

Cottage Grove Leader

A LOCAL PAPER FIT FOR ANY HOME—PROGRESSIVE, NEWSY, INDEPENDENT

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VETERANS' RANKS THINNING FAST

Seven Old Veterans Every Hour is the Grim Reaper's Toll

This Memorial day's rollcall will show that more than three-fourth of the Civil War's Blue and Gray braves have gone beyond.

They tell me at the pension office that our Union veterans are now dying off at the rate of 100 a day. As deduced from the best figures procurable the death rate of our Confederate veterans must be about 70 a day. This means a grand total of more than seven per hour—more than one every 10 minutes, says J. E. Watkins in the Sunday Oregonian.

In the vast cities of graves to be decorated this year, those of our Civil War soldiers and sailors alone number 2,685,000. If dug side by side they would constitute a great metropolis of the dead more populous than Chicago, Berlin or Vienna. Of these graves, some 2,020,000 have been dug since the surrender of Appomattox.

To help lay wreaths upon these millions of comrades' tombs there will be surviving on Memorial day, this year, but about 856,000 Civil War veterans—some 63,000 less than could pay this tribute a year ago. And of these about 500,000 are Union and about 350,000 are Confederate veterans. The average age of these survivors is now past the 70-year mark, and the grim reaper is exacting interest from the veteran armies at an annual rate which has gone above 6 per cent. During the past spring the death rate of our Union pensioners alone has risen close to 3200 in a single month (March), for spring is always the hardest month on people of advanced years—even harder than Winter. Midsummer, too, exacts a heavy tribute from this class, more than 3100 pensioned survivors of the Union Army having answered their last rollcall in August of the past year, whereas the monthly average of their deaths for the months of last Autumn was scarcely above 2500, from which there was a steady increase through last winter and spring.

Diminished by such a death rate, how long will our Civil War veterans last? In what year will the last survivors of that bitter struggle be finally mustered out?

By an ingenious system of computation Major-General Frederick C. Ainsworth, who lately retired as Adjutant-General of the Army, some time ago figured out this very point for the assistance of Congressmen concerned with pension legislation. Although the actual number of men who saw Civil War service had never been officially determined, General Ainsworth concluded, after considerable research, that 2,213,365 individuals were engaged on the Union side, 2,128,948 of these being in the Army and 84,417 in the Navy. As 364,116 of these died and 121,983 deserted during the war, there were 1,727,363 Union veterans alive at the time of the grand review at the end of the struggle. As our pension statistics have never accounted for any known proportion of Civil War survivors, since many veterans, because of prosperity or from senti-

mental reasons, have never applied for pensions, there was no accurate guide to the deathrate of this class of men. So General Ainsworth sought to apply insurance tables for the expectation of life to the entire class of survivors.

Two questions now had to be considered by the General: Would the shock of battle, the hardships and privations of field, camp and prison bring the "expectation of life" for these veterans below the average? Or were these survivors a selected class, which by the law of the survival of the fittest might expect a life above the average for duration? The General split the difference and determined that the probable average duration of life was about the same for veterans and non-veterans alike. So he applied his tables and determined that there will be 429,727 Union veterans left in 1915, 551,727 in 1920, 116,073 in 1925, 37,033 in 1930, 6296 in 1935 and only 340 in 1940.

The last Civil War veteran will die in 1945, according to this interesting computation. Of course, General Ainsworth's figures cover only the Union Army. Inasmuch as our Union veterans have been better cared for than those of the Confederate side, and as there were about a half million more Union than Confederate troops in the war, it might be assumed that the last Civil War veteran will wear the blue.

How old will this last survivor be, if these figures prove true? He will live to see the eighty-fourth anniversary of Sumpter and the eightieth anniversary of Lee's surrender. This would mean that if 16 when the war broke out and 20 when it closed, he would die at the age of 100—an assumption not at all extravagant. According to the official records, pension claims have lately been allowed to Civil War veterans as old as 103, 107 and even 108. Indeed, the great longevity of pensioners, as a general class, is proverbial. Assurance that there will always be provision for the needs of life baushies that anxiety of mind which is the forerunner of disease and physical collapse.

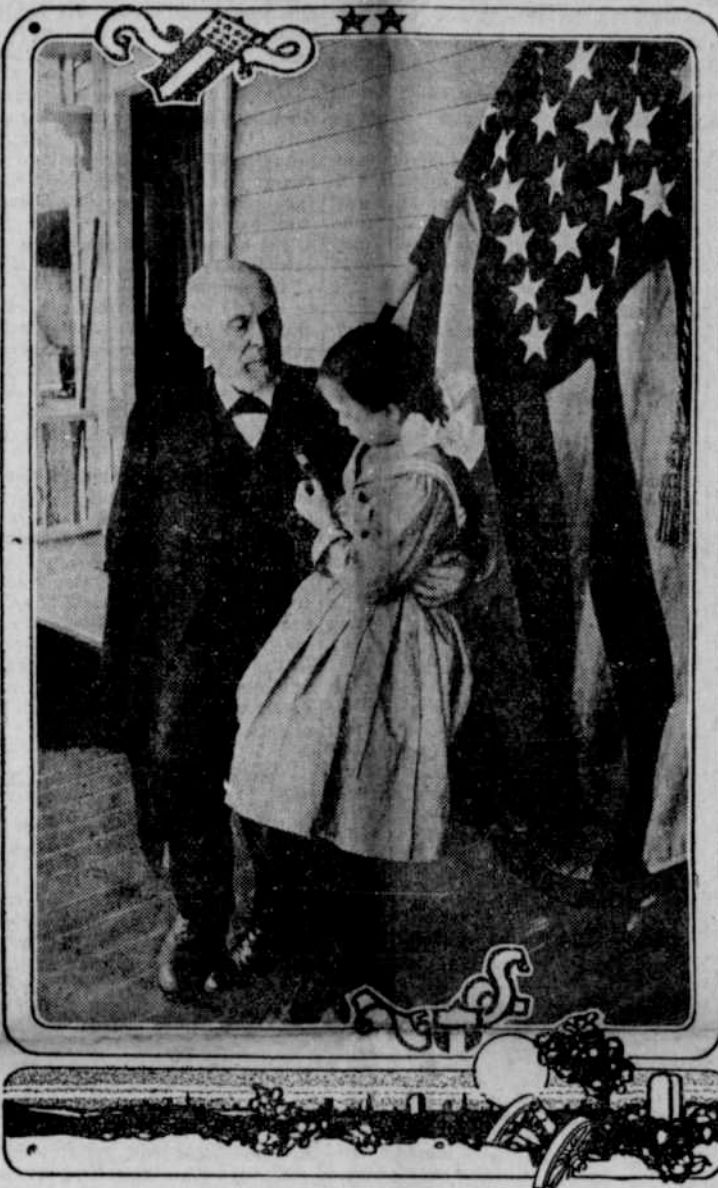
So it may be said that General Ainsworth's figures are conservative, to say the least. Many survivors of the Civil War were boys of only 16 and even younger in the last year of that struggle. In 1945 such of these as survive will be 96. Such as reach their hundredth birthday will live until 1949, and there is good reason for the prediction that there will be some with us in 1950.

The last surviving pensioner of the War of 1812, Hiram Cronk, of Ava, N. Y., died as late as May 13, 1905, and the age of 105 years and 16 days, according to the pension rolls. If his record is equaled by any of the younger veterans who enlisted in the War of Secession at 16, during the last year of that struggle, we will have a Civil War veteran with us in the flesh 42 years hence, or as late as the year of 1954.

The last survivor of the Revolution Daniel F. Bakeman, according to the pension records died at Freedom, Cattaraugus County, New York, as late as April 5, 1869, at the age of 109 years 6 months and 8 days. He was a youth of 16 when independence was declared, was 22 when Cornwallis surrendered and he lived to see the war of 1812, the Mexican and Civil wars fought to a finish, the administration of Andrew Johnson brought to a close and that of Grant commenced.

Now the gardens are making up for lost time.

Grandpa, Who Fought at First Bull Run, Tells Bessie About the Battle



LOCAL, COUNTY, STATE AND GENERAL NEWS OF INTEREST

The postoffice at Hazeldell, in this county, has been moved to Oakridge and will bear that name in the future.

An aeroplane constructed by an Albany man will be one of the attractions at the fourth of July celebration in that city this year.

One million five hundred thousand dollars have been paid out in Eugene during the past ten months by railroad companies for timber lands and other property needed in the course of their construction work.

Van B. Pierce, wife and baby, returned to Cottage Grove last Thursday from Coquille, Coos county, where Mr. Pierce has held the position of foreman on the Coquille Herald since last fall. He was foreman on the LEADER under Editor Conner's management for a couple of years and he has many friends here, his wife's mother also residing here, where Mrs. Pierce is well and favorably known. They report a rather hard trip out by stage to Roseburg the roads still being quite muddy.

Hon. John Dimmick, a former Salem attorney, lost his life on the 22nd inst. being burned to death in attempt to save valuable papers from his burning home at Hubbard. He was alone at the time his house caught on fire, and being unable to extinguish the flames he made an attempt at saving the contents of the house, and his charred remains were found in the room in which his records and most valuable papers were kept. Several articles of furniture were in the yard where he had carried them out and placed them.

The farm home of Mr. and Mrs. F. Renne near Creswell burned last week.

After all these years a cure for the dread and loathsome disease, leprosy, is finally announced.

F. J. Hard returned from a trip to his Bohemia mines Wednesday and reports his losses from the fire at the Vesuvius tunnel house being repaired as rapidly as possible.

The Eugene Fruit Growers' Association started up their cannery the last of the week, putting up a quantity of gooseberries and asparagus. From present fruit and berry prospects, this cannery will have a large run this year.

Rufus C. Arne has been appointed by Judge Thompson administrator of the estate of his father, the late W. H. Arne of this city. The estate is supposed to be worth about \$2500. F. B. Phillips, W. H. Abrams and Andrew Brund were appointed appraisers.

Rev. A. S. Mason returned home Friday from a pleasant sojourn in Southern California, where he visited Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara and other prominent cities in that state. He saw a fine lemon orchard near San Diego which appealed to him as a home investment and as to prices, he said they were very reasonable. Other things to attract his attention and admiration was a ten-acre sweet pea field, grown for a wholesale seed house, fine orange groves, grape vineyards and alfalfa as high as his head. Mr. Mason is a native of California and never tires of singing its praises, yet he says he is fascinated with Cottage Grove and says our climate and country is hard to beat anywhere.

Circus Got Wet in a Dry Town.

The Sells-Floto circuit aggregation arrived in this city Sunday morning on schedule time from Roseburg, and proceeded to pitch its big tents in a down pour of rain and after a night of continuous rain-fall. The ground was soft and considerable difficulty was experienced in moving the big wagons and putting up the various tents. However, by noon the sun peeped forth and a fairly good sized crowd assembled, one-half of which was supplied by Row river valley from which saw-milling and farming community an excursion was run by the O. & S. E. Railroad Co. There was also quite a number of people in from Divide, Comstock and Drain. The price of admission having been reduced to 25 cents a much larger attendance was anticipated and had the circus visited this city on a week day the big tents would all have been filled to their capacity. While many of the best bare-back and racing features could not be pulled off here, owing to the muddy and slippery condition of the ground, the show was up to its usual high standard. The menagerie was one of the interesting features and many fine horses and ponies were in evidence. The street parade, one of the big attractions dispensed with here on account of the attraction falling on Sunday. This circus carries with it a very orderly crowd and no disturbances of any kind were reported. But one performance was given here, 2 o'clock in the afternoon, after which the big show was put on board the cars in the presence of a large crowd and in the evening pulled out for Eugene where it was advertised for Monday.

Change in Bellingham Store.

Sam H. McKernan of the firm of Wood & McKernan, proprietors of the Bellingham New and Second Hand Goods Store, sold his interest Monday to Mr. J. P. Graham of Eugene, the new firm to be styled Wood & Graham. This establishment has in a few short months built up a good business by the fair and courteous treatment of customers and under its new management the business will continue to grow. Mr. Graham is a very exemplary young man, experienced in business pursuits, courteous and obliging, and with Mr. Wood, who is so well and favorably known here, success in their line is assured. The new firm solicits a share of the public patronage. Mr. McKernan has not fully decided upon a future business investment. The LEADER joins in extending Mr. Graham a hearty welcome to this city and wishes him and Mr. Wood success as well as the retiring member of the old firm.

Notice of Dissolution.

Notice is hereby given that the firm of Wood & McKernan has this day been dissolved by mutual consent, S. H. McKernan retiring. All outstanding bills will be paid by the new firm to whom all accounts are also payable.

GEO. E. WOOD
S. H. MCKERNAN

Stores Will Close Thursday.

It was voted by the Board of Trade at a recent meeting to close all merchandise stores of this city, by mutual consent, on Thursday, Decoration Day at 10 o'clock a. m. for the day. Patrons of the various stores should bear this in mind and do their trading early.

"How's everything at your home?" asked Jones. "Oh," replied Brown, "she's alright."

FOR CREATION NEW COUNTIES

New Law to be Drafted at Portland Next Thursday

Portland, May 27—An initiative measure, providing for the formation of new counties and the consolidation of cities by vote of the people directly affected, will be submitted to the voters at the general election next November. Under the present plan, the question of the creation of a new county or the consolidation of two or more municipalities must be submitted under the initiative and approved by a majority vote of the electors of the entire state.

The proposed measure leaves the determination of these questions to the people of the county or counties, city or cities interested.

Decision to offer such a measure in the next general election was reached yesterday at a conference held in the Imperial Hotel by committees representing the citizens of Seaside, St. John and Cottage Grove.

As a result of this meeting, a special committee, consisting of the City Attorneys of the three municipalities, was appointed to draft a bill on the subject. This committee, which consists of A. W. Norblad, of Seaside; J. C. Johnson, of Cottage Grove, and Perry C. Stroud, of St. Johns, will meet at St. Johns next Thursday and prepare the initiative bill.

The need for such legislation, under which these questions can be settled by the people directly concerned, was suggested to the people of the three municipalities by a recent decision of the Supreme Court in the St. Johns case, in which the state law of 1893, under which St. Johns voted to consolidate with Portland, was annulled.

Through the enactment of the proposed measure the forces that are behind it point out that the procedure for disposing of the questions involved will be simplified, besides relieving all of the voters of the state from being called upon to pass on the creation of a new county or the consolidation of cities, with the merits of which they have no knowledge.

Yesterday's conference was attended by the following citizens of the three cities: Seaside, Mayor Gilbert and City Attorney Norblad; St. Johns, City Attorney Stroud and S. C. Cook; Cottage Grove, City Attorney Johnson, B. K. Lawson and O. M. Kem. The meeting effected an organization by electing Mr. Kem chairman and Mr. Stroud secretary.

"The purpose of this volunteer organization," said Mr. Kem, "is to draft a bill that will enable the people of any section of the state to create a new county or to consolidate cities when desired by the proper number of voters directly involved, without being required to go before the people of the entire state with an initiative measure as at present. In the last general election the voters were called upon to pass on eight initiative bills for the creation of new counties, and every one of them was defeated, beaten because the average elector, not being in a position to know the merits of either of the measures, voted against them all."

"We feel that the determination of these questions in all cases should be left to the people, who are directly concerned and who are in a position intelligently to pass on their merits. In drafting our proposed bill we will establish a minimum as to the area, the assessed valuation and the population of the territory sought to be formed into a new county. The measure also will provide for safeguarding existing counties by preventing the appropriation of territory from an old county in the creation of a new county, to the extent that the area, assessable valuation and population of the old county will be reduced below the minimum established for new counties."—Oregonian.