

meetings. Arrangements were completed for the debate with the Synpariet which will be held on Thursday night.

The following programs was presented:
Reading.—The Use of Time. Wm. Mahone.
Essay.—Character. Tom Young.
Recitation. Eugene Williams.

Debate, Resolved; That a horse is of more use to a farmer than a cow.

Affirmative.	Negative.
Albert Meschum.	Eddie Belfonger.
Sebastian Kwika.	Tommy Devine.

A very interesting debate was had upon the subject. The judges decided in favor of the affirmative.

Our Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson, who lives at 126 Cottage street in Salem, is the possessor of the combination chest and desk that belonged to and was used by General Philip H. Sheridan when he was a Second Lieutenant at Old Fort Vancouver in Vancouver county, Oregon.

Mr. Thompson knew Lieutenant Sheridan very well. The young officer often stopped at his home in Dallas where he lived and had a harness shop for a number of years during those times.

Mr. Thompson had been a member of Company G, Oregon Volunteers and he went with Colonel Nesmith on the Yakima expedition, in which Lieutenant Sheridan joined with his regulars, as mentioned below. He was also with Colonel Cornelius at the Cascades, where Lieutenant Sheridan and his men figured prominently, as also mentioned below. After that Mr. Thompson was connected with the commissary service, before engaging in the harness business at Dallas. Mr. Thompson was born in Pennsylvania, but came to Oregon from Illinois, to which state he had removed. He is now 72 years of age. After going out of business in Dallas he worked in the harness shop of the late R. H. Dearborn in Salem for a long time, and afterwards in the shop of E. S. Lempert. For eight or ten years just past he has been the harness-maker and industrial teacher in this line at the U. S. Indian Training School

near this city—giving up his place a few weeks ago, on account of physical infirmities that rendered him incapable of farther performing his duties.

When Lieutenant Sheridan left Oregon for the East, to take his place in the Union Army then fighting in the war of the Rebellion, he gave this combination desk and chest to a friend at the fort. It went through a fire, and was all but burned. After this it was brought and left at the shop of Mr. Thompson at Dallas. Mr. Thompson at once conceived the idea of getting the ownership of it, which he finally did, after a good deal of parleying, the price being about \$45.

The Chest and Desk.

The chest was probably secured at Vancouver by Lieutenant Sheridan, as it has on the inside silk lining of its lid the stars and stripes across the British jack. It is made of composite wood, and therefore gives out constantly a pleasant odor. The brass work is very well done, and in fact every part of the combination chest and desk is wrought and fashioned in a workmanlike manner, seemingly with a view to allow of no waste of space. The lock stand was when new a work of beauty. The handles of the chest when closed up are not visible. They close up out of the way. The covering of the desk when opened is of plush, and it is yet in fair condition, notwithstanding its long years of use and usefulness. There is a portfolio in the lid of the desk, and there are numerous intricate drawers. In the back part of it are three secret drawers. They are behind a strip of wood that is, to all intents and purposes, a part of the frame work of the desk. But the touching of a secret spring releases this strip, and the pulling of rubber handles brings out the secret drawers. There is a chance in this desk for a "place" for everything and everything in its place. There is no doubt but the piece of furniture cost a round sum of money in those early times, when it was new. It is still in a very good state of preservation, and it is used by Mr. Thompson yet. It is the only willing desk he has, and the only place to keep his papers.—[Continued.]