

Our Lady of the Wayside Church was built by "children" of the Family. It opened on Portola Road in 1912.

SPECIAL TO THE INDEPENDENT

Coblentz, Herbert and Mortimer Fleishhacker, John Sutro, Melvin Swig, Milton Esberg, Harold Mack, Robert Sinton and representatives of the Haas family became members later.

Fire, which came in the wake of the great earthquake of 1906, destroyed the Family's Post Street

textural kudos as one of the most distinctive men's clubs in San Francisco. The white-marquied entry was off of Powell Street.

Its interior emphasized all obligatory Edwardian comforts. There was an elegant billiard room, a beautiful library with crackling fireplace, card and ping-pong rooms. Polished hardwood floors were adorned with Persian carpets and there were leather-covered furnishings throughout.

Probably it was merely happenstance. Next door to the Family's nest on Powell

pitching humble tent the cozy tranquility of the redwoods.

Those entering the compound were greeted by two signs:

ladies permitted beyond this point and "Caution, Children at play." The "veritable fairyland" was the ideal location where midsummer hi-jinks and other outdoor amusements would be staged.

The first-year members camped in sylvan tents. By 1910, solid platforms of wood framing for larger more comfortable tents had been constructed. They were subsequently replaced by rustic wood cabins.

A major jollification, marking the location of the Family's forest clubhouse staged at the farm Aug. 21-29, 1909.

By 1915, a huge outdoor theater, using the Bohemian Grove's for its natural beauty, was completed. Scores of electric lights had been tucked among the trees to cast indirect light on the stage. Smoking Children found this marvelous setting "weirdly grand."

The Portola Valley property was a genuine farm. Agricultural activities were never neglected. There was a vegetable garden which "members in good standing" were allowed to milk. Children maintained "tidy pig or two," a beehive and a vegetable garden.

Near the farm, in 1909, was a dilapidated one-time community dance hall which was then in use as a Catholic Church. Children attended services there but found the setting sadly inappropriate for religious pursuits. Louis Sloss called upon Children to construct a new church. Two Family Rows were staged nearby Menlo Park to raise funds.

Our Lady of the Wayside Church, a longtime landmark on Portola Road, was completed in 1912.

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The Family Club was determined to eradicate the prejudice that had characterized the Bohemian Club. Jewish members were welcomed into the family. Pictured is the Sloss family (left to right): Marcus, Louis, Joseph and Leon. Louis Sloss was elected the Family's second "father."

acter." It members claimed it more simply refer to it as "the

open to fellows initiation fee was \$3 a month. genuine "family" woman was ever to

members, many magnate William and previously Bohemian Club. their memberships at Hearst's fiery journals had led

reparable when tip voted to ban that organiza-

ne out of the one-time rebel-

1910+

Charles McCabe Himself

'The Jewish Ascendency'

THERE is to be seen now on the main floor of the City Hall a unique historical exhibit in words and pictures called "San Francisco Jews—Old Traditions on a New Frontier." The exhibit is part of the Bicentennial celebrations, and will close tomorrow.

The history of the Jews of San Francisco has always fascinated me. Such high culture as our town possesses has always seemed to derive from the German Jews who settled here in the Gold Rush days. I had a talk with California historian Kevin Starr the other day, and this is some of what he said:

"A distinct pattern of immigration of European Jews took place in the 1800s in the United States. The eastern European Jews settled on the East Coast and the German Jews migrated to the West Coast.

"The Russian and Eastern European Jews emigrated out of ghettos and oppressive countries and settled where they got off the boats. They tended to emigrate separately, breaking up family communities. They often ended up living outside a strong Jewish environment in America.

"German Jews, on the other hand, tended to emigrate in entire family groups, usually from small communities. German Jews were more affluent when they emigrated and a large majority left the East Coast quickly and headed for California.

"From 1848-50, these settlers found in San Francisco a community that lacked an Establishment. They arrived as venture capitalists during the Gold Rush and instead of taking to the mines they became, or remained, merchants.



★ ★ ★

"THESE JEWS brought with them the strong Mediterranean and German cultural tradition and were able to establish it in a more or less German environment in San Francisco. They were the masters of German and Spanish culture.

"So this vital first generation Jewry made money and became The Establishment. Throughout the 1800s, the San Francisco Jews established an upper class society that has prospered through today.

"From their Germanic artistic tradition, they became the leaders of San Francisco culture and philanthropy. You can look almost anywhere in San Francisco and see the names of these families. Stern Grove, Steinhart Aquarium, Fleishhacker Zoological Gardens.

★ ★ ★

"BY MOST MEASURES, you could term the arrival and establishment of the Jews in San Francisco as the flowering of Jewish Ascendency."

The California census for 1860 showed 21,646 German Jews. Many of these pioneers are included in the City Hall exhibit: Adolph H. Sutro, Levi Strauss, Louis Sloss and Louis Gerstle. There are businessmen like Isaias W. Hellman, Mortimer and Herbert Fleishhacker and Anthony Zellerbach.

There are political figures Abe Reuf, Harris Weinstock, Julius and Florence Kahn and Sol Bloom; social innovators David Lubin, Rabbi Jacob Nieto, Judah L. Magnes, Jessica B. Peixotto, and Sigmund Danielewicz.

★ ★ ★

AMONG WRITERS and artists, are Gertrude Stein, Alice B. Toklas, David Belasco, Anne Bremer, Joseph Raphael, Ernest Bloch, Darius Milhaud, Yehudi Menuhin and Isaac Stern. There are builders and scientists Joseph B. Strauss, Joseph Eichler and Albert A. Michelson.

Not forgotten are the famous newspaper cartoonist Rube Goldberg, the eccentric Joshua A. "Emperor" Norton, and the great heavyweight Joe Choynski.

The exhibit will move to the Bank of America Concourse, California and Montgomery Street, from March 15 to April 9. There will be additional showings in the Bay Area during the entire Bicentennial year.

Distinguished Career

May 18, 1955

Jurist M. C. Sloss Dies Here at 89

Marcus Cauffman Sloss, for more than a half a century one of California's most distinguished jurists, civic leaders and philanthropists, died yesterday in his apartment at the Clift Hotel. Judge Sloss was 89.

The former State Supreme Court Justice continued in active law practice until two years ago when his health began to fail. Death was attributed to the complications of old age.

To generations of San Franciscans, the jurist was known as an elder statesman whose quiet dedication to the loftiest principles of the law and to public service established him as one of the notable figures of the West.

The pyramiding years did not impose on Judge Sloss the intellectual rigidity normally associated with age. He remained until his death what he had been throughout the course of his life — judicial, self-effacing, more conscious of the problems of the present than the glories of the past.

Judge Sloss was the son of Louis and Sarah Sloss. The elder Sloss came to California in 1849 and lived in Sacramento. In 1861, the family moved to San Francisco.

See Page 2, Col.

M. C. Sloss: Top Jurist Dies here at 67

Continued from Page 1

isco where the senior Sloss became president of the Alaska Commercial Company.

Judge Sloss was born in New York City on February 8, 1869 while his parents were en route to Europe.

He received his early education in San Francisco public schools and prepared for college at Reid's School in Belmont.

He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard in 1890 and three years later was graduated from Harvard Law School.

It was during his postgraduate years of study that he met and subsequently married Hattie Hecht of Boston — the dynamic little figure who was to be his wife for nearly 59 years and who became one of the intellectual and cultural leaders of San Francisco. They were married in 1899.

In 1893 Judge Sloss was admitted to the Bar and began the practice of law here with the firm of Chickering, Thomas and Gregory, remaining with the organization until 1901 when he was elected to the Superior Court.

Already he was considered one of the most profound students of the law in California and in 1906 he was named to the State Supreme Court to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Walter Van Dyke. He was then 37 years old and the youngest man ever to receive such an appointment.

He was elected that year to fill Justice Van Dyke's unexpired term and in 1910 was re-elected for a 12-year term.

But in 1919, with three years of his term yet to serve, he resigned from the Supreme Court bench to re-enter private practice and to devote his time more fully to the service of his community.

"Service" was a multi-faceted word for Judge Sloss. It meant taking the initiative whenever he felt his fellowmen were being subjected to



JUDGE M. C. SLOSS
Distinguished jurist

abuses, indignities or injustices.

It meant responding whenever civic or national duty beckoned.

He served for many years as a member of the Board of Trustees of the San Francisco Public Library; he was a member of the California Board of Bar Examiners; for 30 years he was a trustee of Stanford University, resigning that post in 1950, and receiving the title "trustee emeritus."

He was one of the founders of the Jewish National Welfare Fund and for 15 years served as its president, to become its honorary president in 1944.

He served as vice chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, the American agency aiding distressed Jews overseas during the years of the Hitler massacres, and participated in countless other philanthropic activities, both on the local and national scene. For several years he served as chairman of the advisory committee of the National Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

In the mid-thirties he was made mediator in the Longshoremen's strike here and to him was given a major share of the credit for bringing the controversy to a peaceful conclusion.

For several years thereafter he continued on as a Federal mediator, adjudicating such issues as the "hot cargo" dispute, and early in World War II was chosen chairman of the National War Board's regional advisory board.

In 1933, Judge Sloss was chairman of the Mayor's committee which administered unemployment relief

He was one of the founders of the San Francisco Community Chest and was first chairman of that organization's budget committee.

A group of the jurist's friends established the M. C. Sloss Fund at Stanford University for the use of the law school.

He was a former member of the board of directors of the Emporium-Capwell Company and the Dohrmann Commercial Company.

Judge Sloss was a member of the Bohemian, Family, Concordia-Argonaut, Harvard, Commonwealth, and Stock Exchange Clubs. He was also a member of the Society of California Pioneers and of the American Law Institute.

A Republican, Judge Sloss was a close friend of former President Herbert Hoover.

Judge Sloss' survivors include his wife, who lives at the Clift Hotel; a daughter, Margaret Kuhns of San Fran-

... and took the Los Altos
... to Mendocino Park with his
... to repay the company and
... After an audit, he arranged
... in Juneau.
... from an insurance
... company for which he was an
... 17, 17

cisco, and two sons, both of whom were associated with him in the law firm of Sloss & Eliot—Richard Louis Sloss and Frank Hecht Sloss. He also leaves five grandchildren, Caroline Kuhns, David and Helen Sloss, Mrs. Charles Yoder and Janet Sloss.

Funeral services will be private. The family asks that remembrances be in the form of contributions to the M. C. Sloss Fund at Stanford University.

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SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1920—TWELVE PAGES

Published daily except Sundays
and Holidays at 165 Jessie Street

LEON SLOSS, S. F. MERCHANT, DIES

PROMINENT IN MANY CIRCLES
OF CITY

Instrumental in Bringing Exposit-
tion to Coast; Head of North-
ern Commercial Co.

Leon Sloss, one of San Francisco's leading merchants, died suddenly yesterday afternoon at his home, 1824 Jackson Street, following a heart attack earlier in the day. He suffered an attack last Tuesday night, but appeared to have recovered. Yesterday's attack came as a complete surprise to his family and Drs. Lawrence Draper and A. W. Hewlett, who were called into consultation.

Sloss was 62 years of age and president of the Northern Commercial Company, of which he has been the head since its organization in 1902. Sloss was born in Sacramento, his father, Louis Sloss, being a wealthy mining stock operator and one of the organizers of the Alaska Commercial Company. Leon Sloss and the other son, Louis, took over the business of the enormous fur trade built up by their father and subsequently organized the Northern Commercial Company.

Expert on Alaska Trade

The Sloss brothers were interested in the Natomas Land Company and lost practically all of their fortunes in investments in that company in 1917 along with their interests in the Northern Electric Company.

Leon Sloss has been recognized as an expert on the commerce of Alaska and the Northland in general, and his trips there were many. He went to Alaska as early as 1880 to look into the fur trading possibilities.

Sloss was educated at the University of California and was later appointed a regent of Leland Stanford University. As a member of the executive committee of the Panama-Pacific Exposition he won many laurels. He was one of the men most instrumental in securing the exposition for the city, making a special trip to Washington to plead the city's cause in Congress.

Sportsman and Clubman

As a sportsman and clubman Leon Sloss is known throughout the West. He was a member of the Olympic, Bohemian, Family, Argonaut and Commercial Clubs. His favorite game was golf, and he was one of the first to lay out a private course in this State, building extensive links at his home in San Rafael eight years ago.

Sloss is survived by a widow and three children, Louis Sloss, Leon Sloss and Mrs. Lloyd A. Ackerman.

Besides the Northern Commercial Company, he was associated with the Alaska Commercial Company, which was organized by his father, the late Louis Sloss; Alaska Pioneer Oil Company, Elkhorn Land Company, Fourth Street Company, Greenwald Company, Lassen Mining Company, National Metals & Chemicals Co., Natomas Company of California, Northern Navigation Company, Pacific Improvement Company, Sloss Company, Townsend Land Company and the Waterfront Land Corporation.

Page six

Shuttle Paper

THE DIASPORA

Leon Sloss, a leading figure in San Francisco's business life and an active worker in Jewish affairs, died at his home, 1824 Jackson Street, last Wednesday after an illness of only twelve hours. He was stricken with heart trouble. He is survived by three children, Leon Sloss, Jr., Louis Sloss, Jr., and Mrs. Lloyd Ackerman; his mother, Mrs. Sarah Sloss, and three brothers, Louis Sloss, Sr., Joseph and M. C. Sloss, former Justice of the State Supreme Court.

Short Stories of Transportation

In the stirring story of transportation development in Alaska no chapter is more entertaining than that dealing with the pioneer Alaska Commercial Co. and its successor the Northern Commercial Co. But brief mention was made in the press dispatches of the death at San Francisco May 6th of Leon Sloss, son of the founder Louis Sloss. Leon was the president of the N. C. up to the time of his passing. This man and his various companies played a truly important part in the upbuilding of the territory. Unfortunately a man's achievement is frequently ignored for a great many years after his death. For that reason Railway & Marine News hastens to credit Mr. Sloss with wonderful ability in building up this transportation system of the North under much adverse criticism and truly trying climatic, economic and social conditions.



The Late Leon Sloss

He carried to a successful end the work begun by his father more than fifty years ago.

It is not the intention to here review at length the history of the old Alaska Commercial Co. or its successors, as the details will be found in the issues of this publication for June 1st, 1913, and June, 1918. Suffice to say that the Northern Commercial Co. is still successfully operating under that name in the North and the transportation system is operated by the White Pass & Yukon Route. At the opening of the summer season in 1913, when the Northern Navigation Co. and the Northern Commercial Co. were under the same management and directed from the headquarters at San Francisco, the fleet consisted of thirty-two steam vessels and thirty-two barges, with a capacity of 30,000 tons. Several of these vessels notably the Sarah, the Susie and the Hannah had a gross tonnage each of 1,211, they being stern paddle steamers and beautifully fitted up, and for years the operations of this company on the Yukon River in the Canadian territory of Yukon and United States territory of Alaska, enabled the company to successfully claim that it operated the longest river route in the world with large steamers.

When the United States acquired Alaska from Russia in 1867, the Alaska Commercial Co. took over many of the old Russian trading posts and to this day it, with its successor the Northern Commercial Co., has been prominently identified with the development of the territory. Whenever a bone fide gold find was reported the company was among the very first to open up a trading store and to make transportation to the camp possible.

This was continued through all the early days in Alaska

prior to the Klondike discovery and in addition to furs and fish taken to San Francisco during that period, the vessels of the company would frequently go to the Southern city with cargoes of ice taken from the floating bergs in front of the icebergs of the Southern coast. When news of the Klondike was flashed to the world from Seattle in July, 1897, the Alaska Commercial Co. immediately made plans to take care of the crowds that were expected to move northward in '98 and '99. Experts were sent East to confer with river steamboat men on the Ohio and Mississippi. They contracted with Howard & Co. at New Albany, Ind., to draw the plans for a type of river boat and barge that could be utilized on the Yukon. At New Albany the plans were carefully laid down, the machinery and equipment built and assembled, and then the entire outfits were knocked down and shipped to Seattle where they were transferred to ocean boats for Unalaska. All the lumber was loaded at Seattle and likewise shipped to Unalaska. There during the winter of '97 and the spring of '98 the busiest shipyard then in the United States was established and it was here that were built the three famous boats named above, the Susie for Mrs. Niebaum, the Sarah for Mrs. L. Sloss, and the Hannah for Mrs. L. Gerstle.

It was a pioneer country and in many cases the trading posts were isolated and often entirely removed from the jurisdiction of the law. For all that the posts were managed and many a living sourdough of today owes his start in life to the fair dealing or accommodation of one of those frontier stores of the old A. C. Furthermore ask any of the real pioneers of the North and he will have something friendly to say of that company, notwithstanding the fact that it had a monopoly, while many will deeply regret the passing of Leon Sloss, of whom it can be said was a friend of Alaska.

* * *

April 1924

THE GIRLS' CLUB BULLETIN

LEON SLOSS GIRLS' CLUB SCHOLARSHIP

Among that first small group of friends and supporters of the Girls' Club was one whose whole-hearted interest and enthusiasm for the work never wavered. No feint was complete without his presence. He was always there with a friendly greeting for each one. Every step forward was generously encouraged by him; for, whatever tended towards the betterment of the Girls' Club and its members was, of course, in accord with his own plans and desires.

Therefore, what could more appropriately carry on this generous, kindly spirit than the Leon Sloss Girls' Club Scholarship? By this means it will be possible to engage in further study and acquire the necessary training for the full development of a talent. What a wonderful gift this is, and what joy and beauty it can bring to others. At this moment, one happy girl is continuing her studies in applied art with the aid of this fund.

The Girls' Club Scholarship is the tangible expression of one of the kindest and most generous friends of the Girls' Club.

LOUISE C. BUCK.

San Francisco Chronicle

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1920

SUDDEN HEART ATTACK FATAL TO LEON SLOSS

Head of Northern Commercial
Company Since Its Or-
ganization in 1902

PROMINENT IN CLUB LIFE

Among Projectors of Exposit-
tion and Regent of Stan-
ford University

Leon Sloss, president of the Northern Commercial Company and one of the most prominent residents of San Francisco, died suddenly at his home, 1824 Jackson street, yesterday afternoon.

Sloss had been suffering intermittently from heart attacks for some years. At about 11:30 on Tuesday night he had an attack and the family physician, Dr. Lawrence Draper, was called, and subsequently Dr. A. W. Hewlett was summoned.

The patient rallied considerably and was feeling so well yesterday morning that no further apprehension was felt by his family or friends.

At 10 o'clock, however, he had another attack, from which he never completely rallied, and he passed away at 2:30 in the afternoon, in the presence of his wife and family and his brother, Louis Sloss.

Leon Sloss

President of the Northern Commercial Company, who died suddenly yesterday



BORN IN SACRAMENTO

Leon Sloss was born in Sacramento in 1858. His father, Louis Sloss, was a wealthy mining stock operator here in the sixties, when Alaska was ceded to America by the Russians. He foresaw the great potentialities of the sealing trade, and was one of the organizers of the Alaska Commercial Company, which in 1870 secured from the Government the sole right of taking fur-bearing animals in the islands of St. Paul and St. George of the Aleutian group, known as the Seal islands. The monopoly endured for twenty years, during which period Sloss and his associates accumulated enormous fortunes from the fur trade.

The sons, Leon and Louis, were in the business during the later years of the lease, and subsequently were organizers of the Northern Commercial Company, the Seal islands monopoly having been secured by other interests.

Men of broad public spirit and identified with all large affairs in San Francisco, the Sloss brothers were always socially popular; and when, in the winter of 1917, unfortunate investments in the Natoma projects and the Northern Electric Company practically wiped out their joint fortune they received wider sympathy than is generally accorded to men of high finance who suffer in such circumstances.

EARLY IN ALASKA FIELD

Leon Sloss, who was an adept in all matters pertaining to commerce and development in the Northland, made several trips to Alaska and had traveled its wildernesses as early as 1881.

On the formation of the Northern Commercial Company in 1902, he was elected its president, a post he occupied to the time of his death. He was also a Regent of Stanford University, but was educated at the University of California, Stanford University not being in existence at the time he took his degree.

He was also a director of many companies and connected with many charitable enterprises by which his loss will be deeply mourned. He was on the executive committee of the Panama-Pacific Exposition, and, with M. H. de Young and others, took a stalwart's part in the body of San Franciscans who went to Washington in 1915 and secured the Panama-Pacific Exposition for the City by the Golden Gate.

He was a member of the Bohemian Family, Olympic, Argonaut and Commercial clubs, and as an early advocate of the ancient and royal game was one of the first men to lay out a private golf course in California, having had one installed at his San Rafael home in 1913.

He leaves a widow and three children—Louis Sloss, Leon Sloss and Mrs. Lloyd S. Ackerman.

THE DEATH OF LEON SLOSS

"HE WAS the best man to work for in San Francisco. He was so kindly that he found it almost impossible to discharge an employe, and if that became necessary, he gave the man whom he was letting out, two or three months' salary to tide him over the time that he would have to spend looking for another job."

Thus spoke a man who knew the late Leon Sloss intimately. I quote the remark because it is an indication of the kindness that informed all the life of Leon Sloss. Here was a man whose career was successful in spite of the financial reverses which overwhelmed him a few years ago. A Sloss does not measure success by the money standard. A Sloss is not built that way. For a Sloss, success means helpfulness, charity, strong family ties, personal integrity and public reputation. All these Leon Sloss enjoyed. He was a good man—I don't know how to say more than that.

(Note: Will the correspondent who sent The Clubman the arresting sonnet sequence "Fata Morgana," please send his address?)

THE CLUBMAN.

Calend Enquirer May 8, 1920

LEON SLOSS BACK FROM CAPITAL

TELLS OF BATTLE FOR THE FAIR



Leon Sloss and wife as they appeared on their arrival from Washington yesterday after being decorated with flowers by the reception committee of the Panama-Pacific Exposition directors.

*Says It Was Fine Team Work
That Won Exposition*

FLUSHED with victory, Leon Sloss, one of the band of gallant Californians who waged and won the fight in Washington for the Panama-Pacific Exposition for San Francisco in 1915, returned home yesterday afternoon.

As in the cases of the other delegates who preceded him homeward, Sloss, who was accompanied by his wife and son, was met upon the arrival of the Overland train at the Oakland mole by James Rolph Jr. and other representatives of the directors of the Exposition Committee, and large wreaths of violets and jonquills were in evidence as part of the welcoming ceremonies.

Arriving on this side of the bay, the party entered a waiting automobile that was prettily decorated with flowers and the national colors, and were driven to the Sloss residence at 2610 Pacific avenue.

Sloss expressed his pleasure at getting home again, but said that was subordinate to the satisfaction that he felt at the result of the hard fight that had been for the fair. He had remained in the fight from the start, not having returned to the Coast over the holiday session.

The homecoming of the Sloss family was particularly happy. The home had been decorated for their reception. In the spacious hall was stretched a large banner, displaying a dancing bear with a flag in one paw and "We Won" in large letters above.

AGAINST BIG ODDS.

"I don't believe that the people of California appreciate yet the fight we were up against when we struck Washington last December," said Sloss, in discussing the situation in Washington and the circumstances that led to the victory. "When we arrived, New Orleans had practically won the fair. Representatives of the Southern city had been in the field and they were active workers, too, and had 212 votes pledged for New Orleans.

It was a case of our getting in, taking our coats off and putting every ounce of our energy into the struggle. It has been called a fight, but it was more. To quote the words of a prominent Washington man, 'it was a battle.' It would take too long to go into the details of the campaign. I can only say that what made us pull through was the excellent team work that was done by the Californians. The organization was perfect; every one stood together until the programme was carried through without a hitch. It was a perfect illustration of what can be accomplished by standing together.

"Too much praise cannot be given our Senators and Congressmen for the way they stood in and aided, especially Senators Flint and Perkins and Congressman Kahn. But none can be singled out for special mention; one worked as hard as the other. Personally I would desire to register my thanks to the correspondents of the San Francisco papers, as they rendered invaluable aid, working day and night for us."

four Congressmen who were reckoned as doubtful or against us. When the vote came we had twenty-eight of these on our side. Out of all who promised to vote for us only one failed to come through. On the morning when the vote was to be taken we were satisfied that the victory was won.

"Another feature of the victory was the admiration which it excited among the Washington people. They declared that it was one of the biggest fights they had ever seen, and the work of our delegation was the best they had ever witnessed.

"President Taft also was a dominating factor in the struggle, and the manner in which he exerted his influence in our behalf and the results which he gained helped us immensely. But to go into all the details of the fair fight would fill a volume. They are many and varied, and will live long in the memories of those who participated in them. With them I imagine the public now has little interest. The great fight has been made and won. There is a great object lesson in it as showing that when Californians pull together they can accomplish anything, and along those same lines we will make the Panama-Pacific Exposition the biggest kind of a success, one for the world to admire."

When Sloss left Washington there still remained there of the California delegation R. B. Hale, James McNab, M. F. Tarpey, Thornwell Mullally and M. H. de Young.

A SIX DAYS' CAMPAIGN.

"The fair was really won during the last six days before the vote was taken in Congress," continued Sloss. "In that time we did campaign work in twenty-two states and wrestled with seventy-

RAVED



©

MR. LEON SLOSS
VICE-PRESIDENT
OF THE
PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION

Daily Palo Alto Times

MEMBER ASSOCIATED PRESS

PALO ALTO, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1920

VETERAN STANFORD TRUSTEE SUCCUMBS

Leon Sloss, Life Member of Board, Chosen by Founders of University, Dies

THIRD TRUSTEE TO PASS WITHIN YEAR

Skill in Handling Financial Matters of Great Value to Institution; Was Treasurer

Leon Sloss, San Francisco capitalist and veteran member of the Stanford University Board of Trustees, died at his home at 1824 Jackson street, San Francisco, yesterday afternoon, following an attack of heart failure. He had been in good health the day before, according to his physician, who stated that the fatal attack came on him during Tuesday night.

The death of Leon Sloss was the third among members of the university trustees to occur during the past year. The names of the three departed members, with dates of their deaths, are:

Vanderlynn Stow, died July 13, 1919.

Benjamin T. Morgan, died April 16, 1920.

Each of the three deceased trustees was associated in an important capacity with the financial activities of the trustees. Stow, at the time of his death, was treasurer and business manager. Following his death, Sloss became treasurer and business manager, in addition to filling the office of secretary. Recently, T. T. C. Gregory was named assistant treasurer.

Was Life Member of Board

Leon Sloss was one of the four trustees who held life membership on the board under appointment by Leland and Jane Stanford, founders of the university, having been named to that post of trust in 1891, the same year in which Judge Samuel Franklin Leib and Joseph Donohoe Grant, also life members, were appointed. The other life member is Timothy Hopkins, who was appointed in 1885. Other members of the board are appointed for ten-year terms.

Sloss was on the campus on the day of Morgan's death, and his tribute paid at that time to Morgan's ability and value to the university was declared at the university today applicable equally to Sloss himself:

"He has rendered invaluable help, not only in recommendations in regard to investments, but also in handling the details of the many financial problems of the university. He had an unusual skill with figures.

"His long experience with diverse business enterprises made it possible for him to render much service in the recent organization of the university's business."

Leon Sloss was 62 years old, and during his many years' residence in San Francisco and at San Rafael, where he lived during the summer months, he played a conspicuous part in philanthropic work, making many large donations to charity.

Belonged to Many Organizations

Besides having business connections with more than fifteen San Francisco concerns he belonged to many clubs and organizations.

A lover of outdoor life, he built a private golf links near his home at San Rafael and hosts of friends enjoyed his hospitality and a game of golf there during the week-ends and throughout the summer months.

Among the organizations to which he belonged were: The Bohemian, Family, Argonaut, and Commercial clubs.

Besides the Northern Commercial Company, he was associated with the Alaska Commercial Company, which was organized by his father, the late Louis Sloss; Alaska Pioneer Oil Company, Elkhorn Land Company, Fourth Street Co., Greenwald Company, Lassen Mining Co., National Metals and Chemicals Co., Natomas Co. of California, Northern Navigation Co., Pacific Improvement Co., Sloss Securities Co., Sutter County Land Co., Townsend Land Co. and the Waterfront Land Corporation.

He graduated from the University of California with the class of 1879.

He leaves his mother, Mrs. Sarah Sloss; three children, Leon, Jr., Louis, well known golf player, and Mrs. Lloyd Ackerman; three brothers, M. C. Sloss, formerly an associate justice of the State Supreme Court, Joseph and Louis.

MILLIONS IN PLEDGE TO SAVE SLOSS R.R. SYSTEM

San Francisco Banking Family Puts Up \$6,500,000 for Refinancing Northern Electric

Five Trustees Take Charge of Line and Ask Creditors to Withhold Their Claims a Year

Temporary Inability to Sell Bonds and Meet Debts Leads to the Pledging of Backers

WITH the filing of two sets of incorporation papers with the County Clerk this morning notice will be given the world of the fact that the Sloss brothers with their mother have pledged their entire private fortunes, aggregating \$6,500,000, to secure the creditors of the Northern Electric Railway.

This enterprise, which has been promoted by Leon Sloss, E. R. Lillenthal, W. P. Hammon and E. J. De Sabla Jr., is in need of refinancing. Money is scarce and until the financial arrangements can be made the Slosses have thrown their fortunes into the breach to save the name and business reputation of the family.

FIVE TRUSTEES APPOINTED.

At a meeting held yesterday the final plans were decided upon. Mrs. Sarah Sloss, widow of Louis Sloss, turned over gilt-edge securities valued at \$1,500,000, and the two firms of Louis Sloss & Co. and Sloss Bros. gave over other securities valued at \$5,000,000 more, making a total of \$6,500,000. These securities have been given into the hands of a board of five trustees, consisting of Frank E. Anderson, Herbert Fleishacker, E. S. Heller, Percy Morgan and John S. Drum, and have been deposited with the Union Trust Company of this city.

Within the next few days a letter will be sent all the creditors by the board of trustees, asking them to deposit their notes and collateral with them for the space of one year. In the meantime the interest will be paid and with the large amount of collateral in the hands of the trustees the future of the Northern Electric is assured.

SOLENCY NEVER QUESTIONED.

In a statement made last night by John S. Drum for the board of trustees, he declared that the solvency of the Northern Electric Railway has never been questioned. But owing to the tightness of the money market and the difficulty of selling bonds, the money to meet maturing obligations was not available. While the Slosses, Lillenthal, Hammon and De Sabla Jr. are all men of large means, they are interested in many other large undertakings and the available means at their disposal were not sufficient for the purpose until the Sloss family came to the rescue.

LINE BEGUN IN 1905.

The Northern Electric Railway was begun in 1905 by the four men. It was intended to build the line on both sides of the Sacramento valley, with the City of Sacramento as the center of its operations. Its first unit was opened for operations two days before the disaster of 1906, and through that trying period and the financial troubles of 1907, the promoters poured their own money into the enterprise owing to the inability to sell the securities. The road is now in operation from Chico southward through the towns of Oroville, Marysville and Sacramento, with a branch to Woodland. By the purchase of the Vallejo and Northern Railroad it was

proposed to extend the line through Vacaville, Suisun and Vallejo, and then with fast boats to bring the line directly into this city. With the exception of one or two small gaps the road between Sacramento and Vallejo is completed.

TOTAL DEBT \$5,200,000.

The road was capitalized at \$6,500,000 and its total debt is now \$5,200,000, secured by \$6,000,000 worth of bonds of the railway company. \$1,500,000 of bonds of the Northern Electric Company, \$365,000 of bonds of the Marysville and Colusa Railroad and \$315,000 of bonds of the Sacramento and Woodland Railway. And all of these in turn have been reinforced by the securities that have been given in by the Sloss family.

Arrangements to get the money necessary for the financing of the

(Continued on Page 2, Column 8.)

COAST BANKER

A TRIBUTE.

The attitude of Messrs. Louis and Leon Sloss and their mother, Mrs. Sarah Sloss, has added greatly to the honorable position that name has always held in the business of the Pacific Coast. Special reference is made to their attitude toward the Northern Electric Company and the Natomas Consolidated. The Slosses have always met all their legal obligations, but their legal obligations were in no wise concerned in the present situation. Neither were they morally holden to make any sacrifices for either of these corporations, and the fact that they have pledged millions of their securities for the benefit of these corporations, news of which in detail appears elsewhere in this issue, is simply due to a superhigh sense of honor. They by no means pledged all of their assets, because all are not necessary, but there is no doubt that if they had been necessary they would have gone to the limit of their resources to maintain the name of Sloss as synonymous with the finest sense of honor of which the human mind can conceive. The Slosses in the development of the Sacramento Valley in the northern part of California did something that was necessary and very beneficial to the whole Coast country, and, for that matter, the whole United States will be benefited by their activity in the territory in question. Perhaps their projects were a little in advance of the times, but the projects, although a little unfortunate, are no mistakes. There is no question but that all these projects will work out finely and that eventually the Slosses will be heralded not only because of the

demonstration they have given of so high a sense of personal honor but also because of the good they are doing for California and the rest of the Pacific Coast.

BUSINESS

NEWS AND COMMENT
By DENIS DONOHUE

STOCKS

BUSINESS NEWS AND COMMENT
By Denis Donohue



IS the committee on endorsed notes of the Northern Electric Railway Company about to institute bankruptcy proceedings against Leon and Louis Sloss, W. P. Hammon, E. J. de Sabla Jr. and E. R. Lillenthal?

This was the pertinent question that everybody in the financial district was asking yesterday.

A circular letter, mailed yesterday from the rooms of the committee in the First National Bank building, to all holders of the \$5,544,983 indorsed notes of the railway company and its subsidiaries, contained the strongest kind of intimation that such proceedings would be taken forthwith.

The holders of the notes are invited in this letter to express their preference as to a trustee in bankruptcy and to co-operate with the committee on indorsed notes, which claims to represent \$800,000 of these defaulted obligations.

The circular bears the signatures of the four members who constitute the committee on indorsed paper, viz: E. Bonnhelm, R. D. Robbins, Miles Standish and Rudolph Spreckels.

BANKRUPTCY SUGGESTED.

The invitation to the holders of the indorsed paper of the railroad to co-operate with the committee on indorsed paper is phrased as follows:

In the event that proceedings in bankruptcy become necessary in connection with the claims of creditors against Leon and Louis Sloss, W. P. Hammon, E. J. de Sabla Jr. and E. R. Lillenthal, or any of them, the creditors will, under the law, be obliged to select a trustee.

The ultimate recovery, under bankruptcy proceedings, depends very much upon the ability and attitude of the trustee.

As it requires a majority vote of the creditors, both as to amounts and numbers, we who represent creditors having claims aggregating over \$800,000 in amount, would like your co-operation in making the selection of a trustee. May we hope to have your support in this vital matter?

REVIEW OF SITUATION.

A separate letter, mailed to every holder of the indorsed paper, contained the following statements with relation to the outstanding securities of the company, and of its subsidiaries: "By the way, 'The Examiner' is responsible neither for the grammar nor the diction:

Much patience and leniency has been shown these indorsers, because it was generally supposed that they had lost many millions of dollars in that enterprise and that they would make every effort to make their obligations good. So far as we know, there has been no really independent investigation made of the affairs of the indorsers until now. Years of valuable time have been frittered away and now we find the indorsers who are responsible for the Northern Electric Railroad Company's organization, and for the great loss it, and they, caused an unsuspecting public to suffer, are unwilling to meet the terms which the undersigned, acting as a special committee, believe to offer them a reasonable and generous compromise settlement.

The letter then goes on to say that, excluding claims held by indorsers and promoters of the enterprise, but including everything else, the securities, open accounts and judgments of the company have a total face value of \$10,522,444.75, of which amount \$5,544,983.21 consists of indorsed notes of the Northern Electric, and of other companies for which the Northern Electric Railway Company is liable.

FORECASTS DECISION.

The letter then proceeds as follows: "It is understood that the State Railroad Commission will find the value of all the properties of the Northern Electric Railway Company to be not in excess of \$10,500,000. We believe that not a moment should be wasted in taking every proper and legal step to protect the interest of noteholders. The undersigned, who hold and represent \$800,000 of the indorsed notes, have agreed to act together as an independent committee to safeguard, so far as is now possible, their rights as noteholders. Co-operation of the other noteholders is then asked.

DEMANDS ON INDORSEMENTS.

In a separate communication, inclosed with the voluminous circular letter, is what purports to be a copy of the report signed by the committee on indorsed notes, from which very lengthy document the following extracts are taken:

This committee has interviewed Messrs. Sloss, Lillenthal and Hammon, and Mr. Colmar, who represent Mr. de Sabla in his absence. We have secured from Mr. Hammon, Mr. Lillenthal and Mr. de Sabla statements of assets and liabilities. Your committee presented to each of the indorsers a suggestion of payment which it feels the indorsers can and should make, and which it would feel justified in recommending to the holders of indorsed notes, as a basis for that purpose to justify in accepting any settlement of their claims against said indorsers.

Your committee believes that the indorsers can and should pay \$1,680,000 to secure their release on these obligations. We have apportioned the amounts and terms of payments which we believe the indorsers should pay for their release as follows:

	Cash.	Secured notes.
Louis and Leon Sloss	\$ 565,000	-----
W. P. Hammon	250,000	315,000
E. R. Lillenthal	152,500	122,500
E. J. de Sabla Jr.	-----	152,500
Totals	\$1,120,000	\$560,000

The report goes on to say that the committee found that E. R. Lillenthal had made an assignment of certain properties to three trustees for the benefit of his creditors. One of these trustees is Jesse W. Lillenthal, and the report says that the committee had asked him "to ascertain whether Mr. Lillenthal's wife and near relatives, who hold secured notes amounting to about \$113,000, would be willing to release their liens."

LILIENTHAL SAYS NO.

The following is a copy of Jesse W. Lillenthal's letter:

February 16, 1917.
Rudolph Spreckels Esq., First National Bank Building, San Francisco.

Dear Sir: As stated to you, I am one of three trustees to whom Mr. E. R. Lillenthal transferred all his property for the benefit of creditors. I believe that, properly nursed and with ample time to work them out, these assets will realize about \$100,000 above the amounts for which they are pledged; and I believe that this might be accomplished within a

possible to get the pledges released their liens. They request money honestly advanced in notion that they would be E. R. Lillenthal to save the Northern Electric Company's name. Yours very truly,
JESSE W. LILIENTHAL

DE SABLA'S FINANCIAL STATUS.

Through C. F. Colmar, Rudolph Spreckels' request to Eugene de Sabla Jr. to liquidate his share was answered as follows:

I have submitted to Mr. E. J. de Sabla Jr. in New York the proposal suggested to myself by your committee. This was briefly that Mr. de Sabla should pay \$152,500 in cash to the holders of certain notes executed by the Northern Electric Railway, and indorsed by himself, and that he should give also his secured notes to run three years for \$122,500 additional.

As Mr. de Sabla's representative, I am authorized to say that, without regard to the equity of the proposal, it is quite impossible that it be accepted. Mr. de Sabla neither has the money required, nor at the present time can he obtain it. Thus farther discussion of proposals involving cash payments would be futile.

Nevertheless, Mr. de Sabla earnestly desires to retire these obligations, and I submit on his behalf the following offer: Mr. de Sabla will undertake to pay some agreeable trustee twenty-five thousand (\$25,000) dollars at the end of this year; fifty thousand (\$50,000) dollars within one year thereafter and seventy-five thousand (\$75,000) dollars within two years thereafter, a total of one hundred fifty thousand (\$150,000) dollars. These payments he will endeavor to secure by collateral. The release of his liability as indorser and stockholder would be held by the trustee, to be delivered only upon final payment.

Mr. de Sabla hopes that, in view of his earnest and sustained effort to meet as far as it is possible for him to, obligations incurred by him, this offer may meet with your favorable consideration. Should this be the case, I will be glad to complete the transaction on behalf of my principal, and in the meantime I beg to remain, yours very truly,
C. F. COLMAR.

MRS. SLOSS' LIBERAL OFFER.

William Thomas, a well-known attorney, answered Rudolph Spreckels' request with relation to Louis and Leon Sloss in the following words:

As attorney and personal adviser of Mrs. Sarah Sloss and her sons I have to report that the proposition submitted at our last meeting, to pay to the holders of notes of the Northern Electric Railway, indorsed by Leon Sloss and Louis Sloss, \$565,000, as the consideration for their release from such indorsements, cannot be entertained. Their limit was reached when, through the assistance of their mother and the indulgence and forbearance of

creditors other than those of the railway, an offer was made to set aside \$500,000 to be ratably distributed among those creditors of the railway who had become parties to

the Northern Electric Railway, who had not become parties to the trust and security agreement, upon the condition that by such distribution they should receive a release of any and all liability on such claims, either as indorsers or as stockholders of the Northern Electric Railway. On January 31, 1914, they turned over to their creditors every dollar which they possessed, and Mrs. Sloss has voluntarily contributed a respectable fortune, which is to go to their creditors, and she is not in position to contribute anything farther. It is with regret that I state the absolute inability to comply with the suggestions of the special committee of which you are the chairman. Yours very truly,

WILLIAM THOMAS.

HAMMON TALKS TURKEY.

The answer of William P. Hammon, a well-known engineer, to Rudolph Spreckels' request is couched in the following terms:

The special committee, of which you are acting as chairman, expressed its willingness on Wednesday last to undertake to secure the release of Leon and Louis Sloss, E. R. Lillenthal, E. J. de Sabla Jr. and the writer from all liability as makers or indorsers of notes for the benefit of Northern Electric Railway Company and allied companies or as stockholders thereof, on the payment of certain sums of money, the proportion requested of the writer being \$355,000, payable \$250,000 in cash and \$105,000 in deferred payments.

I am anxious to do all in my power to meet the requirements of your committee, and am willing to contribute to the full extent of my ability to the reorganization funds, but I do not wish to make promises that I know at the outset cannot be carried through.

A careful consideration of all possible resources at my command convinced me that \$250,000 is the maximum that I could hope to provide. If given time, I will undertake, with the assistance of my friends, to pay that sum for a full and complete release of such maker, indorser and stockholder, said sum to be payable as follows:

- \$100,000 within thirty (30) days after the date of definite arrangements for settlement.
- \$50,000 one year from the date of the first payment.
- \$50,000 two years from the date of the first payment.
- \$50,000 three years from the date of the first payment.

I am in no position to offer security for the payment of these deferred installments, but, in view of the fact that the first payment will

for all that, by my own exertions and by the full use of my credit with my friends and associates, may hope to realize. I regret that I cannot do more, and under the circumstances I feel that it is my duty to you and to the committee to frankly say so. Yours very truly,
W. P. HAMMON.

DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION.

The closing clauses of the report, which is signed by all four members of the committee, read as follows:

We have called Mr. Hammon's attention to the fact that we were only dealing with his and the other indorsers' liability as indorsers and that we had not offered to undertake to secure his or their release as stockholders, as stated in his letter.

It is the unanimous opinion of the members of this committee that the indorsers have not shown a willingness to properly meet their obligations and we feel constrained to advise all holders of indorsed notes of the Northern Electric Railway Company to consolidate their claims and to immediately take all the necessary legal steps to protect their rights.

Believing it useless for this committee to negotiate further with the indorsers of notes of the Northern Electric Railway Company, we ask to be discharged.

Salute Will Pay Tribute to Sloss' Memory

Society of California
Pioneers Plans First of
Ceremonious Series

Colorful Life Recalled

Descendants to Attend Service
Thursday Night

Perpetuating in public interest the State-building achievements of the Argonauts, who originated the Society of California Pioneers, that organization has arranged to hold a series of ceremonious "salutes" to their memory, the first of which will take place next Thursday evening in Pioneer Hall, with Louis Sloss I the subject. Of the society's founders only five are alive—Jules Aroutdou and J. H. P. Gedge of San Francisco, Francis Doud of Monterey, Sam Brannan Jr. of San Diego and James P. Taylor of Oakland.

TEACH COLORFUL HISTORY

These formal reminders will be in pursuance of the society's practical teaching of California's colorful history during the gold rush period, in which Louis Sloss was a conspicuous figure. A native of Germany, he arrived in August, 1849, at Sacramento and conducted a wholesale grocery there until 1862, when a flood forced him out of business.

He came to San Francisco, where he engaged in stockbroking and hide and leather dealing until 1863, the year in which the United States purchased Alaska from Russia, and Sloss headed a group which obtained a permit to kill 100,000 fur seals a year. Incorporated as the Alaska Commercial Company, the firm established trading stations and still carries on business. Sloss died in 1902, leaving three sons—Louis II, Leon and Max C.—who are actively identified with the society. He served a term as the organization's president and thirty-six of his descendants will attend the "salute" next Thursday evening.

PIONEER STOCK



Louis Sloss I

IMPRESSIVE SERVICE

It will be a simple, yet impressive function. Following an explanatory address by President C. C. Moore, a scroll bearing the name of Louis Sloss I will be unveiled and Louis Sloss II, senior of the descendants, will be presented with a bronze plaque. Then the kin will be talked for by Judge M. C. Sloss, former Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court, and the oratory will conclude with brief remarks by former Governor James N. Gillett, Mayor Angelo J. Rossi, Leland W. Cutler, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and Frank I. Gonzales, grand president of the Native Sons of the Golden West.

A formal reception to the thirty-six members of the Sloss kin will be followed by refreshments and general inspection of the society's museum of historic treasures. Rudy Seiger's orchestra will provide music throughout the evening and the California Grays, in full uniform, will act as honorary escort.

DESCENDANTS PRESENT

Descendants of Louis Sloss I who will be present, in addition to his sons, are:

Grandsons—Louis Sloss III, Leon Sloss, Benjamin P. Lillenthal, John L. Lillenthal, Joseph Sloss, Henry E. Sloss, Lawrence Sloss, Richard L. Sloss, Frank L. Sloss.

Granddaughters—Mrs. Lloyd S. Ackerman, Mrs. Milton H. Esberg, Mrs. Harry I. Wiel, Mrs. Margaret Sloss Kuhns.

Great-grandsons—Milton H. Esberg Jr., Ernest L. Esberg, Ernest Lillenthal, John G. Lillenthal, Lloyd B. Ackerman Jr., James S. Ackerman, Leon Sloss Jr., Louis Sloss IV.

Great-granddaughters—Misses Elizabeth Lillenthal, Frances Lillenthal, Barbara Wiel, Isabel Wiel, Anne R. Ackerman, Margaret E. Sloss, Katherine Ann Sloss, Nancy Louise Sloss, Caroline Kuhns, Harriet Sloss.



Louis Sloss IV



LOUIS SLOSS—A GENUINELY GOOD MAN.

By the death of Louis Sloss, who was buried to-day, the State of California lost a citizen who, though he had never held public office, was easily among the most distinguished and the most admirable.

Mr. Sloss was a multi-millionaire of whom it might be said with truth that all his money was made honestly, that no right-thinking person begrudged him one cent of his fortune, that he never made Mammon his god, or placed money above honor, justice and charity, and that he was a liberal and upright steward of the wealth which came into his hands.

It would be an impropriety to heap a fulsome panegyric upon the coffin of Louis Sloss. He does not need the ordinary posthumous compliments, in most cases unmerited, which are paid to rich men, whether dead or alive. He was one of the few men whose epitaphs cannot flatter them.

Mr. Sloss, as his career demonstrated, was a man of extraordinary foresight, enterprise and financial shrewdness. He had a genius for merchandising, and he saw in Alaska, then a land little known, a region which offered immense wealth to pioneer traders. He took advantage of the legitimate opportunities which were open to any man, but which his clear vision was the first to perceive, and his fortune was the reward of his superior ability.

His charity was famous. He gave without ostentation and without stint. He did not advertise his good deeds, but when he heard of persons in distress he relieved them, whether to do so cost a few dollars or cost thousands. He set up in business many young men in whom he had faith. He lent large sums without security to save friends in times of financial peril. He enjoys the singular distinction, singular, especially, in the case of a rich man, that nobody has an ill word to say of him. He was respected and admired by all who knew him personally and by the public at large without distinction of race or creed. Louis Sloss was a genuinely good man, of whom the people of this State may be honestly proud.

ul was called from earth
The joy of his family, the
his city, the well-beloved,
st type of man; yet
was Louis Sloss. He for-
st him and did good to
was as broad as his tol-
dness was like a mother's
s no trace of bitterness in
be of cowardice, oppres-

nd courageous merchant,
ce with any captain of in-
yet all men honored him
who is anxious to acquire
Sloss' life—the making of

he saw the wealth in the
ke some of it. Louis Sloss
ontier. He was a pioneer
beria and Alaska, and, bet-
ns without cheating them.
ct for the seal islands and
was a splendid investment,
fortune. He took care to
full share, and more. He
of the faith that they had
ppy and contented. When
was thinning out the herds,
y to help enforce America's
e the fact that the seal con-
venty years in the hands of
ding for it more than Louis
y he helped a rival he said,

en about money that makes
gent of the Central Pacific
from him, Louis Sloss put
amer and sent his skins to
ost much in money and en-
duty as a man to resent cor-
: saw it.

his way of doing it may be
rm in the mountains were
were unable to pay off the
an in San Francisco, asking
money on the security of the
he had toiled early and late,
ve bad crops and the awful
letter was taken to Louis
the banks in which he was
ere moist when he finished.
sum in gold, saying: "If you
age and burn it up. If they
I think they will feel better

lain that all can read it. We
ves of all the young men of
ccumulate wealth without be-
ay get rich and yet be hon-
ouis Sloss had been in great
one mean things in his early
en blessed with the happiness
est gifts to man.
citizen—a big word that, but
ge its truth.

Sloss Honored By Pioneers in First Salute

Old Guard Comes Into Own as Ancestors' Mem- ory Wins Tribute

The Old Guard of California came into their own last night.

In a ceremony beautiful for simplicity, the sons and daughters of pioneers honored the memory of their hardy ancestors at Pioneer Hall and pledged themselves to perpetuate that memory in an unique annual ritual.

It was the first salute of the Society of California Pioneers to the founders of their order, the two-fisted men and stout-hearted women who paved the way for America's greatness on the Pacific Coast in the glomorous days of '49.

LOUIS SLOSS HONORED

The First Salute! A phrase to conjure with; three simple words that speak of love and reverence and loyalty to those lion-hearted Empire Builders of four score years ago.

Louis Sloss I (in California chronology) was the man chosen for this salute. Louis Sloss I, German immigrant boy, merchant, adventurer—PIONEER of California and the West. They blazed his name in gold across the top of a great curly redwood plaque and stood before it in silent reverence.

SPIRIT SYMBOL PRAISED

It was not so much the individual they honored, however, as the spirit of a group he symbolized. Each year another name will be added to the plaque until the list of those hardy Argonauts is complete. For in spirit they were one and as one they dwell together in the memory of the California that they builded. Judge M. C. Sloss, son of the pioneer, said it last night and his fellow Californians unanimously agreed.

PERFECT STAGE SET

The Society of Pioneers set a perfect stage for their first salute. The spirit of '49 was there. It beamed forth in the eyes of two venerable men who braved the hardships of the gold stampede, two of the five survivors of the Argonauts.

It smiled down from rows upon rows of photographs of old timers

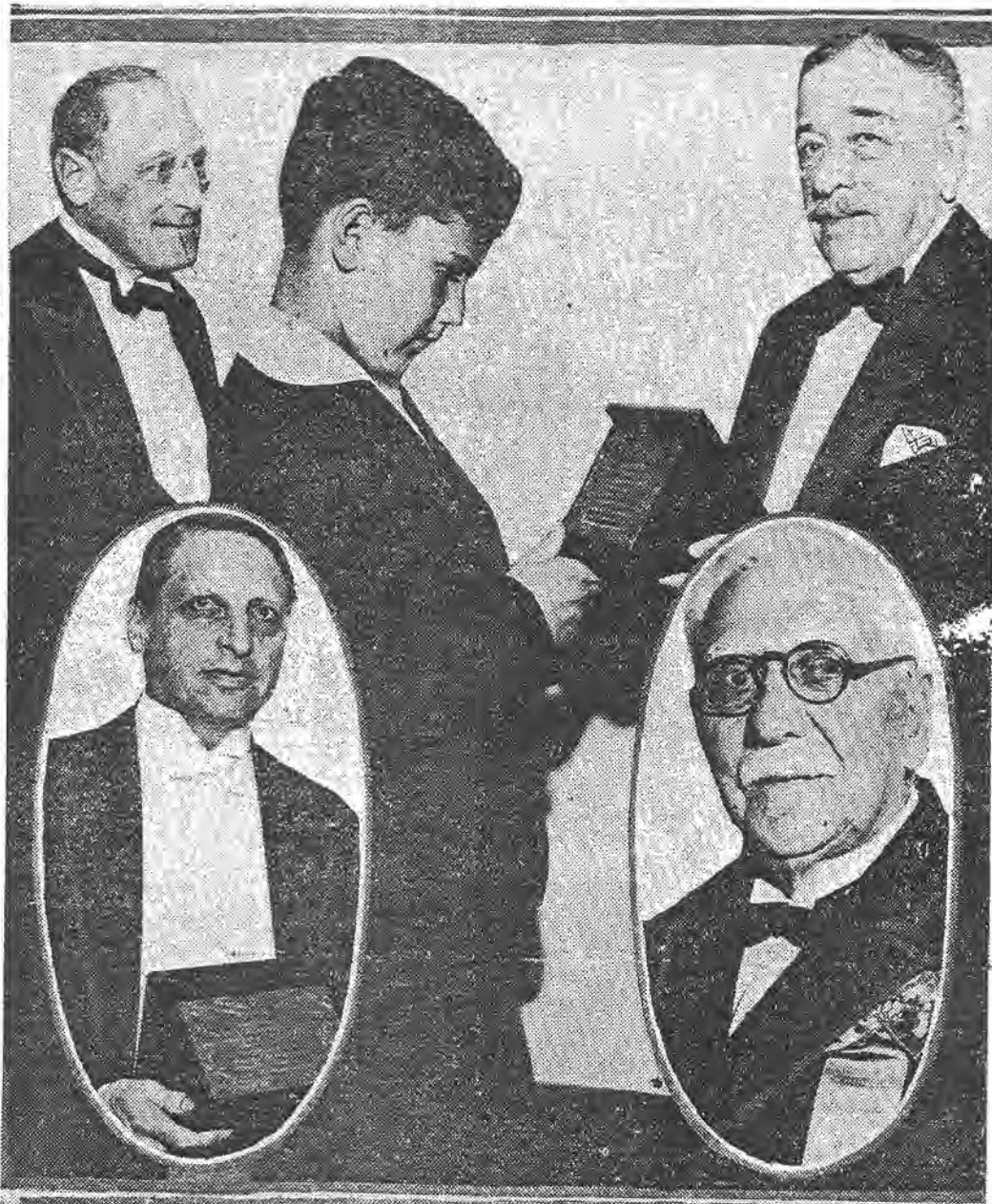
that lined the assembly walls. The folds of Old Glory, rustling with the bustle of the crowd, seemed to whisper of it. Ancient guns, long silent in their glass cases, told of battles fought to wrest California from the wilderness.

The crowd itself stirred memories of old; shining heads and silvery hairs; beaming eyes, smiling above their white shirt fronts and silken gowns. Eyes, many of them that had looked on red woolen shirts and hobnailed boots when white shirt fronts and silks were things unknown in California.

MODERN TOUCH PRESENT

The modern touch was there—young California of today; great grandsons of Louis Sloss I, the dark-haired young beauty with gardenias on the shoulder strap of her evening dress, the California Grays, in uniforms of gray and gold—guard of honor, stiff and straight and dashing.

PILLARS OF STATE'S OLD GUARD



Three generations of the Louis Sloss family were honor guests last night at the First Salute ceremony of the Society of California Pioneers at Pioneer Hall. At top—Louis Sloss II (at right) is showing the bronze plaque presented the family to James Ackerman, great-grandson of the pioneer, while Joseph Sloss, another son looks on. Inset—Judge M. C. Sloss (left) and Marshal J. H. P. Gedge, who unveiled the honor plaque.

Three generations of California meeting in memory of the first.

C. C. Moore, president of the society, opened the ceremony with a brief tribute to Louis Sloss I and the men he symbolized. Then former president, John J. Lermen, introduced the two '49ers present, Marshal J. H. P. Gedge of San Francisco, and Francis Dowd of Monterey.

The lights went dim. Marshal Gedge stepped to a velvet curtain at the front wall of the room and

pulled a cord. A spotlight beamed. The blaze of gold sprang from between the parting curtains, and the name of Louis Sloss shone across the top of the redwood plaque.

As one the assembly arose in silent tribute to the pioneers.

The lights came up and Judge

Sloss took the floor to give a thumbnail sketch of his father's life. Born in Germany; came to America in 1845. Settled in Kentucky until the gold fever of '49 broke out.

FINISHED TRAIL ON HORSE

Stranded on the prairie when cholera wiped out the wagon train, he started to California with, it jumped on a horse with four companions and came on, arriving here in August of that year.

He prospered as a merchant and when America bought Alaska from Russia twenty years later, he joined in organizing a company that did much to open up the frozen territory and bring millions in fur and gold and fish to California.

PLAQUE PRESENTED

More speech-making, then President Moore presented the Sloss family with a bronze plaque com-

memorating the achievements of their sire. Louis Sloss II, oldest living son, accepted the plaque for the family. Joseph Sloss, the third living son of the pioneer, and some twenty-five other members of the

family were in the box. A telegram of congratulation from President Hoover was read.

Among the speakers were M. Rossi, James N. Gillett, former Governor of California; Leland Cutler, president of the Chamber of Commerce; Frank I. Gonzalez, grand-president of the Native Sons of the Golden West. Music reminiscent of the days of '49 was provided by Rudy Selger's orchestra.

Following the salute ceremony a formal reception at which all members of the Sloss family were presented, was held.



IN SOCIETY

SALUTE to a California Pioneer! The first "salute" to the memory of a pioneer of San Francisco, Louis Sloss I, was a memorable occasion in the annals of the Society of California Pioneers. The name "pioneer" is now haphazardly bestowed in the newspapers upon anyone who lived in this city before the earthquake and fire of April, 1906. It properly belongs only to those men and women who were here in 1849. There are now but five alive of the actual pioneers, founders of the Society—Jules Aroudou, J. H. P. Gedge, Francis Dowd of Monterey, Sam Brannan Jr., of San Diego and James P. Taylor of Oakland. It would be a waste of time to consult the Social Register for names of pioneers and their descendants. There are few to be found there. However the family of Louis Sloss and its connections by marriage are there. Louis Sloss, founder of the family fortunes, probably cared nothing for social recognition, even had there been a social register in San Francisco in the city's early days. He was far too busy to bother about anything like that, all his energies and enthusiasms being devoted to the business of making good the Alaska Commercial Company, which was his first large venture at money making.

To be a member of the Sloss family, or to have married into the family, has for many years been considered a sort of badge of honor among the wealthy Jewish families hereabouts. The Jewish exclusive set is one of the most difficult into which to obtain entree. Among the social-registered members of the aristocratic Sloss family are Judge and Mrs. Marcus Sloss (Hattie Hecht), Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Sloss (Edith Esberg), Mrs. Leon Sloss (Bertha Greenwald), Mr. and Mrs. Leon Sloss Jr. (Eleanor Fleishhacker), Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sloss III (Margaret Kosland).

To the reception in Pioneer Hall, on the occasion of the "salute" to the late Louis Sloss, 28th President of the California Pioneers, were bidden the three sons, the dark and thickset Louis Sloss II, the thinner Joseph Sloss, whose features are of the same refined cast as his father's were, and the dignified and impressive Judge M. C. Sloss. Also the others of the 36 descendants of Louis I: Grandsons—Louis Sloss III, Leon Sloss, Benjamin P. Lilienthal, John L. Lilienthal, Joseph Sloss, Henry E. Sloss, Lawrence Sloss, Richard L. Sloss, Frank L. Sloss.

Granddaughters—Mrs. Lloyd S. Ackerman, Mrs. Milton H. Esberg, Mrs. Harry L. Wiel, Mrs. Margaret Sloss Kuhns.

Great-grandsons—Milton H. Esberg Jr., Ernest L. Esberg, Ernest Lilienthal, John G. Lilienthal, Lloyd S. Ackerman Jr., James S. Ackerman, Leon Sloss Jr., Louis Sloss IV.

Great-granddaughters—Misses Elizabeth Lilienthal, Frances Lilienthal, Barbara Wiel, Isabel Wiel, Anne R. Ackerman, Margaret E. Sloss, Katherine Ann Sloss, Nancy Louise Sloss, Caroline Kuhns, Harriet Sloss.

How proud all these must have been when they saw the bronze plaque unveiled to the memory of the founder of their family!

Most of the women of the family are dark, proud beauties.

It was really a wonderful occasion, and Pioneer Hall has not seen many that awakened such feelings of love and pride for our Pioneers, the men and women who came to San Francisco when the city was young and crude, stayed here to build it into architectural and cultural beauty, to raise sturdy children, to build fine homes, to pay taxes that their chosen abiding place might have public schools, street improvements, light and heat that benefited not only themselves but the less successful.

A telegram from President Hoover was read at the reception, and addresses were made by President C. C. Moore of the Society, Mayor Rossi, James N. Gillett, former Governor of California; Leland S. Cutler, president of the Chamber of Commerce; Frank I. Gonzales, grand-president of the Native Sons of the Golden West. The California Grays in their natty gray uniforms gave a touch of the dramatic to the scene, and the music by Rudy Seiger's orchestra took one's memory back to grandfather's day, the selections being from compositions that were favorites in California's early days. Only two of the original '49ers were present at the reception, Marshal Gedge and Mr. Dowd.

In mentioning this fine old pioneer family and its founder, one thinks of the generous encouragement the members have always given to the arts, music in particular. When you look over the lists of subscribers to grand opera and symphony seasons, and concerts by aspirants to fame, you always find the name Sloss there. Even when at one time there were financial losses sustained by certain members of the family, this support was not withheld.

Some of the descendants live down the peninsula, where they have handsome estates and expend energy and enthusiasm for things beautiful on developing their gardens.

THE first forty Presidents of the Society of California Pioneers were William Davis Mertry Howard, Samuel Brannan, Jacob Rink Snyder, Stephen Randall Harris, Thomas Oliver Larkin, Alexander Gurdon Abell, Philip Augustin Roach, Henry Martin Gray, Owen Paul Sutton, Willard Brigham Farwell, Joseph Webb Winans, Pierre Barlow Cornwall, Robert Joyce Tiffany, William Rufus Wheaton, William Henry Clark, Richard Chenery, Charles Daniel Carter, Alexey Waldemar von Schmidt, Peter Donahue, James Lick, William Tell Coleman, Peter Dean, Serranus Clinton Hastings, Henry Lee Dodge, Joseph Green Eastland, Washington Bartlett, Nathaniel Holland, Louis Sloss, John Nightingale, Gustave Reis, Isaac Elphinstone Davis, Arthur Mercein Ebbets, Edward Kruse, Alexander Montgomery, Livingstone L. Baker, C. V. S. Gibbs, Christian Reis,

President of Alaska Commercial Company Succumbs to an Attack of Heart Disease.

Louis Sloss, the pioneer capitalist and president of the Alaska Commercial Company died at his home in San Rafael last night, shortly after 8 o'clock. Heart failure was the immediate cause of his death. For several months he had suffered from an affliction of the heart. On Saturday last his condition became serious, but on Sunday he rallied, and in the two following days he seemed to gain in strength and there were strong hopes for his recovery.

Yesterday afternoon he began to sink rapidly and the end was then not long in coming. His wife and his children, Leon, Louis Jr., Max C. and Joseph Sloss and Mrs. E. R. Lillenthal were at his bedside when he passed away.

Mr. Sloss had moved from his city residence to his beautiful suburban home at San Rafael on May 27, and it was only a few hours afterward when the attack of illness came that ended in his death. Dr. Herzstein of San Francisco and Dr. Wickman of San Rafael were during the attack almost constantly with him.

The honorary pallbearers will be: Representing the California Society of Pioneers—John H. Jewett and Judge A. N. Cotton. Representing the Loyal Legion—Colonel W. H. Smedberg and Hon. W. W. Montague. Representing the University of California—A. W. Foster and L. W. Hellman. Representing the commercial interests of San Francisco and friends of the deceased—Hon. W. W. Morrow, Professor George Davidson, Sylvain Well, G. Niebaum, Charles Hirsch, R. P. Rithet, William Thomas, Charles Yates, Sig. Steinhart, W. J. Dutton, Herman Walter, Levi Strauss, Dr. Leopold Heumann, Theo Brown, W. H. Chickering, Henry Heyman, Horace Davis, Charles E. Miller, M. H. Hecht, Henry T. Scott, Captain John Birmingham, Colonel Mark L. McDonald, Daniel Meyer, Max Hellbronner, P. N. Lillenthal and M. C. Erskine.

The funeral will take place to-morrow. A special train will convey the remains from San Rafael, and the cortege will reach the depot at Third and Townsend streets at about 2:45 p. m., where another special train will be waiting to take the funeral party to the Home of Peace Cemetery where the interment will take place. Services will be conducted at the cemetery chapel by Rev. Dr. Voorsanger.

Louis Sloss was born in Bavaria in July 13, 1823. He came to America with his parents when a mere lad and settled in Louisville, Ky. When news reached the East of the discovery of gold in California he, with a number of young men of his acquaintance, formed a party and came across the plains to this coast arriving here in 1849. Among his companions in that trip were C. H. Swift who became prominent in California politics, and Dr. R. H. McDonald who was afterwards president of the now defunct Pacific Bank. Mr. Sloss went direct to the mines along the Feather and American rivers opening up supply depots at several of the camps and early in the fifties he opened a business at Sacramento and soon associated himself with Lewis Gerslre and Simon Greenebaum.

though he was not so wealthy as was popularly supposed. He made many millions in his various enterprises, but few outside of his immediate relatives knew that he had an aversion to piling up money beyond a defined limit. He had a long list of pensioners and they increased as his business grew. He gave freely, but he employed as keen a judgment in dispensing charity as he did in business.

His greatest delight was to help worthy persons permanently, so that they became self-sustaining, and many examples of his well-applied generosity are to be seen to-day among the State's prosperous citizens. In such cases he never considered the amount required. He gave as easily and more cheerfully a fortune to establish some friend in business than some wealthy men give a paltry nickel. In a recent law suit that had been brought against a relative it was brought out in evidence that he had paid debts for the defendant in the case amounting to \$275,000 without having been liable for one cent, and he did so merely, as he said, because it would please the relative.

For the orphans, the sick, the aged and the feeble, Mr. Sloss had a special care. Young or middle-aged or healthy applicants for assistance he would put to test by procuring work for them and then if they proved worthy he would aid them in starting for themselves. He was the most tolerant of men and knew no difference as to creed or nationality. He was public spirited and took an active interest in party politics. He was ever ready and counsel to aid the I. O. O. F. He was president of the California Pioneers, treasurer of the California Assn. of Nevada Assurance Assn. of the California Republic and of the A. S. Library and of the Emanu-El Sisterhood. He was also interested in the San Francisco Benevolent Association, the Pacific Asylum and the besides being a patron of worthy charity and philanthropy.

In 1855 Mr. Sloss made a trip to Philadelphia and there married Sarah Greenebaum, who survives him. He remained in business in Sacramento until 1861, when he removed to San Francisco and engaged in the stock brokerage business. In 1870 he left the stock board and engaged in the wool, fur, hide and commission business. In this he succeeded, as in former enterprises, in building up a lucrative business and became one of the most extensive shippers of the port. It was this business which led him to the trading in fur seals and subsequently to the formation of the Alaska Commercial Company, one of the noted enterprises of the Pacific Coast, acquiring world-wide fame and yielding fabulous fortunes to those associated in the business. He was the president of the company for many years and one of the principal shareholders up to the time of his death.

The company secured exclusive concessions in the sealing islands and the coast of Alaska from the Government of the United States and from the Russian empire. It required tact, enterprise, prudence and millions of money to carry the undertaking to success. While Sloss had associates in that business, he was recognized as the head and front of the great undertaking. Having obtained the concessions from the two governments, the company built ships, wharves, warehouses, stores, dwellings and whatever was required to carry on the seal fisheries successfully. The company had to pay millions to the two governments for the concessions, and had to invest other millions to carry on the business. Prudence, foresight and excellent judgment aided in yielding fortunes to the company, which is reputed to have cleared fully \$1,250,000 annually during the first twenty years. When the Alaska Commercial Company failed to secure the lease of the fisheries from the United States, it obtained a renewal of the lease from Russia.

During the sway of the company in the far north, Alaska attracted universal attention owing to the discovery of gold in the frozen hills, and thousands stampeded for the barren wilds. The company had to meet new conditions and from a great sealing company it turned into a gigantic trading corporation.

As well as managing the affairs of the Alaska Commercial Company Mr. Sloss was interested in the most extensive tanneries on the Coast, in fire and marine insurance and directly or indirectly in many other mercantile pursuits.

His wealth was rated in the millions.

Our Pioneer Heritage

Louis Sloss

By Norton Stern
(Editor, Western States
Jewish History)

Born in a Bavarian village in 1823, Louis Sloss became one of the grand figures of pioneer California Jewry. After receiving an elementary education, he clerked in a country store. At the age of 22, in 1845, Sloss came to the United States where he soon found work in a small town in Kentucky. As with so many other Jewish young men who had little to lose, news of the gold discoveries drew him to California.

He left for the West in the spring of 1849 with a covered wagon train, but soon left that group to journey on by horseback with a Dr. Richard H. McDonald and a Mr. Swift. After a perilous cross-country passage the three arrived in Nevada City, Calif. on July 18, 1849.

Shortly afterwards they arrived in Sacramento where they formed a partnership to conduct a business selling everything needed by other new arrivals. They bought and sold horses, mules, oxen, milk cows, wagons, harness, etc. Their store was a seven-foot space between two tent stores, whose walls became their walls, and they completed the shelter by stretching

canvas over the top. In the rear they purchased a lot where they kept their stock and feed for the animals.

Daily auctions were conducted on the lot by Louis Sloss. The partnership was highly remunerative and lasted about a year. McDonald and Sloss spent that first winter of 1849-1850 in a tent.

In 1850 Sloss formed a partnership with Simon Greenwald, which Lewis Gerstle joined in 1851. They operated a wholesale grocery and provisions firm. In 1855, Sloss traveled to Philadelphia where he married Sarah Greenebaum. Five children were born to them: Bella (Mrs. E.R. Lilienthal), Leon, Louis, Joseph and Judge Marcus C. Sloss.

During the 1850s Louis Sloss served on the board and as president of Congregation B'nai Israel of Sacramento. By the winter of 1861, the first three of the Sloss children and their parents were living in a brick house at the corner of Fourth and M Streets, and when the waters of the big flood of that year reached the second floor bedroom windows, the family was taken out by row boats to a steamer and brought to San Francisco.



Louis Sloss

In San Francisco, Sloss established himself as a stockbroker with Gerstle as his partner; then in 1868, with the United States just having purchased Alaska from Russia, Sloss formed the Alaska Commercial Company. He and his partners had the foresight to see that the resources of Alaska promised much and in 1870 the company signed a 20-year lease agreement with the Treasury Department for the seal concession of the Pribilof Islands.

During that period, Sloss' company actually opened up Alaska.

And they also set up and maintained schools, built houses and provided provisions for the Aleut Indians on the Islands. It was later noted that unlike William Penn, who traded with the Indians and cheated them in the process, Sloss saw to it that the Indians got their full share and more.

One public office that Louis Sloss held was that of treasurer of the University of California. He was on the Board of Regents for many years. He was also a trustee of the San Francisco Public Library. When the Society of California Pioneers was organized, Sloss became one of its founders and served a term as president of that prestigious group.

When Louis Sloss passed away in June 1902, one newspaper referred to him as California's "best citizen." His reputation for business ethics, personal morality and philanthropy was without equal. Though a rich man, he had no enemies! Another publication made the point that he "was easily among the most distinguished and the most admirable" of the generation of forty-niners. Sloss provides an outstanding example of a Jewish pioneer who built California, Alaska and the Jewish community of the Far West.