

**DECLARATION AND RENEWAL OF FAITH BY THE GRAND ARMY**

The following is a certified copy of the resolutions which were introduced by the committee on resolutions and unanimously adopted by the Nebraska Grand Army of the Republic at its 1921 encampment at Hastings. The committee consisted of the following members: R. B. Windham, L. D. Richards, W. V. Allen, G. J. Thomas, T. J. Majors and J. A. Earhardt. Here are the resolutions:

We have just had the Ter-Centenary celebration of the landing of the Pilgrims and are at the end of nearly a century and a half of our existence as a nation. It is a period fit for considerate survey. Our progress has been marked, as it must always be, by effort to develop our economic life and strife to maintain our national life. The way we have traveled is plainly marked to all the world. Politically, it began with our first declaration of independence at Philadelphia and was emphasized by our declaration in 1820, when, by overwhelming non-partisan voice, our people again declared that American questions cannot be decided by foreigners or upon the basis of foreign feuds. From Bunker Hill to Yorktown, through 1812 to 1846, from Sumter to Appomattox, from Manila Bay to Santiago Harbor, from the Lusitania to Belleau Wood, the great price of our being has been paid, ungrudgingly and without shadow of turning from our destined course. Our material accomplishments are apparent to all. Substantial progress has been made on the road to economic justice. Many wholesome economic ideas have been realized and others will be attained. We rejoice at all this and yet, candor and our sense of patriotic duty compel us to record our apprehension of recent disquieting departures from our fundamental principles.

These departures are variously manifested.

Though the constitution wisely guarantees to every state in the union a republican form of government, which assumes that the people shall act, upon matters of legislation not directly but through their representatives who have time and opportunity to investigate and to deliberate, yet, by subtle pleas, we have been reduced to the initiative and referendum which enacts legislation in ignorance of conditions and upon sudden impulse. Thus legislation is the product of emotion of reason. Nor is that all.

Though it is a fundamental principle of the government that the church and state shall remain forever separate, we find many religious organizations disregarding this principle and demanding multitudes of laws for the regulation of private morals. By thus substituting level force for moral suasion, they attempt to impose upon others a moral standard peculiarly satisfactory to themselves but alien and obnoxious to a free people.

Demagogues, having no concern save to introduce and perpetuate themselves in popular favor, blatantly feign to discover defects in our economic system and, if favored with office, prostitute their positions by shackling industry with absurd restrictions to gratify the whims of their loudest constituents and with resulting discouragement of private enterprise to the injury of all.

This confusion of civic affairs with moral regulations, coupled with the rewards secured by servile deference to the popular emotion of the moment, has produced results in many instances of substantial injury, in others of irritating petty annoyances and in still others of ludicrous absurdity. They tend to arrest our development, alienate the affections of our people from their country and confirm the widespread notion that a government by the people cannot long survive. Some of the more glaring legislative results of this confusion and official servility to popular passion and prejudice, all of which we disapprove, are as follows:

1. The initiative and referendum, which forces upon the people for decision multitudes of questions upon which they are wholly uninformed, for which there is not time for general indifference that law may be enacted by an aggressive and fanatical minority of the people

2. Recall of public officers the threat of which causes them to substitute a servile heed to the temporary fluctuations of popular clamor for their sworn duty to the state.

3. Laws unduly facilitating the submission to popular vote of proposed amendments to the Federal constitution and to the constitutions of the several states to be voted upon by the people.

4. Primary elections for the selections of candidates for office so that the voter has no means of knowing the fitness of the several candidates, save by their own advertisements. This not only requires double the time of both candidate and voters for election purposes, but adds tremendously to the already excessive cost of elections without corresponding benefit, and in most cases gives us a minority candidate.

5. The creation of almost innumerable boards, commission, inspectors and government spies, most of whom are useless, others of doubtful wisdom, and all furnishing places for political appointees often unfitted for their vague official duties and usually exercising arbitrary power at great public expense and domestic discord.

6. The growing disposition toward municipal, state and government ownership and operation of public utilities and the ever widening scope of businesses which are brought within that definition by mere legislative pronouncement in reckless disregard of the known fact that such ownership and operation largely increases the cost of operation and lessens its efficiency, and is an economic fallacy.

7. Such studied tolerance of the

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demands of organized labor for the transparent purpose of securing its political support as to cause it to officially endorse the mutiny of the Boston police which exposed the inhabitants of that city to the criminal elements and constituted treason to society. Added to this is the servile acceptance of the un-American closed rule—the denial to the American boy of the right to learn a trade and the disposition to grant, without question, the demands of union labor for greater privileges than are guaranteed to anyone by any law or in plain justice.

8. Absurd legislation enacted to gratify the fantastic whims of a small but insistent coterie with the certain knowledge that it never will be observed, thereby bringing public law into contempt and gradually sapping the foundations of the government.

We, the Grand Army of the Republic of the department of Nebraska, solemnly call a halt and about face on this course of civic madness which will, if continued, lead to graver injury and tend toward possible disaster. And we earnestly invite all patriotic Americans and especially the American Legion, which is taking up this great patriotic work, to join us in a mighty effort to effect a return to the representative government guaranteed by the constitution and to the fundamental principles upon which this nation grew great and under which its people were free. We on our part, pledge ourselves anew to the constitution of the United States, the principles upon which it stands and the ideas which it symbolizes.

I am home again. Will do any kind of plastering. L. W. Mathewson, Graceland Addition, Phone 654W.

**TUBERCULAR LEGION MEN TO BE REMEMBERED CHRISTMAS**

The American Legion Auxiliary will remember a number of ex-service men in a suitable way at Christmas time. These men are in the Nebraska Tubercular hospital at Kearney. To raise money for this purpose the Auxiliary held the carnival last week and cleared about \$250. The balance after the gifts are sent, will be turned over to the American Legion building fund.

**LEGION BASKET BALL TEAM WILL BE IN THE FIELD**

At a meeting of the Legion boys held Sunday afternoon they decided to have a basket ball team this year and practice will start this week. Fred Peterson was elected manager and will work out a schedule as soon as possible. Dr. J. R. McKirahan will assist in coaching and as yet a captain has not been selected. The boys will practice in the Lloyd Opera house each evening.

**CITY LIBRARY GETS THE BOOKS THAT BOYS ENJOY**

Librarian Loretta Murphy announced yesterday that the following books had been placed in the city library. They are intended for the boys. The list follows: *Ivials for the Team*, (Barbour); *On the Warpath*, (Schultz); *Lure of the Black Hills*, (Lange); *Trail Makers*, (Burton); *Fighting for Fairview*, (Heyliger); *Scouts of Stonewall*, (Altsbeller); *Four Strong Washington's Scouts*, (Mason); *Four Strong Lincoln's Scouts*, (Mason); *Lost Island*, (Holt); *Uncle Sam, Fighter*, (DePuy).



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