

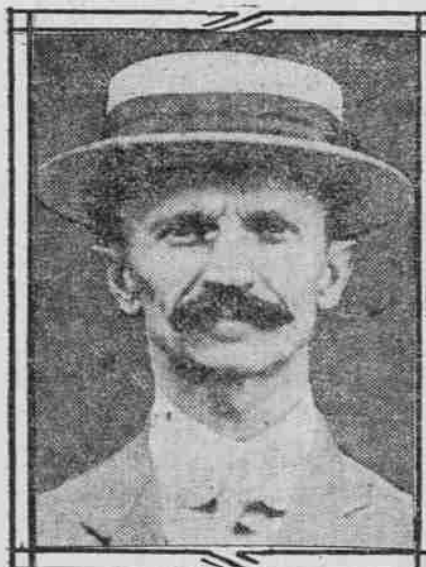
WOODMEN OF THE WORLD MEET IN 10TH TRIENNIAL SESSION



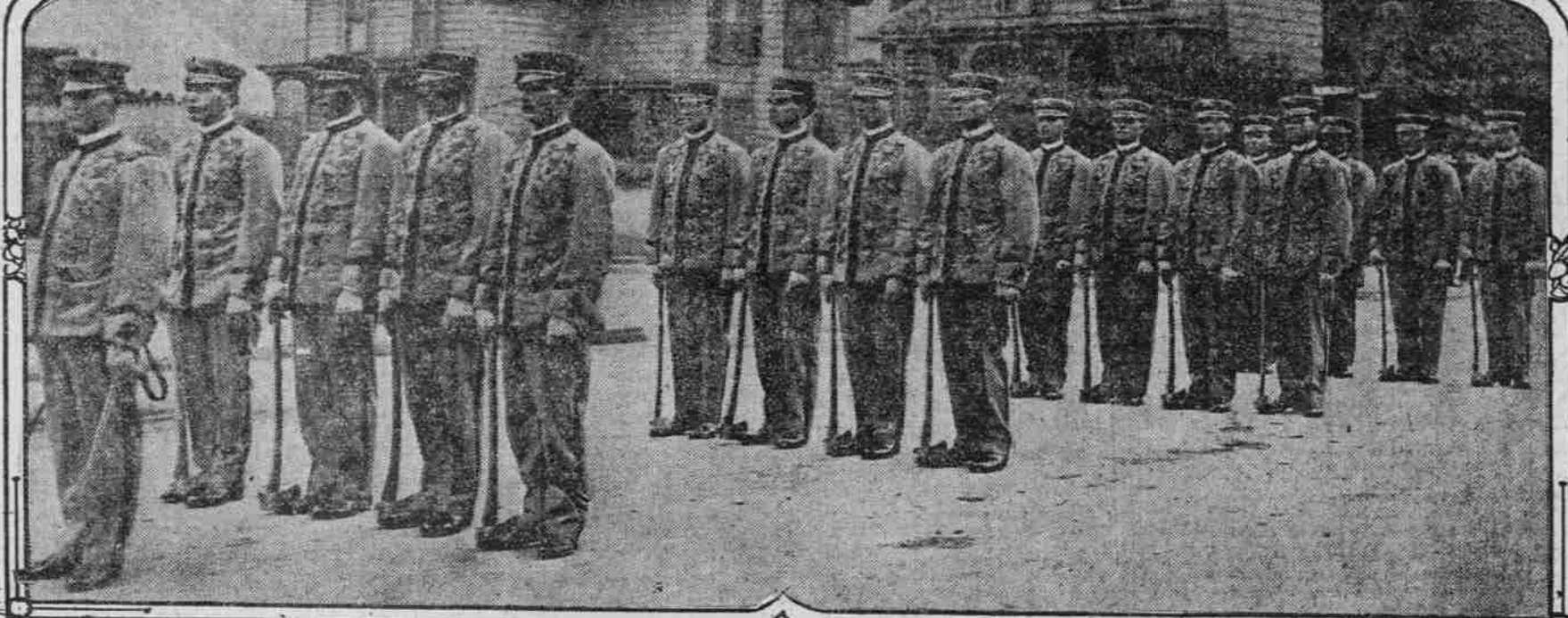
GROUP OF DELEGATES.



I. P. TRANSUE,
SAN ANGELES, CAL.
SPEAKER OF HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES.



T. CLINTON MEALE,
EX-HEAD ADVISER,
PASADENA, CAL.



MANZANITA CAMP, TROPHY WINNERS, UNIFORM RANK - DRILL CONTEST.



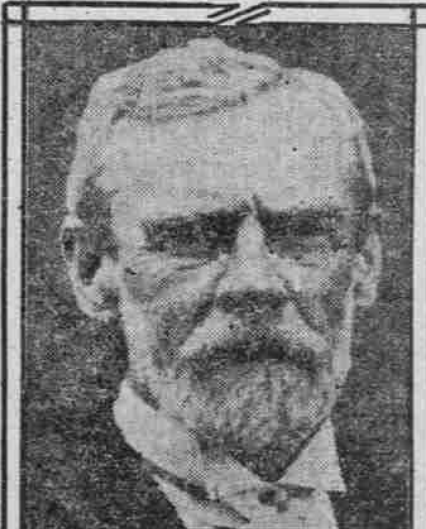
JOHN H. ALTON,
DENVER, COL.



DR. J. U. PORTER,
SOVERIGN, PHYSICIAN,
OMAHA.



M. A. MCEACHERN,
PROMINENT OREGON DELEGATE.



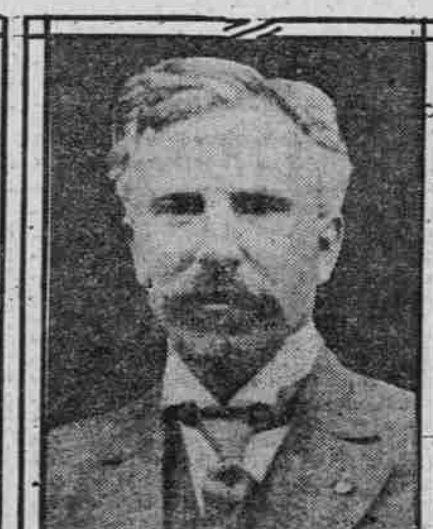
E. E. CARRINGTON,
COLORADO SPRINGS.



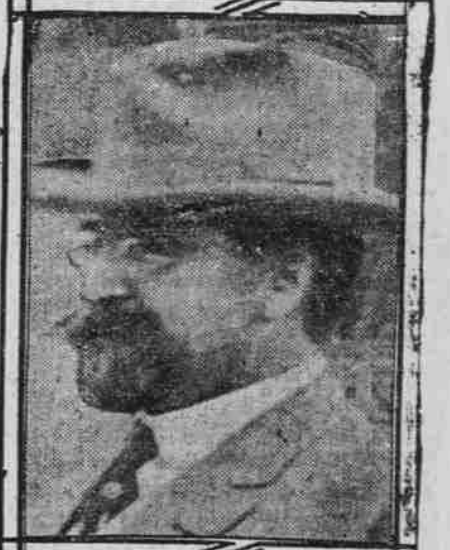
JOHN RUFFESS,
OAKLAND, CAL.



THOMAS L. BARRY,
DEPUTY COLLECTOR OF
CUSTOMS, SAN FRANCISCO.



C. V. BENSON,
HEAD CLERK, DENVER.



JOHN H. FOLEY,
HEAD OF INSURGENT
MOVEMENT, LOS ANGELES.

A MORMON VIEWPOINT

Writer Thinks Latter Day Saints Have No Superiors.

PORTLAND, July 28.—(To the Editor.)—I read with much interest the editorial in the Oregonian of last Tuesday, under the heading "An Overbold Statement," which had reference to my address on the Mormon pioneers. I read with interest and unusual pleasure most of the Oregonian's editorials and cannot help but admire its own bold and fearless way of handling things. Perhaps not sufficient time has elapsed for prejudice to give way to an impartial and honest investigation as to the morality, loyalty, integrity and worth of these Mormon pioneers. But the clouds of adulation which have been cast upon them by their traducers is beginning to lift and the world will be forced to acknowledge our claims for them. It seems that I have made "an overbold statement" when I said that the Mormon people were "among the greatest peoples of the world." Still, it has been conceded that they had no superior in heroism, determination and self-sacrifice, nor as conquerors of the wilderness. But I am told "that there were dark places in their history, chapters written in the blood of the innocent. Do our critics really believe the base and false slanders charging them with being responsible for the Mountain Meadow massacre?" It is true there were some Mormons implicated in this dreadful affair, but they were tried and proved to be guilty by a Mormon jury and paid the penalty for their

crimes. Why condemn a whole people on account of the acts of one or two men? I am well acquainted with the man that carried the orders from Governor Young that the emigrants must be protected if it took all of Iron County, and that they must not be interfered with. But his orders arrived too late—the terrible deed had been accomplished by the Indians with the aid of a few white men. The Federal Courts, being in the hands of our enemies at that time, made every effort to prove that Brigham Young and the Mormon people were guilty, but failed. Why, then, should this generation attempt to prove them guilty? Mormonism teaches that "a murderer hath not eternal life abiding in him." No Mormon sinner has authority to baptize a murderer. No people in the world condemn murder in stronger terms than do the Latter Day Saints, and none were more deeply grieved over this inhuman action than the Mormons. If the church is to be responsible for the acts of all its members, it might be interesting to go back to Missouri and investigate the driving of 15000 Mormons from Independence, Mo., the burning of their homes, and the butchering of some of them, the wholesale confiscation of property and the expulsion of 15,000 Mormons from Missouri; the Hauns Mill massacre wherein a score of inoffensive Mormons were massacred and no Indians were implicated in it; either; the cruel assassination of their prophet, and the driving, murdering and plundering which took place when Nauvoo with 20,000 Mormons was despoiled from the rightful possessors, while they were forced to search for a new home in a wilderness only inhabited by savages and wild beasts. Prominently among the names of these robbers could be found not only mem-

bers of the leading churches, but ministers as well. Upon this showing, are we justified in charging the churches to which these robbers and assassins belonged with the responsibility of their crimes? There have been Mormons who have made miserable failures, and these their enemies have seized upon, magnified and presented to the world as the fruits of "Mormonism," but nothing has been said about the great majority whose lives were above reproach. Would it be fair to search in the orchards of Oregon for a few wormy, shrunken and deformed apples, and then exhibit them as what Oregon produces? Neither is it fair to represent Mormon failures as samples of what the system produces. Will the world ever know the truth about any people, if their enemies are to be the only witnesses and furnish all the testimony? What would have been the fate of Christ and his religion, with the testimony of his enemies still accepted? Time is on the side of truth and is the most powerful factor the Mormon people have—and they patiently await the favorable verdict. It will create that verdict in the world for them, when the truth is fully known, and time discredits the false witnesses. In the meantime let the fruits of Mormonism speak for themselves. The birth rate in the church is 33 per 1000, while the United States birth rate is 20 per 1000, and the Latter Day Saints are showing 20 per cent better than the United States, and it is as a Nation leads the world—this too, when few if any children are being born of a polygamist issue. It is now nearly 20 years since the church declared against future plural marriages, but on the question most people are as badly informed as Ella Wheeler Wilcox was when she visited Utah in 1902. Of this she speaks in the Chicago

American of May that year and says: "I am ashamed to confess that until recently I had supposed Mormonism and polygamy to be synonymous terms. Few of the present generation know the remarkable and tragic history of the people who first settled Salt Lake City. They, the Mormons, are essentially a peaceful and industrial people. Their sufferings have been manifold, their industrial achievements in the desert of the West marvelous. Their young men and women lead beautiful and wholesome lives. Before we cast any more stones at their ancestors, let us weed from the ranks of our own churches and our own fashionable society all the unwelcome and fatherless children, all the deserted, betrayed girls and stand them in a row—in order that we may have a surer aim when we stone the polygamists again." The death rate in our church is nine per thousand, while the death rate in the United States is 17. The old life line insurance companies seldom reach as low as ten—and they select their risks, but Mormonism with its young, old, sick and all classes, still shows a record better than do the insurance companies. The reason is Mormons live right—the majority of whom keep the "word of wisdom"—and use no tea, coffee, tobacco or liquor, and use meat sparingly. There are 183 marriages per 1000 among the Latter Day Saints, a percentage that leads the world—while a showing resulting from Mormon marriages is 1.6 per cent. The United States shows 7 per cent—and in this Mormonism leads the world in its low divorce rate. There are 506 teachers in the Mormon Church schools, and not one uses tobacco or liquor, and in more than 10,000 students not 1 per cent uses either. I defy the world to duplicate this showing.

From these and many other facts that might be stated, I may be pardoned for making my "overbold statement," which I now retract and say that Mormons are not only "among the greatest peoples of the world," but they are the greatest and have no superiors in anything that is lovely, praiseworthy or desirable, and as a church are invulnerable against any attack. MELVIN J. BALLARD, President Northwest Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. In the Near Future. Detroit Free Press. Father's in his slirship. Gone to spend the day. Looking after jeans and bonds in Europe, o'er the way. Mother, who likes comfort. And does not care to roam. Is shopping via wireless. In Paris, at her home. Brother, who in deep seas Has a coral grove. Is going in his submarine Among his crops to rove. Uncle, in the Navy. Who's left his ship a span, Is shooting through pneumatic tubes To join her in Japan. Sister, who's a suffragette. Has worked reforms so rare That even the ward meetings They open new with prayer. And when, tired by their labors, She'd body rest and soul, She goes to spend the pleasure A week end at the pole.

GATHERED from nine states on and contiguous to the Pacific Coast, delegates to the tenth triennial head camp session of the Woodmen of the World have been gathered in Portland for the past week and will probably continue their deliberations until Tuesday night or Wednesday of this week. Tuesday was occupied by the election of officers. The following are the officers chosen: Head counsel, I. I. Hoak; head adviser, T. P. Revalla, of Seattle; head clerk, C. V. Benson, of Denver; head banker, A. E. Sunderland, of Fresno, Cal.; head auditor, F. P. Bertschy, of Denver; head escort, S. Hepper, of Helena, Mont.; head sentry, George R. Brown, of Lewiston, Idaho; head physician, T. A. Hughes, of Denver; board of managers, W. C. Hawley, of Salem; T. M. Robinson, of Oakland, Cal.; Dr. James Steinhous, of Denver; John Pattison, of Colfax, Wash.; F. P. Hawke, of Pueblo, Colo. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday were occupied with the consideration of legislative amendment to the constitution and the consideration of reports by the chairman of various committees. Numerous entertainment features were planned for the women visitors.

These took the form of launch rides, trips to Council Crest and the Oaks. A banquet was held Monday night, at which the majority of the delegates were present. During the week the various local camps held banquets, at which the prominent delegates were guests. A water trip to Hood River was arranged for Thursday, but owing to the steamer breaking down this had to be postponed. It was held yesterday. The delegates left Alder-street dock at 7 o'clock in the Bailey Gatzert. The boat took them to Hood River and a banquet was served by the Hood River Commercial Club immediately on the arrival of the party. The return was made as soon as the banquet was concluded. Leaders of the convention declare the sessions to be the most successful ever held. Over 100 delegates were in attendance, having a voting power of 1022. Sessions of the Order of Woodmen of the World are triennial. This is the tenth session. New Lauds for Old. Kansas City Star. "When all of the jokes are written. And all of the stories are told. 'What shall we do?' signed Postmist. As tears from his eyelids rolled. 'What shall we do?' grined Optimist. 'Just what we've done before. We'll change them around a little bit And send them out once more."