

# Pan of Grease Starts \$200,000 Fire in Row of Wooden Shacks

One of the most spectacular downtown fires in many months broke out shortly after 10 o'clock last night through the sudden combustion of a pan of grease in the kitchen of Borlin's restaurant in Geary street near Market, made its way with explosive violence through the triangular block of flimsy frame structures bounded by Geary, Market street and Grant avenue and caused damage aggregating \$200,000.

Fighting the flames at a fearful disadvantage because of the peculiar construction of the massed wooden, one story buildings, the firemen did not gain control for more than two hours. In the path of the fire were S. N. Wood's clothing store, dry goods and furnishing stores, restaurants, drug stores and jewelry shops. Some were gutted completely and where the stock was not destroyed by fire water inflicted great loss.

The fire was replete with dramatic features. In Grant avenue near Market was the storage room of the Union transfer company, containing 250 trunks taken there earlier in the evening from incoming eastern trains. Most of them belonged to the fleet visitors, and the average value of the contents belonging was at least \$250. As the fire flared into the rear of the place Manager W. B. O'Keefe called his force of baggage smashers and in a twinkling 10 men were tumbling trunks into the street at a feverish rate.

**EVERY TRUNK SAVED**  
Smoke filled the rooms and once or twice the men were driven out by the onrush of fire. Twenty minutes later the last trunk was safe on the street. Not one was lost. While the daring work was in progress the sidewalks were lined with many of the very people to whom the contents belonged. Some made frantic efforts to assist in saving their property, but were forced back by the police.

Here, too, occurred a thrilling rescue, when Robert Lee, one of the men working to save the trunks, went too far into the heat of the flames. In an instant he had crumpled up under the smoke and heat and fell to the floor. A. P. Barron, George Flaherty and George Connors ran back together and dragged him out. Lee was badly but not seriously burned.

Nearly all the buildings in the entire block were constructed alike, with high ceilings from the ground floor, and above that ventilating spaces between the roof. This peculiarity caused the firemen much worry and many narrow escapes. Roaring through this inclosure with every recurring draught, time and again when a blaze was all but extinguished it would be caught up to break out in a new and unexpected quarter.

**FLAMES FILL STREET**  
Once a draught sent flame flaring half way across Geary street and in one fiery breath ruined the real estate office of Edwards, Silver & Clover. On two other occasions it exploded through into Grant avenue, once to the office of the Art metal construction company, again into that of James Stuart, contractor. Stuart is a wealthy capitalist of New York city.

Owing to its central location, and the lines of hose that were strung to all available hydrants and cisterna, nearly the whole city for a time was cut off from streetcar service. All lines in Market were tied up, as well as those in Third and Kearny. All Geary street for half an hour was filled with a pall of sufficing, hanging smoke and the cable was stopped. Thousands of people hurried from all sections of the town to witness the conflagration.

**WATCHMAN SEES FLAMES**  
It was a few minutes after 10 o'clock that Special Officer Montgomery Husted

# CO-OPERATIVE EGG RAISING IS ASKED \$1,000,000 IN BONDS FOR U. P.

**SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL**  
SANTA ROSA, May 4.—A new turn has been given the local egg situation as the result of a meeting held at Cotati Sunday afternoon at which a number of the labor leaders of San Francisco were present and addressed the farmers and poultrymen. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Cotati progressive association.

The labor leaders suggested that if the poultrymen who were associated together in the Sonoma county co-operative poultry association would pack all their eggs in cartons properly marked so that they could be easily distinguished the members of the San Francisco labor federation, 250,000 strong, would demand of their San Francisco grocers the product of the association.

In this way it was declared that the San Francisco laboring people could materially assist the Sonoma county producers who were standing for co-operation in the sale of their products in the San Francisco market. The suggestion has struck a popular chord here.

Secretary Frank A. Wilson of the association was invited to visit San Francisco in the near future at a date to be arranged and address the members of the labor federation on the work of the association and the purposes of the poultrymen in getting together in co-operative organization. The invitation was readily accepted, and soon after Secretary Wilson arranged in San Francisco for him to address the consumers direct from the position of a producer.

Among those from San Francisco who were present and addressed the producers were J. W. Sweeney, president of the labor council; A. Gallagher, secretary of the labor council; A. Fureth, secretary of the coast seamen's union; W. MacArthur, editor of the Coast Seaman's Journal; R. Cornelius, president of the street railroad employees' union and M. Casey, president of the teamsters' union.

**GORE RECAPTURES CHAMPIONSHIP**  
LONDON, May 4.—A. W. Gore, the English player, today recaptured the championship in the covered court tennis contest which has been in progress at the holder of the title, A. F. Wilding of New Zealand, three games to one. Four days ago Gore defeated C. P. Dodge of Colorado Springs in the semifinals.

**THE FLEET FROM Mt. Tamalpais**  
Signals from the summit of Mt. Tamalpais will be exchanged when the fleet arrives outside the heads Tuesday evening, May 5. Special train will leave Sausalito for Mt. Tamalpais at 6:15 p. m.; returning, arrive in San Francisco at 11:25. The view from the top of the mountain will be magnificent.

**KING AND QUEEN RETURN**  
LONDON, May 4.—King Edward and Queen Alexandra returned to London this afternoon from their Scandinavian tour.

# JOHN DREW GETS HEARTY WELCOME

Frenchy Play "My Wife" Given by Splendid Company at the Van Ness

- CAST OF CHARACTERS IN THE FRENCH COMEDY, "My Wife"**
- Gerald Eversleigh.....John Drew
  - The Hon. Gibson Gore (Gibby).....The Hon. Gibson Gore
  - Ferdinand Gottschalk.....Ferdinand Gottschalk
  - Captain Putnam Fusby.....Charles Martin
  - M. Dupre.....Morton Selten
  - Baron Granelles.....Albert Riccardi
  - Mrs. Yalverson.....Marie Maeroni
  - M. Petin.....Alex. Brun
  - Davies (butler to Gerald Eversleigh).....Herbert Budd
  - Crocker (valet to Gerald Eversleigh).....Ezra McDougall
  - Head waiter of the Hotel Bellevue.....Walter Soderling
  - Rene Palandres.....Frank Goldsmith
  - Porter at the Hotel Bellevue.....L. C. Howard
  - Beatrice Dupre (Trixie).....Miss Billie Burke
  - Miriam Hawthorne.....Miss Bernadine Tennant
  - Mrs. Decham Lane.....Miss Ida Grosley Smith
  - Baroness Granelles.....Miss Hope Latham
  - Madame Dupre (see Beatrice Harford).....Miss Kate Pattison Selten
  - Marie (maid to Beatrice).....Miss May Galyer

**By Walter Anthony**  
John Drew, Billie Burke and an aristocratic company in the French comedy, "My Wife," at the Van Ness theater last night completely met the expectations of a large, fashionable and distinguished audience. Expectations were not only met but were naturally fulfilled. He is the same polished actor, debonair, "clubby," well groomed, polished and properly mannered as ever. It is a matter of little consequence whether he is a grocer or a great John Drew; last night he was a superb Gerald Eversleigh, the clubman who finds himself temporarily married to his ward so that she may subsequently marry her real affinity. Drew was faultless at all times, whether in the farcical passages, with which the ingenious play is full, or in the more serious scenes where he finds himself growing fonder of his ward than a mere make believe husband in charge of another's future wife should be.

Anticipations with respect to Miss Billie Burke were on the whole justified and satisfied. In point of personal appearance and personal charm she shames the enthusiasm of her press agents. As an actress, supplied with experience and knowledge of her craft, she will grow beyond the stature of her present excellence. She is, one would say, just the sort of a leading lady Drew requires. She has distinction of manner and rare beauty of the girlish type, not easily defined, but easily appreciated; a glory of tinted brown hair glowing with a Titian shade; a prettily molded face, with the pink cheeks of youth, and an engaging almost a lip, in her utterance which heightens the girlishness of her appeal. She is graceful and has imagination; her methods are quiet, refined and natural. Altogether, Billie Burke is a charming Trixie and makes Gerald's sacrifice of his bachelorhood a very natural event.

Trixie has an inheritance from her aunt which can be hers only on condition that she is married when she is 18 years of age. She has a lover to whom her father objects; the father has a suitor to whom she objects. Draw is a guardian under the terms of the aunt's will and Trixie persuades him to marry her in formality only so that she will comply with the conditions of the bequest. After a year they agree she shall divorce him and marry her real sweetheart.

In the end the real sweetheart is supplanted in Trixie's affections by Gerald, her guardian and make believe husband, and the play thus closes. Meantime there have been four acts of lively comedy and some intensely amusing scenes, as when the mother and father come upon Gerald and Trixie in the middle of a quarrel, and not understanding the real situation imagine that the unhappy bride is being abused on her honeymoon.

Ferdinand Gottschalk as Gerald's friend easily wins with Dorothy Tennant, who is Miriam, an actress friend of Gerald's, second honors; but the entire cast is excellent in the character roles.

**NOVELTY**  
Katherine Grey and her associate players began their second "The Truth" Clyde Fitch's masterpiece "The Truth" last night at the Novelty theater be-

John Drew and Billie Burke, leading man and woman in the French comedy, "My Wife," at the Van Ness.



fore an audience that augurs well for the closing week of this very remarkable and intensely interesting play. In the recent history of San Francisco there has been no company appearing on the local stage that compares with the cast which Martin Beck has assembled to present "The Truth." The play appeals to all classes of theatergoers. It has a thrill in every act and in nearly every scene; its lines are bright, but not "smarty"; it depicts human nature as all know it, and while it teaches a salutary lesson it is never "preachy." The fact that "The Truth" has been translated into a half dozen languages and been a current success in Paris, Berlin, London, Madrid and other European centers of culture and population is readily understood by those who have witnessed the San Francisco production.

Katherine Grey's success in the leading role of Becky Warden has been instantaneous. She has returned to her native city a finished artist and one of America's greatest actresses. Her command of the stage no less than her voice and person lend themselves to the illusion that she is in fact the hereditary fiber whose falling nearly wrecks a home and her own happiness. There is not a character in the play that is not like some one every auditor knows, and this lends the element of human interest to the play.

Sunday night Miss Grey will present her great New York hit, "The Reckoning," from the German of Arthur Schnitzler. It had an unprecedented run at the Berkeley Lyceum in Broadway, where it effectively lifted the "hoodoo" from the theater which no star nor play could seem to bring into popular favor.

**ALCAZAR**  
"Charley's Aunt," one of the best

# MAKE PLEAS FOR FIRE PROTECTION

A large audience gathered at Union hall, Market and Church streets, last night to hear President John W. Sweeney and other speakers discuss the bond issues to be voted upon next Monday. A number of the supervisors and other city officials were expected, but through a misunderstanding of halls did not come.

"Voting for the bond issue to establish a fire protection system means the consumption of the late Fire Chief Sullivan's dearest wish," said Sweeney when he took up the issues one by one. "Such a system would have stopped the conflagration of two years ago."

Attorney Frank Costello also made an earnest plea for San Francisco to rehabilitate her schools, public hospitals, etc., and among those speaking in the general discussion that followed were President W. J. Healy of the Market and Church street association, Henry O'Dowd, J. Gilbride and Martin Hennessy.

sumes the part of the leader of the brigands.

**PRINCESS**  
Cecelia Rhoda and Edward Stevens still continue to charm large audiences at the Princess theater and the second week of "Wang" is meeting with the success that its production deserves. An abundance of good music, dancing and comedy are features of the comic opera which are enjoyed by every audience.

**AMERICAN**  
The American theater announces a special matinee Thursday, when the Pollard Hillipian players will present "A Runaway Girl." On account of the parade the curtain will be run up at 3 o'clock.

# WANTS CONGRESS TO MAKE EFFORT

**SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE CALL**  
WASHINGTON, May 4.—It is now improbable that congress will be able to adjourn by May 14.

Representative Watson, republican whip of the house, spent an hour with President Roosevelt today. Watson was wholly lacking in optimism about an early adjournment of congress and declined to make any prediction.

The president seems to have sent for Representative Watson to insist that the house make an "honest effort" to put through anti-injunction legislation, amend the Sherman anti-trust law, enact the Vreeland currency bill, to which he is unequivocally committed; put on the books a law making the government responsible for accidents to its employees, and do one or two other things. A month ago Watson was not sanguine as to anti-injunction legislation, but told the president that it was a doubtful proposition owing to the hostility of the house judiciary committee. It was to insist upon an "honest effort" to get this legislation that the president desired to talk to Watson, and through him to the republicans of the house.

**"Kwangel" Says Japan**  
"Kwangel" is the Japanese for "Welcome," and this is the title of an interesting article appearing in the May number of Sunset, just out, written by Chozo Koike, the consular general of Japan in San Francisco.

**POSTMASTERS APPOINTED**  
WASHINGTON, May 4.—The following California postmasters were appointed: French Gulch, Shasta county, D. W. Smith, vice L. W. Smith, deceased; Johnstonville, Lassen county, Frank O. Wemple, vice A. Granyon, resigned.

# CARD OF THANKS

The opening of the BISMARCK CAFE in the Pacific Building, Fourth and Market Streets, SATURDAY EVENING, MAY 2, expressed again the spirit that dominates the Metropolis of the West.

We kindly thank our friends and the public in this brief way for their most generous patronage, which far exceeded our most sanguine expectations, and on this account we tender our apologies for any inconveniences that may have been experienced.

**THE BISMARCK CAFE**  
Fritz Muller & Sons, Props.

# Summer Rates

**ROUND TRIP TICKETS ON SALE**  
for May 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 23, 29, 30; June 3, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 22 to 28 inclusive; July 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 23, 29; August 17, 18, 24, 25, via the

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\$72.50 to Chicago, Ill., and return.  
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\$108.50 to New York, N. Y., and return.  
\$108.50 to Philadelphia, Pa., and return.  
\$110.50 to Boston, Mass., and return.  
\$107.50 to Baltimore, Md., and return.  
\$107.50 to Washington, D. C., and return.

10 days going—90 days returning.

Tickets provide for stopovers at Niagara Falls and other eastern tourist points.

Tickets at these low rates are available for passage on the electric lighted Overland Limited; leaves daily at 10:00 a. m., or on fast trains leaving at 9:00 a. m. and 6:20 p. m. Full particulars on request.

Tickets to and from all points in Europe.

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# San Francisco now has the largest and finest exclusive office filing equipment store in the world--the new store of the Yawman & Erbe Manufacturing Co. at 712-14-16 Mission Street, Near Third

**BIGGEST SIGN IN WORLD**  
Those who have seen the big electric "Welcome" sign in Pioneer square on the crest of Telegraph hill will not be greatly surprised to learn that it is the biggest sign in the world. After working busily with his pencil and paper yesterday afternoon, Chauncey M. St. John of the fleet committee discovered that fact and immediately announced it.

According to St. John's figures, the sign is 400 feet long, and each of the seven letters, studded with electric incandescents, averages 50 feet high and 25 feet in width. The longest single pole used in the construction is 100 feet in length, and the whole sign required a total of 48,300 feet of lumber. To brace it 15,000 feet of half-inch galvanized iron wire is used. Twenty thousand electric light globes are used in forming the letters, and when lighted the symbol of the city's hospitality will be visible 30 miles at sea. After tomorrow night it will be lit up every evening until May 29.

**RUSSIAN BOAT CAPSIZES, DROWNING 120 PEASANTS**  
ST. PETERSBURG, May 4.—A ferry boat on the river Dnieper capsized yesterday near Bykhoff. In this government of Mohileff, and 120 persons were drowned as a result. The boat was filled with peasants and their wives and children returning from church. It was crowded and became unmanageable in midstream. The passengers got into a state of panic and overturned the boat by crowding to one side.

# THE CALL'S HOTEL DIRECTORY

A representative list of first class Hotels where patrons are assured of courteous treatment and the best accommodations. Street-cars pass each one of the Hotels mentioned day and night. No difficulty will be met with in reaching any of these Hotels, no matter what time train arrives. Rooms can be reserved either by telegraph or letter.

**HOTEL COLONIAL**  
Stockton Street above Sutter  
European Plan, \$1.50 per day and up.  
American Plan, \$3.00 per day and up.  
Sutter street car direct from Ferry.  
HOWARD T. BUSHNIN, Manager.

**HOTEL ALEXANDER**  
332 Geary Street,  
Adjoining Hotel St. Francis,  
Absolutely Fireproof.  
ELEGANTLY FURNISHED.  
Strictly First Class.  
Rates \$1.50 Per Day and Up.  
Now Open  
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**HOTEL VON DORN**  
EUROPEAN PLAN, 242 TURK ST.  
ABSOLUTELY FIREPROOF BUILDING.  
Telephone, steam heat, hot and cold water,  
baths, etc.; rates \$1 per day and up; special  
rates by week or month.

**NEW LICK HOUSE**  
Cor. 5th and Mission sts., block from Market.  
OPPOSITE U. S. MINT. Absolutely  
first class. Central to business and amuse-  
ments. Rates 50c to \$2 per day. Special  
weekly rates. Family and commercial  
patronage solicited.

**ROYAL HOUSE**  
Cor. Fourth and Howard Sts.  
Cafe in Connection.  
Rates 75c. \$1.50. \$2.00. \$2.50.  
From ferry take Howard st. cars direct  
to entrance.

**LOOK OVER**  
The above list for a first class  
place to stop while in the city,  
or for a permanent location.

**HOTEL REGENT**  
502 Sutter st. bet. Powell and Mason—Amer-  
ican and European plan. Special rates to  
permanents.

**HOTEL AUDUBON**  
922 Ellis St. Near Van Ness Av.  
European plan, \$1 day and up  
L. H. McClure, Prop. C. E. Gaster, Mgr.

**HOTEL VICTORIA**, C. E. Bush and  
associates, is one of the most modern and  
up to date hotels in the city. Centrally lo-  
cated, convenient to shopping and commercial  
districts. The furnishings are elaborate and  
comfortable. The cuisine is unexcelled.  
American plan, \$3 day up. European plan,  
\$1 day up.

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