting of citrus orchards and avocados.

His civic loyalty found positive and helpful expression in many ways. He organized the Chamber of Commerce at San Fernando, and was instrumental in incorporating the city, in effecting the paving of Maclay Avenue, the first thoroughfare in San Fernando to be thus improved, also in getting and paving the State Highway through San Fernando. He was a member of the Good Roads Committee for Los Angeles County, and was instrumental in getting the State Highway paved and through the efforts of this committee he helped get a bond issue through for the purpose of building 300 miles of paved highway in Los Angeles County.

In 1896 he married Miss Josephine Lloyd Maclay, daughter of the late Senator Maclay, who survives him, and who is sparing no money or effort to bring into successful bearing the orchards planted by Mr. Walker at Solana Beach and San Fernando Valley.