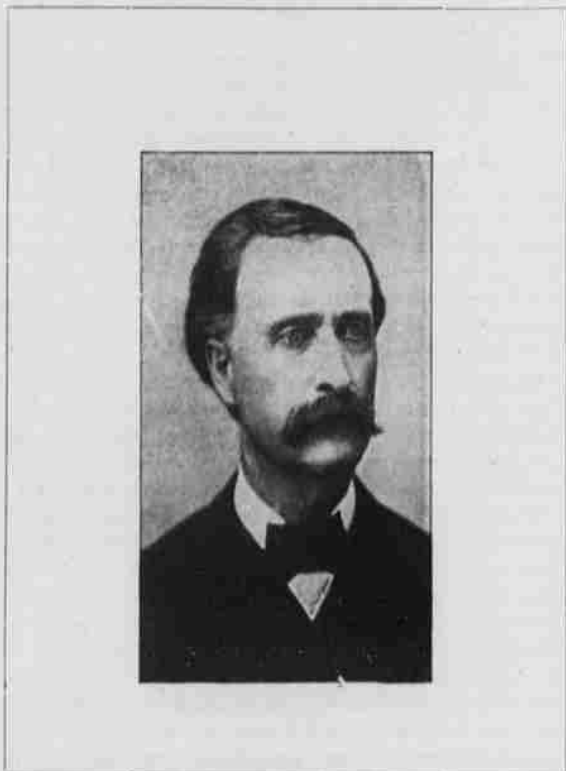


ENCAMPMENT OF OREGON G. A. R.

On Wednesday and Thursday of last week the Grand Army of the Republic for the department of Oregon held its tenth annual encampment at Astoria, where the delegates were entertained by the citizens with royal hospitality. The proceedings of the first day were confined to routine official business, including the reports of the retiring officers. The report of Department



JAMES A. VARNEY.

Retiring Department Commander, G. A. R. of Oregon.

Commander Varney showed that the order in the state was in a most flourishing condition. Eight new posts were formed during the year, making a total of fifty-five, and, notwithstanding the death of twenty comrades, there was a net gain in membership of 238, the total strength of the order in Oregon being 2,003. It was also decided to hold the next general encampment in Salem on the eleventh and twelfth of February, 1892. The second day's proceedings consisted of the election and ceremonial installation of the following officers for the ensuing year:

O. Summers, Portland, department commander; Charles S. Wright, Astoria, senior vice commander; C. P. Holloway, Huntington, junior vice commander; B. H. Bradshaw, Salem, medical director; Rev. T. E. Clapp, Portland, chaplain.

Council of administration—C. H. Dauchy, Oregon City; T. A. Swan, Lebanon; C. Rockwell, Portland; E. H. Brodick, Astoria; W. N. Ladue, Salem.

Delegates to national encampment—Rev. J. T. Ellis, Forest Grove; R. A. Frame, Portland; J. C. Cooper, McMinnville. Alternates—B. B. Tuttle, F. K. Arnold, Portland; George Williams, Salem.

During the afternoon a procession paraded the streets, and visiting comrades and ladies were given a delightful steamer excursion down to Fort Stevens and the jetty at the mouth of the river. In the evening all participated in a grand complimentary banquet at the opera house, tendered them by the citizens of Astoria.

Meeting at the same time were the auxiliary organizations of the Sons of Veterans and Ladies Relief Corps. The former has made great progress the past year, increasing the number of posts from twelve to seventeen and the membership from 90 to 250.

The retiring department commander, James A. Varney, was born in Brooks, Waldo county, Maine, October 7, 1825. He went to California around the Horn in 1849 and returned to Maine in 1853. In 1861, he went to the front as chaplain of the Seventh Maine Inf. Vols., and served through the Peninsular campaign. Mr. Varney came to Oregon fifteen years ago, and

is now living in The Dalles engaged in the nursery and florist business. Fruit and flowers have been his hobby for years. He was a charter member of the State Pomological society, of Maine, and an executive officer for years, and made a fruit exhibit for the state at the Philadelphia centennial. He is now one of the Oregon State Board of Horticulture and pest inspector. Mr. Varney was a charter member of James W. Nesmith Post No. 34, G. A. R., at The Dalles, and is a cousin of the gentleman whose name is thus perpetuated. He served three successive terms as post commander, and was elected department commander at Eugene a year ago. His administration has been the most energetic and business like the department has ever had, and the order has been greatly strengthened and enthused. In his official capacity he attended the grand encampment at Boston last year. Mr. Varney is a Mason in high standing, both as a Royal Arch and Knight Templar. He was a prelate of Trinity commandery, No. 1, Augusta, Maine, for two years, and a charter member of St. Omar commandery, No. 12, Waterville, Maine, serving continuously as prelate for many years until his removal to Oregon, since which time he has maintained his membership.

The new department commander, Col. O. Summers, of Portland, is lieutenant colonel of Oregon's crack regiment of the national guard, the First regiment, and has been prominent in Grand Army circles for many years, being one of its most energetic and enterprising members. He is one of those veterans who entered the army at such an early age that he is now still in the prime of life, and will doubtless live to see the Grand Army become but a shadow of its present self, the nearly half million members having gone to join the "innumerable host." He was born in Brockville, Conn., June 13, 1850, and was consequently rather youthful when the war began. He tried three times to enlist, and was finally successful at Dixon, Ill., in February, 1865, becoming a member of Company H, Third Illinois cavalry, no doubt the youngest trooper in the saddle. During the summer his regiment was in continuous conflict with guerrillas in Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Kentucky. In the fall it was sent to Dakota on a campaign against the Sioux, thence to Fort Snelling, Minn., and was mustered out at Springfield,



COL. O. SUMMERS.

Department Commander, G. A. R. of Oregon.