

COLONEL MURRELL IS GIVEN HONOR AT BIG PATRIOTIC GATHERING

Colored War Veteran, Delegate to G. A. R. Encampment, Provided With Funds for the Trip

Colonel William Murrell, colored Civil War veteran who also had much service during the Indian uprisings in the west will attend the National Encampment of the G. A. R., at Des Moines next month.

The aged war hero was assured of this at a patriotic meeting held at the Regent Theatre last night when a collection was taken to defray his expenses. The collection last night amounted to \$65 and the expenses of the trip will total approximately \$125 but he was given assurances that the remainder of the necessary amount would be forthcoming.

Resplendent in his uniform of blue, decorated with spread winged eagle brass buttons and on his chest proudly displaying medals and badges awarded for war activities, and holding in his hand the wide brim black hat with gold cord and G. A. R. emblem, the old Colonel made a striking picture when for upwards of 20 minutes he addressed the audience which had gathered in his honor. Colonel Murrell proved to be a very clever speaker in spite of his 80 years, as he recited instances of slavery days in the south and gave vivid descriptions of the outstanding battles of the war of the rebellion.

Meeting Big Success

The meeting was a success from every standpoint and much credit is due to those who had a part in promoting it. A large share of the responsibility, however, rested on the shoulders of the aged veteran, Colonel Murrell, and he is to be complimented for his initiative in planning the entire program. Colonel Murrell was recently elected as one of the 50 New York state delegates to attend the National Encampment of the G. A. R., and the selection of a Corning man for this office not only reflects credit to the individual but honor to the city.

Like many of the surviving Civil War veterans, Colonel Murrell has only his pension with which to meet his daily expenses. Although adequate for this purpose, the remuneration is not sufficient to provide for long costly trips and after receiving notice of his being a delegate, the Colonel although feeling highly honored, resigned himself to the fact that it would be impossible for him to make the trip because of the lack of funds. Some of his Corning friends heard of this, however, and suggested the patriotic meeting where all of his friends would be given an opportunity to show their appreciation to the G. A. R., by raising a purse for the expense money. In past years the G. A. R. organization paid these expenses by assessing a per capita tax against the membership. It is now 62 years since that bitter struggle between the North and the South and but a few of the veterans of that war have survived. Such an assessment was impossible this year and it was left to the individual delegates to pay their own expenses.

Theatre Is Donated

The Regent Theatre where last evening's meeting was held was donated for the occasion by Manager Charles J. Rose of the Schine Chain Theatres Inc., which concern has a lease on the place. The various speakers who were heard last evening gladly consented to take a part in the meeting. Edward J. Valley, Lewis Cushing and Charles Lyons donated their talents as did the members of the orchestra which was made up of Mrs. Ella Kimball, piano, George W. Pratt and Stanley Bailey, violins, Ralph Dickens, clarinet and L. D. Kimble, cornet. Leon J. McCarthy presided at the piano for Messrs. Valley and Cushing. Members of the Boy Scout troops of the city acted as ushers.

John W. Lynahan, former postmaster, had been secured as the principal speaker of the evening and due to that fact had been placed last on the program. Mr. Lynahan in his opening remarks referred to the lateness of the hour and spoke but briefly. He gave a most interesting and in-

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spiring talk during which he recited that famous war poem, "High Tide at Gettysburg." This was given by request.

Following a selection by the orchestra in opening the meeting, the invocation was given by Rev. Victor Lyle Dowdell, vicar of Christ Church. The singing of "America" followed the audience being led by Mr. Valley. Daniel L. Killigrew, commander of the John P. Eaton Post, of the American Legion then extended a welcome to Mayor Harry A. Rood and other members of the city administration who were present. He told of the purpose of the meeting and pointed out that in spite of the handicaps of age the members of the G. A. R. had carried out the work of their organization for many years without support from any outside source. In closing he urged that all be as liberal as possible.

Adding variety to the program, Mr. Valley and Mr. Cushing were then heard in a "Gallagher and Shean" skit. This was followed by the introduction of Colonel Murrell by Mr. Lynahan.

Mr. Lynahan Speaks

"Sixty years have passed since General Lee folded his banner and sheathed his sword. The men who survived that terrible struggle have gradually dropped away until only a remnant is left of those who sustained the flag of liberty. The infirmities of age have come upon them but their spirit still flashes forth with the old time war vigor. Seldom is the present generation given an opportunity to honor these aged heroes such as has been planned for tonight and this occasion must certainly afford them some joy." Mr. Lynahan then introduced the Colonel who spoke at length.

Expressing his appreciation of the gathering in his honor, Colonel Murrell then read the credentials announcing his appointment as a delegate to the national encampment. He pointed out that he had attended many of these encampments in the past and that he had not been a candidate this year and was not even present at his state meeting which elected him. Describing briefly just what an encampment means to the veteran who attends he told of the enthusiasm of the spectators along the route of the railroad and how the aged veterans were cheered at each station.

Colonel Murrell proved an able and forceful speaker, his remarks being interspersed with many humorous incidents of the slavery days. He recited the history of the stirring times in the south during the Civil War and told how he had gone to Richmond with his master who was high in administrative circles of the southern government. Descriptions were given of the conditions under which the slaves worked and lived and he told especially of their loyalty to their masters. He told of the colored people's sympathies being with the north and how they prayed for freedom.

A comparison of conditions in the south regarding the attitude of the white people toward the negro immediately after the war and at the present time was given

by the speaker pointing out that the Southern country is "now a paradise for the colored man." In closing he said that he was highly honored by the gathering, an honor seldom conferred on one of the colored race." When Colonel Murrell was first introduced the audience arose and stood for a moment in tribute to the aged soldier.

Just preceding the collection Commander S. B. Shaddock of the W. W. Hayt Post, G. A. R., who presided at the meeting, spoke briefly and pointed out that out of an original membership of 300 only four survivors of the Civil War had been able to come out for the meeting. This included himself, and Colonel Murrell. W. B. Dunham, chaplain of the Hayt Post was present and Henry Clark, of Springfield, who is now visiting in the city was the fourth veteran present.

The orchestra was then heard in a few numbers and Charles Lyons entertained with two song numbers.

John W. Lynahan who spoke last, was never heard to better advantage than at last evening's meeting. He was eloquent and forceful and spoke but briefly, giving a fine tribute to the men of the Grand Army. He recited the causes of the Civil War and told of the circumstances leading up to the climax of that struggle. He then gave that realistic poem of the three days' struggle at Gettysburg during the recital of which the faces of the four veterans on the stage fairly beamed with the thrill of battle and the vigor of youth.

As a closing number on the program the audience led by Mr. Valley sang "The Star Spangled Banner."

—Mr. and Mrs. Lemuel Briggs and daughter, Thelma, of Sly avenue have returned from a vacation spent in New York City and adjacent points.

Surgeons Find Needle and Thread in Stomach

Horace D. Taynton, of 225 Flint avenue, not only furnished the local doctors with a case to operate upon recently but also furnished the needle and thread with which they might sew him up again, although he had a common sewing needle and not a surgical instrument.

Mr. Taynton complained about not feeling well some time ago. His condition continued to grow worse and was diagnosed as an abscess on his stomach and he was ordered to Corning Hospital for an operation. Upon operating, what was the surgeon's astonishment to find a needle threaded with a knot tied in the abscess with the point of the needle sticking into Mr. Taynton's stomach.

Mr. Taynton has no idea how he came to swallow the needle. His condition is much improved and his recovery is expected soon.

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