

## Patriotic Welcome Address

By Congressman Tongue.

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Second Oregon, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is the imperative duty of every man to be a good citizen. He should devote a fair portion of his time, talents and means to uphold, elevate and defend his country, in peace or in war. This is especially true in a country like ours, where all the powers of government originate with, and should be controlled by the people. Government is for all, concerns all, and should be carried on by all the people. Our duties to our country should be as sacredly performed as our duties to our God or our families. He who does not serve his country well, does not perform his full duty to his God, his family, himself or his fellow men. Yet good men, men who are faithful to all the duties of private life, are in vastly greater numbers than good citizens who perform well their duties to the commonwealth. Those who respond properly to the demands of good citizenship, are insignificant in number, compared with those who in all other respects do their full duty as men. If the institutions of our country become endangered, if the cause of freedom suffer, if this republic ever descends from the proud position it now occupies, it will be because good men neglect to become good citizens. Because those best fitted fail to perform their public duties. Few realize the magnificent privilege of American citizenship. There is nothing to be compared with it in any other land under the sun. Ours without price, it has yet been purchased for us, enriched and preserved for us, by the blood of countless heroes, the tears of bereaved womanhood, and the toil and suffering of tens of thousands of the best we breed. It has been rendered still more glorious by the courage and labor and sacrifice of the Second Oregon Infantry, officers and privates. We are the heirs of centuries of toil, suffering, and noble achievements. The greatest evil that now threatens our country, is the fact that thousands, yes, hundreds of thousands, year after year, enjoy all of these privileges and make no return. The welfare and happiness of every man, woman and child is dependent upon the honor of their country's flag, the quality of its laws, and the proper administration of every department of its government. Our country preserves for us all that we have that makes life worth living. It protects property from the hand of violence, reputation from the tongue of slander, family honor from the invader of homes. The eloquence of Demosthenes, the music of Milton, the humanity of Shakespeare, the wisdom, devotion and patriotism of Lincoln, could not have flourished under the hand of tyranny. But to properly preserve and administer every department of a great government wisely and well, to enact and enforce good laws, and only good laws, to give to each citizen as much freedom of action as is consistent with public safety and the welfare of others, requires thought, toil, intelligent, patriotic devotion to the country's welfare. It requires the faithful conscientious performance of his public duties by every citizen of the entire country. A government like ours should be in fact, as well as in name, a government by the people, and by all the people. The man who shirks, who fails to do his part, is recreant to a most sacred duty. The man who receives the blessings and protection bestowed by a government like ours, and does not in return perform faithfully and conscientiously his own public duties, is taking something for nothing, something he has not earned, and is guilty of moral larceny. Yet there are men of wealth, the protection of whose persons and property occupies the time of our courts, the watchful care and attention of our officers, the thought and labor of our legislators, the courage and suffering and lives of our soldiers, who never in their lives gave a moment's thoughtful consideration to a single public duty. There are men of culture, educated at schools supported by the public, or by the endowment of patriotic men, who draw closely about them their robes of self-righteousness, and shrink from public duties as something that might contaminate their immaculate purity, or darken the whiteness of their hands. But even this is not all. Not content with neglecting their own public and political duties, they stimulate and encourage others to equal guilt with themselves. They point the finger of scorn at those whose public duties are well

and faithfully done. They proclaim that politics are unclean, that public men are coarse, selfish politicians; that voters are corrupt. This is a vile, damnable slander upon many men who are infinitely their superiors. But if true, at whose door lies the blame? If in the politics of some of our great cities the saloon counts for more than the church and the brothel for more than leaders of society, proclaim it to the everlasting shame of the church and society. If politics are unclean, there is greater cause for good men to be up and doing, more active and earnest and sincere in the discharge of their duty. There is no nobler calling, no more sacred duty than to assist in the enactment of good laws, in the wise, beneficent administration of a great government. It is to be in harmony with deity. It is to help God govern the world in righteousness. Intelligent and moral men in the United States are vastly in the majority. If bad men control our government, it is because good men consent, and by their suffrage and neglect become particeps criminis. Governments must be carried on, officers must be elected, laws must be enacted, national policies must be outlined and national history will be made. If good



HON. THOS. H. TONGUE.

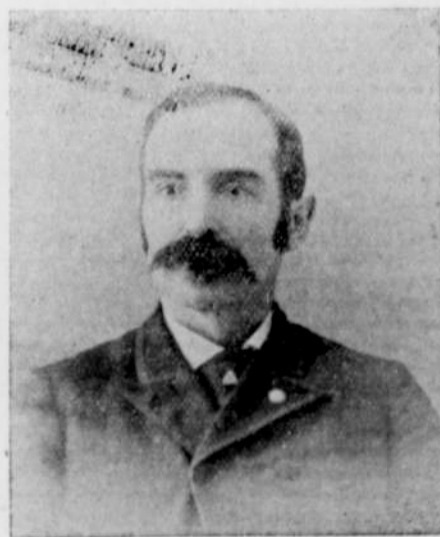
men will not do these things, bad men will. But bad men will elect bad officers, pass bad laws and make bad history. Writers and educators sometimes imagine they are doing their full public duty because engaged in diffusing general intelligence and advancing the education of the masses of our citizens. It is said that the safety and welfare of the state, the perpetuity of free institutions and especially of government by the people, is in the general intelligence of its citizens. This is a statement of only one-half the truth. Intelligence of the voter is essential to the preservation of free institutions, but it must be intelligent acting, not intelligent onlooking. Intelligence and thoughtfulness alone did not win a glorious victory at Malabon, but action, terrible and effective action. Intelligence must be wielded and directed to the object to be accomplished. When Greece and Rome were tottering to their fall, through all the period of decay there was more science, more art, more literature, more eloquence, culture, refinement and wealth than in the days of their greatness. The highest poetic gifts will not make a great surgeon. The most profound knowledge of theology and the intricacy of the various creeds will not win great battles. It was not the knowledge of theology that made Chaplain Gilbert the darling of his regiment, and the idol of all Oregon. It was that practical christianity that could fight as well as pray; that could share the danger of the boys under his charge, quench their thirst in battle, relieve the suffering of the wounded, as well as administer consolation to the dying. To be able to walk among the stars at will, and to the music of the spheres intelligently listen, would count but little in drafting laws for the repression of the trusts, or the government of the Philippine islands. The intelligence that will and must be the safety of the republic is a clear, thorough and conscientious conception of the principles of good government, and intelligent understanding of the many public questions

that are constantly arising, the tendencies, principles and aims of political parties, of the legislation needed for the welfare of the country, the best methods of administration of government, of meting out justice and preserving liberty, added to willingness to act upon the knowledge conscientiously obtained. Every voter after careful and earnest thought and conscientious investigation should decide for himself which political party, if entrusted with power, will deal with pending questions for the best interests of the common country. Having done this, he should attend every primary and every convention of his party to which he is eligible, should see that good men are nominated for official position, should endeavor to keep his party true to its principles and conduct it to success. The voter who neglects to attend the primaries without cause should not vote. A failure to vote without cause should be a crime. But it is not sufficient to inform himself and act for himself. He should do all in his power to enlighten others and induce them to help the cause of good government. The vote of the tramp counts for as much as the college president. It is the duty of the college president to enlighten the tramp, and endeavor to see that his vote is for good government. It is no answer to say, this is not agreeable. It was not agreeable for these soldiers to face death for you. The man who does only agreeable duties is devoid of high impulse or upright moral character. He has none of the material out of which patriots are made. If our republic should fail, it will be through the negligence, not the badness of its citizens. Because men of wealth, intelligence, culture and business ability are indifferent to the discharge of their public duties. I do not expect the republic to fail, on the contrary I expect it to advance higher and higher and nearer the sun, but I do expect that an awakened and enlightened public conscience will scourge men out of this indifference and compel them to discharge their public as well as their private duties.

Turning from this subject and from the contemplation of men who receive much from their country, and give nothing in return, it is a pleasure, one of the sweetest pleasures in my life, and of yours, to welcome a band of men, who have done more than their public duties like heroes and patriots. Men who, receiving little from the commonwealth have offered to lay down their lives for it; who have not only discharged their own public duties, but yours and mine, and those of a hundred thousand men who remained at home, while they went to the front. Of the average citizen the commonwealth requires but little of his thought, or time, or labor, and this little is often denied. But these young

the summit of the Rocky mountains westward, and established it firmly and by an undisputed title along the shores of the Pacific. It is fitting that other Oregonians, largely their descendants, should have a leading part in extending that boundary still further west, and beyond the wildest dream of their pioneer ancestors. When they left us, their country was the leading nation of the smallest and youngest continent. They have placed it in the first rank of the nations of all the earth. Then our state was obscure; its name or location was scarcely known to half the inhabitants of our own country. On my way east two years ago, a gentleman from New York upon learning that I was from Oregon, wanted to know what part of New York that was. He will not ask that question again. These boys have inscribed the name of our young state so gloriously, and in such brilliant letters, and so high on the temple of fame, that even the destroying hand of time cannot efface it. Give them a royal welcome! Why should we not? Who could help it? Why should not the woods and hills, the mountains and valleys ring with it? For their return the very birds will sing diviner and more inspiring songs. The breezes that cool their tattered cheeks and bring renewed strength and health, the brooks and streams as they ripple to the sea, will catch new inspirations and attune their voice to diviner melodies in their rejoicing at the return of these brave boys.

How the veterans of old wars are welcoming these boys. How their old hearts thrill with patriotic pride and joy to find that the sons are worthy of the sires. How they rejoice that the lessons they taught and the examples they set on the plains of Mexico, in the wilds of early Oregon, at Gettysburg, Shiloh and Vicksburg have not been lost upon the present generation; that the flag saved from dishonor by the fathers has been rendered glorious in two hemispheres by the valor of the sons. It is a maxim of old world monarchs that the king never dies. These boys have helped to prove that under the stars and stripes and upon soil dedicated to freedom, patriotism, heroism and love of country never die. When the old veteran feels the death damp gather upon his brow, takes from its resting place the old sword he wielded so valiantly in defence of his country, he knows now that he can entrust it to hands that will not dishonor it; that will not desert or surrender it; that will not wield it except in the cause of freedom, and will return it to its scabbard only when victory has wreathed the banner of the free. How they with us rejoiced at the achievement of our brave soldier boys. How the hearts of these veterans swelled with more than ordinary pride, as with defiant shout the young soldiers



CAPT. H. S. MALONEY.

men, on the threshold of their lives, took life, limb and happiness, all they have or are, or hope to be, and placed all on the altar of our common country. When this gallant band of men left their homes and loved ones a few short months ago, they left behind them the western boundary of the United States. To this boundary they have never returned. But they extended it westward, beyond Hawaii, beyond the Ladrone, beyond Manila, to the farthest island of the Philippine group, and there, thanks to their valor, it will remain until the destiny of this republic has been fulfilled.

A little over 50 years ago, the only defined and recognized western boundary of the United States was far to the east of us. A band of as brave men and women as ever lived, Oregon pioneers and Indian war veterans, dragged it from

charged across the open fields, faced the fire of an entrenched foe, and planted the stars and stripes upon the fortifications of a defeated enemy. If in this state there is anywhere a man who because of their achievements and their work, because of Massin, Bulaca Bridge, San Isidro, Calumpit and Malabon, is not prouder of the state that sent them forth, and which they have so honored; prouder of the nation for which they struggled and suffered, who is not a better man and citizen, more devoted to his country and humanity for their glorious achievement, bring forth the millstone, hang it about his neck and cast him into the sea. To use the language of an old poet:

"Breathes there a man with soul so dead,  
Who never to himself hath said,  
These heroes are our own,