

## OLD FOLKS' EXCURSION.

This was Old Folks' day.

Simple though they be, the above words have a mighty significance, and brought to many good, old, honest-hearted souls, a joy inexpressible, a happiness almost boundless. Twenty-three years ago Old Folks' day was inaugurated, and from that time until the present, those who have borne the burden and heat of the day have been remembered, if not twice a year, once at the very least. This year the Lagoon at Farmington was chosen for the outing, and Davis county did herself proud in entertaining the tottering souls as they were landed at that beautiful summer resort. As usual the street railways conveyed the veterans to and from the depot and the Salt Lake and Ogden railway, through the courtesy of General Manager Simon Bamberger, transferred the guests of the day to and from the place of recreation and enjoyment.

In appreciation of the invitation extended, and with a determination to take full advantage of the opportunity afforded, the Old Folks', our gray-haired sires, together with their life-long companions, could be seen wending their way to the Salt Lake & Ogden depot, bright and early this morning. The veterans were up with the lark, and, assisted by able and willing hands, prepared for a day of enjoyment, a day upon which they might join in their annual reunion, renew old acquaintances and grasp each others hands in the friendship of years ago.

The committees, those whose names are the very synonym of Old Folks' gatherings, were also on hand in due season, and did much in preparing and arranging matters for the trip to Farmington. General Manager Bamberger of the Salt Lake & Ogden railway was at his post in good time and directed the making up of the trains and the loading of passengers thereon.

Printed instructions to the Old Folks warned them of the departure of the first train at 7:30 o'clock, but the hour was rather early for the veterans and it was 8:10 when the first train, made up of thirteen coaches, loaded to the guards, pulled out of the depot, bound for Farmington Lagoon. A careful estimate of those on board fixed the number at between 700 and 800. The ride was a delightful one, in the bracing air and under the shadow of dispersing clouds. Along the line, between the stretch of eighteen miles intervening, could be seen numbers of the veterans, some standing at stations, and others, who lived close to Farmington, making their way to the resort in conveyances, and all wearing that look of contentment and happiness which only such days as that here mentioned is responsible for.

The run was made in just 50 minutes, with not a jar or accident to mar the pleasure of the trip. Arriving at Lagoon, O what a sight was there! It was enough to make the bosom of the most staid, disgruntled person, swell with joy. But such were not among the Old Folks, and if one had seen the expressions made manifest at that particular time, their joy would have been unbounded, so pleasing was the picture.

No sooner had the train stopped at Lagoon, than the Farmington band, under the leadership of Fred Meadows, struck up that old familiar tune, Rob-in Adair. The boys had new instruments and played it well. To give beauty to the picture, was a bevy of charming maidens, costumed in white, with caps to match, the young ladies representing a committee of waitresses from all the Davis county wards, who were there to do the Old Folks' bidding, in serving them with that which sustains life and tends in a great measure to make it worth the living.

Besides the ladies there was a committee of young men to render aid. For want of a better name they were styled "general roustabouts" by a committee chairman from Bountiful.

The Davis county wards, having in charge the entertainment of the veterans, had everything nicely arranged for a day's feasting. In the bowery each was represented by its quota of tables, the dining room being divided into four sections. The southeast corner was handled by residents of Hooper and East and South Bountiful; the southwest corner by Kaysville, Layton and West Layton; the northwest corner by Farmington and Clinton, and the southeast corner by Centerville, Syracuse, West Bountiful and South Weber.

The Davis county supervisory committee consisted of Mayor Walsh of Farmington, chairman; Mayor Willey of Bountiful, Mayor Barnes of Kaysville, William Streeper of Centerville and Henry Moss of South Bountiful. Under their able direction the tables were all nicely arranged long before 12 o'clock, and here a scene tempting in the extreme, was presented. Every table groaned under its heavy load of tasty delicacies, including a splendid supply of fruit, plucked fresh from the Davis county orchards. All assistants knew their business and did it, so that there was no room for complaint on the score mentioned. A table occupying a central position was reserved for the First Presidency and other distinguished guests of the day. This was prepared with dishes, cloths and napkins by Mr. Bamberger, whose generosity was much in evidence through the day. It was the first time Davis county had been given a chance to entertain the Old Folks and they did it with a vim, energy and good-will that was indeed gratifying.

Pending the ringing of the dinner bell, the Old Folks strolled about the pleasure grounds and took in all the sights, expressing admiration as they went. Some remained in the dancing pavilion where that worthy veteran George Goddard was in charge and as master of ceremonies, wound out quite an interesting program. Here was singing by the Old Folks' choir under the leadership of W. C. Foster, prayer by Brother Goddard, an address by Father Longmore of Mill Creek, and remarks by Brother Goddard reminiscent of the first excursion given to the Old Folks, 23 years ago, and called an Old Folks' Railroad and Steamboat Excursion. Then Elder Goddard sang his favorite song, Hard Times, and all assembled joined in the chorus. This was followed by a humorous reading, The Lost Dog, by Eli H. Peirce, and a song, Tomorrow, by Brother Beer, over 80 years of age. Then there was music by the Old Folks' orchestra, a recitation by Theodore Curtis and several selections by the Farmington, Bountiful and Kaysville bands, consolidated, the leaders of the two latter being a Mr. White and Joseph Jarman respectively.

Before noon three trains, loaded down with the precious souls of the day had rolled into the resort, the attendance being something like 2,500. On the second train, which arrived at 10:30, was President Lorenzo Snow and Elder Charles W. Penrose, and it was expected that in the afternoon Presidents Wilford Woodruff and Joseph F. Smith, if not President George Q. Cannon also, would join the veterans in their annual outing.

It need scarcely be said that the trip was one of the most enjoyable ever entered into by the Old Folks. They came from Davis, Salt Lake and Utah counties and the outing seemed to act as an elixir of life, so young did most of them appear to be. The red badge indicating over 70 years, was the most in evidence, although the blue was

worn by quite a number, this color representing those over 80 years of age. The white badge, indicating four score and ten, could also be seen here and there in the vast assemblage.

Too much praise cannot be given to those who lent assistance. The Old Folks look upon them as their friends, and the friendship of such veterans is worth a great deal. May they live long to enjoy numerous such occasions.

## A POLYNESIAN REUNION.

The third annual re-union of the Polynesian Island missionaries and their friends was held at Calder's park, on Thursday, July 7, 1898.

Early in the morning the Rapid Transit cars were loaded with visitors and in the afternoon over 2,000 people were assembled at the park. The tables for picnic were arranged in groups, and Elders with their families and friends lunched near their respective headquarters. The grounds were decorated with bunting and flags, the New Zealand and Hawaiian flags being conspicuous. A large number of native Hawaiians from Skull Valley were present, and in view of the annexation of the Sandwich Islands, each native received a small American flag, and these were proudly worn as badges by the Hawaiians. Men, women and children eagerly called for the Stars and Stripes and exultingly exclaimed, "We are Americans now."

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, from 1,500 to 2,000 people crowded into the pavilion to witness the unique program, so characteristic of these popular reunions. The pavilion was appropriately decorated with national bunting, and on each side of the stand were the Stars and Stripes, in the center of which hung the Hawaiian flag.

On the stand, during the exercises, were Presidents Wilford Woodruff, George Q. Cannon, Joseph F. Smith, Apostles Brigham Young, F. M. Lyman, John H. Smith, Heber J. Grant, Anton H. Lund, A. O. Woodruff, Presidents J. Golden Kimball and Angus M. Cannon, also the general committee and natives and Elders.

Chairman John T. Calne called the assemblage to order and an overture was rendered by the band. The audience joined in singing, after which prayer was offered by Elder B. Goddard. The chairman extended a welcome to all present and especially to those who had come long distances to renew old acquaintanceships formed in distant lands. Since the last reunion, a valued and beloved member of the general committee, President William Paxman, had passed away, but a hope was expressed that in the grand reunion behind the veil all may have the privilege of meeting our late fellow worker.

A brief sketch of the opening of the several Polynesian missions was read by Elder Andrew Jensen, who recently made a tour of the missions. The paper contained important data, and was listened to with marked attention. Space will not permit its publication with this report, but the article will appear in a subsequent issue of the "News."

The program from the Society Islands group was introduced by Elder James S. Brown, and consisted of an exceedingly realistic Market Scene in Papeete. A number of returned missionaries dressed in native costume, seated themselves in a circle offering baskets of coconuts, bananas, oranges, limes, melons, etc., for sale. Elders unacquainted with the language endeavored to purchase fruit, and upon receiving from the strangers more money than usual for their products, the natives call for drinks, and spend their time in carousing, singing, etc. Subsequently an Elder appears and exhorts them, and