

G. A. R. VETS MEET

Annual Encampment Opens at Washington.

HAY SPEAKS FOR ROOSEVELT

Principal Exercises Consist of the Dedication of the Camp Grounds, Which Are Named for the President.

OREGON AT ENCAMPMENT.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Oct. 6.—About 15 Civil War Veterans from Oregon are expected to participate in the G. A. R. encampment in this city, several having already arrived. There will be a number of ladies in the party. The early arrivals are: I. D. Darr, of Portland; B. F. Pike, of Moro; S. F. Blythe, of Hood River; and M. L. Pratt, of Portland, who has charge of the Oregon headquarters. All have been fortunate in securing accommodations. Other Oregon veterans are expected tomorrow.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6.—The ceremonies leading to the beginning of the 36th encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, which commenced here today, were varied in character and mostly only semi-official. The only formal proceeding of the day was the dedication of Camp Roosevelt, the tent city on the White House grounds, which will be the headquarters of the several corps of the organization during the week. The ceremony there consisted of a number of addresses by men of national reputation, the chief speech being delivered by Secretary Hay. For the rest the old soldiers busied themselves largely in renewing acquaintances of 40 years and in manifesting their appreciation of the welcome extended to them by the capital city. Of this welcome they found generous evidence on every hand.

The events of the day, outside of the dedication ceremonies at Camp Roosevelt, included a regatta on the Potomac, an automobile parade, a procession of the Red Men of this city and neighboring cities, and campfires in the evening. Commander-in-Chief Torrance and his staff kept open house all day at the White House and received many hundreds of callers.

Many trainloads of people arrived during the day, and it is now quite certain that the anticipations of an exceptionally large attendance will be realized.

Camp Roosevelt a Beautiful Spot.

Camp Roosevelt is on the lot just west of the White House, and between that building and the Washington monument. It is a beautiful greenward. The dedication ceremonies at 4:30 o'clock this afternoon were presided over by B. H. Warner, chairman of the citizens' committee of the District of Columbia, and were largely attended by the veterans and by citizens of Washington. The ceremonies took place on an improvised platform protected from the glare of the evening sun by an immense National flag spread across the western side of the lot. Mr. Warner introduced Henry B. McFarland, one of the District Commissioners, who made an excellent address. Mr. McFarland took his seat in the midst of a generous round of applause, which was renewed when John Hay, Secretary of State, arose to speak for the President. Mr. Hay read his speech from manuscript, but he spoke so distinctly that his words were plainly audible to all the vast number present. He was applauded at frequent intervals as he proceeded. His address in part was as follows:

"In the name of the President and in his stead I bid you welcome to Washington. I need not say that on every inch of American soil, wherever that stately banner waves, you are at home and need no formal words of welcome. But especially in this capital city of the Republic you fought to preserve you are the children of the house; the doors are always open to you. Wherever you turn you are reminded of the history of which you are a part. From the windows of that White House the eyes of many comrades have looked upon this field whose names belong to the ages of Lincoln, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, McKinley and Roosevelt. In the beautiful squares other comrades salute you from the bronze horses of the monuments where your love and loyalty have placed them. Across the winding river the heights of Arlington show the white tents of fame's eternal campground where your friends and brothers repose. And, casting its gigantic shadow over this bivouac of youth, the unequalled obelisk of Washington towers to the clouds—the loftiest structure ever reared by man in memory of the loftiest character in human history."

When the cheers which succeeded Mr. Hay's speech had subsided, Commander-in-Chief Torrance, of the G. A. R., responded to the words of welcome. He spoke warmly in appreciation of the reception given himself and his comrades, which had been, he said, all that they could expect.

Moody Speaks for Root.

Secretary Moody was next introduced. He spoke for Secretary Root, who was detained by official business. Mr. Moody expressed regret that the shallowness of the Potomac had prevented the bringing of some of the ships of the Navy to Washington for the inspection of the old soldiers, and then dwelt for a few moments on the inspiration that the example of the heroes of 1861-65 had been to the soldiers of the present day. He said Captain Clark, of the Oregon, had told the men under him when at Bahia, Brazil, that they might meet the Spanish fleet, and that, after reminding the men of the greatness of the opposing fleet, he had said to them: "If we do meet it, it will not look so well." Captain Clark had related this incident to him, and had added: "The Secretary said he had asked Admiral Dewey how he had felt in contemplating the mines and torpedoes in Manila Bay the night before attacking the Spanish fleet in the harbor of that city, and the Admiral's reply was that he simply had asked himself what Farragut would have done if confronted with similar conditions. The Secretary concluded that men inspired by such traditions as these never could turn their backs on the flag."

Governor Bliss, of Michigan, spoke very briefly. B. F. Bingham, Commander of the Department of the Potomac, delivered the welcoming address on behalf of the local Grand Army. A fine National flag was then unfurled from a tall pole surmounting the platform, and with the firing of a National salute of 21 guns, the exercises closed. The music for the occasion was supplied by the George W. Cook Drum Corps of Denver, and the military band stationed at Fort Meyer.

Red Men Gave Street Parade.

A spectacular street exhibition was given at 3 o'clock by the Improved Order of Red Men. They marched down Pennsylvania avenue from the Capitol to the White House, about 450 strong. The

organizations participating were nine tribes of the order in Washington.

The Kansas delegation, which is quartered at an up-town hotel, is attracting a great deal of attention. The members came prepared not only to participate in the festivities of the encampment, but to furnish the people with an object lesson of what they can do in the line of agriculture. They brought with them a large exhibit of pumpkins of enormous size, apples, potatoes, corn and wheat. The sidewalk surrounding the hotel has been completely taken up with the display, while suspended from ropes fastened to trees are bunches of ears of corn. The sunflower is also much in evidence.

Tonight the veterans and their friends were entertained by an exhibition of fireworks on the Washington monument grounds. The principal scene represented was the rescue of the diplomatic legations at Peking, in which 300 persons were engaged. The attendance numbered thousands, and the different features of the spectacle were enthusiastically received. Brigadier-General Jacob H. Smith, who was retired by President Roosevelt last July on account of his campaign against the natives of Samar, has come to Washington to attend the encampment. He spent part of today at the War Department visiting old friends.

The George W. Cook Fire and Drum

HOW ABOUT FRANCHISES?

MR. WOOD OPPOSES STREET RAILWAY COMPANY'S SCHEME.

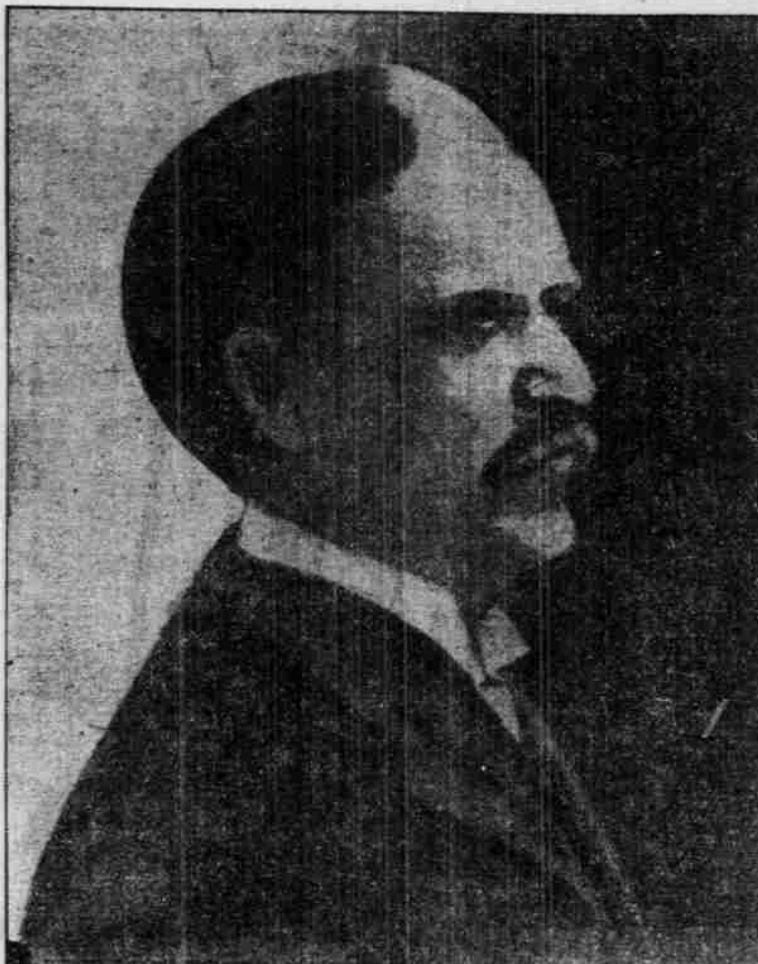
Why Application is Made at This Time—What the New Charter Provides.

PORTLAND, Oct. 6.—(To the Editor.)—In The Oregonian of October 2 it is reported that seven ordinances proposing to grant franchises to the Portland Railway Company have been introduced to the City Council.

This is the most important matter that has come before that body for a long time, and it is proper that the people shall be well apprised of what is proposed to be done. The statement is made that the company will expend \$400,000 in the next two years if these franchises are granted; and while the number of miles of franchise is not stated, it may be assumed that the franchises are not inconsiderable.

It is also stated in your report that the counsel for the company declare that the

PRESIDES OVER THE NATIONAL G. A. R. ENCAMPMENT



JUDGE ELI D. TORRANCE, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

Corps, of Denver, numbering 70 members, one of the most famous organizations of its kind in the country, accompanied by its founder General George W. Cook, who was a drummer in the Civil War, entered President Roosevelt at the temporary White House, Postmaster-General Payne and the local newspaper offices. The corps attracted much attention at the services on the dedication of the camp grounds this afternoon.

The city, with its lavish decorations, never looked more attractive than today. There is scarcely a building on the principal streets that is not festooned with the National colors and many of the stands and vehicles on the streets are similarly decorated.

GAELIC LEAGUE CONVENTION.

Seating of California Delegation Causes a Lively Contest.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 6.—The national convention of the Gaelic League of America began here today, distinguished Irish-Americans from various parts of the country being in attendance. There will be addresses and discussions in English and Gaelic, the object of the league being the preservation of the Gaelic language. There are 18,000 members of the league in the United States, including even schools in Philadelphia with a membership of 500 or 600.

The afternoon session developed a contest over the seating of the California delegation. The credentials committee refused to recognize the Californians on the ground that they were "irregular." The matter was referred back to the committee, and Major E. T. McChrystal, who occupied the chair, declared the session adjourned. The delegates, however, opposed adjournment and Major McChrystal left the chair. A number of delegates from New York, Illinois and Philadelphia departed from the hall, and those remaining elected Major O'Donovan, of this city, chairman, and the California delegation was seated. After the calling of the roll the session adjourned.

VETERANS MAY SEE ROOSEVELT.

President Hopes to Be Able to Pass Along Line of Parade Tomorrow.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 6.—The following statement was made at the White House today: "The President has expressed to Commander-in-Chief Torrance and to Chairman Warner, of the local committee, his keen regret at his inability to review the parade of the Grand Army of the Republic on Wednesday. His physicians feel that he should not subject himself to the strain this would involve. He has, however, thought in some way he might be able to greet the members of the Grand Army in Washington, and their families and friends who accompany them. His physicians today stated that if nothing unforeseen occurred in his condition and if the weather was favorable he could safely be driven along the line of the parade on Wednesday, and it is hoped this arrangement can be carried out."

Another Meeting of Veterans.

CHICAGO, Oct. 6.—The 17th National encampment of the Union Veteran Legion will be held in Chicago this week. At the Sherman House, the national headquarters of the legion, will be General J. Edwin Browne, the National commander, and his staff. Tomorrow evening there will be a reception given to the National officers of the Union Veteran Legion and the Ladies Auxiliary, under the auspices of Ladies Auxiliary No. 11, of Chicago. The National encampment of the Union Veteran Legion will formally begin the business of its annual session on Wednesday.

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It is provided in section 88 that no ordinance granting a franchise shall be put on its final passage within 60 days of its introduction, and no franchise shall be granted which shall not by its terms go into effect within one year after its passage.

It is provided further that the holder of the franchise shall keep correct books of account concerning its receipts and expenditures and financial affairs, which shall be public records and be reported in the reports of the city officers and open to public inspection.

It is provided in section 89 that the Council may provide for the forfeiture of the franchise for refusal to comply with its conditions or to repair, improve or maintain the streets over which the franchise is operated.

It is also provided in section 101 that the ordinance must provide for the beginning of construction work thereon, and the estimated cost thereof, and the monthly or yearly sums to be expended thereon, and fix the time within which the work shall be completed.

If the ordinances now introduced to the Council shall pass, all these provisions will be avoided by the Portland Railway Company, and it will procure for nothing and forever valuable franchises without the power in the city to regulate them.

No public interest will be subserved by passing these ordinances now. For the public exigency, if any, is not so imminent that a delay of three or four months will be injurious. On the other hand, by this delay the interests of the people will be protected.

It has been suggested that the Council may incorporate the provisions of the new charter in granting these franchises. It is sufficient to say, in the first place, that the ordinances introduced do not do so, but even if it were proposed to do that, it could not be done. Many of these provisions cannot be effective, even in ordinances, for want of power in the Council. For instance, the right of the people at the end of the franchise to vote on the question of buying the property could not be given by ordinance, and an election held for that purpose would not be legal unless previously authorized by the Legislature, and it is very safe to say that the hurry of the railroad company to procure these franchises at this time arises from the fact that these provisions cannot be enforced at this time.

If the ordinances now introduced to the Council shall pass, all these provisions will be avoided by the Portland Railway Company, and it will procure for nothing and forever valuable franchises without the power in the city to regulate them.

foretell and defeat the provisions of the new charter. Not one good reason can be urged for the passage of the ordinances at this time. The Council does not represent and was not elected to care for the interests of the railway companies.

Nor does this view imply any antagonism to the street railway companies as such. They perform a very necessary public service and should receive every fair consideration, but the franchises they ask for are worth a great deal of money, and they belong to the people, and the granting of them in haste to forestall the new charter will be a palpable sacrifice of the people's rights to please a company which says: "If we can't have the franchises now and for nothing we don't want them."

I have signed a protest against one of these extensions for personal reasons. I do not think my personal interest influences this communication, which I make as a citizen and upon general principles.

C. E. S. WOOD.

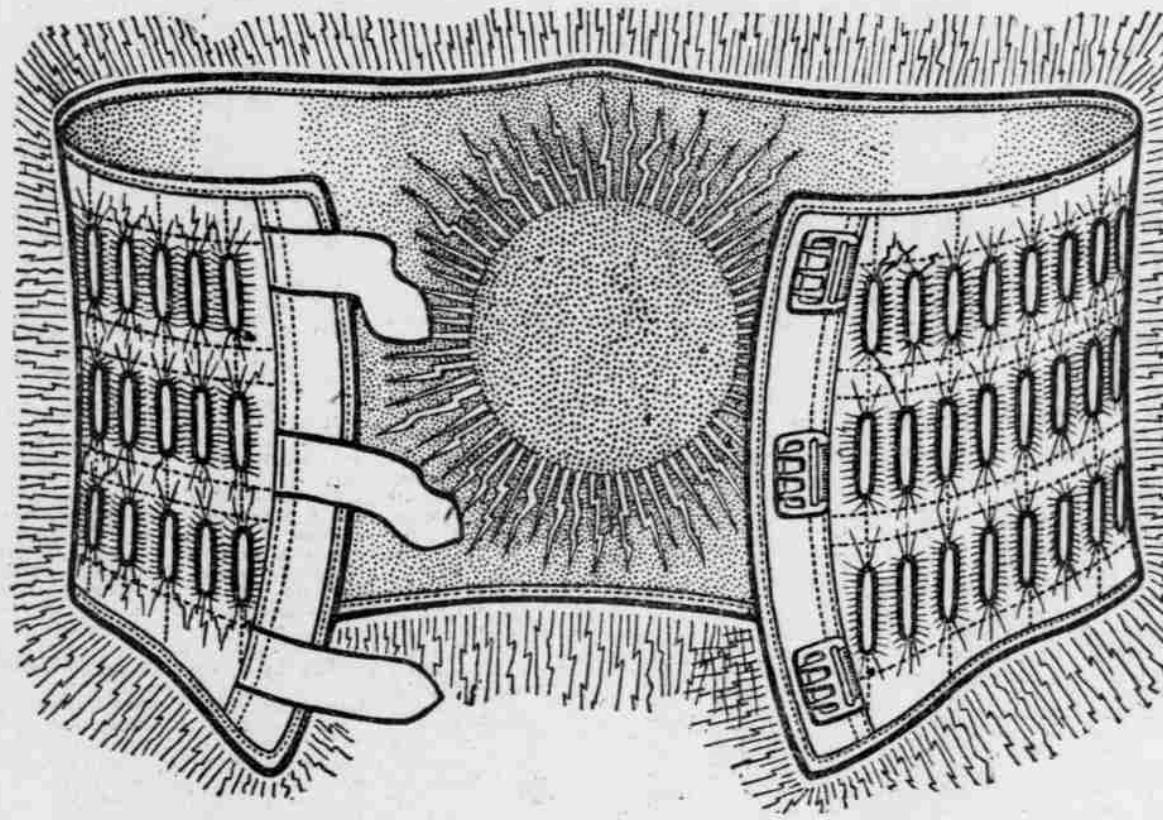
BUSINESS ITEMS.

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