

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Fourteenth Annual Encampment

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

Grand Army of the Republic

CONVENED IN

DENISON, TEXAS.

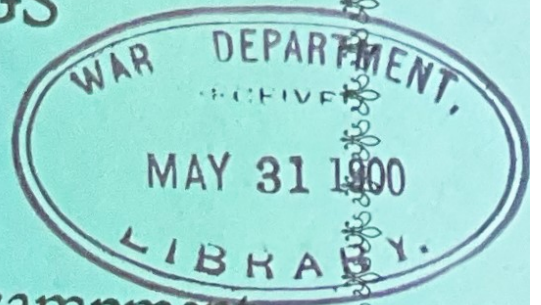
April 20, 21, 22,

1899.

DALLAS, TEXAS.

PRESS OF E. B. BEDFORD,

1900.





**W. F. CONNOR,
Department Commander.**

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J. C. BIGGER,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Proceedings of the Encampment.

The Fourteenth Annual Encampment of the Department of Texas, Grand Army of the Republic, held at Denison, April 21st, 22nd, and 23rd was an excellent one and a success in every particular, excepting that rain, for the first time in the history of the Department, prevented the parade from taking place.

A norther had blown and a little drizzling rain was coming down at 1:30, which delayed the assembling of the people in Vorwaerts Hall for the address of welcome and public reception. In a few moments, however, after the appointed hour, Department Commander W. F. Conner, asked the band to start the music, calling for "A Hot Time in the Old 'Town To-night." After a patriotic selection and the piece requested, the ladies of the Relief Corps, and many of the ladies of Denison, came into the hall and were seated in the front near the rostrum.

The meeting was opened by Maj. W. O. Kretzinger of this city, who introduced Mayor Lebrecht. Mr. Lebrecht said:

I am thankful to the Grand Army of the Republic that you selected the Gate City of Texas for this, your State Encampment. I assure you that there is warmth in every heart in Denison for the old soldiers of the Civil war, and while the weather is not as pleasant, sunshiny and smiling as we would wish it, I will say that it is not our fault. This norther to-day we call 'yankee weather,' and we of

the South are not to blame for it. I want to say that I am glad that in America there is no North, no South, no East, no West, but one grand, united Government that commands the respect of every nation of the world. I had no part in the war and all I know about it is from what I have read and what I have heard related, therefore it would be useless for me to try to say anything interesting to you old veterans, who fought through one of the bloodiest wars the world has ever known, who lived on hardtack and beef, although there was no 'refrigerated beef' in your time of battle.

"Again I thank you for your coming to Denison to hold your encampment, and I herewith present to your Department Commander, the key to the city, assuring you and him that in every home, in every place in Denison there is a welcome for you. and if there is anything that you do not see, that you want, turn this key in the city's lock and you will find it."

The address of the Mayor was warmly received and applauded, his reference to refrigerated beef drawing out an expression of mirth.

Department Commander W. F. Conner, responded to Mayor Lebrecht, as follows:

"Mr. Mayor, it will be a cold day in August when you get left. I thank you for your kindly words of welcome to the G. A. R., and for the freedom of the city. The citizens of Denison have extended to the old soldiers, to us, a far greater welcome than we anticipated. We knew there would be a royal welcome and grand treatment while here, but did not dream of anything of these magnificent proportions. We knew by a former reception we had when we held our Encampment here in 1893, that we might expect a warm reception here in 1899, but we were not prepared for the great preparations that have been made. We didn't know that on our second coming to Denison we would be given the earth, already fenced.

"I see welcome on every flag that flies, in every face we meet, on every door, in the decorations that bedeck and beautify your business houses and homes, by Old Glory flying in the breeze and the decorations on your public buildings. We know that you, the warm-hearted, good people of Denison, have done all you could and in our hearts we appreciate it. We are under a deep sense of gratitude for our reception here, and there is no greater gratitude than burns in the heart of every old veteran of the G. A. R. In be-

half of the G. A. R. I extend thanks to the mayor, to the citizens of Denison for this welcome, and I assure you that the few days we spend in your city will be remembered as among the happiest of our lives.

"The mission of the G. A. R. is a mission of mercy. We are banded together for the benefit of each other, for fraternity and charity, to assist those who need it when they need it. No heart beats warmer than the heart of the veteran who saw service in one of the most memorable struggles the world ever saw. Again I thank you a thousand times. I thank you in behalf of the Grand Army of the Republic of Texas."

The response of Mr. Conner was greeted with loud applause and cheers.

Capt. M. B. Davis of Waco, an old veteran of the confederacy, was on the stage and Department Commander Conner called upon him for an address. Capt. Davis responded in an eloquent vein. In his heart burns the fire, the poetry, and patriotism of war and battle, and although he fought for the "lost cause" and followed the fortunes of the stars and bars, his love of Old Glory is none the less than if he had followed its lead on the battle field in 1861—65. Mr. Davis said:

"I met you, comrades of the G. A. R., on the field in the '60s amid the shriek of shell and the slaughter of bullets, and I am happy to have lived to see this occasion, when I can meet here as American citizen, American soldiers, who fought for your country. There are the thousands who went down in that frightful war, both northern and southern blood and bravery, that went down in the gloom and glory, but there is grandeur in that gloom and glory in their graves.

"When I shook hands with the comrades of the G. A. R., I did not extend a hand across a bloody chasm to grasp the hand of a soldier and a patriot, but I grasped his hand on the road to the cemetery, where we went to spread flowers on the graves of the blue and the gray.

"I am glad to meet these ladies of the Women's Relief corps here to-day under the smiling eyes of peace. These women of the

relief corps—of the Red Cross—are the noblest atoms that God ever created.

"In the far-away Pacific, in the orient, there is a man named Aguinaldo who has taken up arms against the American republic. There are men in this country, I am ashamed to say, who applaud him, but they are not ex-confederates. If this war progresses, and it promises to grow more serious, I want to say that the ex-confederates will draw true blades and under the folds of Old Glory they will fight for a reunited country, the grandest government in the world.

"In 1861 there was an indigestible lump in the national system that had to be got rid of. The lines were drawn, the trouble removed, and to-day I am in line with Fitzhugh Lee and old Joe Wheeler and ready to fight for my flag and my country, united and inseparable. When the last days of my life come and I am carried to the cemetery I want no tenderer, loving hands than those of the Woman's Relief corps to carry me to my grave, a 'nationalized rebel,' if you please."

The remarks of Mr. Davis were greeted with applause. Mrs. Ada C. Works of Waco, president of the Woman's Relief corps, was called upon and addressed the meeting briefly and earnestly, thanking the people of Denison and the women of the local relief corps for their many kindnesses in behalf of the 350 women of the corps.

Capt. John Roch of Dublin was called for and in a few spirited, patriotic remarks, captured the audience. He said:

"In 1861—65 it was northern bravery against southern bravery and the country was firmly reunited and sealed with the blood of the heroes on the battle field. The ex-confederates, God bless them, never cheated us out of a bullet during the civil war, but for every one we sent them they sent more in return.

"Seeing and hearing of so many majors, captains, colonels, generals and the like at these encampments, one would think that the war was fought by officers; but this is not true. When there was a battle raging the woods were full of privates.

" 'You may sing if you will of the brave brigadiers,
And of their glorious deeds you may brag,
But the men who deserve the cheers of the boys
Were the privates who carried the flag.' "

At the conclusion of Mr. Roch's remarks Commander Conner stated that the public meeting was at an end and the encampment would get down to business. The doors were closed to the public and the work of the encampment was taken up.

The informal proceeding closed at 2:30 p. m., and the Executive Session of the Encampment was at once commenced, the Divine blessing being invoked by Department Chaplain S. W. Patterson.

The report of the Committee on Credentials was received and adopted, except that portion of the same excluding Comrades H. R. Lyon and R. Vermillion, F. Logan Post No, 23, who were, on motion of Comrade J. L. Boyd, admitted as representatives of said post, to seats and votes in the Encampment.



ROLL OF THE FOURTEENTH DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

*W. F. CONNER,	.....	Department Commander.
*E. G. RUST,	.....	Senior Vice Department Commander.
*C. C. HASKELL,	.....	Junior Vice Department Commander.
J. J. GASSER,	.....	Medical Director.
*S. W. PATTERSON,	.....	Department Chaplain.
*J. C. BIGGER,	.....	Asst. Adgt. Gen. & Acting Asst. Q. M. Gen.
*J. S. DUNLAP,	.....	Department Inspector.
W. F. WEILAND,	.....	Judge Advocate.
WM. Z. MANCHESTER,	.....	Chief Mustering Officer.
*P. B. SPRAGUE,	.....	Senior Aide De Camp.

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION.

*JNO. L. BOYD.	E. B. DWYER.
GARDNER WORK.	FRANK L. KIRK.
*C. B. GRABE.	

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS.

*W. D. WYLIE.	O. T. LYON.
†W. H. SINCLAIR.	†J. C. DEGRESS.
A. G. MALLOY.	A. K. TAYLOR.
M. W. MANN.	†O. G. PETERSON.
*J. W. PARKS.	R. M. MOORE.
W. W. BOSTWICK.	*G. W. McCORMICK.
*EDWIN KETCHUM.	

NOTE—Those marked with a * were present. Those marked with a † deceased.

The report of the Committee on Credentials showed the following representatives present and entitled to vote:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

McPherson No. 1, Sherman. Post Commander George Colts; Representative, Wm. Flesher; Alternate, Samuel Mayers and Past Post Commanders, H. A. Johnson, John Brown, L. Q. Edmiston and Wm. Allen. 7 votes.

Hancock, No. 2, Galveston. Past Post Commander, Edwin Ketchum. 1 vote.

E. O. C. Ord, No. 3, San Antonio. Past Post Commander, R. M. Moore. 1 vote.

Parmly No. 4, Fort Worth. Representative, Charles Bagget; Alternate, E. P. Brown and Past Post Commanders C. B. Grabe and J. N. Diehl. 4 votes.

Lyon, No. 5, Denison. Post Commander, C. C. Haskell; Representatives, T. M. Wright and J. H. Dunn; Alternate, C. E. Farnsworth and Past Post Commanders, L. B. Moore, E. C. Clifford, H. Hume. W. O. Kretsinger and John L. Tygard. 9 votes.

George H. Thomas, No. 6, Dallas. Post Commander J. P. Clark; Representative, J. S. Dunlap; Alternates, M. L. Mullen and J. S. King; Past Post Commanders, A. McWhirk and P. B. Sprague; Past Department Commander W. D. Wylie and Department Commanders, W. F. Conner. 8 votes.

Geo. B. McClelland, No. 9, Houston. Post Commander, C. B. Peck; Representative, George Race; Past Post Commanders, J. J. Billow and E. G. Rust. 4 votes.

Joseph A. Mower, No. 10, Austin. Alternate, Henry Allen. 1 vote.

John A. Dix, No. 11, Dallas. Post Commander, Patrick O. Dwyer; Representative, Geo. R. Graves; Past Post Commanders, John L. Boyd, D. Mackay, D. M. Baker, J. C. Bigger, J. W. Parks, G. W. McCormick, John Hunter, L. C. Leeds, M. W. Mann, J. J. Weiler, J. A. Callahan and

- Dep't. Chaplain S. W. Patterson. 14 votes.
 Hurst, No. 13, Terrell. Past Post Commander, H. C. Adler. 1 vote.
 John A. Logan, No. 23, Denton. Post Commander, T. A. Robinson; Alternate, R. W. Craig; Past Post Commanders, J. E. Stringer, J. O. Berry, H. R. Lyon and R. Vermillion. 6 votes.
 Wright, No. 26, Paris. Representative, T. O. Proctor; Past Post Commanders, E. A. Russell and J. O. Estabrook. 3 votes.
 Kilpatrick, No. 40, Belton. Past Post Commander, W. H. Harvey. 1 vote.
 Canby, No. 48, Jacksboro. Alternate, H. W. Clingman. 1 vote.
 W. T. Sherman, No. 51, Granbury. Past Post Commander, W. H. Catts. 1 vote.
 General Sam Houston, No. 55, Dublin. Post Commander, John Roch; Representative R. K. Holman; Alternate, T. Marks and Past Post Commander, H. H. Andrews. 4 votes.
 Burnsidess, No. 56, Springtown. Post Commander, J. L. Craig. 1 vote.
 Rousseau, No. 60, Graham. Past Post Commander, P. B. Hunt. 1 vote.
 Travis, No. 66, Abilene. Past Post Commander, M. Perkins. 1 vote.
 Kit Carson, No. 74, Waco. Post Commander, W. A. Stoner; Alternate, G. J. Elam; Past Post Commander, J. McCune. 3 votes.

Posts No. 17 at Brackettsville, 19 at El Paso, 20 at Lampasas, 25 at Georgetown, 45 at Weatherford, 53 at Jefferson, J. Davis at Corpus Christi, 57 at Mason, 64 at Fredericksburg, 67 at Brownsville, 72 at Alvin and 75 at La Porte, were not represented.

Senior Vice Dept. Com. E. G. Rurt, was called to the Chair, and the Department Commander, W. F. Conner, read his interesting and carefully prepared address as follows:

ADDRESS OF THE DEPARTMENT COMMANDER.

COMRADES:—

Our Thirteenth Annual Encampment was held in the beautiful City of Austin, the Capital of our State, where the Comrades and Citizens vied with each other in their efforts to contribute to our comfort and pleasure. Every possible detail was carefully looked after. We were overwhelmed by their many acts of kindness, and the true hospitality extended to us, for which we feel ourselves under a lifelong debt of gratitude. The Austin Encampment will be a pleasant memory throughout our lives. To-day we meet in Denison, the Gate City of Texas, where we know from past experience, that the same generous hospitality, the same friendly, warm-hearted greeting, is in store for us, that made our Austin Encampment so markedly pleasant.

Comrades, one year ago you did me the distinguished honor of electing me Commander of this Department. I told you at that time of my great appreciation of your kindness. I then made you a promise that I would devote as much of my time and energy to the work of building up the G. A. R. in Texas as I possibly could,—how well I have kept that promise, I leave you to judge. In accepting the office, with its many responsibilities, I told you that I would require the hearty support and co-operation of all the comrades in the Department,—let each comrade's conscience answer if he has given that assistance he ought to have done. To such as have, I am extremely grateful,—to those who have not, I will only say, try to do better for my successor.

CONDITION OF THE DEPARTMENT.

In deference to the resolution passed at the last Encampment, I have made an earnest effort to reclaim those delinquent Posts that have for years been carried on the Rolls, and been reported to the National Headquarters as in good standing, and on whom we have been paying Per Capita Tax, while in fact, they had not been contributing members, not even making an effort to hold meetings, after communicating with them by letter and in many cases by per-

sonal visits, and offering them every possible inducement to return to the "fold," I decided them a detriment to the progress of our Order, and after consultation with the Council of Administration, revoked the charters of the following eight Posts:

E. A. Starling,	Post No. 21,	Temple,
Farragut,	" "	28, Cameron.
Custer,	" "	32, Lamasco.
Jeff C. Davis,	" "	36, Fort Davis.
Crook,	" "	49, San Antonio.
Dick Yates,	" "	59, Baird.
Crockett,	" "	70, Waco.
Joe Hooker,	" "	73, Ennis.

These Posts at last reports had a total membership of 124. The following three Posts have been reorganized: Phil Sheridan, No. 25, Georgetown; Kirkpatrick, No. 40, Belton; and Sherman, No. 51, Granbury. One Post, McKinze, No. 46, Del Rio, voluntarily surrendered its charter, as all the members but two had moved away.

We have now 33 Posts in good standing, and while the membership was only 641, on January 1st, 1899, I am safe in saying that we have now on the rolls, over 700 members in good standing, and the prospects for a large increase for 1899 are decidedly flattering.

VISITATIONS.

I have personally visited every town in Texas where a Post is located with the exception of Brownsville. At three of these towns there were no quorums present when I visited them. At Fredericksburg, after riding in an old dilapidated hack, a distance of 30 miles, at night, in a snow storm, and one of the coldest I have experienced, I found only two comrades present. I have traveled over 10,000 miles in the interest of the department, and if I have not met, and taken every comrade in this department by the hand (those of Brownsville excepted), it is because they did not attend the meeting when I visited their Post. Since our last Encampment I have attended over 100 meetings of the G. A. R., W. R. C. and old soldiers where ever I have visited, have been kindly received, and treated with the greatest courtesy, especially at El Paso, Waco, San Antonio, Weatherford, Abilene, Mason, Alvin, Galveston Terrell and Jefferson.

I have made the Grand Rounds, and can report, that none but comrades are on guard,

WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS.

Under the careful guidance, and efficient management of the worthy President, Mrs. Ada C. Work, and her able Staff officers, The Womens Relief Corps is in perfect condition. I have visited the several corps, and rendered them all the assistance in my power. I have never failed to urge the organization of a W. R. C. in every town where a Post is located. My faith in the W. R. C. is unbounded.

SONS OF VETERANS.

I have been unable to meet with a camp of the Sons of Veterans during my term. "Our boys had a little party" of their own this year in "Cuba" which, no doubt, has prevented them from extending that organization, which I hope will be the one that will perpetuate the name, and take up the work of the G. A. R.

PICKETS.

In General Order No. 4, June 18th, I promulgated the Picket system as instructed by the Austin Encampment, and now that the "Dead Posts" are not in the way, I am sure that it will be beneficial. I would recommend that the part G. O. No. 4 referring to the establishing of "Pickets" be published with the first G. O. of my successor, and that copies be mailed to members of the disbanded Posts.

"DISCIPLINE IN POSTS."

Many Posts that I have visited, seem to think it unnecessary to observe the Form of opening and closing the Posts as required by our rules. I would recommend that Aides-de-Camp and assistant inspectors be instructed to personally see that the work of their Posts is properly performed. The better the discipline, the more interest will be taken by the members of the Post.

DELINQUENT MEMBERS.

The subject of Delinquents, has been a hard problem to solve. During the past year we have lost 88 members from that cause alone. I fear that many Posts do not exercise proper care in

dealing with them. From experience I know that it is vastly easier to reclaim a delinquent, than to recruit a new member. I would therefore, caution Posts to use the most zealous care when it comes to dropping a comrade from our rolls. Make your Post meetings interesting, and secure the attendance of the comrades, and there will be fewer delinquents.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT.

The National Encampment held at Cincinnati last September, was another remarkable and historical event in the record of the G. A. R. The department of Texas was represented by 26 comrades in line on the Grand Parade. Their soldierly bearing brought forth the greatest praise from the press, and at every foot of the two miles march, we received an ovation second to no other department. I want to thank most sincerely, all those comrades who participated in that grand demonstration, which reflected such brilliant lustre on the "Long Horn Department."

FINANCES.

The most rigid economy has been the order during this administration, and by this practice alone have we been enabled to keep up with our expenses, and pay something on our indebtedness, which at the beginning of this term was \$141 67. Personally I have not spent a cent of the department's money, not even a postage stamp. The report of the A. A. G. and A. Q. M. G. will give a detailed statement of our finances.

As an economic measure, I would recommend that the boxes and our Records belonging to the department, be stored in Dallas, and that some comrade having the space, be appointed custodian. This will save the expense of express charges, and the trouble of carting over the State.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS.

There has been very little work that could be done by the officers of the department, outside of the A. A. G. and myself. We have not had a single case of Court Marshall, or decision to render, that would call for the services of the department Judge Advocate.

MORTUARY.

There has been sixteen deaths of members of this Department reported during the past year. Their names will appear in the

printed proceedings of this Encampment, and a page of the Records should be set apart for them.

The "Grim Reaper" does not stop to gather only the "weeds." He has this year taken from us the "Flower" of the G. A. R. On February 5th, our beloved and honored Commander-in-Chief, James A. Sexton, answered his last Earthly Roll call. He has joined that silent "Grand Army" above. Nothing I could say, would add to, or detract from, the glorious record he has made. We all loved him. I would recommend that this Encampment prepare a suitable Memorial, and that a page of our Records be set apart for that purpose, and that a copy be sent to his bereaved family.

DATE OF HOLDING DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT.

The date of holding our Department Encampment has been established on the 21st of April, San Jacinto Day, as this day has a habit of falling on Saturday and Sunday, at times we would find it exceedingly embarrassing for the Department to hold its meetings, and I would therefore recommend, that the date be left with the Department Commander and Council of Administration, the Department to indicate the month in which they wish the meeting held.

MONUMENT TO TENNESSEE UNION SOLDIERS.

I have received a communication from the Department of Tennessee with a "cut of a monument" in course of erection, at Knoxville Tennessee, soliciting contributions for its completion. This is a most deserving work, and I must heartily indorse it. Contributions, however small, will be received by the A. A. G. and promptly forwarded with the donor's name.

MILITARY INSTRUCTIONS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

I have received from Colonel A. C. Bakewell, of New York, special aid to the Commander-in-Chief, in charge of Military Instructions in Public Schools, a circular letter, and other papers, asking this Department to assist in the matter of procuring through Congress, an act, providing for the detail of Officers of the U. S. Army and Navy, to assist in the Military Instructions in Public Schools. This is a subject deserving your earnest consideration, and I trust that you will so regard it.

MEMORIAL DAY.

The observance of this day has become more general. The sweet, sad, duties are being taken up by the citizens, as well as by our own comrades. How well the day was observed in this Department, I will leave for our worthy, and talented comrade, Department Chaplain, S. W. Patterson, to inform you.

CONCLUSION.

In closing my official relations with the Department, I desire to return my sincere thanks to my Department, and Official Staff, for their uniform kindness and the faithful and cheerful assistance rendered during my term.

To that loyal Veteran and Comrade, Assistant Adjutant General, J. C. Bigger, I feel myself deeply indebted for much that has been accomplished. The office of A. A. G. is one of great responsibility, requiring skill, faithfulness, and experience. He should be a living Encyclopedia on G. A. R. matters. Comrade Bigger possesses all these qualifications.

Now my Comrades, when we go from this Encampment let it be with "Malice toward none," but with an abiding love for every Comrade in our Loyal Hearts. Let us each resolve to do our whole duty to our Grand Order, and when we meet at our next Annual Encampment, we may have that happy, inborn, consciousness, that we have been faithful to our obligations.

W. F. CONNER, Dept. Commander.

After the reading of the address which was listened to with marked attention, it was referred to a committee consisting of Past Department Commanders Ketchum, Moore and McCormack, after which the Department Commander resumed the gavel.

The Senior Vice and Junior Vice Department Commanders then read their respective reports as follows:

Gen. W. F. Conner, Commander Department of Texas, and Comrades:—Thanking you for the honor conferred upon me at our last State Encampment, beg to report, that owing to the activity of our Commander, I have really had very little official work to

do as Senior Vice during the past year. I have visited Houston, Galveston, Alvin and La Porte, and am pleased to say that in the southern portion of the Department, with which I have been in closer touch than other portions, there is a decided improvement in Grand Army matters. The influx of ex-union soldiers from other states into the coast region is very great, and since our war with Spain there is a greater willingness to come into the Posts than formerly, owing in large measure I think to the better feeling existing between the soldiers of the two old armies.

In my own Post there is great improvement in this respect, not a meeting having taken place this year without at least one Comrade being mustered into the Post, and sometimes as many as three in one night.

There is also call for the organization of a Post at Beaumont and other places on the coast. Under favorable conditions and the proper amount of judicious labor being expended in our section the coming year, there ought to be a very decided increase in our membership in South Texas.

My associations with my Comrades in official capacity, has been pleasant and cordial, and in conclusion my best wishes go out for my comrades and the Department.

Yours in F. C. & L.

E. G. RUST.

Senior Vice Dept. Commander.

Head Quarters Department of Texas G. A. R:—When the Department is in command of so efficient, so worthy, so devoted a Commander, and seconded by so able a Senior Vice Commander, and both on duty, there is very little for the Junior Vice Commander to do. Yet we have not been idle nor asleep in North Texas during the last year. The Home Post, Nathaniel Lyon No. 5. has enjoyed a year of prosperity and harmony. Never has there been a year when we have had less dissention among our members.

The report of the Department Chaplain shows how we observed memorial day; the Blue and the Gray joined in making the observance memorable. We have been called out three times to bury departed Comrades, besides sending representatives to Parsons, Kansas, to assist in the burial of Comrade D. A. Boam who died at the Katy Hospital at Sedalia, Mo. A number of camp fires and

joint meetings were held during the Summer and Fall with the W. R. C. and citizens which resulted in, keeping before the public, and preparing the way for, the success of this Department meeting. It was my privilege to join the Department and attend the National Encampment at Cincinnati in September and count one for Texas.

I see no good reason why the interest in this organization should not continue for many years, and the G. A. R. make itself felt in every community. It is with you, Comrades, to say whether we shall hand down to future generations, the good name of our organization.

With best wishes I am in F. C. & L.

C. C. HASKELL.

Junior Vice Dept. Commander.

These reports were received and adopted. The exhaustive and interesting report of the Department Chaplain was read and referred to a committee consisting of Comrades J. L. Boyd, J. E. Stringer, and H. Hume. His report is as follows:

GEN. W. F. CONNER, Dept. Commander:

I respectfully submit herewith my report as Dept. Chaplain for the year 1898.

In submitting this report, I will state that 20 posts have responded promptly and fully.

Wainwright Post No. 72 gives a full report Memorial day was well attended by 30 comrades The sermon was preached by the son of a veteran D. W. Burt. Memorial day services were well attended, the graves of our dead comrades were decorated and an address was delivered by a son of a veteran Rev. Summa. In answer to the question, How to improve and make memorial and decoration days more impressive, the Chaplain of the post says: Get the church interested, secure the best music and get the business houses to close. This suggestion is very commendable.

Rosseau Post No. 60 reports no memorial day services. The Decoration day services were observed and some 30 comrades participated, joined by the Confederate Veterans. Seven graves of our fallen were decorated.

Barney Post No. 67 Brownville, on account of the small number of members belonging to this post, decided to hold no Memorial or Decoration day services.

Gen. Sam Houston Post No. 55 Dublin, held Memorial day services, ten comrades were present at the services. The sermon was preached by Rev. Matthews. Twelve comrades took part in Decoration day services. Six graves of our noble dead were strewn with flowers. The address of our veteran John Roch, on this occasion, was the finest we ever listened to, full of patriotism and loyalty to our country and our flag.

P. E. Holcomb Post No. 57 Mason, reports full services both Memorial and Decoration days. The sermon was preached by a comrade. A goodly number attended Decoration day services. Nine graves of our noble dead were covered with flowers. The Chaplain urges more zeal upon the part of comrades in all these services.

Travis Post No. 69 Abilene, reports Memorial day services no attended in a body, no graves decorated as the day was not observed.

E. J. Davis Post No. 54 Corpus Christi, reports no Memorial day services, but a very impressive Decoration day memorial. There were almost an equal number of Ex-Confederate soldiers uniting with our comrades in this service. The boys in blue and gray attending and co-operating in this impressive service. Two cemeteries in which were buried 40 comrades, were visited and impressive services were held. The address was delivered by comrade Kilmer.

Burnside Post No. 56 Springtown, no Memorial day observance, but a very interesting Decoration day service. 400 school children participated in the decoration and four Societies joined in the procession. This is certainly a very commendable report when citizens and all take an interest in Memorial day.

San Jacinto Post No. 75 La Porte, gives a full report, both days were properly and appropriately observed. 16 comrades were present and the address was made by Mr. Blackwell P. M. The Chaplain of this post remarks that schools should be closed and all pupils and citizens be urged to attend.

Ord Post No. 3 San Antonio. There was no Memorial Sabbath day observance by this post, but a very impressive and interesting Memorial day observance was entered into. 48 comrades from this post were present. W. R. C., Sons of Veteraes, and the Regular

Army and Navy union were present to make the day pleasant and profitable. The Union Veterans of the city were invited to be present as the guests of these organizations. 1206 graves were decorated, 45 children sang the National memorial hymn with great effect, after which Gen. Geo. W. Russ, the orator of the day delivered an eloquent address.

Kit Carson Post No. 74 Waco. The report from this post is indeed encouraging. 50 comrades including the W. R. G. and Sons of Veterans 250 in all attended Sabbath Memorial services and listened to a splended sermon delivered by a Conf. Veteran Rev. B. H. Carroll. 43 Federal and 175 Confederate graves were strewn with flowers. The address was delivered by a Conf., Sidney S. Samuels of Ft. Worth.

John A. Dix Post No. 11 and Thomas Post No. 6 of Dallas, united in both Memorial and Decoration day services. To the W. R. C. of both posts belong much of the success attending these services.

The Memorial services were held in the Tabernacle M. E. Church and a large number of comrades from both posts and both W. R. C's. were present and listened to a very able sermon by Rev. L. Steves. Decoration day was observed by a large attendance from two posts and W. R. C's. and Sons of Veterans, with many citizens and school children present. Songs and addresses were made and all seemed deeply impressed with the services. The children took part in the decoration services. At night all repaired to G. A. R. Hall where an excellent program was rendered.

Parmly Post No. 4, Ft. Worth. Memorial day services were conducted by the son of a veteran, Geo. MacAdam. About 40 comrades joined in the Decoration day services. The address was delivered by an Ex-Confederate, J. W. Friend. The Chaplain urges eternal vigilance, concert of action and personal effort, in order to make our Memorial day more interesting and more fruitful.

Emmett Crawford Post No. 19, El Paso. Our post held Divine services on Memorial day Sabbath, and there were present at that service twenty-two comrades. The sermon was preached by Rev. Moore. Decoration day was appropriately observed. Twenty comrades were in attendance. Sixteen graves were decorated and an able address was delivered by the son of a veteran.

Joseph A. Mower Post No. 10, Austin. The Chaplain reports twenty comrades in attendance on Memorial Sabbath. L. T. Mays

preached the Memorial sermon. On Memorial day twenty-six comrades were in line. The W. R. C. assisted in the decoration of forty graves of our fallen heroes. Major Ira H. Evans, a veteran, gave the address. The Chaplain suggests the improvement of the W. R. C. by requesting harmony, following the rules and regulations of their Order, require them to report to the G. A. R. post, which they do not do and regulate their elections to do honor to more than one or two of their members in order to encourage others.

McPherson Post No 1, Sherman. The Post Chaplain reports no Memorial Sabbath day service. There were twenty comrades present on Decoration day and twenty school-girls participated in the service. Twenty-four graves were covered with flowers, from kind and loving hands and hearts. Rev. J. M. Carter, of the 4th Tenn. Cav. was the speaker of the day.

George Wright Post No.26, Paris. Bernard McCam, Chaplain of the post, reports that two comrades participated on Memorial Decoration day. Three cemeteries were visited and four graves were decorated. The Chaplain adds: "Comrade Russell and myself take our flags and flowers and visit the comrades graves, and after reading the ritual we place our flags and flowers upon the graves of our dead comrades." Such patriotism is worthy of the highest commendation.

We now submit the last report in our hands, but by no means the least. I think one of the fullest and most interesting reports comes from Nathaniel Lyon Post No. 5, Denison. Both Memorial Sabbath service and Decoration Day services were observed in the most appropriate and inspiring manner. Seventy-five comrades participated. One hundred fifty-eight graves were decorated. Four public schools and two hundred pupils, and four other organizations participated.

In closing the report of your Department Chaplain, I find about four thousand people in all, attend Memorial Decoration day. There were over eighteen hundred graves decorated. Then over forty graves of our comrades unmarked. I wish, as your Department Chaplain, to return to you my grateful thanks for the honor you have bestowed on me, wishing you, my dear comrades, peace, health and long life, I am,

Yours in F. C. & L.,

S. W. PATTERSON,
Department Chaplain.

The report of Dr. J. J. Glasser, Medical Director, was read and adopted as follows:

REPORT OF MEDICAL DIRECTOR.

Department of Texas, G. A. R.

GENERAL W. F. CONNER, Commander.

Comrade:—I have the honor to submit the following report for the six months ending December 31, 1898:

Number of posts reported, 13.

Number of deaths during term, 5.

Number who presumably died of wounds received in the service, 2.

Number who presumably died from other causes 3.

Number of ex-soldiers treated free of charge, 1. The reasonable money value of such service, \$5.00.

Number of patients treated free of charge, who were members of the families of ex-soldiers, 3. The reasonable money value of such service, \$3.00. Money value of medicines furnished, \$2.00. Total money value of above mentioned services and supplies, \$10 00.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.,

J. J. GASSER, M. D., Medical Director,

Department of Texas, G. A. R.

The Assistant Adjutant General then submitted his report of the business transactions of the Department, which was referred to a committee consisting of Comrades A. McWhirk, J. J. Weiler and J. McCune.

His report is as follows:

REPORT OF ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL.

Headquarters Department of Texas, G. A. R.

DALLAS, TEXAS, April 19, 1899.

GENERAL W. F. CONNER, Commander.

My Dear Sir and Comrade:--I have the honor to submit my detailed report of the business of the Assistant Adjutant General's office, and also my report as acting Assistant Quartermaster General, for the year last past, in compliance with the rules and regulations.

MEMBERSHIP FIRST HALF YEAR. (To June 30, 1898.)

	POSTS.	MEMBERS.
December 31, 1897.....	43	876
Gains		
By muster.....		21
By transfer.....		7
By reinstatement.....		11
Total gain.....		<u>39</u>
Aggregate.....		<u>915</u>
Loss		
By death.....		8
By honorable discharge.....		2
By transfer.....		3
By suspension.....		92
Surrendered Charter.....	1	20
Total loss.....	<u>1</u>	<u>125</u>
Remaining in good standing.....	42	<u>790</u>

MEMBERSHIP LAST HALF YEAR. (To Dec. 31, 1898.)

	POSTS.	MEMBERS.
June 30, 1898.....	42	790
Gains. By muster.....		19
By transfer.....		2
By reinstatement.....		14
Total gain.....		<u>35</u>
Aggregate.....		<u>825</u>
Loss By death.....		8
By honorable discharge.....		4
By transfer.....		3
By suspension.....		21
Surrendered Charters.....	9	147
Total loss.....	<u>9</u>	<u>173</u>
Remaining in good standing.....	<u>33</u>	<u>652</u>

These thirty-three posts and six hundred fifty-two members are all in good standing and have paid their per capita tax, except J. C. DeGress Post No. 76, of Fort Worth, the last post organized. It is delinquent one term with eleven members, which leaves the actual membership in good standing at thirty-two posts and six hundred forty-one comrades. From all the information I can gain, I do not think Post No. 76 will ever reinstate itself, and the figures 32 posts and 641 members, constitute the actual numerical strength of this Department. It has really stood at about this number for years. In December 1896, the Department paid the national per capita tax of 1½ cents per comrade on 786 members reported in good standing, but 117 of these were delinquent, leaving the actual number in good standing 669. On June 30, 1897, the Department paid the same per capita tax on 819 members reported in good standing, while of this number 16 posts and 200 members were delinquent, leaving only 619 members in good standing. Again in December 1897, 876 comrades were carried as in good standing, when in fact 154 of them were delinquent, leaving the real strength of the Department 722. So, too, in June 1898, we paid on 790 reported in good standing, of which 169 were delinquent, the real strength of the Department being 621.

We carried these delinquent posts and comrades as the two preceding administrations had done, hoping by writing and personal

visits to induce them to again enter the fold. The Department Commander visited nearly all these posts, some of them several times, many letters were written by me and by him, and everything possible done, but it resulted in only three posts with ten members each coming again into our ranks. Sheridan No. 25 at Georgetown, Kilpatrick No. 40 at Belton and Sherman No. 51 at Granbury, in the last half year paid \$3.00 each and thus reinstated themselves.

The remaining delinquent Posts with the exception of "Crook No. 49," "McKenzie No. 46," and "Sterling No. 21," which sent in their Charters declined to reply to letters, send in their Charters, or make reports, and after laying these facts before the Council of Administration, a majority of said Council recommended that all of those Posts so long delinquent be dropped, which was done in my last Report to National Head Quarters, and with the exception of DeGress Post, which is still carried, the exact strength of the Department is shown, since, the carrying of delinquent Posts was inaugurated in 1896.

Twelve General orders and nine Special orders have been issued during the year and transmitted together with the General orders from National Head Quarters to the Posts and Comrades entitled to receive the same.

Every possible effort has been made to establish the Picket System in this Department, but has resulted in but little being accomplished as yet. As fast as Posts became hopelessly delinquent, or surrendered their Charters, every inducement was made to have the Comrades of such Posts form Pickets and attach themselves to the nearest Post in good standing, and to secure these desirable results the Department Commander in each instance offered to personally organize these Pickets without expense to the Comrades, but his generous offers have not as yet been accepted. It seems to me that as the smaller and weaker Posts pass away, the Picket System is the only remedy to prevent the death of our organization in Texas, and that a great effort should be made to have this matter understood and generally adopted throughout the Department.

The Grim Reaper Death has been busy in our ranks during the past year. Sixteen Comrades having answered roll call on earth for the last time. Their names are as follows:

ROLL OF HONOR.

STERLING PAWLEY,.....	Post No. 3
M. J. HANCOCK,	Post No. 5
L. RUGAN,.....	Post No. 5
C. E. DWYER,.....	Post No. 9
A. STINER,.....	Post No. 19
GEO. SUMNER,.....	Post No. 45
JAS. LAWSON,.....	Post No. 56
GEO. COLWELL,.....	Post No. 56
JNO. B. CAPRERO,.....	Post No. 2
S. E. SLEDGE,.....	Post No. 9
W. O. ODEM,.....	Post No. 11
PATRICK CONLON,.....	Post No. 11
ANDREW BALDESCHWILES,.....	Post No. 54
SILAS TAYLOR,.....	Post No. 57
G. A. SERVICE,.....	Post No. 66

My report of the financial condition of the Department is as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand.....	\$ 61 95
" Rec'd. P. C. tax.....	386 40
" " Sale Supplies.....	44 53
" " Rent.....	11 00
" " J. L. Boyd.....	3 81
" " F. L. Kirk.....	3 79
Total.....	<u>511 48</u>

DISBURSEMENTS.

Salary A. A. G. 12 months.....	\$200 00
Printing and Stationery.....	91 45
National P. C. tax.....	18 03
Purchasing Supplies.....	18 96
Rent, Headquarters, Cincinnati.....	31 00
Paid on liabilities.....	38 21
Drayage and expressage.....	5 95
Postage.....	15 50
Express Money Orders.....	1 05
Balance on hand.....	94 33
Total.....	<u><u>511 48</u></u>

PROPERTY OF DEPARTMENT.

Supplies.....	\$ 34 55
Department Banner.....	85 00
Headquarters Office Fixtures.....	30 00
One Pair Horns.....	30 00

LIABILITIES.

Due J. M. Steeve, balance salary as A. A. G.	\$50 60
Due John L, Boyd, balauce salary as A. Q. M. Gen.....	52 86

I close my reports with a heart full of gratitude to all the officers and comrades of the Department. I feel that I have done my duty but poorly, but I have done the best I could to help build up the Order and keep epenses down. My ill health has prevented me from doing all that I should have done, and I am truly grateful to the Order for the kind indulgence they have favored me with in

this regard. To you, Commander, my heart throbs with the liveliest emotions of gratitude for the innumerable acts of kindness you have extended to me.

Very truly in F. C. & L.,

J. C. BIGGER, Ass't. Adj. Gen.

The following reports of Staff officers were read and adopted viz: Department Inspector, J. S. Dunlap, and Chief of Staff, P. B. Sprague:

DALLAS, TEXAS. April 17, 1899.

GENERAL W. F. CONNER, Department Commander.

DEAR SIR & COMRADE:—My report as Department Inspector is necessarily brief and incomplete, for the reason that I was appointed to the position but recently to fill out the unexpired term of Comrade J. W. Burke, who resigned his position, and the reports of Posts have in many cases failed to come into my possession.

Posts No. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 26, 40, 54, 57, 60, 66, 67 and 74 have reported.

These nineteen Posts out of a total of thirty-three exhibit the following status, viz: Nine of them to-wit: McPherson, Ord, Parmly, Lyon, Thomas, McClellon, and Dix report prospects good. Posts No. 13 at Terrell, 17 at Bracketsville, 40 at Bellon, 54 at Corpus Christi, 57 at Mason, 66 at Abilene, 67 at Brownsville, and 74 at Waco, report their prospects as fair, while No. 53 at Denton, and 60 at Graham, report poor prospects. Only two Posts No. 5 at Denton, and 74 at Waco, report camps of Sons of Veterans, and No. 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, and 74 report Woman's Relief Corps as auxiliaries.

The total amount in Relief fund is given as \$66.32. Amount expended by Post from Relief Fund \$160.25.

Very truly & in F. C. & L.

J. S. DUNLAP, Dept. Inspector.

DALLAS, TEX., April 17, 1899.

GENERAL W. F. CONNER, Department Commander.

DEAR SIR and COMRADE:—In obedience to Sec. 10. Article VI. Chapter 3, page 16, Rules and Regulations, I respectfully report as follows. There have been no duties either in the regular order of

business or by assignment, performed by me in connection with the office which you were pleased to honor me with at the commencement of your term of office.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

P. B. SPRAGUE.

Senior Aide De Camp & Chief of Staff.

The Report of Mrs. Ada C. Work, Department President W. R. C., was then submitted and adopted as follows:

TO THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC:

I have the honor to present through our Committee on Greetings, the following report from your Auxiliary, the Woman's Relief Corp, which will show the amount of total expenditures for the year, and for what purpose, in this Department:

Total Cash expended for relief of Union Veterans.....	\$118.17
Total Disbursements for relief other than money.....	97.05
Total Disbursements for relief in this fund.....	\$215.22

EXPENDITURES IN EMERGENCY FUND CREATED TO ASSIST THE SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS AND THEIR DEPENDENT ONES OF THE HISPANO-AMERICAN WAR.

Total Cash expended for relief through the Dept.....	\$118.50
Total Cash expended locally.....	48.92
Total value of relief other than money.....	74.00
	<u>\$241.42</u>
Total disbursements in Relief & Emergency Funds...	\$456.64
Total disbursements from General Fund.....	873.78
Total disbursements from General Fund and Relief Funds in this Department for the year.....	\$1330.42

Respectfully submitted in F. C. & L.

ADA C. WORK, Dept. Pres. W. R. C.

Department of Texas.

April 21-1899.

On motion the Department Commander appointed the following standing committees:

On Resolutions, Comrades P. B. Sprague, P. B. Hunt, and C. B. Grabe.

On Pensions, Comrades D. Mackay, A. W. Acheson, and T. Marks.

Past Department Commander notified the Encampment that a man named Renfro, claiming to be a member of Post No. 192 Department of New York, was a fraud. Comrade W. H. Clingman's motion, that the secret work of our Order be exemplified, carried, and one o'clock to-morrow was fixed as the hour.

Comrade Jno. L. Boyd's motion that the Encampment proceed to the election of officers, immediately after the exemplification of the secret work, carried. On motion, the Encampment adjourned until 1 o'clock P. M. to-morrow.

SECOND DAY.

The Encampment was promptly called to order by Department Commander, W. F. Conner, and the secret work exemplified. Comrade D. A. Welborn, of Logan Post No. 23 being re-obligated as a member of said Post.

The hour having arrived for the election of officers, Comrade W. H. Catts of Post No. 51, placed Comrade Jno. Roch of Post No. 55, in nomination for Department Commander, his nomination being seconded by Comrades T. Marks, D. Mackay, P. B. Sprague, and P. B. Hunt.

Comrade Edwin Ketchum of Post No. 2, nominated Comrade C. B. Peck of Post No. 9, for Department Commander, and this nomination was supported by Comrades Race and Rust of Post No. 9. and Adler of Post No. 13.

Before a ballot was ordered, Comrade Peck, in an eloquent and feeling speech, withdrew his name, and the Assistant Adjutant General was directed to cast the unanimous vote of the Encampment for Comrade Jno Roch, and he was declared unanimously elected. Comrades Peck and Mackay conducted the Department Commander elect to the platform and in a brief and eloquent speech he thanked the Encampment for the great honor conferred.

The following Department officers for the ensuing year were then unanimously elected, the Assistant Adjutant General casting the vote of the Encampment, viz:

- C. C. Haskell, Senior Vice Dept. Commander.
- J. J. Weiler, Junior Vice Dept. Commander.
- S. W. Patterson, Dept. Chaplain.
- T. Marks, Medical Director.
- Comrade J. N. Deihl, Delegate at Large.
- Comrade D. Mackay, Alternate at Large.
- Comrade Jno. L. Tygard, Delegate.
- Comrade W. H. Catts, Alternate.

The following Comrades were elected members of the Council of Administration:

C. B. Grabe, H. C. Adler, E. G. Rust, A. McWhirk, and H. R. Lyon.

San Antonio was placed in nomination as the city in which to hold our next Department Encampment, by Comrade R. M. Moore, who read letters of invitation from the "President of the Business Men's Club," and the Mayor of said city, and upon motion, San Antonio was unanimsusly selected, the date of the Encampment to be fixed by the Council of Administration.

The Department Commander appointed Comrades C. B. Peck, T. K. Crawley and E. G. Rust a committee to wait upon the ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps and convey to them the cordial greetings of this Encampment.

The various committees upon Reports of Officers, submitted the following which were adopted:

DENISON, TEXAS, April 21, 1899.

We, your Committee, appointed to review our Commander's address, find ourselves charged with a most agreeable duty. The work of our Department Commander W. F. Conner shows a zeal in the line of his duty, without a parallel in G. A. R. in our own state as well as in all other Departments, visiting, as he did, all of our 42 Posts, save one, that of Brownsville, almost inaccessible, requiring as it would for him to have traveled 300 miles by rail and 400 by water, else 500 by rail and 300 by stage without accommodations.

We commend his grand work with pride. We only wish, for the good of the Order, his successor can follow in his footsteps, and we most heartily advise that his suggestions be carried out to the letter.

Yours in F. C. & L.

E. KETCHUM,	} Committee.
R. M. MOORE,	
G. W. MCCORMACK.	

DENISON, TEXAS, April 21, 1899.

W. F. Conner, Dept Commander.

COMRADE:—Your Committee appointed to consider the Report of the Department Chaplain have the honor to report that we find the same full and complete, showing that the several Posts of the Department in connection with the Woman's Relief Corps, take a deep interest in the annual Memorial services and Decoration day, clearly evincing that the loving remembrance of our fallen comrades will last while life endures.

We congratulate Comrade Patterson upon his able report and take pleasure in recommending its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN L. BOYD,
J. E. STRINGER, } Committee.
H. HUME.

We, your committee on the report of Adjutant and Q. M. General, beg leave to recommend the adoption of the reports in full as read, with the thanks of this Encampment for the efficient names in which the records have been kept in the past years by Gen. J. C. Bigger.

A. McWHIRK,
J. J. WEILER, } Committee.
J. Mc CUNE.

Adjourned to meet to-morrow at 9 a. m.

THIRD DAY.

The encampment convened at 9 o'clock, Commander Connor presiding:

The Officer of the day announced that a committee from the Woman's Relief Corps was in waiting, and Comrades Peck and Hunt were requested by the Department Commander to escort them to the platform, which was done, and Mrs. Osborn, chairman of the delegation, delivered a very eloquent address to the Encampment, which was responded to in an able manner by the Department Commander.

The following resolutions received the approval of the Committee on Resolutions and were unanimously adopted:

Your Committee on Pensions would respectfully represent that another year has added to the burdens which our infirm comrades are carrying, at the same time that the energy and ability to struggle for existence has diminished. We are each year approaching nearer and nearer the time when we must "lay down the shovel and the hoe," and each year finds an increasing number unable to supply themselves with the necessities of life.

Many who have struggled manfully for subsistence, backed by impaired powers, because their best years of life were lavishly tendered to the government, have been nerved to continued efforts by the hope that the government would finally recognize the debt justly due them, and extend them assistance. Alas! Too many of them have hoped in vain. One after another, aged, infirm, crippled, objects of charity, we have carried them away to the grave, until they are numbered by the thousands, and probably weeks or months after the clouds of the valley are settled on their coffins, notice is received that pensions have been granted them.

There should be some method of expediting worthy pension claims, and especially in the case of comrades who have passed the age of sixty. To this end we would recommend that our delegates to the National Encampment be instructed to support any resolutions looking toward the conferring of pensions based upon age alone.

We would further ask the attention of the Encampment to the fact that our comrades in Texas, where granted pensions, are not receiving what their merits demand, but are placed at the foot of the list. It should be the duty of our Department Commander to try and remedy this.

D. MACKAY,
ALEX ACHESON.

WHEREAS: At this encampment, as at nearly all our Encampments, old comrades often come miles to be with their comrades on these occasions—suspended or perhaps dropped members, of some post from which they live at a distance, now, therefore

RESOLVED: That whenever a former comrade of any of our posts presents himself for admittance to our Encampment in session, that the commander of his post or any member of said post present, or if no member of his former post be present, then any member of the Encampment who knows him and can vouch for him as a reputable citizen and good comrade, be permitted and instructed to visit the out-post, and receive him, that he may be permitted to sit with us at all sessions where the secret work is not exemplified, and thus afford him the pleasure he so much covets.

E. G. RUST.

RESOLVED: That in the recent patriotic action of the Legislature of the State of Indiana, in the proposed return of the flag of the 8th Texas Terry's Rangers, of the confederate army, captured by our comrade Major J. J. Weiler, now of the John A. Dix Post of this Department, late of the 17th Indiana, we recognize the true spirit of the American people and the American soldier. This action of Indiana will have the tendency to bind us closer together in a unity of American patriotism for the perpetuity and prosperity of our National Union, where we are, regardless of section, sheltered and protected by one common flag, which floats over an undivided and unbroken Union. This 14th Encampment of the Grand Army, De-

partment of Texas, therefore desires, as old soldiers of the union army, to express our thanks to the Governor and the General Assembly of the State of Indiana for the courtesy extended to the Texas Rangers, now our friends and neighbors and our comrades in our fight for national glory.

W. D. WYLIE.

WHEREAS: The patriotic utterances of the President of the United States, during his recent Southern tour, gave fitting expression to the feeling of the entire nation, that all sectional differences, arising out of the civil war, had been forever buried, and

WHEREAS: The response of every state to call of arms in our recent war with Spain, was so hearty and unanimous as to furnish an object lesson to the nations of earth, of the splendid beneficence of American institutions, and the devotion of the American people to the honor of the flag and the glory of the country, and

WHEREAS: Upon every battlefield of the late Spanish war, the soldiers of the North and the South stood shoulder to shoulder, and shed their blood together, in upholding the flag of the Union, therefore be it

RESOLVED: First, that in our judgment the time has come, in which all past differences should be stricken from the vocabulary of the Americans, and the people of the country should know no North and no South, but stand as a band of loving and patriotic brethren, whose devotion and loyalty is not subject to question, but all are Americans, ready at any time to shed their blood in defense of the nation and its honor.

Second, that in this spirit a hearty and cordial invitation is extended to all American Citizens to unite with us on Memorial day (under the Stars and Stripes) to decorate with loving hands the graves of all Soldiers, Federal and Confederate alike, as a fitting testimonial of our mutual love and respect for each other, and as a united offering to our common country.

J. MC CUNE.

WHEREAS: The Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Texas, cannot disband at this session without recording our grateful appreciation of the many and marked courtesies extended to this Department by Lyon Post and Corps, and the citizens of Denison, therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the thanks of this Department are gratefully extended to the hospitable citizens of Denison and that to them all,

we will ever hold the Gate City of Texas and its citizens in grateful memory.

J. W. PARKS.
P. B. HUNT,
C. B. PECK,
W. H. COTTS.

WHEREAS: The Pacific Express Co. and the railroads of the State have given generous accommodations and rates for this encampment, be it

RESOLVED: That the ladies of the Women's Relief Corps and comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic hereby make due acknowledgement and extend to the Pacific Express Co. and the railroads of Texas, our heartfelt thanks for extended favors.

WM. H. CATTS,
P. B. HUNT,
C. B. PECK.

The Commander-Elect appointed J. C. Bigger Assistant Adjutant General, and the following comrades upon the Committee on Transportation: John L. Tygard, M. W. Mann and J. McCune. No other business appearing the Encampment closed in due form.

J. C. BIGGER,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Immediately after the Encampment closed the officers elected were installed.

There was a large attendance in the hall, it being limited to the size of the room. The beautiful and impressive installation ceremonies were public, and were very pretty, but owing to the shortness of the time, many of the delegates desiring to leave on the early afternoon trains, the program was short. Comrade E. G. Rust, of Houston, was installing officer and he did the work impressively. At

the conclusion of the installation, Department Commander Roch was called to the stage, and Past Department Commander Conner presented him with the gavel in a short speech, attesting the warm feeling of the comrades for their new Department Commander, and wishing him success in increasing the membership of the organization. Department Commander Roch thanked the Encampment cordially for their compliment in conferring the honor upon him and promised to use his best endeavors to increase the membership of the Order in Texas.

At the conclusion of the installation ceremonies, fruit and refreshments were served, and the Woman's Relief Corps took up the work of installing officers.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

This was an elegant affair and thoroughly enjoyed by the immense audience that packed the building, which was profusely decorated with flags, bunting, plants and flowers.

Major W. O. Kretsinger, who officiated as master of ceremonies, introduced Judge A. G. Moseley, who delivered an eloquent address. He spoke for twenty minutes and was interrupted time and again by his hearers with flattering applause. The speaker addressed himself not only to the minds but to the hearts of his hearers and during the course of his speech a tear—the most eloquent tribute of all—glittered upon the cheek of many an old veteran.

Judge Moseley's eloquent address was responded to by Department Commander Conner, who personally and on behalf of the organization thanked the speaker for his warm words of welcome and the citizens of Denison for their generous hospitality.

Commander Conner spoke of the former Encampment

held in the city in 1893 and said it was a pleasure to meet and renew the pleasant associations formed at that time. Speaking of the reunion of the Blue and the Gray he said:

"We meet here to-night, many of our old comrades who wore the gray, and we greet them only as brave and generous soldiers know how to greet one another, for, knowing them to be good soldiers, we are aware that they must be equally as good citizens."

The speaker then quoted a little verse running as follows:

"Fitz Lee has joined the Yankees,
Joe Wheeler has donned the blue;
If these men can forget the past,
What's the matter with me and you?"

A perfect storm of laughter and applause greeted the sally, and when it had subsided the speaker told the story of an old negro woman, who being asked what the difference was between a golden wedding and the jubilee, answered: "If yous done been married fifty years and the old man am alive, that's the golden wedding; but if the old man am dead, that's the jubilee," adding that the jubilee was shortly to follow and he would relinquish the floor. He was loudly applauded.

At the conclusion of Commander Connor's remarks, Mr. Kretsinger introduced the Department President of the W. R. C., Mrs. Ada C. Work, of Waco, who delivered an excellent address, telling of the work that is being done by the W. R. C. Mrs Work said:

"Ours is essentially an American organization of American women, in whose veins are commingled the blood of original Britons, Roman conquerors, the Norse invaders and the Normans, which under the liberty-loving influences inspired by the Stars and Stripes, has developed into a type of itself."

She touched on the struggle now going on for possession of the Philippines and referred to the good work being done by their organization in the way of sending medicines and supplies to the soldiers stationed in that far-away country. Speaking of the welding together of the North and the South, she said:

"The Blue and the Gray must become one, and over the graves of heroes, foes once, but now forever united, we exchange greetings and mingle our tears together, and out of the spirit of the annual joint occasions of decorating, and out of arise a power of infinite sublimity and a quenchless fire of patriotism which will tend to strengthen the hearts of our rulers."

Mrs. Work was accorded most flattering attention. She was heartily applauded.

The next speaker introduced was Capt. M. B. Davis, of Waco, an ex-Confederate soldier, and before he had said a dozen words the audience was in a perfect uproar of applause and laughter. Mr. Davis is an ardent expansionist and when he touched upon the subject he illustrated his remarks by means of a map of his own drawing. The map was in the shape of a large American flag printed upon canvas, showing the new acquisitions of the United States. In explanation of the same Mr. Davis said that the flag covered just half of the globe, with several laps to spare with which to encircle the remainder. The remark was greeted with hearty applause. He then presented the flag to the W. R. C. with a few appropriate words and started to retire, but just then something occurred not down on the program, and coming as it did, unexpectedly, set the audience fairly wild. Mrs. Work took him by the hand and literally pulled him to the front of the stage, for Captain Davis, veteran that he is, hung back like a bashful

school-boy. When quiet had been restored the little lady said:

"On behalf of the W. R. C of Texas, I accept the flag, and I herewith turn the same over to the Denison post, and request that it be treasured by them as a memento of this grand occasion and that they present the same at each of our annual Encampments to be held in the future. It is befitting that Captain Davis and I stand here before this audience to-night, as an illustration of the Blue and the Gray, I am a typical Yankee and he a 'Johnie Reb.' " And then she added naively, "but we both know where we are at." The applause which followed was deafening.

This concluded the speech making and the musical part of the program finished the evening, Sherman talent lending valued assistance to the local musical and literary talent.

THE BEAN SUPPER.

Too much praise cannot be accorded to Chairman T. M. Wright and his excellent committee, for the successful management of this interesting occasion.

Such was the verdict of the immense crowd that assembled at Vorwaert's Hall, packing that large and spacious building almost to suffocation.

Many people had no idea what a "bean supper" was like until initiated, and all such, as well as the elect, are of the unanimous opinion that, for a novelty, such entertainments easily lead the procession.

The crowd began to arrive early, and by 8:30 there were probably between four and five hundred people in the large hall upstairs. The guests as they arrived were received by

the citizen's reception committee and members of the local G. A. R. and W. R. C.

The hall and stage had been tastefully decorated and seated thereon was the Philharmonic band which discoursed sweet music between the speeches that were delivered, and later for the dancing.

Prior to the "bean supper" the following program was carried out:

Music by the band.

A discourse on Beans, by Mayor Lebrecht, and if any one imagines that the Honorable Mayor doesn't know "beans" they should have heard his talk; in fact, what he doesn't know about this article of food isn't worth knowing.

Following Mayor Lebrecht was a speech by Hon. W. H. Atwell, of Dallas, United States District Attorney. Mr. Atwell's talk was a good one and he was loudly applauded.

Captain Davis, of Waco, was present and being called upon, he responded with a short speech, in which he took occasion to eulogize the ladies of the Red Cross. He paid the organization an eloquent tribute, for which he was loudly applauded.

The little Misses Nellie and Gennie Sweeney then sang a song, "Break the News to Mother," in such a graceful way as to captivate the entire audience, and when they had finished a perfect storm of applause greeted them.

This completed the program, and Major Kretsinger, who officiated as master of ceremonies, announced "rations" and called upon all visiting delegates to get the first partner he could find and form in line. There was a scramble among the old veterans for the best looking girls. When all had secured partners the band played a march and the "Bostonian Procession" was off. They marched around the hall several times in order to see and be seen and then

filed down stairs, led by Mr. Conner and Mrs. Work, followed by the other officers, citizens' reception committee, delegates and other guests.

Arriving below, a series of mysterious knocks were given at the door, the same was unbarred and the crowd entered "Fairyland." That is the only word that will appropriately describe the scene presented. Three long rows of tables, with a seating capacity of seventy couples extended the entire length of the building and the decorations on them were exquisite. At each end and in the center of the tables were huge blocks of ice, in which were frozen different things. In one block were frozen the pictures of the bean committee—Captain Wright, Commander Haskell and Mesdames Wingrove and Rush. On beholding this, one old veteran remarked: "The bean committee appears to cut ice in large sized chunks." In another block was an American flag; another contained a dove with a souvenir badge in its mouth. Still another—and the most beautiful one—contained a white dove with a flag in its mouth.

These decorations were made by Manager Tobin of the ice factory, complimentary to the occasion.

In addition to these decorations the dining room and tables were handsomely decorated with bunting and flags, and the effect was such as cannot be properly described, but must be seen to be appreciated. The company were seated and were served with baked beans, ham sandwiches, pickles and coffee.

All the arrangements were perfect, and Comrade Wright, who acted as master of ceremonies, head waiter, or by whatever title a bean supper promulgator is most commonly known, certainly deserves much credit for the skillful manner in which he attended to the wants of his guests.

One veteran, speaking of the arrangements said: "I have been attending bean suppers ever since the war closed, but this spread to-night eclipses anything I have ever seen in the bean supper line."

When the wants of the first crowd had been attended to, they filed back up stairs, the tables were re-arranged and another procession was formed and handled in the same way as the previous one, and so on until the entire crowd had been taken care of. In the meantime, up stairs the chairs were removed from the center of the floor and to sweet music, discoursed by the Philharmonic band, the "light fantastic" was tripped until an early hour next morning, and it was noticed that many of the old veterans joined in, and though they were outstayed by the younger generation, they had a good deal more fun while they did stay.

The bean supper was certainly a success.