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THE OLD FOLKS' EXCURSION.

IT IS a pleasing annual task to chronicle the events of one of the best days in Utah's calendar. Old Folks' day is honored now by all classes, and commended by every creed and party in this Territory. It has grown in importance as well as favor as time has passed, and the fifteenth anniversary brought the biggest and best of the trips enjoyed by the aged and provided by the benevolent.

The weather was splendid, although the dust and the heat together made it rather fatiguing, but complaints were made of these by the young more frequently than by the veterans of the party. At 8:30 on Thursday a train of nineteen cars pulled out of the Utah Central depot with a merry old crowd on board. Conductors John Acomb and John Chugg were in charge, the Old Folks committee were on hand to take care of the people and the Old Folks' choir were ready to make music for the company. They were Messrs. E. Beesley, W. H. Foster, T. C. Griggs, J. R. Morgan, Mrs. Julia Silverwood and Misses Lizzie Thomas, Zina Reid and Millic Foster. The old people were in high spirits and enjoyed the run to Ogden hugely. To look upon their time-worn and in many cases weather-beaten countenances, was a grand sight, in view of their eventful experiences and their near approach to the line that divides the material and spiritual spheres.

The run to Ogden was made in good time, stops being had at Wood's Cross, Farmington and the Sandridge, where the "dry farming" attracted considerable attention, the grain, now ripening, raised without irrigation being the principal feature. At Ogden a band saluted the visitors and carriages were in readiness to convey them to Lester Park on the bench, where they were soon ensconced under the shade of the trees and seated at long tables loaded with food. Each of the five wards made separ-

ate provision for guests, and there was no lack of delicacies to tempt the appetite. The generosity of the Ogden people was fully displayed in these "creature comforts." The quantity of food supplied was astonishing and no less astonishing was its rapid disappearance. The appetite of the old ladies and gentlemen was either unduly sharpened by the trip or by the sight and scent of the viands—perhaps by both—for their "punishment" of the provender was something prodigious. But there was enough and to spare, and a cordial welcome to all. It was an animated spectacle, and the number of beautiful girls and smart active men waiting on the aged was one of the most noticeable features of the scene. Flowers, too, were provided in profusion, and Lester Park was made pleasant and gay for the delectation of its aged guests. About three hundred people from Weber County were added to the throng from Salt Lake City.

The Pavillion is a spacious building erected in the Park for public assemblies. Shortly after 2 p. m. it was filled to its utmost capacity with the oldest of the veterans and others, but a tremendous host remained on the outside, as many people besides the visitors had gathered to look upon the scene. On the stand were seated President Wilford Woodruff, Governor Arthur L. Thomas, Presiding Bishop W. B. Preston, Mayor F. J. Kiesel, President Angus M. Cannon, the committee and several other gentlemen. The old folks were arranged so that those over 90 years of age, with a white rosette and the 80's with a blue ribbon were seated in front, while behind them were the 70's with a red ribbon forming the greater part of the assemblage.

C. R. Savage, Esq., called the meeting to order and introduced the Governor, Hon. A. L. Thomas, who responded in a neat and pleasant speech, commending honor to father and mother, applauding respect to the aged, and expressing his hearty sympathy with this movement.

Mayor F. J. Kiesel was the next speaker. The only fault he could find with this arrangement was that Ogden was not made the permanent place for holding this Old Folks' entertainment. He spoke of the achievements of celebrated old people and the vigor of mind and body of some living aged celebrities. He complimented the present company, and warned them not to indulge in too many youthful

pranks while on their excursion. Elder George Goddard asked those who had seen him before to say "aye," when a tremendous "aye" and a shout of laughter shook the building. Brother Goddard expressed his pleasure at the remarks made and the occasion, and invited the company to Salt Lake next year.

"Auld lang Syne" was then sung by the company, and they were addressed by President Wilford Woodruff who congratulated the aged on their having reached their present years with so good a degree of health and prosperity, and hoped they would not forget their duty to God and man, so that when they passed to the other side of the veil, they might be satisfied with their experience in this life and their reward in the next.

T. A. Lyne, the veteran actor and the oldest tragedian in Utah if not in America, recited "The Seven Ages of Man" with great vigor and excellence of elocution, and was loudly applauded. Bishop W. B. Preston followed with a brief speech, and the prizes were distributed.

A gold medal for the oldest man was left in the hands of Bishop Stevens, of Ogden, as there were two claimants.

Selina Williams, of Salt Lake, 92, took the gold medal for the oldest lady.

Judge Aaron F. Farr, the pioneer, 71, was given a silver cake basket.

Alex Brown, of Lynne, who turned the first furrow in Weber County, took a gold medal.

Nine rocking chairs were left with President L. W. Shurtliff for old people of different wards in the county.

A watch was given to Wm. Emmett, leader of the Ogden band, which has always enlivened visitors with music on these occasions.

A number of prizes were distributed to different aged people, amid much laughter at the humorous remarks of Messrs. Savage and Naylor. The gifts consisted of dress patterns, bonnets, satchels, hats, pants, handkerchiefs, fans, parasols, purses, canes, clocks, lunch-baskets, etc., etc. A number of these were left with the Ogden committee for distribution to Weber County people.

Captain J. B. Jolinson, ex-speaker of the House of Representatives in Kansas, made a splendid and happy speech. He considered the present a "gathering of notables," greater than that of France. He had heard