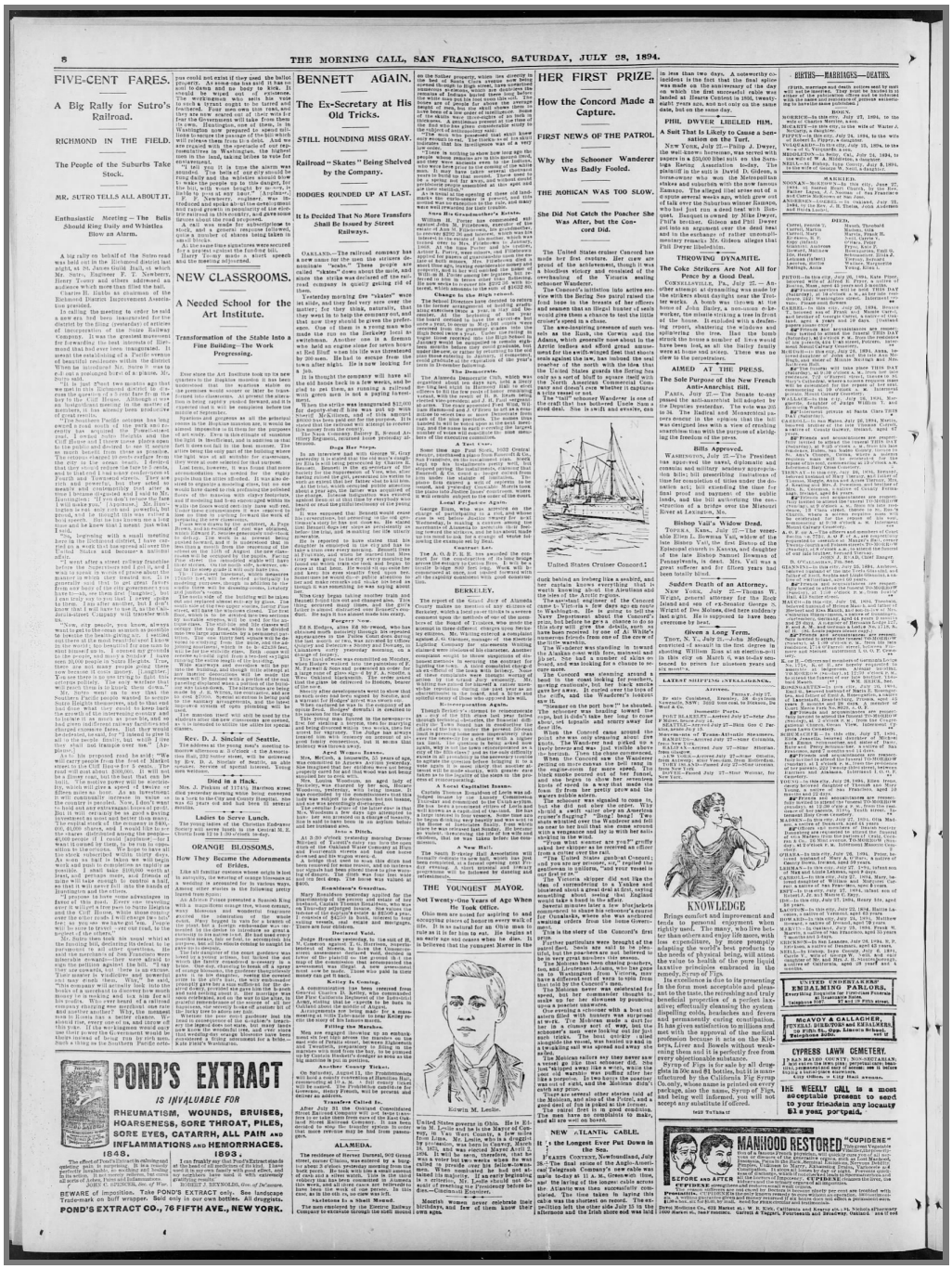
Newspapers by ancestry
https://www.newspapers.com/image/92962944

Downloaded on May 12, 2020



8 THE MORNING CALL, SAN FRANCISCO, SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1894.

FIVE-CENT FARES.

A Big Rally for Sutro's Railroad.

RICHMOND IN THE FIELD.

The People of the Suburbs Take Stock.

MR. SUTRO TELLS ALL ABOUT IT.

Enthusiastic Meeting — The Bells Should Ring Daily and Whistles Blow an Alarm.

A big rally on behalf of the Sutro road was held out in the Richmond district last night, at St. James Guild Hall, at which Mr. Sutro, Engineer F. T. Newbert, Henry Tonny and others addressed an audience which more than filled the hall.

Charles H. Hatch as chairman of the Richmond District Improvement Association presided.

In calling the meeting to order he said a new era had been inaugurated for the district by the filing (yesterday) of articles of incorporation of the Sutro Railway Company. It was the greatest movement for forwarding the best interests of Richmond that had ever been inaugurated. It meant the awakening of a Pacific system of beautiful residences within the district. When he introduced Mr. Sutro it was to call out a prolonged burst of applause, Mr. Sutro said:

"It is just about two months ago that we met in this Richmond district to discuss the question of 5-cent fare from the bay to the Cliff House. Although it was an insignificant meeting in the matter of numbers, it has already been productive of great results.

"The Southern Pacific railroad has leased a road south of the park and recently has extended it to Baden, and they have now gone to Menlo. Healdsburg and the city of Richmond have given these places to the public and decided to see it secure as much benefit from them as possible. The same element is not evident here in the city in the same degree. I decided to come to Richmond district, and so I did and I had a real conference at Fourth and Townsend streets. They are rich and powerful, but they acted in a manner in which they treated me. It is generally said that to get great favors from one body of the city government you have to—oh, see them first [laughter], but I did not see them first, and I got no favors from them. I say after another, but I don't know that I will have to use it, as the California street Cable Company will interfere with us.

"Now, city people, you know, always want to get to the ocean as much as possible to breathe the health-giving air. I assisted out there at the most beautiful and I know in the world; the beautiful for one room to be given to the people, and there is room in the county, and much a building I have seen 10,000 people in Sutro Heights. True, there are not many people going there now because it costs money. [Laughter.] Now, I propose to put it down to 5 cents. I propose publicly. The only welfare that will reach them is to knock them down."

Mr. Sutro went on to say that the Southern Pacific people wanted to acquire the property of the Sutro road, but he had done what they could to keep back the growth of the interesting country and to insure it as much as possible, and we had given indifferent railway facilities and poor accommodations, so that [illegible] locations, to say, for "I intend to give a ball at the people inside, but with 5-cent fare that shall not trample over her." [Applause.]

In his proposed road he said: "We will carry people from the foot of Market street to the Cliff House for 5 cents. The road will cost about $500,000. We look to be a money road, but the best that can be built. The motive power will be electric, but, which will give a speed of 12 miles an hour. Our road will be a paying one, and it will undoubtedly increase in value as the country is peopled. Now, I don't want to sell any one anything on knowledge. But it is most certainly the best investment for money that I have ever had anything to do with. The capital stock of the company is $400,000, 40,000 shares, and I would like to see Richmond district people subscribe for the most of it. I would like to see the district which I opened up, that it should be known as the district. We hope to have all the stock subscribed within thirty days, and as soon as half is taken we will begin work and push construction as rapidly as possible. I shall, of course, have advantages in favor of this road. Every one traveling over it will get a free pass to Sutro Heights and the Cliff House, while those coming over the other roads I will charge the full fare. I am not in favor of free passes, but will be sure to invest, and that, to the neglect of the others."

Mr. Sutro then took his seat while at the finishing bell, declaring its defeat to be impossible, and the enthusiasm was at the end and the citizens of San Francisco were miserable cowards—they were afraid to sign the petition against the bill. "I say they are cowards, for there is no excuse, and I am not afraid to say it. They will not wear small fees. What," he said, "this company will actually look into the books of a merchant to discover how much money is to making and let him for all the profits? Why, the merchant is the one to be most interested, and that, to the neglect of the others."

Mr. Sutro then took his seat whirl