

## SAN DIEGO EXPOSITION

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The San Diego Exposition, while it had raised \$7,000,000, much of which had already been spent in buildings and horticultural plans, had never been recognized by the U. S. Government. Possibly due to the necessity of being in Washington on harbor matters and thus becoming acquainted before I was sworn in as a member of Congress, it was possible for me, a green member from a town so little known that it appeared in the first Congressional Directory as "Santiago", to be the father of the second law passed in that Congress, Public No. 2. This gave the Treasury Department, Post Office and the Immigration Bureau the authority required upon which to function properly concerning the fair. Mr. D. C. Roper, First Assistant Postmaster General ordered the proper stamps, inscribed "Panama-California Exposition-San Diego-1915", to be used at the different post offices.

During 1916 San Diego continued its wonderful fair, and at the close of the exposition in San Francisco I introduced a bill which passed in the first two weeks of the Congress and was signed as Public Resolution No. 1. This transferred \$76,000 unexpended at the close of the San Francisco Fair, as well as most of the government's exhibits, to San Diego, and made applicable to San Diego all the laws in force in San Francisco relating to foreign exhibits.

In my long residence in Southern California in San Diego I cannot recall anything that aided San Diego so much and so directly as the 1915-1916 Exposition, and I am very happy to state that I had a small part in making this wonderful fair a success. I repeat from "McGrew's History of San Diego" what Mr. G. A. Davidson says regarding my work:



To my good friend  
Billy Kettner  
with appreciation of  
his signal services  
and assurances of  
my high esteem

W. D. [Signature]

"Great credit for the success of the Exposition must be given also to Congressman Kettner. It must be remembered that after we made up plans in which the Federal Government was concerned, it was he who put them through as far as Washington was concerned. For that alone San Diego owes him many thanks. To use another baseball term, we should never have got past first base if it hadn't been for Kettner."

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"POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT  
First Assistant Postmaster General  
Washington

July 1, 1913.

Hon. William Kettner,  
House of Representatives.

*My dear Sir:*

With reference to your call at the Department of the 30th ultimo, at which time you presented papers relative to the Panama-California Exposition to be held in San Diego, California, in 1915, and requested that the postmaster of San Diego be provided with a special postmarking stamp for advertising the exposition, I have to inform you that in view of the fact that the exposition was officially recognized by Act of Congress, May 10, 1913 (H. R. 4234), a special die reading "Panama-California Exposition—San Diego—1915," has been ordered, and it will be forwarded to the postmaster as soon as it can be manufactured.

The papers left by you are herewith returned.

Very truly yours,

DANIEL C. ROPER,  
First Assistant Postmaster General."

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"THE POSTMASTER GENERAL  
Washington

August 21, 1914.

Hon. William Kettner,  
House of Representatives.

*My dear Kettner:*

I beg to acknowledge your letter of August 4th, enclosing a copy of a letter which you sent to the President concerning the Exposition of next year to be held at San Diego, California.

I think that the reasons set forth in your letter to the President for holding an exposition at San Diego are good, and I am very glad to learn that arrangements for this Exposition have been consummated. I believe that the size and importance of that city entitled it to some recognition as an important part of the celebration on the occasion of the great Panama-Pacific Exposition when the Fleet goes through the Panama Canal and up the Pacific coast next year.

I shall be glad to contribute in any way I can to encourage the energy and industry of the splendid people of San Diego by aiding in accomplishing what they desire.

I hope to have the pleasure of seeing this great Exposition next year and that you, as our representative, will help me to enjoy it.

With assurances of regard and best wishes, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

A. S. BURLESON,  
Postmaster General."

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"WAR DEPARTMENT  
The Adjutant General's Office,  
Washington.

March 2, 1915.

Hon. William Kettner,  
House of Representatives.

Sir:

Referring further to your letter of February 27, 1915, in regard to the detail of a cavalry band for duty at the Panama-California Exposition, San Diego, California, I have the honor to inform you that the commanding general, Southern Department, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, has been authorized today to send a band as requested, provided such action involves no expense to the United States for transportation. The Department Commander has been directed to communicate directly with the Exposition authorities with reference to all necessary detail.

Very respectfully,

H. P. McCAIN,  
The Adjutant General."

In the "Los Angeles Times", May 14, 1915, appeared the following item:

"Two Notable parties meet. Japanese Admiral and Congressmen banquet. Exposition president gives his hospitality. Torpedo factory on Coast named a necessity.

(By direct wire—exclusive dispatch) San Diego March 13—While the party of Congressmen and their wives here, the guests of Congressman William Kettner, were entertained at the exposition grounds, another party equally distinguished was guided over the fair by representatives of the army, navy, and the exposition. Admiral Baron Sotokichi Uriu, retired officer of the Japanese navy, and his staff bearing messages of good will and friendship from his country to America, was the second party of distinguished guests.

Today was Kettner Day at the exposition in honor of the popular Congressman of the Southland, and hundreds of San Diegans gathered at the exposition to greet him and Mrs. Kettner.

Congressman Kettner, who had not seen the exposition since its completion, could not conceal his delight and pride as he piloted the Congressmen from all parts of the country about



CARL H. HEILBRON,  
Vice-President San Diego Exposition.

and everyone of the party was enthusiastic in the extreme over the beauties of California as exemplified in the exposition.

After the cavalry review this morning given for the congressional party, they were escorted over the Puente Cabrillo by a company of marines and as they entered the Exposition Congressman Kettner was given a great ovation. A luncheon was tendered the party by the Chamber of Commerce of San Diego county at the Cafe Cristobal. This afternoon they toured the buildings and exhibits and late in the afternoon there was a reception for the Congressional party and Admiral Uriu and the Baroness by the women's official board at the women's headquarters."

During my eight years in the Congress we were in almost continuous session. First it was the revision of the tariff, and later the war, so that in all the eight years the only recess was in 1915, when I was fortunate enough to spend part of the time at home. At that time I had the pleasure of showing a large number of Senators and Representatives our wonderful exposition, and to point out the splendid naval facilities of our Pacific sea coast. This was especially effective, as many of the Eastern men, some of whom had been in Europe several times, had never been west of the Mississippi, and a map is much more effective after one has seen the country.