

GRAND ARMY DEPARTMENT

Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Convention of the Regular Army and Navy Union.

INTERESTING AND PROFITABLE SESSION

Marvelous Growth of the Organization—Address of the National Commander—The New Officers—Lincoln and the Veterans.

The fourth annual convention of the Regular Army and Navy Union was held at Detroit, Mich., September 21, 22, 23 and 24, 1892, in Scott Guard armory.

The Detroit Free Press, in referring to the convention, says: "The body of delegates which gathered yesterday morning was especially conspicuous for its personnel, a finer appearing, more courteous and intelligent body never having visited this city."

Delegates were present from California, Montana, Florida, New York, New Mexico, Maine, in fact every state and territory contributed its quota.

The national commander, James F. Roche of Boston, read his annual address, which was short, pithy and suggestive. "Two years ago, when the New York convention called me to command, he said, 'The order has 231,000 members with a membership of 231,000. One year later I reported to the convention an organization of twenty-three regiments, with an approximate membership of 100,000 and today I bring you a body composed of nine regiments, comprising over 10,000 members. This, to my mind, is a wonderful increase.'"

"Two years ago, yes one, we were weak, struggling, nearly unknown to the country, our ranks being watched with close attention by many who hoped for our success and perhaps by some who hoped otherwise. Today we are united from the pine fringed shores of Maine to the Golden Gate of the Pacific, from the Michigan border to the Mexican boundary, a more powerful organization than we ourselves comprehend, and it has become possible for those who served under the flag, who formerly traversed the country as strangers, to go to any section of the country and be received with that comradeship which only a true soldier knows how to extend. In order that this state of affairs and this condition of prosperity shall continue, it is necessary that the yearly sessions of the National corps should be participated in by its members with one common spirit paramount to all others, and that is the development and stability of the order. To this end all our energies should be directed and our motto should be always to put the order above the individual."

"It is expected at our session that the official occupying my position should make such suggestions to the delegates as are in his opinion desirable. God I have jotted down some few which I think would tend towards the general good of the union, if adopted, and which I submit for your consideration. The report of the executive conduct of the order is submitted in different documents and will come up at the proper time. I recommend that the titles of the garrison officers be changed in some manner so as to more nearly conform to the present titles of the national officers. The sensible action taken by the convention in abolishing the relative rank which was formerly connected with the different national officers has been a source from which we have obtained much public confidence, and I feel that the adoption of similar titles for the garrison officers will be more in harmony with the action taken heretofore and be a benefit to us. We should also make some arrangements for suitable devices to be worn by all national officers of the order, by the national officers or those of the garrisons, as there is no provision at present by which a comrade, who has been through a term in any chair, may be recognized by his uniform, badge or any device after leaving office. I would also suggest that an article composed of sections sufficiently comprehensive to decide any question as to the subject may be placed in the constitution providing for courts martial, with a proper schedule of punishment for different offenses. As to the officers of the national corps, when visiting garrisons, unless visiting officially or in some manner connected with their official capacity, should be recognized by the garrison which they are a member of as a comrade of the order, and not a national officer. The badge, cap device and lapel button of the order have been secured to us by United States patents for a term of ten and one-half years. It was thought best to do this, as under other circumstances an individual, whether a member of the order or not, had a perfect right to make the same. There should also be an article placed in the constitution which would allow the proper officials, for proper cause, to suspend the quarters of garrisons. In order that a complete record and roster of all members might be had, every application for membership in any garrison should be made in duplicate, the original to be retained by the garrison and the duplicate to be forwarded to headquarters for entering in the general record book. The delegates that assembled here, having become a national institution, should hail from the capital of the country, thus acquiring a legal national standing; that we should cease to be a mere creation of the state of Ohio, and should become a national institution of the United States. In my last address to the convention, forecasting that the order was bound to increase, I recommended the creation of departments. The delegates that assembled here did not adopt this recommendation. I believe that the events of the past year more than justify me in asking your serious consideration of this matter. I believe that the creation of departments, greater local cohesiveness and a more expeditious conduct of the business in the different sections of the country, which now have to be handled by headquarters, I believe that the constitution, as it relates to the office of national adjutant and national pay-

master should be changed. The national adjutant's office should be made the business office of the organization. Every item of business should be conducted through that office. All supplies should be sent from there, and the duties of the national paymaster should be simply that of a fiscal officer. The national adjutant's office should be provided with a sufficient amount to pay for office rent, typewriting, postage and other expenses, and the incumbent should be given a sufficient salary to allow him to give his whole time to the business of the order. This is all that at present occurs to my mind to suggest for your consideration. There are many other matters which should probably be touched upon, but I understand that they are in the hands of different delegates, who will present them to you in a more detailed manner than is possible in this brief address.

"I have only to say in conclusion, gentlemen, that I trust we will enter upon our new year with a firm purpose of strengthening the foundation already laid; that all individual likes and dislikes, all individual ambitions or the like shall be subordinate to the one purpose of the welfare of the order, and the results of our deliberations will be so successful as to meet the approbation of our comrades and confidence of our fellow citizens, and of that lasting character which will direct the Regular Army and Navy union in its upward course, to become the greatest and grandest institution outside of the government in these United States."

Past Commander-in-Chief Renkert, the first commander of the union, was introduced and spoke briefly upon the success that the organization has had, and was very enthusiastically received.

The committee on the state of the order, to which was referred the address of the national commander, reported and favorably on all suggestions made except that referring to supplies. Captain Charles H. Stone of Boston, was elected chairman, and the convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole.

Under the head of new business, the convention directed the national commander to call the attention of the secretary of war to the subject of appointing ordnance sergeants from the artillery arm alone. It was claimed that the chief of ordnance should have the original letters governing the appointment of ordnance sergeants that practically exclude non-commissioned officers of the cavalry and infantry from receiving their appointments.

The movement for the printing of the constitution and general laws was amended in several instances. The cost of the national paymaster was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and his salary raised from \$100 to \$400. The bond of the national adjutant was increased to \$5,000, and his salary fixed at \$1,000. The director of the national corps, the national adjutant's office will remain at Columbus, O.

The national commander sent the following telegram to Commander-in-Chief Palmer of the Grand Army of the Republic, then in session at Washington, D. C.: "The members of the Regular Army and Navy union, consisting of veterans of the regular army and navy during the Mexican war, the war of the rebellion, and the war of the United States, and greeting to their comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, wishing them a pleasant session, with many like sessions."

A grand parade took place on the third day of the convention. The names of the newly elected officers are as follows: National commander, James F. Roche of Boston, Mass.; national vice commander, Henry Shaudler, Leavenworth, Kas.; national deputy commander, J. P. Lockwood, Chicago, Ill.; national chaplain, John E. Cox, E. I. Mich.; national paymaster, A. C. G. DeBues, Milwaukee, Wis.; national surgeon, J. A. Lommel, Newport, R. I.; national adjutant, Richard J. Farnum, Columbus, O.; national judge advocate, J. A. Keefe, Boston, Mass.; national inspector, James K. Feit, Chicago, Ill.

There was a very lively competition over the selection of the next place of meeting, which resulted in glowing things being said of many of the leading cities of the country. The leading competitors were Indianapolis, Chicago, Cleveland, Omaha, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Philadelphia and Newport. St. Louis was chosen by a vote of 100.

On the last day of the convention the city officials took the delegates up and down the river on a pleasant excursion, and a vote of thanks was tendered Detroit for her hospitality.

The national commander and comrades who had learned to know each other better during one week's intercourse, was reassuring for the union everywhere; cheers were given each delegate as they started for their homes from the Hotel Bertrand; the best of good feelings prevailed, and hands were shaken on parting with a warm and sincere feeling.

One of the most conspicuous delegates to the convention was Captain Edwin A. Whitten of Lawrence, Mass., a sturdy and vigorous man, despite the many years that have whitened his hair. Captain Whitten was ready for fighting long before a majority of the present generation were born. He participated in the battles which were fought at Palo Alto, Buena Vista, Cerro Gordo, Churubusco, San Chapultepec, San Pascual, Tobacco, Vera Cruz and City of Mexico, and is as well preserved a specimen of the soldiers who conquered the land of Mexico and have not been forgotten.

Omaha has two garrisons of the Regular Army and Navy union, both of which are in a most flourishing condition. Garrison No. 13 is located at Omaha and has over 100 members. Garrison No. 54, named after General John R. Brooke of the Department of the Platte, meets the first and third Saturdays in each month at Custer hall on Fifteenth street and is rapidly coming to the front.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA. Interesting information of the Doings of the Harmonists had been reported by DeWolf Hopper has abandoned "Wang" and has put on a new version of "The Lady or the Tiger."

Naver Scharwaska will appear in Chicago at Central Music hall in two recitals, November 15 and 17.

William H. Crane will return to New York in January and offer a new play written for him by Martha M. Russell.

John Drew has made a great hit in New York in "The Masque Ball." He made his first appearance as a star at Palmer's theater on Tuesday night.

Thursday evening, Prof. Rice and his pupils and "The Chappi" quartet were some of the prominent performers.

James Maas, a comic opera singer, died recently of heart failure at Stamford, Conn. He was 40 years old and was reputed to have had the sweetest voice of any male singer living. He at one time managed a theater at Detroit.

Hallen & Blat have kindly abandoned "Later On" and are out in a new play, "Two Sides to a Story." One side of the new play is said to be a comedy, the other a tragedy.

"The Chappi" is the name of a newly organized musical troupe in the business of their way into popular favor. Mr. E. H. Wedge is first tenor, Mr. Martin second tenor, Mr. Conover baritone and Mr. Rockwell bass.

Mr. L. B. Copeland, who has been developing his most excellent voice to the musical services in the First Methodist Episcopal church for the past year, has been invited to sing with the choir of the First Presbyterian church. Mr. Copeland will likely be the successor to Mr. Copeland.

Miss A. Wood, who has charge of the rising generation of vocalists in the public schools, has quite a task on hand. She is hearing the familiar strains of "Hail Columbia" and "America" in schools and public schools, as there are children in the public schools, Next Thursday if the blue-eyed man above is not fractured it will not be the fault of the "musical" side of the school.

The first meeting of the new choral society being organized by Mr. Gann was held in the Woodbridge music room Thursday evening. It was held for the purpose of organizing, Mr. W. C. Pritchard occupying the chair. Mr. James Lumbard was elected president and Mr. J. H. Barton secretary. Haven Bros., who have had a very successful and inviting music room, offered the new club a home. About twenty-five gentlemen were present, the meeting being held at the home of Haven Bros. The ladies did not care to take part in the business of organization.

Shakespeare's pastoral comedy, "As You Like It," is always extraordinarily pleasing to the theater-goer who has not had a combination of the merry and the sad, the philosophical and the poetical. It is a play full of good characters and every character according to the humor of his inclinations to good and evil as the idea suggests itself. The incidents are not so much of the nature of the plot as of the ideal and subjective. The humor and caprice of persons in their influence upon one another is the basis of the whole action and the character of the play.

The great bard borrowed the whole plan of the play from a pastoral romance by Thomas Lodge, called "Rosalind," published about 1590, and at that time it was probably the nearest approach to opera known in the English language. There were many songs and choruses introduced, which in "As You Like It," are omitted, though Shakespeare either preserved or wrote four original songs. Four of the important characters of the play are unknown in Lodge's pastoral, namely, Touchstone, Jaques, the melancholy, William the country fool and Audrey the stupid goatherd. In Miss Marlowe's forthcoming performance of this most beautiful comedy, the title is "The Comedy," it reports speaks truly, will have an opportunity of witnessing a representation that has the dignity of the court, the fragrance of the forest, the softness of the wood, the tone of solitude and the sunshine and ripple of merry companionship.

THE THEATERS. There will be a season of real good fun commencing with today's matinee, when Barner Ferguson and one of the strongest organizations in the field of farce-comedy will present at the Farnam Street theater, "McCarthy's Mishaps," a play that has been seen many times and which has always succeeded in arousing the most obscure realities. Theater-goers are familiar with the funny situations, amusing incidents, laughable chimes and witty dialogues which depict the life and manners of the country of the West, the life being based principally, as the title suggests, on the mishaps of two country lads. The title is a misnomer, as the play allows all possible scope for the peculiar mannerisms, odd eccentricities and grotesque conception of make-up which Mr. Ferguson provokes most of which. He is seconded by James F. Post, a comedian of note, who is always natural and logical. Charles H. 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