

THE PEOPLE'S JOURNAL.

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PICKENS, S. C., THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1897.

ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

A GREAT GATHERING OF VETERANS.

The Reunion at Greenville.

Sixteen Hundred Survivors Respond to Roll Call.

An Enthusiastic and Harmonious Convention.

MONUMENT TO THE WOMEN WILL BE BUILT.

Charleston the Next Place of Meeting.

The Greatest Pic-Nic Ever Seen in the State--The Sponsors' Reception a Grand Success.

From The Greenville Mountaineer.

Greenville has been the mecca of the Confederate veterans this week, and from all sections of the State they have come to join in the largest and most successful reunion that has yet been held in South Carolina. More than sixteen hundred survivors were enrolled at headquarters in the club rooms, and every one was "on" on having a good time. For three days and nights the throng upon our streets continued without intermission except when the tired but happy veteran sought a few hours of repose and slumber, but he was awake with the dawn and never grew weary of greeting his old comrades, with whom he exchanged tales of the long ago and recalled the times when they faced dangers and endured privations together.

The convention hall was beautifully decorated with Confederate flags and palm-branches, and many of the designs were most artistic and attractive. Elegant portraits of Lee and Hampton were on the wall in the rear of the stage, intertwined with the palm-branches and battle-flags, and the old soldiers gazed with reverence and admiration upon the familiar features of these great leaders of the infantry and cavalry. Seats were provided for six hundred delegates, but these were altogether inadequate for the occasion, and the hall was packed at every session so long as there was standing room. Not more than one-half of the veterans enjoyed the privilege at any one time of witnessing and participating in the proceedings, but they would put on a relief now and then, and in some way they would manage to make themselves contented with the situation. On the streets and in the hall they were invariably good-humored, and not a whisper of complaint or dissatisfaction was heard during the week.

Greenville has reason to be proud of the results. The homes of the citizens were thrown open to our visitors, and it is estimated that three thousand persons were entertained during the convention. Not a ripple of discord was heard from any quarter, and our visitors graciously awarded the palm to Greenville for large-hearted hospitality and complete arrangements for their comfort and satisfaction. The big pic-nic at the city park was the crowning evidence of a lavish hospitality, when between five and six thousand persons were bountifully supplied with the choicest and most dainty of edibles. Our country friends generously supplemented the efforts of the city, and brought their capacious baskets in large numbers to help feed the immense crowd.

At 10 a. m., after the last strains of "Dixie" had faded, the convention of the Confederate Veterans was called to order by Col. James A. Hoyt, who said: "It becomes my duty, comrades, as commander of the Greenville County Regiment, U. C. V., to call this convention to order. It is usual on such occasions to have speeches of welcome and salutation, and Greenville is not disposed to break the record. Before, however, proceeding any further we will invoke the divine blessing upon our meeting. The chaplain of the Division will lead us in prayer." The chaplain, Rev. S. P. H. Elwell, then invoked God's guidance.

Col. Hoyt then introduced Hon. W. L. Mauldin, chairman of the committee of arrangements, who in appropriate words welcomed the veterans to Greenville, saying: "You are welcome to our hearts and homes now, and forever. It gives me great pleasure to extend to you a most cordial and affectionate welcome, and I thank you for the great honor that you have conferred upon us by holding your annual reunion of

the veterans of the Lost Cause in our city." Mr. Jas. T. Williams, Mayor of Greenville, was next introduced. He welcomed the veterans of the Confederacy to Greenville, putting the city at their disposal and proclaiming that "it is the greatest and most glorious day that Greenville has seen since the days of 1861-2-3-4 when we used to hear that Lee had whipped them again."

Major Gen. C. Irvine Walker, then, on behalf of the Veterans, responded to the hearty welcome, and said:

On behalf of my comrades, Veterans of this splendid division of the United Confederate Veterans, I have the honor to respond to this hearty and magnificent welcome offered by the good people of Greenville. We appreciate the devotion of our hearts, your kind words of welcome and your even more eloquent deeds of hospitality. I cannot do justice to our feelings, as the emotions kindled almost check the utterance of a grateful heart. From the seashore and from the mountains, from the farms of the west and the thriving factories of the east, we are gathered here to-day to do honor to a cause we all love, we all revere, and would see its truth cherished for all time. Great is the enthusiasm of our gathering. Warmly beat our hearts as we clasp hands with our loved comrades. Yet the kindness and hospitality of the people of this fair city quicken a thousandfold these feelings. We almost feel it is worth all the sufferings we endured, all the dangers we faced, if these were necessary, to qualify us as Veterans, to be treated with the devotion which you are showing us.

Allow me to congratulate you, my good friends of Greenville, upon the splendid success which has crowned your efforts to build up the prosperity of your city. The contrast between war times and the present is most marked. Well do I remember in those war times when returning to my post in the field from a wounded furlough, I had to drive through your city to take the train. Your streets were deserted, your men were with the glorious armies of the Confederacy--everything was the mantle of decay and ruin. To cross Reedy River we had to ford it. You had a shabby old-time depot, as you have a car service. Now how plenty, prosperity and enterprise abound on every hand. Many lines of railroad now enter your city, offering every comfort to the traveler; your streets team with busy life; the hum of wheeling spindles fills the air. Like the strong men of the entire South you have girded up your loins, put your hands to the plough and forced a prosperity which is a credit to your enterprise and a comfort and happiness to your people. We realize to-day that all the wealth you have acquired, all the cheer which your good fortunes have given you is laid at the feet of the now venerable Veterans who to-day meet in your city. For them I most earnestly and warmly thank you. Thank you for this magnificent reception which you have given to your friends from all parts of this dear State. The remembrance of your glorious hospitality will ever rest in our hearts. If you continue treating us as you have begun, and I know that you will, we shall leave you with the deepest regret, but feel thankful that we are survivors and as such have been entertained by the warm-hearted, generous people of Greenville.

Gen. Walker in response thanked the friends of Greenville for their hospitality, and he then said: "According to our constitution the first act of the assembled convention is to pay tribute to the Confederate dead. According to our constitution that tribute will now be read by your commander and you will respond at certain points of the same with 'They died for their country.'" (Tribute was read and responded to.)

Next we will pay a tribute to the women of the Confederacy, the commander reading and the comrades answering at intervals. "God bless the women of the Confederacy." (Tribute was read and responded to.)

The Adjutant General was instructed to call the roll, which he did, the camps answering. Next in order was the reading of the minutes of the last

meeting, which the Adjutant General proceeded to do, but was interrupted by a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, which motion was carried.

Major Gen. Walker then read his splendid report of the work during the past year. The report is as follows:

COMRADES: I have the honor to submit the annual report of the discharge of the responsible duties which you have imposed upon me, as Commander of the South Carolina Division, United Confederate Veterans.

It is with feelings of the profoundest satisfaction that I am able to report that the S. C. Division has had, during the past two years, a most gratifying growth and prosperity. The veterans of our noble cause have appreciated the full value of the splendid organization of the U. C. V., and have formed camps in every part of the State. I think it can be safely said that the great majority of Confederate survivors of South Carolina are now enrolled in the ranks of our organization. You will remember that at the time of our first convention, held at Columbia, November, 1895, thirty-eight camps had been formed, of these three had died and nine were, I believe, dormant, leaving only twenty-six in active life. In the six months which followed this, our first convention, which seemed to awaken the Confederate interest, the growth was large. At the second convention, Charleston, April, 1896, I reported that twenty-two more camps had been formed in this Division, and the nine dormant camps had been revived. Since then thirty-seven more camps have been formed, this making a total number of camps which have been formed in this Division, ninety-seven. These are officially organized and reported by Gen. Mooreman, and I have heard of at least ten more now in process of formation. From one of the smallest Divisions of the U. C. V., by the earnest efforts of the veterans in all parts of the State, we have grown, until now our Division is the largest Division of the U. C. V. We are at the head of the roll in the number of camps. This magnificent assemblage of the gray-haired heroes of the Confederacy shows that you are foremost in your interest. You are leading the gallant South in your devotion to, and advocacy of, those glorious principles, to support which you bravely led them in 1861.

This splendid demonstration, thousands of old veterans boldly advocating the justice and the right of our cause, and the great majority of our comrades in a large city, from many camps, was a most gratifying sight. During the trip we had the inestimable privilege of association, visited many historic spots together, arrived at Nashville together, and thus kept the comradeship of the day by the day. As to hotel accommodations, we made terms at a medium priced hotel, with a range of prices according to accommodations. Owing to circumstances I could not control, or difficulties I failed to overcome, we did not receive the accommodation contracted for, and the S. C. Comrades were not housed as nearly together as we could have wished, nor as I expected and was promised. But the selected hotel was recognized as the South Carolina rallying point, and the comrades of the Division were always to be found around it.

At your last convention you passed a resolution instructing me to take certain action regarding the securing of the adoption by the State as text books in its schools, of such histories as give fair and truthful accounts of the Southern part of the late war.

In accordance with the resolution passed at the 1896 convention, in General Order No. 21, I asked from the various camps information as to "the number of indigent ex-Confederate soldiers in the Camp or vicinity, who would accept, if erected, the hospitality of a Soldiers' Home." I regret to report that very little information was given, and that little unfavorable to the object. The opinion of those who replied was that such ex-Confederates would prefer receiving the pension which our State generously provided and which allowed to live among their friends.

A circular, August 13th, 1896, was published, calling attention to a circular sent the Division by the Ladies' Memorial Association, asking the assistance of the veterans to the effort to properly care for our dead in Stonehall cemetery, Winchester. As far as reported to Division Headquarters, very moderate. Two camps contributed \$11, one liberal Confederate \$5. The amount, \$16, has been turned over to the proper parties.

At the time of our visit to the Fair Grounds at Columbia, November 11th, 1896, an informal meeting was called of a representative from each Camp, the Division and Brigade Commanders and their staffs. A plan was submitted by Maj. Louis Sherfesse to more thoroughly organize the Division. It met the unanimous approval of all present. As it was not in conflict with our constitution, was intended for the good of the Division, and approving it heartily, I promulgated it in General Order No. 26. I am satisfied that frequent meetings are essential to keeping alive an interest in our organization. With one Camp covering an entire county this would hardly be practicable. The county organization is of great value. To secure both it was determined to adopt the formation of the Camps in each County into Regiments. This kept up the bond of union within the county lines, and the provision for annual meetings of the Regiment or Camps in the county, placed the organization exactly where it was with one Camp covering the county.

It stimulated the formation of Camps in the various neighborhoods of the county, and gave the opportunity for those frequent, fraternal meetings which do so much to keep up old friendships and strengthen the bonds which cement us together. Regiments have been formed and officers elected in the counties of Aiken, Anderson, Barnwell, Charleston, Cherokee, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Greenville, Spartanburg and York. The following counties are entitled to such formation: Chesterfield, Laurens, Lexington, Orangeburg, Union. The Commander of the senior Camp in each has been requested to effect the organization, but it has not yet been reported.

The action I have taken in this matter has been solely to further the grand objects of the S. C. Div. U. C. V., it has met the hearty cooperation and endorsement of the General Headquarters of the U. C. V. I trust that it meets your approval. If it does, you should take the necessary steps to incorporate it in your constitution. The logical notice has been given to all the Camps.

At the same meeting it was proposed by our Division Chaplain, Dr. S. P. H. Elwell, that this Division undertake the sacred duty of erecting a State monument to the women of the Confederacy. I cannot too earnestly urge upon you the duty, yes, the sacred duty, of your paying this just tribute to the noble women of our country. Save the monument so generously erected by our comrades, Col. S. E. White, there is no mark, save in our hearts, of the splendid heroism of these grand women. The subject will be presented to you by your committee, and I will not forestall them. I can only say that the movement meets my heartiest endorsement, and I am soon able to erect in this State a grand and enduring testimonial to those daughters of Carolina, who by their heroic deeds made it possible for us to stand unflinchingly before the foe.

When considering the best arrangement for the S. C. Division at the Nashville reunion, having had some experience at the previous conventions, knowing the bustle and confusion attending such large gatherings, and the necessity of having our comrades in a large city, from many camps, I was convinced that some methods should be devised to gather and keep us together. This could best be done by going together and staying, as many as possible, in one hotel, and being able to keep better together. The intercourse afforded by the two days consumed going and coming, by that much practically extended the length of time of our part of the reunion.

The representatives of the various routes which could move us presented their advantages at several interviews. After thorough examination, I decided that the Seaboard Air Line, reaching at the time of our meeting, the greatest number of points in the State, was the best route for this purpose. In a circular May 19th, 1897, I recommended that the Comrades of the S. C. Division should take that route. I am glad to say that it was largely successful, and the great majority of our comrades in a large city, from many camps, I believe, went by that route. During the trip we had the inestimable privilege of association, visited many historic spots together, arrived at Nashville together, and thus kept the comradeship of the day by the day.

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It stimulated the formation of Camps in the various neighborhoods of the county, and gave the opportunity for those frequent, fraternal meetings which do so much to keep up old friendships and strengthen the bonds which cement us together. Regiments have been formed and officers elected in the counties of Aiken, Anderson, Barnwell, Charleston, Cherokee, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Greenville, Spartanburg and York. The following counties are entitled to such formation: Chesterfield, Laurens, Lexington, Orangeburg, Union. The Commander of the senior Camp in each has been requested to effect the organization, but it has not yet been reported.

The action I have taken in this matter has been solely to further the grand objects of the S. C. Div. U. C. V., it has met the hearty cooperation and endorsement of the General Headquarters of the U. C. V. I trust that it meets your approval. If it does, you should take the necessary steps to incorporate it in your constitution. The logical notice has been given to all the Camps.

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We Expect to Try Ourselves

THIS FALL!

If you do not get to Easley before Fall, you must not fail to come to see us. We give to one and all a cordial invitation, and will take great pleasure in showing you as nice and as cheap line of goods as it has ever been your good fortune to see in these parts. We are preparing for a big fall trade, and shall endeavor to make it to your interest, one and all, to give us your patronage. We are now offering

Some Rare Bargains

In unseasonable goods. We certainly can interest you! We have one lot of Men's Fur Hats, ranging in price from \$1.25 to \$1.75, all to go at 98c. each. We are beginning to receive our FALL GOODS, and say right here that it will pay you to hold on to your dollars until you can get to the Racket, and which you can get yourself how much you can buy at the RACKET STORE for one dollar. We are aware that our comrades are not stuck on us much, i. e., not in love with us. But be sure you do not stop until you are safe in the Store where you can buy what you want and as cheap as you can buy anywhere.

Wishing for you, one and all, good success, and William Jennings Bryan's silver, with Uncle Sam's seal, E. Pluribus Unum, we are your servants to please.

NEW YORK RACKET STORE.

Easley, S. C. CLYDE & NALLY, Proprietors.

\$340, the expenses to August 1, \$321.03, the balance in bank, \$25.98, all bills paid to same date. The accounts rendered for U. C. V. account, \$366.90; forwarded to Adj. Gen. Mooreman on same date, \$363; in bank on account U. C. V., \$360. The books are balanced to same date and are ready for inspection. The work of the adjutant general's office aggregates months, and is rendered with the affection the incumbent must ever feel for his loved comrades of the cause. Respectfully,

J. G. HOLMES, Adj. Gen. Clerk of Staff.

[Since this report was prepared many camps have paid their dues.]

Upon motion of Gen. Carville it was decided to receive at the night session the report of the committee on the proposition to build a monument to the Confederate women.

Mrs. S. Reed Stoney has undertaken to have a mural tablet erected in memory of the signers of the Ordinance of Secession, and Gen. Walker asked that the descendants of the signers and all interested meet at the Mansion House relative to the proposition.

The audience was so large and the difficulty of hearing so great that Capt. J. P. Lyon, of Asheville, moved that Col. Hoyt be requested to appoint a special detail with palm-branches to keep peace and order.

Things had been going along quietly, when some of the old soldiers wanted to give fire and snuff to the proceedings, and the demand became imperative, whereupon Gen. Butler said he had no idea of breaking into the proceedings, even to make acknowledgment of the honor shown him, but he hoped that some other time to have something to say which would interest the Veterans. He asked to be excused from having anything to say at this time. He said he was profoundly grateful for the opportunity of meeting so many of the old soldiers, and it was a sincere and pleasant surprise that the Veterans to meet each other, for they and he were all getting old very fast. He then feelingly referred to his attending the funeral service of General McGowan, and told how the whole population of the city came to the funeral of an old soldier. He thought that it was little as could be done for the old soldiers to come together once every year. He heartily thanked the Veterans for the honor shown him in calling on him.

Capt. W. Aiken Kelly, of Charleston, in behalf of Gen. Edward McCrady and others, offered a series of resolutions relative to the death of Gen. McGowan.

Upon motion the resolutions prepared by Gen. McCrady were ordered printed. During the reading of these resolutions the name of Gen. Hampton was mentioned, and this provoked a long and loud outburst of applause from the old soldiers. At this juncture the committee from the Sons of Veterans arrived in the hall, and Mr. A. G. Furman said that he had the honor of introducing a delegation from the Sons of Veterans, who sent their fraternal greetings, and he introduced Mr. L. W. Simpkins as spokesman for the committee.

M. Simpkins spoke briefly, but to the point, and said that the Sons were anxious to carry on the work their fathers had undertaken, and to cherish the memories of their great work, he said, the Sons felt that they were best showing that they felt proud of the records and deeds of their sires, and that they had nothing to regret. No matter what might be said of the State's improvement, in an industrial and mental line, no one had ever yet said that there was today a higher code of morals,