

ROYAL LEGION'S CONGRESS

Quadrennial Gathering Will Be Held in June.

S ORGANIZATION AND ITS HISTORY

An Old Letter of General Sherman's—A New Trick in Naval Attacks—Gettysburg—Greed—General Townsend's Final Rest.

The seventh quadrennial congress and second general reunion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States will be held at St. Paul, June 7 and 8. The congress and reunion comprise together and the nearness of St. Paul to Chicago and the fair will gather a crowd of companions, perhaps the largest ever known in the history of the order.

The congress of the Loyal Legion is connected with the national body of the order known as the commandery-in-chief. The congress is composed of a body of delegates elected by the state commanderies, three from each. The delegates alone have seats in the congress, and they have the power to revise the constitution.

The national commandery-in-chief of the Loyal Legion meets annually. It is composed of the present and past commanders, senior and junior vice commanders and the recorders of the state commanderies. The list of commanderies and their membership is as follows: Pennsylvania, 1,097; New York, 1,081; Maine, 141; Massachusetts, 843; California, 654; Wisconsin, 210; Illinois, 523; District of Columbia, 601; Ohio, 882; Michigan, 266; Minnesota, 398; Oregon, 300; Missouri, 306; Nebraska, 135; Kansas, 255; Iowa, 161; Colorado, 174; Indiana, 210; Washington, 60; Vermont, 97.

The last commandery-in-chief was General Rutherford B. Hayes. The acting commander-in-chief is the senior vice commander-in-chief, Admiral John A. King. The acting commander-in-chief is the senior vice commander-in-chief, Admiral John A. King. The acting commander-in-chief is the senior vice commander-in-chief, Admiral John A. King. The acting commander-in-chief is the senior vice commander-in-chief, Admiral John A. King.

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion was established in 1865. Its fundamental principles are a firm belief and trust in Almighty God and true allegiance to the United States of America. The objects of the order, as expressed in its constitution and by-laws, are "to be the military order of the Loyal Legion of the United States of America, to strengthen the ties of fraternal fellowship, to extend relief to the widows and children of companions, the cultivation of military and naval science, and to protect the rights and liberties of American citizenship and independence in national honor, union and independence."

The membership is divided into three classes. In the first class are included officers who bore commissions during the war, enlisted men of the union army or navy since commissioned in the regular service, or who have become or may become eligible by inheritance; also the eldest direct male lineal descendants of deceased members of the first class and of officers not members, but who were eligible and died prior to December 31, 1862. If there are no direct male descendants, collateral branches may inherit.

The second class comprises the eldest sons of members of the first class who have attained their majority, and the third class gentlemen who in civil life were specially distinguished for loyalty. This class is limited to one to every thirty-three of the first class; also the eldest son of a member of the first class, who died prior to April 15, 1865. Volunteer staff officers who served without commission are eligible as companions at large.

The first commander-in-chief of the order was General W. S. Hancock. He was elected in 1866 and was succeeded at his death in 1886 by General P. H. Sheridan. Sheridan served until his death in 1888, and was succeeded by General R. B. Hayes, who held the office until his death last January.

A Mask of Smoke. At Brest, during the past fortnight, says the London Times, some experiments have been made with an invention, patented by M. Oriole of Nantes, for rendering torpedo boats invisible. The object is to make the boats invisible by veiling the boats behind a screen of artificially created smoke. Upon this important subject M. Augustin Normand, the eminent torpedo boat builder of Havre, writes as follows in La Presse.

"At the request of M. Oriole, experiments have recently been made at Brest in the employment of smoke as a concealment from the enemy of the movements of torpedo boats. I beg for space in your excellent journal that I may say a few words on the subject. The consequences which may follow upon the discovery of a sure means of producing smoke or fog of sufficient stability and permanency."

"Allow me, however, first to recall the fact that eight years ago ('Etude sur les Torpilleurs,' p. 22) I wrote: 'If we could succeed in producing in a practical manner an artificial cloud, such as results from the use of existing heavy artillery, and as was particularly noticeable at the bombardment of Alexandria, we should enormously increase the value of torpedo boats possessed of speed great enough to permit of them placing themselves to the windward of a squadron.'

"At that time my idea provoked smiles. Yet it has made progress. In 1890 an English officer undertook certain experiments, which, however, were but moderately successful. A similar fact awaited some experiments of my own at Havre; the smoke was not sufficiently permanent. As to whether the practical difficulties have been completely overcome at Brest I am ignorant; but it is probable that, if they have, we are already beyond the point where the field of the future lies, and it is not now too early to consider the discovery upon the tactics of tomorrow of the discovery. Their importance cannot easily be exaggerated."

"According to an opinion which is pretty general daylight attacks upon ships by torpedo boats alone offer no chance of success. The situation will be very different when we succeed in making our torpedo boats invisible, for invisibility, which is the sole quality in which a submarine boat may be expected to show superiority over an ordinary ship, is the near by the fact that, in spite of the various difficulties that in the way of the employment of submarine vessels, all the navies of the world have devoted attention to them. It is impossible to deny that daylight attacks by torpedo boats which, in ordinary weather, shall be capable of concealing their movements from the enemy, will have good chances of success. For night attacks the value of the

boats is already admitted, but it will be largely increased. Inconceivable to the rays of the search light, they will be able to see without being seen."

"Let it be noted, too, that this useful invention, if it is perfected, will not be utilized by the torpedo boats accompanying a squadron. This fact will reduce the importance of their work, and will materially add to the difficulties of the defense. One probable consequence of the discovery will be the creation of a new type of torpedo boats. Without surrendering high speed, which in certain special cases will always be valuable, we must endeavor to give to the greater number of our sea-going torpedo boats not only larger dimensions, but also the endurance, the strength, the navigability and the radius of action of a battle cruiser. Habitability and preservation of speed in heavy weather will always be points in which torpedo boats will betray inferiority, but these we must try to improve. Even if we reduce the stipulated speed to twenty knots the sacrifice will not be too great, so long as it enables the boats to get at their enemy, no matter at what distance he may be."

A Soldier's Sympathy.

At the installation last week of the officers of Curran camp, Sons of Veterans, the following letter of General Sherman was read:

HEADQUARTERS, MEMPHIS, TENN., Nov. 10, 1862: Dear Madame—I know you will pardon me, far off, if, at this your dread hour, I come to bear my feeble word of honor to him whose name bears yet no more than a faint shadow of his greatness. But, of wounds inflicted by pariah-like hands on Kentucky's soil, and his blood is the cement that will ever bind together the disjointed pieces of the family of Curran. Pope, the son of a soldier, and your child soon learn to look upon his name and fame as ennobled by a halo of glory. He was a man, one to look up to, one to be called him, though the path lead through the hail storm of battle. Among all the men I have ever met in the progress of this unnatural war, I cannot recall one whose every act and expression was so manifest the good and true man, and who so well filled the type of a Kentucky gentleman."

He died not only of the loss of his wounds inflicted by pariah-like hands on Kentucky's soil, and his blood is the cement that will ever bind together the disjointed pieces of the family of Curran. Pope, the son of a soldier, and your child soon learn to look upon his name and fame as ennobled by a halo of glory. He was a man, one to look up to, one to be called him, though the path lead through the hail storm of battle. Among all the men I have ever met in the progress of this unnatural war, I cannot recall one whose every act and expression was so manifest the good and true man, and who so well filled the type of a Kentucky gentleman."

I fear that in trying to carry comfort to an ailing heart I am too ready, but I know you will permit me to say that I have seen a feeble testimony to the goodness, bravery and gallantry of the man who more nearly than any picture of preux chevalier of this age than in any man I have ever known. I know you are in the midst of a host of friends, but should in the progress of years any opportunity come by which I can be of service to any of the family of Curran, I will be glad to do so. With great respect, your obedient servant, W. T. SHERMAN, Major General Volunteers.

Curran Pope was married to Matilda Prather, a daughter of John I. Jacob, by whom he was blessed with one daughter, Mary Taylor Pope, who is the youngest of many accomplished, great force of character and intellect, and of much beauty. She still lives in the home of her heroic father. She is the happy wife of Judge Alfred Thurston Pope, and the devoted mother of an interesting family.

The Battle is Over: Now Reigns Peace. General Edward Townsend, for a number of years adjutant general of the army, died a few days ago. He was born in Boston on August 22, 1817. His paternal grandfather, David, was a surgeon in the Massachusetts line during the revolution and his maternal grandfather was Elbridge Gerry. His father, David Townsend, was an officer in the United States army and was killed in the battle of Chancellorsville in 1862.

General Townsend was educated at Boston Latin school and Harvard, and was graduated at the United States military academy in 1837. He became second lieutenant in the 10th regiment of artillery on July 1, 1837; was adjutant general in 1846. His advancement was as follows: Promoted first lieutenant in 1838; assistant adjutant general with brevet rank as captain in 1846; captain in 1848, brevet major in 1862; lieutenant colonel on March 7, 1861; colonel on August 3, 1861; adjutant general with the rank of brigadier general on February 22, 1869.

He served during the Florida war in 1837 and 1838; on the northern frontier during the Canadian border disturbances from 1838 to 1841, and thenceforward in the office of the adjutant general. He was adjutant general of the staff of Lieutenant Colonel Scott in 1860. He was brevetted brigadier general in 1864, "for meritorious and faithful service during the rebellion," and major general on March 3, 1865, "for faithful and meritorious service during the rebellion." He was adjutant general of the staff of the adjutant general during the rebellion. He was retired from active service on June 15, 1880. During the civil war General Townsend was the principal officer of the War department, and was, perhaps, brought into contact with the president and the secretary of the war more than any other military officer. As adjutant general of the army he originated the plan of a United States military prison, urged legislation on the subject and established the prison at Leavenworth, Kan. General Townsend was a member of the Society of Cincinnati. He was the author of "Catechism of the Bible—The Pentateuch," published in New York in 1859; "Catechism of the Bible—Judges and Kings," published in 1862, and "Anecdotes of the Civil War in the United States," published in 1865.

Mercurial Mutination of Gettysburg. "The authorities of Gettysburg and of the adjoining township of Cumberland are chargeable with one of the grossest pieces of vandalism ever committed by the natural guardians of a great public trust," says the Philadelphia Press. Gettysburg enjoys all its importance as the scene of one of the world's greatest battles. The fame of what was done there attracts to it an unceasing stream of visitors. These desire to realize the battle by a study of the field and do honor to the memory of the dead. They naturally expect to see the field without incongruous additions, and it is the scene of one of the world's greatest battles. The fame of what was done there attracts to it an unceasing stream of visitors. These desire to realize the battle by a study of the field and do honor to the memory of the dead. They naturally expect to see the field without incongruous additions, and it is the scene of one of the world's greatest battles. 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