

# The Forest Grove Express

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W. C. Benfer, Editor and Publisher.

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THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1916

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

### "Ain't it Fine Today"

"What's the use of always weepin'  
Makin' trouble last?  
What's the use of always keepin'  
Thinkin' of the past?  
Each must have his tribulation,  
Water with his wine.  
Life, it ain't no celebration.  
Trouble? I've had mine—  
But today is fine.

"It's today I'm livin',  
Not a month ago;  
Havin' losin', takin', givin',  
As time wills it so.  
Yesterday a cloud of sorrow  
Fell across the way;  
It may rain again tomorrow.  
It may rain—but say,  
Ain't it fine today!"

—Exchange

Several of the Washington county editors were so busy electioneering last week they didn't find out there had been a suicide near Buxton until they read the information in the Express and other papers.

A local paper devotes three columns of space to explaining why it charged only half as much one year for publishing the delinquent tax list as on a previous occasion. But not a word of explanation as to why one of its owners purchased plumbing supplies in Portland.

Considering the way in which Great Britain has rode the Irish for the past two hundred years, the recent outbreak is not surprising. The only wonder is that it didn't come sooner. And John Bull isn't endearing himself to his Irish troops by inflicting the maximum penalty on the captured rebels.

The Amity Standard reports a fine flow of natural gas from a well three miles from Amity. The well has been capped to con-

serve the gas and prevent it catching fire. Washington county is just now hearing an awful escape of gas, but it would be dangerous to cap the escapes, for that might cause the bursting of some of the politicians from whom the gas emanates.

P. T. Barnum, the veteran showman was in the habit of saying that there was "a sucker born every minute" in these United States. Yes, and some of them live right here in Forest Grove. Last week a peddler was selling "picnic hams" (shoulders) quite freely about town at 19c a pound, when a half-dozen markets and stores are selling them at 15c. People who buy from peddlers should keep a little better posted on market prices.

"The people of Hillsboro are a friendly bunch," remarked a Forest Grove man. "When I went there the other day, nearly every man I met shook hands with me and many of them gave me cards. When I got ready to come home I had cards enough for a euchre deck. But I found so many of them were 'jokers' that I threw them all away." Yes, this really happened and if you don't believe it, ask Sam Walker.

The editor of the Express has never met Wm. Schulmerich, democratic candidate for the legislature, but if he is as popular as his colleagues, Miss Langley of this city and H. V. Meade of Orenco, the democrats have a legislative ticket that will be hard to beat. Dr. R. M. Erwin of Hillsboro, the candidate for the senate, is also very well liked and fully qualified for the position to which his admirers have nominated him.

## VETERANS' REUNION A HUGE SUCCESS

(Continued from page One)

The acting secretary then read a brief sketch of the history of the G. A. R., which was as follows. "The Grand Army of the Republic is a society of soldiers and sailors who took part on the Union side during the civil war. At a meeting of ex-volunteers at Decatur, Ill., April 6, 1866, a society was planned to perpetuate the memories of the recent war. The idea spread and at a preliminary convention a few months afterward a constitution was drawn up and was ratified at the first regular convention at Indianapolis, Ind., November 20, 1866, where 40 posts were represented. Its declared objects were to bring together into a brotherhood all soldiers and sailors of the Union cause, to secure their recognition before the public, to care for their widows and orphans, and to cultivate a spirit of devotion to the Union.

At the next convention, held in Philadelphia two years later, it was resolved to set apart May 30th of each year for the decoration of the graves of Union soldiers and sailors, and congress, at its next session, passed an act making Decoration Day a national holiday." This bit of history and motives back of the G. A. R. was interesting as well as instructive to those present.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic will occur upon the 20th of November, next.

As the semi-annual meeting of the Grand Army and Relief Corps falls regularly upon the first

Thursday in October, the plan of holding the fiftieth anniversary celebration in connection with the October meeting was discussed and referred to a committee.

It was decided to hold the next meeting October 5th, at Cornelius, with a picnic basket dinner.

An appropriate little memorial service was held for the comrades who had passed away since the last meeting. The congregation sang "Nearer, My God, to Thee," followed by a beautiful prayer by the chaplain. The secretary read the names with a bit of history with each one of those who had answered the last roll call.

These were Charles Knapp of Forest Grove, C. C. Hoopes of Beaverton, Edwin Cole of near Forest Grove, and Benjamin K. Haines and George Ledford.

"Shall We Gather at the River," was feelingly sung by the assembly.

Just before adjourning for dinner it was voted to send resolutions of sympathy to Comrade Beach, who was unable to attend on account of injuries received in an accident.

Immediately after adjournment the drum corps played a few pieces, but the scent from the dining room grew savory and strong, and knowing what good dinners the Relief Corps always furnishes, the musicians could play no longer and filed into the dining room to partake of the sumptuous chicken dinner. The dining room, containing two long tables, was filled three times, and each room full

came out enthusiastic about the excellent dinner. While the second and third installments of hungry people were being served those in waiting were again entertained by some good, old-time music of fife and drum, which was played across the street from the hall, in front of the American National Bank. One of the men with a snare drum deftly plied the self-same sticks that he used in the civil war.

At 2 o'clock the assembly was again called to order by the president and another selection by the fife and drum corps was enjoyed.

The congregation then rose and was led in prayer by Rev. Clarke of Forest Grove. Following this, was one of the hits of the program, a duet by two of "the boys"—Comrades Rush and Sias. The audience showed its delight by hearty applause and the singers came back with a clever encore.

The address of welcome was given by Rev. E. A. Smith of Hillsboro. There was a sparkle of witticism running through it which added to the enjoyment of this really welcoming speech, which showed how, even between the two factions there was "malice toward none, and charity for all; with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right."

The man before them was a man who had risen to his present position in cultured society through broad mindedness and a thorough disdain for petty feuds and class prejudice.

He said in a vein of humor that it was fitting that he should give the address of welcome because his father gave them a warm welcome in the south in '61, but went on to say that the fact that they were there indicated that he didn't make a very good hit. They made a good hit with him, however, for he came home wounded in two places.

He said the blues and the grays were never enemies, but opponents. This is a correct and pleasing distinction, and the fact that there was no individual ill will was proved by his presence there and his giving of the address of welcome. The G. A. R. men are and ever have been men of principle. No other order can boast of such a generous, warm-hearted group of men and women as compose the Grand Army and Relief Corps. They fought for the flag, and the flag stands for the protection of the unfortunate and for everything that is worthy. They were and are lovers of peace, but not peace at any price; not when it means the sacrifice of honor and the down-treading of the helpless.

They represent a past age—these men. After they are gone, no more shall we hear the old-fashioned fife and drum music which always thrills us and sets our blood tingling.

In Holmes' "Last Leaf" the veteran is whimsically referred to as the last leaf upon the tree. They are now only a few clinging last leaves of that great army of loyal hearts. Since the frost of time has whitened their hair they are better men and citizens, and the battles fought and won since the close of the war have been greater than those fought in uniform.

He gave a pleasing welcome and tribute to the Ladies of the Relief Corps. What should the "boys in blue" have done without the girls in calico who "stayed by the stuff?"

It added to the interest in this able speaker to know he is a Spanish War Veteran.

The response to the welcome was given by Rev. Holmes of Forest Grove. He began by expressing his appreciation of the Grand Army and of the splendid repast which had just been enjoyed. He said he came before them in the condition as was the man who after a banquet rose to give his address and began by saying "Gentlemen, we have just been having turkey stuffed with sage. Now you have sage stuffed with turkey." He said the old men of the G. A. R. and the young women of the Relief Corps enjoyed being appreciated by the younger people. And by the beaming faces present it was unmistakably demonstrated that

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they did enjoy the splendid tribute paid them and the vital message brought them by this man of modern times. He said it was not houses and lands or any other like possession which make a nation great, but men; men true and tried and men who are followers of the one great Man who ever walked this earth.

He said he feared no outward foe; he had no fear of Germany or any other nation; but the one great object that should and does cause alarm is that greatest foe of all humanity, Self. The deadly enemy of this prosperous United States is avarice—that greed for gold, which excludes all that is higher and nobler. The question before America today is not how to protect ourselves in order to be able to withstand the possible assault of some other nation, but "Can America stand prosperity without becoming money-mad and can we enjoy our easily obtained livelihood without losing the virile manhood and staunch womanhood which characterized our ancestors?"

He said the G. A. R. stood for real manhood. They who have had to pass through life handicapped because of inability to secure thorough education during the strenuous early days, who fought for integrity and uprightness in the civil war, they are the ones who must help solve the problems of American social life and hold high the banner of work and self-denial to the younger generation.

Mr. Holmes' talk was brim-full of sound doctrine, epigrams and sparkles of humor and was highly appreciated by those who heard it.

Mrs. E. B. Tongue delightfully rendered "I Hear a Thrush at Eve" and came back with the pleasing encore "I Love You Truly."

Mrs. J. L. Butler favored the audience with a beautiful instrumental selection, followed by a song by the ladies quartette. One felt carried back to the days of the civil war as they listened to the martial music and old war songs.

The solo by President Butler was beautiful and extraordinarily sung, for a man of his age.

The harmonious duet by Comrades Rush and Sias was touchingly sung.

Comrade Grant gave a long and well-rendered reading, which related to the civil war, beginning "The charm that gathers us today is a common interest in the cause of right." These lines were the key note in the bugle call which summoned the boys to don the blue and go to the front in '61.

At the close of the program James Wilkes, a veteran son of a father who fought in the war of 1812, stepped upon the platform and sang a fitting song for the occasion, which he had learned 80 years ago. All present enjoyed this unique feature of the program.

A large crowd from Washington county was in attendance, also some comrades from Portland and State Commander Harding of Oregon City.

### Rural Carrier Examination

The United States Civil Service Commission announces an examination for the county of Washington, to be held at Forest Grove, Hillsboro and Gaston on Saturday, May 27, to fill vacancies that may exist in said county. Postmasters at the places named will furnish application blanks.

Ezra Meeker, the celebrated trail-blazer, who drove an ox team from Olympia, Wash., to report to congress "conditions and the probable cost of building a national trans-continental military highway," left the national capital April 28th for the return trip. He is returning in an auto, rigged up like a prairie schooner and calls his conveyance a "schoonermobile." Meeker is 85 years old.

The Express is prepared to meet the prices of traveling calendar salesmen in lots of 100 or more.

The people who have been giving moving picture shows in the Langley building have sold their outfit to Hillsboro people and discontinued the shows in this city.

Job printing—phone 821.

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