

THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

The True Facts Concerning the Report

OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

Statement by Secretary of the Old Board to the G. A. R. and W. R. C.

To the Comrades of the Grand Army and Members of the W. R. C.

The sending to the Posts and Corps of Oregon, as a part of his General Orders, by Department Commander Ormsby of the maliciously false report of the legislative committee to investigate the Oregon Soldiers' Home makes it incumbent upon the Secretary of the trustees of said home to present a few facts upon the subject.

This legislative committee report of which Commander Ormsby, who was clerk of the committee, was so proud that he surreptitiously takes copies of it printed by the state and circulates as part of his general orders, charges the trustees of the home with "theft," for having charged the state with their expenses in attending the meetings of the board, although the law allows them such expenses. The full significance of these charges can be understood when the fact is considered that Comrade B. F. Alley, chairman of the legislative committee and Comrade Ormsby, clerk of the said committee, were applicants for the places of said trustees and were appointed to such places, presumably as a result of the infamous charges they made.

The nature of the charges can be best estimated by a comparison of the expenses of Clerk Ormsby, to attend the meeting of said committee at Roseburg and return to Salem, and the expenses of Hon. Chas. Nickell, the member of the old board of trustees who had the largest bill.

The members of the legislative committee, outside of their per diem, were allowed, for expenses \$45 each, including clerk Ormsby. Mr. Ormsby, however, eliminated traveling from the expenses as claimed to the secretary of state that he had a pass on the road and hence deducted \$11.60, leaving \$33.40 when he took for expenses incurred aside from railroad fare. Mr. Nickell's expenses from Jacksonville to Roseburg and return for precisely the same time that the committee occupied in making their trip, and for a longer distance than from Salem to Roseburg by several miles, including railroad fare, was \$27.50 and Mr. Ormsby's without railroad fare was \$33.40. This one comparison shows the animus of the entire report of the legislative committee, and brands every man who put his name to that report as a base villain.

B. F. Alley, who held the honorable position of Senator in the legislature and was by self assumption, in fact charge of legislation for the benefit of the Soldiers' Home, and chairman of the committee making the investigation report, totally neglected to procure any essential aid for the Home, though having it in his power to procure such aid. Representative Sehlbrede of Roseburg, had a carefully prepared bill appropriating \$7000 for absolutely necessary buildings and improvements at the Home, which had received the sanction of the governor so that it would not be vetoed, passed through the house. Senator Alley had an amendment to the law creating the Soldiers' Home, containing among its many items but one of any benefit to the Home—that one being a provision making the government appropriation for Soldiers' Home available for its immediate use, passed by the senate. Representative Sehlbrede agreed with Senator Alley to call up in the house Alley's amendment and have it passed, Alley to call up Sehlbrede's appropriation bill and have it passed in the senate, such a role existing in both houses. Sehlbrede carried out his agreement and Alley's almost needless amendment became a law, but Alley failed on his part, though having ample time before the senate revoked the law allowing special measures to be called, and Sehlbrede's essential appropriation bill died in the hands of the resentful Alley, and the Home received no appropriation for additional buildings and improvements. In fact the true interests of the Soldiers' Home were totally overlooked by two men who assumed control of the work before the legislature.

Messrs. Alley and Ormsby, in their greed for places in the board of trustees, and in their malicious work of promulgating a false report to injure the character of comrades on the old board of trustees, that they might be the gainers by so doing.

In personal expense the secretary of the old board would remark that the records will show the average cost of his trips to Roseburg for the Soldiers' Home, were only a few cents above \$17.00, while at the one meeting of the new board so far held, under the much boasted regime of economy and honesty, the Marion county members, who should compare the nearest with the old secretary in expense incurred, the distance to travel being but little more, is as follows: S. B. Ormsby \$20.19, J. P. Robertson \$17.74. Considering the incentive to make a record placed before them by the infamous if not famous legislative committee report, it will be seen that the new board of trustees draw their items of expense very much after the example of the old board, and give, by their action, the lie direct to the accusation of Messrs. Alley and Ormsby, the authors of the legislative committee report, that the members of the old board had drawn money in excess of their expenses.

As the fathers of preparatives to the new board of trustees carried out, in their only meeting yet held, the work set on foot by the authors of the legislative committee report, Messrs. Alley and Ormsby, who are also the controllers of the new board of trustees. As an example of this I need but refer to their widely published, loudly boasted of, list of reductions in expenses at the Home. Two items will illustrate the whole matter, one being the salary of the matron which they announce as having cut down from \$650 per annum to \$400. A reference to their own infamous legisla-

tive committee report will show that they had already found out that the matron's salary was only \$30 per month, which falls several hundred dollars below \$650 a year. But it did not serve their purpose to tell the truth in the matter, any more than it did in stating that the secretary's salary was \$100 per year, just double what it actually was. No one can raise objections to the official present in charge of the Soldiers' Home, but this cut in the salaries of the same, made by the new board of trustees out of a desire to cast opprobrium upon the old board, is a shame and a disgrace, for Oregon is able and willing to support her Soldiers' Home as liberally as she does her other state institutions, and on a footing some where near to like homes in other states.

One word in reference to the accusation made against the secretary of the board of trustees, that he accepted the salary of secretary while some one else performed the services. If the services were well performed, and no one can say to the contrary, and the pay for the same collected but once, it concerns no one but the secretary and the one he may have engaged to do the work. Suffice it to say the work was well done, and during the time I acted as secretary, the state was asked to pay for the work only once, and the assistance given me by other persons was satisfactorily settled for by myself and not by the state.

It might not be amiss to mention that Clerk Ormsby was thoroughly well informed of the entire work of the old board of trustees in every particular, long before he went with the legislative investigating committee, and still his name is attached to a petition asking the governor to appoint the president of the old board of trustees, Mr. J. W. Muller, as one of the members of the new board, and not one whit of added information ever came into his possession after signing that petition, until he helped to promulgate the report accusing Mr. Muller of crimes and misdemeanors.

Comment on such work is unnecessary. In conclusion it would say that this explanation is not in the spirit of casting a club to injure any individual, but simply to defend the smallest honor and integrity, which is not only the privilege of every citizen, but his duty owing to himself and the community in which he lives. The old board of trustees consisting of J. W. Muller, president; Jas. Byron, vice president; Chas. Nickell, treasurer; S. S. Train, secretary, and A. J. Bellows, performed their duties under adverse circumstances, and accomplished results which every fair minded man adjudges to be praiseworthy.

Three of this board were members of the Grand Army of the Republic, and still the Grand Army members of the committee make their maliciously false and libelous report, hiding their heads behind the "right of a legislative committee." The Soldiers' Home should receive the active and intelligent support of every patriotic citizen, and be removed as far as possible from the selfish political intrigue and influence under which it has apparently fallen, and the earnest desire is expressed that such a condition may be early accomplished.

In the full spirit of F. C. and L. I remain, S. S. TRAIN, Secretary of Old Board of Trustees.

ANTI-MONOPOLY. He is Opposed to the Railroad to Coos Bay.

TO THE EDITOR: My heart beats with joy, and my blood has again taken up its regular course and I am a happy man, for I see by the last Review that the prospects are not favorable for this poor, downtrodden people to be further crushed and ground down by another railroad monopoly. I was awfully afraid that the Coos Bay road company would want only a few thousand dollars, and that our people would foolishly jump in and make it up, and thus enable another mighty corporation to get a hold upon our already poverty stricken country.

It is true that such an enterprise would employ a few men and teams, and use a few ties, and enable the farmer to sell a few bushels of wheat and oats, and a few tons of hay, and a few bushels of potatoes, and a few loads of cabbage, and the storekeeper to sell a few pairs of overalls, socks, woolen shirts and cloth-hopper shoes, a few picks and shovels, a few sacks of flour, a few pounds of coffee and sugar and a few yards of cheap calico, it might perhaps enable the farmer to get a few cents for his wheat, oats, barley and potatoes, a few cents more per pound for his wool, punes, and hops and beef and bacon, but what are such trifles to the working people, as compared with the disadvantages we would have to endure?

It would prevent the monthly stage-hold up, and the poor fellow who now has charge of that job, would in all probability become a common tramp, then the stage driver would also be out of a job, and the horses now employed on the stage line would have to be sold for almost nothing to the factory in Portland to be made into corn beef. But, Mr. Editor, this is not the worst feature. The poor stage company that now has been scrambling to make some feeble living with passenger rates at \$7.00 to Coos Bay, would have to quit, and we would be compelled to pay the exorbitant rate of about \$4.00 to a grinding monopoly, and instead of having to pay to the poor stage company only about \$20.00 per ton for freight, we would be compelled to pay this grinding, grinding, crushing monopoly about \$2.00 per ton. Everybody knows, without being told, that the railroads are the ruin of any country. Don't we remember how it used to be here, how all of our goods used to be brought by teams from Scottsburg? But as I said, the railroads have ruined us entirely, they have brought into our midst lots of money, they have ruined our sheep and cattle ranges, and planted out great orchards, so I tell you that the times here are not now what they used to be. I remember that a long time ago a man by the name of Sam Ramp of the Willamette Valley came through this valley with two or three wagon loads of fat bacon, and sold it readily through this country for \$1.00 per pound. Suppose Mr. Ramp should come here with his old und-covered wagons, filled with fat, greasy hog meat, what do you think he could get for it? Not very much I warrant you.

The railroads are responsible for the whole business. The silver business is not a failure, it is a success, the greatest crime next to railroads, but the railroads are responsible for our present trouble. They have ruined the freight business,

and caused our farmers to be crowded on to little bits of ground, because of the lot of people that have been forced upon us; and the capitalist with his money has been brought here, and if we want to borrow any of it, he charges us interest, whereas, it used to be, that if one neighbor wanted to borrow a ton of flour, he could go and get it, and the next year pay it back if he was able, and no interest to pay. And as I said before, these railroads make but a very little benefit in some directions, but I assure you that if you tolerate one of them in the country, it will be wanting to make a profit on every little thing it does for you, and in this way it will be grinding our life blood out of us.

At present I am studying the silver question some, and would like at some future time to instruct the people through your paper upon this question, but I will wait until I know I have the last bit of breath knocked out of this Coos Bay railroad scheme. If any one thinks that he can answer my unanswerable arguments, let him sail in. Signing for the good old times of seventy years ago, I am, your friend, these latter day innovations. The ox team was good enough for my grandfather, so it is good enough for the petty upstarts of today.

Yours for solid comfort, ANTI-MONOPOLY.

THE REAL NEW WOMAN.

I own there are brights that she cannot stain. She is not at home with a gun. In pastimes where one living creature is slain. She cannot tolerate any fun. And never a poor feathered songster has died. Her hat or her bonnet to grace. And after the bounds it were torture to ride. Last Raymond should lose in the race.

And much she ignores that new women should learn. And still she refuses to smoke. One wine from another she cannot discern. But she's splendid at setting a joke. Her love and her friendship no foe can fret. No jealousy seems to alarm. In truth, not a mortal could ever forget. Her humor, her kindness, her charm.

Though dozens of friends of her fealty boast. Her desk with epistles is packed. Her very own relatives love her the most. A somewhat remarkable fact. With boys and with fools she ungrudgingly bears. And though it may end in her loss. With calms she never can wrangle for fare. Or haggle a counter across.

Her eyes, that are loyal and fearless and kind. At wrong or injustice will flame. But they never seem anxious a failure to find. They never are hasty to blame. And still she is loved by the best and the worst.

For sympathy, courage and truth. For friendship, and for love, her, the first. The last for her infinite truth.

Oh, what if she never should die or should die. In regions by woman untrod! Yet when her step passes men turn from de-spair. And trust in the world and in God. Oh, what if no "record" she dares to eclipse. Her manners more morals defined? But pain she would face with a smile on her lips. And death with a light in her eyes. —London Judy.

The New Jersey Legislature has followed the lead of the New York legislature in throwing out an anti-high woman's hat at public amusements bill. It now remains for the New Jersey women to follow the example set by many of the fashionable New York women in discarding the use of the too high hat in all places where it can discommode other people.

By the way, it seems to me that the far too high woman's hat ought not to be worn in church any more than at theater or concert. It may prevent the person who sits behind from witnessing the church ceremonies or from seeing the clergyman. A row of these too high hats in a pew may prevent a lot of people from beholding the things which ought not to be beyond their vision. The loveliness of a lovely woman in the street, or in her carriage, or in an elevated train, or in a trolley or horse car may, however, be enhanced by the wearing of a hat that is as high and as ornamental as she pleases or as her purse will justify. —New York Sun.

The selection for chairman of the New York and Brooklyn committees of the exhibit of women's inventions at the Atlanta exposition of Mrs. Lena Sittig of Brooklyn is a most felicitous one. Mrs. Sittig is the daughter of an inventor or who has nobly sustained her birthright, her several inventions having gained her wide fame and credit. Her latest and best known invention, that of the safety bicycle skirt, is now being considered by its clever designer for adaptation to a much more liberal use. It may help considerably in the solution of the much discussed dress reform question. Under Mrs. Sittig's competent auspices inventions of women, so far as these two cities are concerned, are sure to be well represented at the southern fair next autumn. —New York Times.

The Household of Princess Alix. Shortly after the arrival of Princess Alix in Livadia she was given a large album, containing more than a thousand photographs of members of the Russian aristocracy, some of whom were eventually to be chosen to form the household of the princess on her becoming empress. With every picture was a biography and a short description of the character and disposition of the original. It is said, however, that Princess Alix immediately returned the book, accompanied by a letter in her own handwriting, to the effect that she preferred to submit to the guidance of her future husband in all such matters rather than trust to any passing impression she herself might receive from mere portraits. —London Queen.

The Browning Memorial. The scheme to erect a memorial to Elizabeth Barrett Browning at Ledbury, Herefordshire, England, projected over a year ago, has assumed proportions which warrant complete success, and its promoters confidently expect to dedicate it in June. The memorial will be in the form of an institute and clock tower. The building will contain a reading room, library and assembly hall.

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