RETAIL GROCERS THROW CARE AWAY TO ACCEPT CALIFORNIA FRIENDSHIP

Delegates to National Convention Divide Their Force Into Two Parties and Visit Italian-Swiss Colony and Varied Sights Throughout the Cities of Alameda County

Alarms were sounded in every room in the city occupied by delegates to the National Grocers' Association yesterday morning, for the occupants of those rooms were anxious to be on hand at the ferry promptly at 8 o'clock to participate in the excursion to Asti, Sonoma County, given for their benefit by the California Northwestern Railway and the Italian-Swiss Colony. Expectations of a street car strike had caused many of them to leave a call for some hours previous to their departure as a matter of assurance. Happily they did not have to walk to the ferry building as cars were running and gave them ample time. Smiling faces were apparent on every side as the gates were thrown open for the crowd to the number of 272, which filed on the ferry-boat J. M. Donahue and took their places for the trip to Tiburon. Smiles which had crossed the bay in the morning returned in the evening as hilarious laughs and the Retail Grocers of America joyfully clasped the hands of the men who had contributed so much to their pleasure and expressed their thanks in language which only a trip to Asti would supply.

Many ladies, wives and sweethearts of the delegates, were along and the various points of interest were pointed out to them from the ferry to the little station in Sonoma County.

Only one stop was made and that was to allow the west bound train to pass. Rapid time was made on the way up the valley, but as Petaluma was approached the speed was held down to allow the guests to view the beauties of that thriving city. The same programme was carried out at Santa Rosa and Healdsburg, and many were the expressions: "Oh, how I wish I lived in this country!"

ARRIVAL AT ASTI.

At Asti, which was reached before 11 o'clock, great preparations had been made to entertain the guests. As soon as the train of seven cars had been vacated by the pleasure seekers, officials of the Asti company were on hand to pilot the visitors through the great winery and explain every phase of the wine making business, from the planting of the grapes to the placing of the fermented juice upon the market. Every feature of the multitude of details was asked about by some member of the party and just as readily answered by the attendants. The 272 guests were divided into two parties and taken through the entire plant and shown the greatest wine tanks in the United States. In one of the basements, where the wine is placed in casks for shipment, glasses of the different beverages were handed to each guest to sample and from the way the retail grocers smacked their lips as they sipped the nectar the Asti wines will have a heavy demand at the banquet tonight.

Having viewed all the sights the guests were invited to the "Arbor," where refreshments were served in true California style. Fully an hour was consumed and eatables of all characters, from chicken to ham and olives to oranges, went with the time. Then came the flow of souls from the inspiring of warming wines, and ere the whistle sounded the call for departure the National Retail Grocers had added their testimony to the character of California's hospitality.

Daniel F. Keefe acted as master of ceremonies. In assuming that important position, he bid the guests welcome to Sonoma County in the name of the Asti corporation and told how the convention at Kansas City last year had consented to come to California and accept of the hospitality of the Golden West as he had pictured it at that time. He felt sure that the delegates and their ladies who were in sound of his voice could certify to the fact that that promise had been fulfilled. The speaker's remarks needed no further indorsement than the applause which greeted the statement.

OFFICIAL WELCOME.

Andrea Sbarboro extended to the guests the official welcome of the Asti corporation, of which he is the president, and stated that he was proud of the fact that twenty-three years ago he was a grocer's clerk and that the national association of that calling were there assembled. All were requested to throw care to the winds and enjoy themselves to the utmost. They did.

Speech followed speech, P. C. Rossi, R. X. Ryan, President Lott, Secretary Fred Mason, Joseph Stultz, Past President Scherer, William Gray of New York, Vice President Farlinger and Delegate Nesbitt of Australia, speaking in the order named.

A call was made for "Dixie." Miss Blanche Chenault of Little Rock was assisted to the top of one of the long tables and in a clear voice sang that air so popular in the South, and the delegates joined in the chorus. Everybody sang "America" as the call was sounded for the return trip.

Before leaving the grounds each visitor was presented with a bottle of wine by the management of the winery.

Jollification followed the entire party on the return trip and at the ferry the delegates separated to prepare for the evening at the Chutes.

DELEGATES ATTEND CHUTES.

Even though two excursions were attended during the day, delegate after delegate, accompanied by tastefully gowned ladies, appeared at the Chutes and applauded the regular programme and the special stereopticon views and lecture by a representative of a mechanical device to curtail grocers' labors. Some 200 seats had been reserved in the boxes for the delegates and their ladies and not a seat was vacant, although Asti's exhilarating influence had been encountered during the day and the beauties of Alameda County had been absorbed.

The delegates were there for the fun they could have, and they took advantage of the opportunity to applaud any tip from the stage which had the least touch of the grocery business in the repartee.

The illustrated lecture was a matter which appealed to the sterner sex, for it portrayed how the pennies might be saved and eventually accumulate into dollars. Though the ladies accompanying the delegates as wives, mothers and sweethearts like to know that their husbands, sons and expectant husbands have the coin, they do not see the necessity of displaying upon canvas the methods by which that money is accumulated. Nevertheless the show was heartily appreciated by the visitors and they left with that "tired feeling" from their hard day's rest.

This morning the delegates will get down to business and if possible close up the work of their seventh annual session.

If the work can be brought to such a condition as is contemplated the election of officers will occur this morning instead of this afternoon, and friends of Charles A. Lott of Chicago will endeavor to re-elect him president of the organization.

LOTT NOT A CANDIDATE.

President Lott is not a candidate for re-election in the sense of personally desiring the office, and up to last night had importuned his friends not to advance his name as a candidate.

If Mr. Lott's name is sprung on the convention for re-election it will have a strong following, but the unwritten law of the association will mean the election of A. W. Farlinger of Atlanta, Ga.

An important change was decided upon yesterday, and that is in regard to the banquet to be held tonight. It was intended to give the ladies a separate room for the enjoyment of a menu to be served them exclusively, while the masculine portion of the convention was to have a bachelor-like time in the adjoining gallery. That plan is all changed. The ladies will be seated at the same tables as their husbands and escorts and the bachelor plan has gone glimmering.

The original programme for to-day is as follows:

Report of committee on resolutions; reports of the committees; short addresses by editors of grocery papers; open discussions of same are invited. Afternoon session, 2 p. m.—Fixing the per capita tax; election of officers; selection of next meeting place; final report of committee on resolutions; adjournment.

APPRECIATE OAKLAND TRIP.

Delegates to Convention Cross the Bay and Are Treated Royally.

OAKLAND, May 4.—It was a gala day in Alameda County for members of the National Grocers' Association, who are in convention on the other side of the bay. More than 100 of the delegates from various cities of the United States arrived during the forenoon on the "Key Route" and at once became the guests of the Alameda County Grocers' Association and the Merchants' Exchange.

The party, which was accompanied by many ladies, was conveyed by special cars and given an opportunity to see every point of interest in Alameda, Oakland and Berkeley and the nearby suburban towns. All expressed pleasure over the cordial reception extended.

At the Key Route mole an escort consisting of Charles H. Taylor, W. J. Hopkins, George Russell, W. W. Miller, J. S. Wixson, E. E. Muller, Wilber Walker, E. Stearns, H. D. Cushing, George Hoffman, F. J. Lea and Frank M. Ferguson oft this city awaited the visitors. A rapid ride was made to Berkeley, where Wilber Walker explained the growth of the university and showed the party about the grounds. The excursionists were returned to this city by way of Telegraph avenue and then a trip was taken to Piedmont Heights. At the latter point the Sulphur Springs Gardens were visited.

Returning to Oakland about noon, all were invited to the Hotel Metropole, where a delicious luncheon was served. During the course of the luncheon Edwin Stearns, secretary of the Oakland Board of Trade, made an address, which conveyed to the visitors some idea of the merits of life in Alameda County. He stated its advantages from a standpoint of commerce, climate and social condition.

FACTS STATED.

"Twelve million dollars was invested in real estate during the last year," said Secretary Stearns, "and 957 dwelling-houses and flats erected. Oakland is the termini of three overland railroads and, from the growth of the population, the people who travel over these roads like the place. An increase of 24 per cent in three years is in advance of any first-class city in the country during the same period."

Boarding the cars again an hour later, the grocers and their friends started for Haywards. At San Leandro a stop was made and the visitors were escorted through fruit groves and gardens. At Alameda the passengers were showered with flowers by school children and each presented with a handsome bouquet. Then all, radiant with smiles of pleasure, took the Key route and returned to San Francisco.

The visitors and friends were as follows:

W. H. Cogk, Springfield, Ohio; W. H. Beagles and wife, San Francisco; C. W. Hull and wife, San Francisco; Will Hill and wife, St. Joseph, Mo.; Mrs. Butler, San Francisco; W. E. Sullivan and wife, St. Joseph, Mo.; W. C. Longstrethorp, Lansing, Mich.; E. Peterson and wife, Budio Grow, Independence, Mo.; J. A. Bischoff, Miss Crowell, San Francisco; W. A. Asmussen, San Francisco; J. C. Ballantyne, Des Moines, Iowa; W. H. Cook, Springfield, Ohio; S. H. Sadler, Rockwell, Iowa; E. G. Ashley, Toledo, Ohio; F. W. McAllister, San Antonio, Tex.; William Maurer, San Francisco; Mr. and Mrs. H. Huffmann, San Francisco; F. Albert Wey, Higginsville, Mo.; Miss Irene Calnen, Richmond, Mo.; Mrs. John E. Crusey, San Francisco; Mrs. Lyman B. Ish, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. John Gibson, Richmond, Mo.; Mrs. J. W. Collignon, Springfield, Mo.; Mrs. Kate Voss, St. Charles, Mo.; Henry Vose, St. Joseph, Mo.; Charles Veysey, Aberdeen, Wash.; Marian Veysey, Montesano, Wash.; E. F. King, Detroit, Mich.; C. H. Frink, Detroit, Mich.; Mr. and Mrs. E. Peterson, Independence, Mo.; Veit Reuss, Cincinnati, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Newland, Topeka, Kans.; Mrs. S. Lamonte, San Francisco; Charles E. Bohert, Cincinnati, Ohio; W. C. Wren, Cleveland, Ohio; H. F. Duesing, Youngstown, Ohio; Lyman B. Ish, Chicago, Ill.; L. J. Oehler, Cincinnati; J. M. Jamison, financial secretary Retail Grocers' Association, Cincinnati; A. J. Ronsheimer, Pengrove, Cal.; Mr. and Mrs. George Betts, Chicago; Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hopkins, Oakland; H. D. Cushing, Oakland; E. A. Cook, Detroit; F. J. Lea, Oakland; Mrs. M. C. Blote, St. Louis; Mrs. S. Munha, Oakland; Henry Heyman, St. Louis; W. W. Miller, Berkeley; J. S. Wixson, Oakland; E. F. Muller, Oakland; F. Guenther, Nevada City, Cal.; Mr. and Mrs. George Neudorff and son, St. Joseph, Mo.; George Hoffmann, Oakland; T. N. Whitehead, Oakland; Charles A. Gesch and wife, Milwaukee, Wis.; O. C. Harn, editor Inland Grocer, Cleveland, Ohio; E. C. Ambrose and wife, Oakland; C. C. Harn, Cleveland, Ohio; Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Hennig, San Francisco; Mrs. M. Cooke, Chicago; Mrs. Wilbert Birmingham, Chicago; Miss M. Broader, Chicago; A. W. Bodenhausen and wife, St. Joseph, Mo.; H. Corrance and wife, Dubuque, Ia.; Burt Holcomb, Duluth, Minn.; Charles E. Parsons, passenger director San Francisco and San Jose Railroad, and W. H. Ellison, guide of Board of Trade.

PURE FOOD APPRECIATED.

Citizens Patronize Exhibits Being Made by Different Local Houses.

Citizens of San Francisco have realized that there is "something doing" at the Mechanics' Pavilion besides the grocers' convention and as an evidence of that fact the building was filled last night with visitors to the industrial exposition which is being given under the direction of the Retail Grocers' Association of San Francisco.

The wholesale merchants of the city have taken an active part in making the big exposition a success. California products are on display in many booths which have been tastily arranged by the exhibitors. During the afternoon and evening of yesterday a large crowd was in attendance at the pavilion. The different exhibitors stood behind their booths and distributed samples of their wares to the ladies. All went away well pleased with the exhibition and with their arms filled with household suggestions in the way of samples of good things to eat and other necessities that go to make up a happy home.

The exposition will be turned over to the Turn Verein to-night. The members of that order will attend in a body and aid in entertaining the visitors with many interesting athletic features. The different Turn Vereins of the city have expressed their willingness to aid in entertaining the public at the retail grocers' exposition.

Many wholesale firms of this city have gone to great expense in fitting up their booths in the pavilion. The different food stuffs that they display are arranged so as to interest any one who may visit the big exposition. Visitors to the display can get samples enough with which to start housekeeping. The wholesale merchants desire to place their goods before the public and spare no expense in the way of distributing samples and reading matter regarding their products.

The committee in charge of the exposition has arranged a series of nights during which different clubs and societies of this city will be made the guests of honor. They have planned the list of nights so thoroughly that even the Chinese residents will be given an opportunity to visit the exposition. Monday afternoon and evening have been set aside for the Chinese and under the direction of the Six Companies they will attend the exposition in a body.

The Olympic Club will be the guests of the retail grocers next Friday evening, special programmes having been arranged for that night. A German and an Irish night will be arranged later by the management.

Other special nights will be set and an interesting programme will be given during the afternoons and evenings.

The committee in charge of the exposition said last night that the display being made by the different wholesale firms has become so popular that the date for the closing of the exposition may be extended beyond the time limit originally set.

Turner Is Convicted.

Thomas Turner, charged with assault to murder, was convicted in Judge Dunne's court yesterday on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon and will be sentenced on May 11. He is 62 years of age and claimed that he was drunk at the time of the commission of the offense. He stabbed Bernard Hansen in the abdomen at the Sailors' Home on the night of January 1.

TO SUBSCRIBERS LEAVING TOWN FOR THE SUMMER.

CALL subscribers contemplating a change of residence during the summer months can have their paper forwarded by mail to their new address by notifying THE CALL Business Office. This paper will also be on sale at all summer resorts and is represented by a local agent in all towns on the coast.

Court Hears Westcott's Suit.

The suit for damages brought by Captain W. A. Westcott against California Harbor No. 15, American Association of Masters and Pilots, was heard by Judge Seawell yesterday and taken under submission. Westcott demands $10,000 damages for injury to his reputation he alleges he sustained through the action of the harbor in attempting to expel him last February. He also demands an order of court directing the cancellation of the proceedings of the harbor at the time of the attempted expulsion.

San Francisco Veterinary College.

Next session will begin June 6th. Catalogues by applying to Dr. E. J. Creely, 810 G. G. ave.*

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A resident physician looks after the health of the guests.
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An old and reliable hunter and his dogs for the use of those who enjoy hunting.
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A good table, and all kinds of amusements.
Rates—Hotel, $12.00 to $17.50 per week; Housekeeping Cottages, $3.00 to $15.00 a week.
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Spend Your Vacation for $20 at
San Luis Hot Sulphur Springs San Luis Obispo, Cal.
The most ideal resort for pleasure and health on the Pacific Coast. Buy round trip ticket from San Francisco to San Luis Hot Sulphur Springs, San Luis Obispo, Cal., and return, including stage to and from springs and one week's board for $20.00 to $22.00, according to location of rooms, or board and a commodations $9.00 to $12.00 per week.
Scenic surroundings, free bathing, boating and fishing on grounds. Fine shady walks, tennis and croquet grounds, dance pavilion for guests. Fine sea beach one mile from Hot Sulphur Springs. Cottages and furniture are all new. Gas throughout buildings and grounds. Our table is well supplied with the best the market affords. Our stage meets trains arriving at San Luis Obispo at 3:15 p. m. every day (except Sunday).
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"IN THE MOUNTAINS BY THE SEA."
BEN LOMOND—Santa Cruz County.
REGULAR SEASON.
Will open May 15th under entirely new management. Round trip tickets from San Francisco $3.00. For booklet apply Peck's Bureau, 11 Montgomery st., S. F., or to WILLIAM G. DODGE, Lessee.

LAUREL DELL,
The Switzerland of America. The only lake resort that has its own mineral springs. Boating, swimming, fishing and hunting. EDGAR DURNAN, sole proprietor, Laurel Dell P. O., Lake County, Cal.

Own Summer Home in mountains of Sonoma Co. Camp Meeker
Pure water, equable climate, lots selling $10 up; cottages built by Meeker, $50 up; depot; stores; restaurant; hotel; post and express; telephone; sawmill; 900 lots sold; 300 cottages built. Sausalito ferry, N. S. R. R. M. C. MEEKER, Camp Meeker, Sonoma County.

Napa Soda Springs.
The famous mountain health and pleasure resort is now open for the patronage of the public. Address JOHN JACOBS.

TUXEDO HOTEL.
Extensively improved since last season. Opens April 1. THOS. L. BELL, Mgr., Felton, Cal. Buy tickets to Tuxedo, narrow-gauge, foot of Market street. Round trip, $3.00.

LOS GATOS.
HOTEL LYNDON—Modern improvements, extensive grounds; popular amusements; lawn tennis, croquet; climate unsurpassed. Opposite depot. J. P. MOGENSON, Prop.

N. S. R. R. TOCALOMA Marin Co.
Bertrand Hotel; first-class accommodations; special rates for families and parties; fishing, hunting, boating, bathing; beautiful drives to Bear Valley; telephone. JOSEPH F. BERTRAND, or Bulletin Office, every Thursday, 2 to 4 p. m.

PESCADERO.
Swanton House, under new management, popular hotel of San Mateo Co. Commodious cottages, beautiful grounds, famous pebble beach, fishing, hunting, sea bathing. Phone. Rates, $8 and $10 per week. G. C. LUCE, Proprietor.

LINDNER'S PARK, Guerneville.
A resort for your family. Partly furnished cottages, $12 per month and up. Tents and platforms. Near Russian River. Board and room at $7 50 per week. See PECK'S, 11 Montgomery st.

HARBIN SPRINGS—Most desirable in Lake Co.; contain sulphur, iron, magnesia and arsenic; wonderful cures of rheumatism, catarrh, paralysis, dropsy, kidney, liver and stomach troubles; new gymnasium, bowling alley, handball court and billiard room. Round-trip tickets, S. P. office, $8. J. A. HAYS, Prop.

MOUNTAIN VIEW RANCH HOTEL and cottages, in the mountains, near Santa Cruz. First-class table and accom., gas, baths, phone, daily mail bowling, croquet, amusements; terms, $9 up. Campers to Glenwood, inc. carriage, $6 75 round trip. FRANK R. DANN, Santa Cruz. Fredericksen & Sutton, Managers.

OCCIDENTAL HOTEL, HAYWARDS,
First-class resort; tennis, croquet, bowling, amusement hall, etc. Special rates to families. Terms reasonable. A. GAUDARD, Prop., phone Black 141.

REDWOOD VILLA RESORT.
Excellent board, home cooking; tent ground, if desired, with board, $5. Room and board $8 to $10. Best hunting and fishing. MRS. A. L. ACKERMAN, La Honda, San Mateo County.

WILLOW RANCH, delightfully located in redwoods, 5 miles from Santa Cruz. Spring water, fruit, milk, excellent table; daily mail; free conveyance; $7 week; phone Suburban 87. MRS. W. CRANDELL, Santa Cruz, Cal.

BELLEVUE HOTEL, El Verano, Sonoma Co., Cal. Terms, $1 day and up; hot mineral springs near by. Long distance telephone; daily mail. JOHN SERRES, Proprietor.

The best coffee anywhere at any price is Hills Bros.' Arabian Roast Coffee.*