

'FLU' PREVENTS GRIZZLY FETE

Hosts Were on Hand at Auditorium, but Guests of Honor Had to Stay Away.

San Francisco's climax to the monster welcome of the Grizzlies, which was to have been staged at the Civic Auditorium last night with full pomp and ceremony, was abruptly and indefinitely postponed.

The affair had been planned long in advance and was to have been an example of this city's hospitality in showing its appreciation for the Yankee soldiers who had just returned from service in France.

But a "kink" occurred in the arrangements which municipal officials could not undo despite the use of considerable red tape and other camouflage material.

Colonel Thornwell Mullally, commander of the Grizzlies, had agreed to the idea and an elaborate program had been arranged once his sanction had been secured. But, unfortunately, Mullally, after he had marched his warriors inside the Presidio, military reservation ceased to have jurisdiction over the matter. His actions thereafter were subject to the approval of his superior officer, the acting commander of the Presidio—Colonel Benjamin P. Hyer.

"Nothing doing," was the retort from the Presidio superior. "No troops from this reservation will be permitted at any indoor celebration while the influenza epidemic prevails in the city," was the gist of his dictum.

Then municipal officials hastened to stage the affair out in the Civic Center, where there was fresh air in sufficiency, and a messenger was dispatched again to Colonel Hyer with an outline of the new plans.

The affair had been heralded broadcast about the city, thousands of citizens were on tip-toe in anticipation of the event and the city officials decided no stone would be left unturned so as to stage the monster patriotic demonstration.

Inside the Presidio walls a hasty council of war was held, at which the chief surgeon of the post was consulted, with the result that a message something like this was sent

back to the coterie of San Francisco officialdom:

Providing the celebration is held out in the open permission will be given for the officers and men of the One Hundred and Forty-fourth artillery to participate. The troops will attend the affair in military formation, they will not be permitted to mingle with the crowds, they will retain their formation at all times; providing further that the city authorities enforce the gauze mask wearing by the citizens and that sufficient Municipal cars are provided in Van Ness avenue to transport the command back to the reservation.

That arrangement would have killed all the spontaneous enjoyment of the affair.

Protests and appeals were of no avail, so thus it was that the concluding event in the Grizzlies' welcome was indefinitely postponed.

But sufficient time did not permit public notice to the citizenship and as a result thousands gathered at the Auditorium last night bent on participating in the affair to honor California's own regiment of artillerymen and the honored guests were not there.

The flu mask became the blanket that smothered the fires of reception.