

# The Santiam News

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### MEMORIAL DAY

LAST TUESDAY was the anniversary of the 46th Memorial Day, which was observed, not only by the old veterans of the Civil war, but by the citizens in general throughout the United States, north and south, east and west.

Immediately after the closing of the Civil war, a number of the soldiers who had participated in the struggle, met at Springfield, Illinois, and organized the Grand Army of the Republic. General John A. Logan, the greatest of volunteer soldiers, was made the commander in chief. One of the measures enacted by the new order, was to appoint May 30 as a day when the old veterans should, whenever practicable, scatter garlands of flowers upon the graves of comrades who had answered the Final Roll Call. The idea was, at once, taken up by the citizens in general, and it has grown to be a day when, almost everyone, repairs with flowers to the graves of their beloved dead.

But there is a feeling or sentiment on the part of the old veteran who decorates the graves of the comrades who have passed to the Great Beyond, that can not be felt by persons who did not participate in the struggle, especially by the generations born and reared since. The old veterans, the youngest of whom are now old men, know that they, too, must soon answer to the final trumpet call, and that while they have been permitted to live 45 years after the close of the bloodiest war of modern history, the comrade, whose grave they decorate, did his duty as they in the great struggle. They feel, as no one else can, that they are paying tribute to a comrade who was tried and true and who had assisted in perpetuating a government of, for and by the people.

No one can have just the same feeling for the fallen comrade as does the old veteran. Mayhap the departed one fought at his side at Shiloh, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, or in the final battles of the great struggle before Richmond and he feels that he is honoring the memory of a comrade who was true to the cause of liberty and the comrade at his side.

Only a few more years will elapse until the last of more than one-million men who wore the blue, will have responded "here" to the final roll call. Upon others, who knew nothing, personally, of the Civil war will devolve the duty of garlanding the graves of the dead. The Civil war veterans will soon be but a memory. Yet if the memory of his deeds, while wearing the blue, inspires the present and future generations, to guard jealously the government for which he fought, he will not have lived in vain.

There is a class of people, proud of their riches, who think but lightly of the old veteran. Indeed, some of them, will scarcely give a seat to him, even if he walks with the aid of crutches. These are the people who, instead of going to the front, stayed in safety and because of conditions, made his fortune. To people of this class, the Civil war has, altogether, a different meaning, to that inspired in the heart of the old soldier. It means to him, the period when he accumulated the fortune upon which he and his posterity have since lived in opulence. To him, the old soldier, mayhap who is a cripple and who is moneyless, appeals in vain. The old veteran may be ragged and dirty and, possibly, dissipated; yet he was one of the

boys who, at the front, created the opportunity for the purse-proud aristocrat. Had it not been for this decrepid old veteran and his comrades, he who is now a rich aristocrat, might be but a beggar. So, let us honor the old veteran, living or dead. It can be, at most, but a few years, when his call for aid and sympathy will be heard no more. Yet, if his memory inspires a love for liberty and justice among the people who lives after him; if his unselfish devotion in time of greatest trial, inspires a feeling that we have a government worth protecting, from foes without and thieves within, the veteran, even though he may have filled a pauper's grave, is worthy of having his name inscribed upon the roll of honor, alongside of that of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Grant.

### DANGER AHEAD FOR THE STATE COLLEGE

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING "A man should not bite more than he can chew." This applies to public institutions as well as to the individual. A town, county or state should not contract a debt, take on institutions or improvements, beyond its ability to pay, without working a too great hardship upon taxpayers. Oregon has violated this old saw, in burdening herself with state colleges. At the present time about one-fourth of the state's revenue is required for these institutions. A college education is a valuable asset for the young man or young woman, when starting out in life; but the question of whether or not the state should supply this asset, is a grave one. Undoubtedly the state could and would be more generous in her appropriations for the public schools, if the state colleges were not such a heavy draft. When we know that from \$200 to \$300 is expended annually for the state college student and but \$8 to \$9 for the public school pupil, no wonder that we view this great difference with disfavor. Knowing that not more than 5 per cent of the boys and girls of the state attend the state college, the parents of most of whom are abundantly able to pay for the same while, at the same time, the other 95 per cent, must be content with what the public and high schools can give, the comparison becomes the more odious. As a matter of fact, a million dollars is too much for the tax payers of Oregon to pay for the support of state colleges. The return for the investment is, practically, nothing. True the college man or woman usually make excellent, progressive citizens. But their life endeavor is for themselves and those dependent upon them. They give nothing to the state, directly, in return for the \$1500 or \$2000 expended for the graduation of each student. No wonder, then, that the referendum is invoked against these extravagant appropriations. No wonder that the sentiment is growing throughout the state against the state college. They have become simply an excrescence or leech upon the body politic. The state would like to let loose of a part, if not all of them; but where to begin is the question. But let the demand come up each year, as at the legislature at the session of last winter, and the people will, eventually, lop off the entire business. The people may continue to give these colleges a reasonable support. But there is a limit to, even, all good things.

### JUSTICE HARLAN'S DISSENT

WHILE JUSTICE HARLAN agreed with the majority of the supreme court that the Standard Oil Trust should be dissolved, he did not agree to the reading into the law of the words, "undue" and "unreasonable." The following paragraph is his opinion in part:

It is true that there has been raised for years the contention that the act of Congress did not retain reasonable contracts in restraint of trade, but only unreasonable contracts. Counsel in this court have in effect been required to take their seats for arguing in support of this contention. Since the law was enacted attempts have been made practically at every session of Congress since then, to have the law amended so as to give a legislative interpretation in support of this contention. But the fact remains that up until this day Congress has been satisfied with the law as written in this respect, and today the law stands that every contract in restraint of trade is illegal. The important fact is that it never has been amended. There is no man in this country today who does not know it will not be amended. When men of vast interests are concerned, and they cannot get law making power to enact amendments to construe the law as they desire, they spare no effort to get some case before the courts in an effort to have the courts construe the Constitution and the statutes to mean what they want them to mean. In the case of overshadowing combinations of vast wealth and power, which may be a menace to the general business of the country, a law which has bestowed a wholesome rule is to be interpreted in such a way that it will be necessary for those who have appeared as defendants to go to Congress to have it amended. The opinion today means that the courts may by mere judicial construction amend the constitution of the United States and amend the statutory laws.

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