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PART TWO

SATURDAY AUGUST 7 1909 SALT LAKE CITY UTAH

FIFTY-NINTH YEAR

How Utah Delegation Won the Encampment

Now that the bustle of preparation for the biggest convention event in the history of Salt Lake City is nearly over, and everything is in readiness to receive that body of venerable soldiers who one time risked their lives that this nation might remain intact, it is timely to take a brief retrospective view of the events and efforts of individuals and bodies which resulted in securing for Salt Lake the forty-third annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Story of Concerted Action of Veterans Which Terminated In the Victory.

The battle was fought out in the forty-second encampment, held last year in the city of Toledo, O., and was fairly won. Many influences were at work against Salt Lake City as the place of the next meeting of the veterans; the city of Washington wanted the encampment, but there were a few who were working for this city, and these few were in the majority as far as good generalship, and intelligent effort were concerned, and Salt Lake won.

When that sturdy delegation of old soldiers left Salt Lake City for Toledo last year, with the full purpose of never laying down their arms until the fight for the next encampment should be won for the far western city, it was not the first time that the Department of Utah had sought to secure the convention. Ten years ago, when the thirty-third encampment was being held in the city of Philadelphia, Maurice M. Kaighn, then commander of the department of Utah, appeared before that encampment with an invitation from the city council of Salt Lake, the county commissioners of Salt Lake county, the city council of Ogden, resolutions passed by a mass meeting held at Provo, and a letter of invitation from Gov. Heber M. Wells of the State of Utah and John Clark, mayor of Salt Lake City; letters from Lorenzo Snow, then president of the Mormon Church; Joseph I. Rawlins, United States senator and W. A. Nelden, then president of the city board of education, inviting the thirty-fourth national encampment to come to Salt Lake. At that time the city of Chicago was also in the race for the encampment, and Salt Lake lost.

THE INITIAL GUN.
In 1907, when the forty-first encampment was being held in Saratoga Springs, the representatives from Utah distributed 2,000 silk ribbons among the delegates, thus notifying the encampment that Salt Lake City would again be in the race for the forty-third encampment to be held in August, 1909.

Then came the forty-second encampment at Toledo, O., where the work of making possible all the detail of preparation which is now practically complete, for this city to entertain the veterans of the Grand Army in national encampment, was performed. To the everlasting credit of the entire delegation from Utah, all of whom did good work in behalf of this city and state.

Standing out, however, among those who were foremost on the firing line and whose blows in the thickest of the fight, routed the opposition from its trenches leaving the heights of victory in the hands of the Utahans, are the figures of Col. George B. Squires, who delivered the speech of invitation to hold the 1909 encampment in the city of Salt Lake, and James Tanner, past commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., who delivered a speech in support of Salt Lake which turned the tide of the convention against the city of Washington, and in favor of the metropolis of the inland empire of the west.

COL. SQUIRES' SPEECH.
Col. Squires' speech before the convention was remarkable in its terseness and brevity, yet powerful in convincing the delegates that Salt Lake was in dead earnest when it asked them to bring west the forty-third encampment. The speech is reproduced herewith in full. Col. Squires on being recognized by the commander-in-chief, said:

"Comrades and comrades, we have come a long distance over the mountains and the plains to extend to you a cordial invitation to visit our city of Salt Lake next year. We have come bearing the invitation of the State of Utah through its governor, of the county of Salt Lake, through its board of commissioners, of the city of Salt Lake, through its mayor, and by resolution of the city council, and also an invitation from the Commercial club of Salt Lake City, an organization composed of the wealthiest men in all the inter-

mountain region, who promise to finance our proposition to the limit. "We are thoroughly equipped so far as invitation is concerned; but underneath all these invitations the great heart of the citizenship of Utah is asking you to come.

"Since arriving in this city, in addition to the invitation which the Commercial club has extended, I have a telegram from the president of the club which says: 'We want the encampment, and we want it bad.' I have also received a telegram from the president of the Mormon Church. They tell you that Utah is not loyal. It is loyal from the crown of its head to the soles of its feet, from the tops of its mountains to the depths of its mines—Utah is loyal. When we left Salt Lake City, the president of the Church was absent. I called at his office, expecting to bring a letter from him. As soon as he returned to the city and found what I wanted, he sent me a telegram.

IN DEADLY EARNEST.
"I tell you boys, we are in earnest, in deadly earnest. We want you to come to us, we want to open our hearts and our homes to you. Every home in Salt Lake City will be at your disposal.

"I have not heard that any other invitation will be presented to this encampment. It ought not to require any argument whatever. There ought to be no reason why you men who were writing the history of the nation through its scenes of deadly conflict, with points of steel, at the time this State of Utah was only a place on the map, the home of the coyote and of the mountain lion, you ought to be



West Meets East on Latter's Battleground and Triumphs Signally Over Obstacles.

country for the Grand Army to go to the Pacific coast and to Maine and it has been an object lesson of the results of the war in its glory, in its tragedy, in its pathos and in its high and mighty sentiment that the country never could have obtained any other way.

DENVER REMINISCENCES.

"I remember when we first went out to Denver in 1883, and they gave us those great excursions over the state. I was one of the party that went over Marshall Pass down into Gunnison, then over the Alpine Pass, through the Alpine tunnel, where, on the 12th day of July, we had a game of snowball. Then down that great slope, halting a little bit at a depot, there stood a row of men of stern faces and great stature, there were little girls with baskets filled with mountain flowers, and boys with other baskets filled with mineral specimens, and when our train halted, the little ones jumped aboard and the girls pinned bouquets of flowers to us, and the boys gave us the specimens, and we thanked the boys and kissed the girls. My attention was directed to that row of stalwart men. Not one of them knew any man in our party. The most distinguished on our train I think were Wagner and Beati, if they were on that trip. I don't remember. In the center of that row stood one who towered head and shoulders above the others. As I say, they knew none of us, but it had come into the mines that that day and that hour there was coming a train loaded with the men who helped to save the United States. This man with a grace and freedom born of living in that health-giving and life-giving atmosphere, looked right and left at his column and then sang out in tones that echoed out into the canyons and up the mountain side, 'Ready now, fellows, three cheers for the boys what did.' Now, there are men in the mines and in the canyons and out on the ranches who have never been privileged to see a Grand Army Encampment. I say let us take up our line of march and go out carrying the standard of the Grand Army of the Republic, to those in the mountain states, as they have carried it down the mountain side and across the prairies in their repeated pilgrimages to us in the far east. Let us show them that the comradeship of the Grand Army in these closing years for so many of us is broad enough to think of them with no selfish interest, with nothing in our hearts except the feeling of comradeship. Think of the expense, yes, we are to think of it, but it will be all the same, much less than a hundred years from now.

"So I stand here in honest opposition to my friend from Wisconsin, who announced a solid vote, simply to say that after thoroughly considering the case in the department of New York, who has about as far to go as any of you, they have determined to cast their vote for Utah."

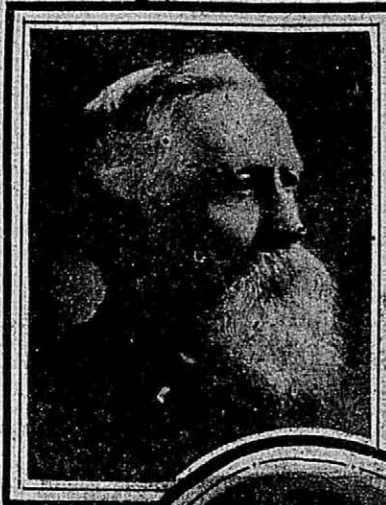
Comrade Mock of Washington and Alaska, and Comrade Burroughs also talked for Utah, and when the adjutant general had finished calling the roll it was found that Salt Lake City had 461 votes, and the city of Washington 101.

UTAH DELEGATION.

This was the encampment won for Salt Lake. Accompanying is a portrait of the delegates who attended the Toledo encampment from Utah, and of Lucian C. Smyth, present commander of the department of Utah. The personnel of the delegation is as follows: R. G. Sleater, department commander; W. L. Russell, junior vice department commander; A. B. Lawrence, acting assistant adjutant general; George B. Squires, member national council of administration; Norman D. Corser and W. P. Rowe, representatives; T. C. Hiff, M. M. Kaighn, Rudolph Alf, W. M. Bostaph, Henry P. Burns and B. M. Sperry, past department commanders. The following named ladies belonging to the corps and circles, accompanied the delegation and were very efficient workers: Mrs. Mary B. Lawrence, Mrs. Mary E. Lacey, Mrs. Kitty A. Hines, Mrs. Mary S. Sleater, Mrs. Elmore Burns, Mrs. Mary D. Russell, Mrs. W. P. Rowe, Mrs. B. M. Sperry and Miss Nellie Sperry.



R. G. Sleater, Dept. of Utah



B. M. Sperry, Past Dept. Commander



Alfred Keral, Past Dept. Commander



Col. M. M. Kaighn, Past Dept. Commander



Henry P. Burns, Past Dept. Commander



Harry S. Kern Jr., Commander Post No. 5



W. M. Bostaph, Past Dept. Commander

Sturdy Band of Old Soldiers Left Salt Lake for Toledo with No Thought of Quarter nor Defeat

signed to go there with the inspiration which you would carry of patriotism and loyalty and devotion to country and flag. That people are waiting to hear from me the glad tidings that our invitation has been accepted. There will be no trouble that we are not willing to go to; there will be no obstacle which we will not overcome; we will take care of you, and we will make you think you have found the time of your lives before you get out of Utah. All that we ask of you is, to push the button, we will do the rest.

"I don't believe I need to say another word. I know it is in your hearts to come to Utah. I know that the dear women that you have brought with you to this encampment want to come. You may not be as deeply in their confidence as I am, but they want you to come, and we want you all to come, come all of you.

Col. Squires answered several questions in regard to railroad rates, stating that every effort was being made to secure satisfactory rates from the railroads. He then continued:

"Now suppose the rate is prohibitive to some, is that a reason why we should be forever left in that far country without looking into your smiling faces as your host? It is that a reason why our people should never be able to get from you the inspiration of your presence there? We will get men enough to fill up the rank and file to make up the parade to do all that work from the middle west and from the California coast and from the north-west. We will have an inspiring spectacle there. And suppose the posts of

the east, the posts that go so gladly to these national encampments here are barred out by the expense, our posts are barred by the expense of coming here.

"Now, comrades, do not let this pecuniary consideration interfere with the desire of your hearts. Come out there and give us this lesson that we have been waiting for for so many years. We all want you, everybody wants you."

A Comrade: "If you will quit now, we will come."

Comrade Squires: "I will quit right now. I will take your word for it. Come to Utah."

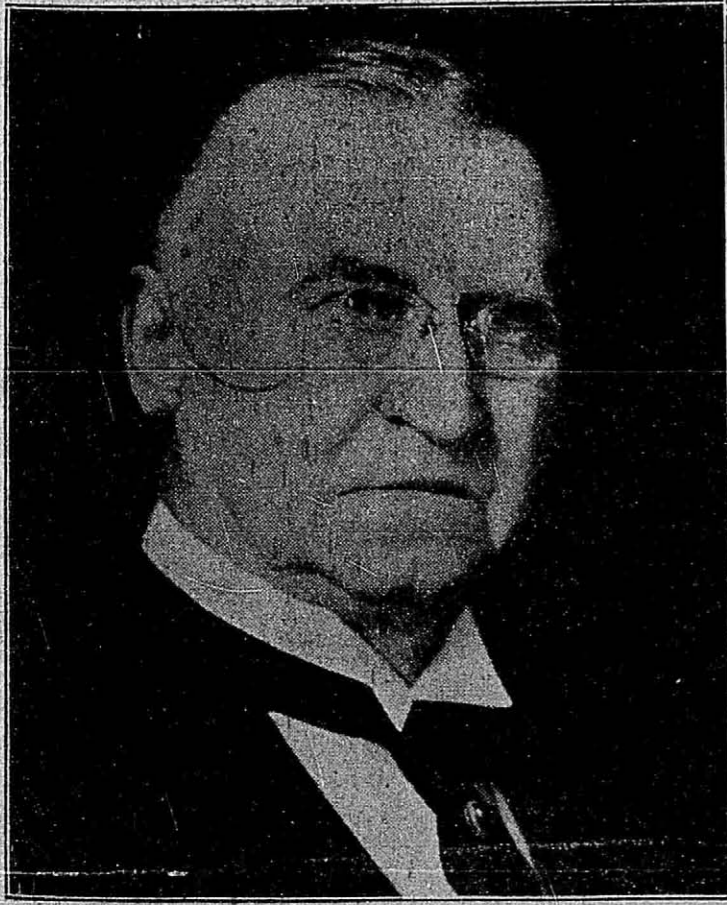
JAMES TANNER'S TALK.

Several delegates expressed opposition to Salt Lake, on account of the distance to be traveled, railroad fares, and the further reason that they wanted to take the encampment to Washington, D. C. While these men were speaking against Utah and in favor of the capital of the nation, which it appears had not extended an invitation to the encampment, but was simply desired as the place for holding the encampment by some of the delegates, Past Commander-in-Chief James Tanner rose in his seat and said in part:

"I am Comrade Tanner of New York in my membership in the Grand Army, but having resided for 20 years in the city of Washington, I know I speak the sentiments of the delegation from the Potomac, who in due time will make their own announcement, but I am perfectly free to say that they

have the best of reasons for not crowding upon this encampment an invitation to come to Washington. . . . I have heard it said that we will go to Washington, whether or no, next year, and then after that we will have our permanent headquarters in Washington. I want to sound a note of warning that when you make the headquarters of the Grand Army permanent in any city of the United States, you write the obituary of the Grand Army right there. It has been an education to the citizenship of this

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L. H. SMYTH, Commander of the Department of Utah



COL. GEORGE B. SQUIRES, Who Delivered the Speech of Invitation Which Secured the G. A. R. Encampment for Salt Lake.