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REPORT

Patriotic Instructor

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

Grand Army of the Republic



Thirty-fourth Annual Encampment

HOUSTON, TEXAS

May 8, 9, 10,
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San Antonio, Texas

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REPORT OF PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR
Department of Texas. Reprint 2nd Edition

San Antonio, Texas, May 8, 1919.

To ANSON MILLER,
Commander, Department of Texas,
Grand Army of the Republic.

Dear Sir and Comrade:

I have the honor to report the following data and observations, and being the last report I expect to make, the comrades will bear with me if it is somewhat lengthy. Reports from Post Patriotic Instructors are meager. It will be noted that all reports state that every school has a flag at present. This will be explained hereafter and it is the first time that such a report has been made in the State of Texas. McLellan Post reports no patriotic instructor appointed and installed. Thirty or 35 School Buildings, all have flags. Pupils generally take an interest in the flag and salute it daily. Birthdays of Washington and Lincoln are celebrated. Teachers take lively interest in patriotic work. Do not observe Memorial or Decoration day in the free schools in this city. The Southern people do not take any part in schools on Decoration day and the people from the North are afraid, I think, to hurt their business. Emmitt Crawford Post, El Paso, reports instructor appointed and installed. 14 school buildings, all with flags, not all of the pupils take an interest. Salute is given daily. Washington, Lincoln and Patriot's day are observed. Some teachers take no interest in patriotic work. Schools take no part in Memorial day.

Parmley Post reports no patriotic instructor, as all that work is done by W. R. C. Corps.

Ord Post reports no patriotic instructor installed. Report is left blank except under remarks, "Have done no work, all schools have lived up to the traditions of the women of '76 and '61.

No other Post reports have reached me. But I learn from other sources that the women of all our Corps and the Ladies Circle of the G. A. R. have done efficient patriotic work, though much of it has gone through the channels of Red Cross, Salvation Army, Y. M. and Y. W. organizations. They have not been slackers and have lived up to the traditions of the women of '76 and '61. For 50 years Germany had a vision backed by physical and scientific force to conquer the world. For 50 years the G. A. R. has had an ideal of Liberty, Justice and Equal Political rights as its object. When these forces met in armed conflict, the vision vanished and the ideal became real. For 50 years the Grand Army and Auxiliary has held the cause of patriotism high above the distorted selfishness of those who placed the dollar above manhood and of those who neglected the inspired example of our Nation's founders, and saviors. For 50 years we have taught the children, native and foreign born, the meaning of our flag and the genius of our government, and though we could not reach near all, yet the spontaneous response to the call of duty all over the land proved that our labor had not been in vain and thousands of boys and girls whose eyes had sparkled at school flag presentations and who had now become adults, joined the forces of the free and marched away to gory fields. Some of those boys now lie on Flander's field; in Argonne Forest; in the Deep; on the Marne. Some of those girls lie near war torn hospitals, beside the red cross huts and the Salvation army kitchens. Every part of our State has given of its heroes and heroines. Their blood has fertilized the tree of freedom, their remains enrich the soil that will give vigorous growth to Liberty regulated by law.

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I regret I cannot follow this sketch of our work in regular chronological order.

In 1913, on my first appointment as Department Patriotic Instructor, patriotism seemed to be at a low ebb, yet we had faith to believe it was only dormant and so we reported that if the time came when danger threatened, Texans would be in the van to protect Nation and Home and so it has proved. Up to four years ago, a school flag presentation was really a noticeable event. Our energetic auxiliaries went down in their pockets and bought flags whenever requested for city and country schools alike, but our numbers were so few, our resources so slender, that we could only remove mole-hills while mountains towered on every side. Men and women were apathetic. Some teachers had no sympathy with our work, and children, except those who came into direct contact with patriotic workers, knew little of the meaning of American Citizenship.

We quickly realized that our little forces, however energetic, could only touch the hem of the ten thousand public schools and the one million pupils in Texas. How could we reach the ninety-five per cent outside of our sphere of influence, and quicken their patriotic impulses into vibrant unison with our own. And so we opened a more aggressive campaign for patriotic activity and in line with this resolve, the following appeal to the public was made through the Press, on June 4th, 1914:

"C. S. Brodbent, patriotic instructor of the G. A. R. Post here, is making an earnest endeavor to bring about a more general observance of Flag Day (June 14) and other anniversaries that mark special events in the history of the nation. It is Mr. Brodbent's desire to make San Antonio noted for its patriotic observances and in this connection he has issued the following statement:

"June 14, 1777, our Congress adopted the following resolution: 'That the Flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white on a blue field representing a new constellation.' This was the birthday of the American Flag, 137 years ago. Washington expressed this sentiment: 'We take the stars from heaven, the red from our mother country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing liberty.'

"Think of the changes that have taken place in human government and human life and largely through the inspiration of our flag. Wear it on your breast, unfurl it over your homes and schools, churches, hotels, public buildings and thus show your love for it and your appreciation of its power and influence. As June 14 is our flag's birthday, so July 4 is the birthday of our nation. Let us keep both with heartfelt devotion and sincere loyalty and let the children especially be taught the importance of these great events.

"Let San Antonio win a nation-wide celebrity for patriotism and multitudes will flock hither to worship at its shrine. Boston has its Bunker Hill, Philadelphia its Independence Hall and San Antonio has its Alamo. Thermopylae had its messenger of defeat; the Alamo had none," yet there are grown people here who have never been within its sacred walls. Are such people worth dying for? Every school ought to visit the Alamo and listen to the telling of the heroic story by the teachers."

We discussed the possibility of a public school flag law. Some of our people were entirely pessimistic, even to ridicule. We opened correspondence with the Governor, Representatives, State Superintendent of Schools and others. Below is a sample letter or two and they gave us courage. It necessitated correspondence by letter, newspapers

and personal interviews and finally resulted in one of the most drastic School Flag Laws in the Union. This law requires every school to be provided with a flag from the School funds. From the Flag Law are the following sections:

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue to each county and city Superintendent of Public Instruction in this State the necessary instructions as to the enforcement of this law, and it shall be the duty of the county and city superintendents of Public Instruction in every county in this State to see that the provisions of this law and the instructions of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction relative to this law are carried out. The County Superintendent of Public Instruction shall not approve for payment any vouchers drawn on the funds of the district until such district shall have complied with the provisions of this act; nor shall the President of any School Board of any Independent or Municipal School District in this State approve vouchers for the payment of any account until the provisions of this law have been complied with in every particular.

Sec. 4. Any official or employee of the public free schools failing to perform his or her legal duty in connection with the administration of this law shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or removal from office or both fine and removal from office."

Texas suddenly leaped into the foremost rank of patriotic states. Then came the question of illiteracy. We knew that Texas was too far down in the column of illiteracy, and a school attendance compulsory law was needed; showing that our judgment was correct, a late report of our government states that 400,000 out of 1,600,000 first drafted men could not speak English nor sign the payroll. At Camp Upton, military orders had to be translated into forty different languages. The Department of the Interior conservatively estimates our non-English and illiterate people at 10 million; proving not only our own dereliction in educational matters but the weakness of our immigration laws as well. But the Texas Legislature rose to the emergency, and gave us a school attendance compulsory law in full measure, shaken down and running over.

The use of drugs by children as well as adults, was also seen to be a terrible curse and the Legislature also passed a strong anti-narcotic law. The desecration of the flag in Texas always gave pain to the patriotic people: The G. A. R., the Elks, the Redmen, and all other patriotic organizations. To arouse sentiment in favor of an anti-desecration flag law, we published this article in 1916; at the time when the sentiment of the people was being aroused not only from the Mexico danger, but also from the indication of trouble with Europe.

"The Preparedness Parade Saturday night forms one of the brightest pages in this old city's eventful history," said Captain C. S. Brod-bent. "The closing sentence of a resolution adopted by the Fourth of July committee in 1914, reads, 'and we recommend that on all National holidays our citizens rival those of Boston, Los Angeles and other progressive communities by converting San Antonio into a billowy sea of flags and bunting; thus helping to create in the hearts of our children, a fervor of patriotism that will make our city celebrated throughout the land and put it in the front rank of the World's greatest tourist resorts.' 'Surely no member of that committee dreamed of seeing in less than two years such a billowy sea of flags as was in evidence Saturday night, and it gives our city a 'place in the sun.' It was a glorious exhibition of patriotism. The most forceful and pathetic lesson of the whole parade was that conveyed by the Polish

division. And yet, and yet, fellow citizens, with all our pronounced love for the flag, it has no legal protection in the great patriotic State of Texas.

"Any person can tear it in shreds and trample it under foot and he violates no law. The Daughters of the American Revolution, the Elks and other noble organizations have long wanted a law placing the flag in every public school and making its desecration a punishable offense, but our Legislature is too busy to heed the requests, and yet several hundred of our brave Texas boys are today offering their lives in our flag's (in Mexico) defense. State Senator Bailey had such a bill passed by the State Senate, but it failed to reach the House of Representatives. This condition is hardly less shameful than that outrageous exhibition in New York a few nights ago when the flags of nations, our own included, were torn to pieces and cast into a 'melting pot' fire by a set of traitors and liberty assassins who would have been hung or torn asunder in any other country. Our own Rev. Mercer Johnston, whose heart beats in sympathy with all who are downtrodden denounced it as a damnable outrage and quit the crowd, just such an action as we would expect from an honored son of a gallant sire.

"President Wilson asks the Nation to observe the flag's birthday—the 14th of June. Shall we not back him in this as in preparedness? It used to seem that there were not twenty-five flags in our city. Even the hotels, save one, were bare, on National holidays. We now know there are thousands of flags in our city. Let us show our children, especially the foreign born, and our tourists, that we do prize our National emblem, and that we are not too indolent nor too busy to display it on the coming 14th of June and 4th of July."

Now we have an efficacious anti-desecration flag law. The following excerpts I am pleased to give you.

"Sec. 3. Any person who shall, within this State, publicly or privately, mutilate, deface, defile, defy, tramp upon or cast contempt upon either by words or acts upon any flag, standard, color, or ensign, of the United States, or that of any of its officers, or on any imitation of either of them, shall be deemed guilty of a felony and shall be punished by confinement in the State penitentiary for any period of time not less than one year, nor more than 25 years."

"Sec. 5. Any person, officer, or other person may, without warrant, arrest any one violating any section of this act when the offense is committed in his presence, or within his view, or within the view of a magistrate; and in all such cases, the officer or other person making the arrest is justified in adopting all the force and measures which may be adopted in cases of arrest under warrant as provided in the code of criminal procedure.

And here is the first conviction under this law that has come to my notice:

Wraps Cow in Flag—Waco Farmer Ignorant of His Act of Desecration
Special Telegram to The Express.

Waco, Texas, May 21, 1918—With an American flag artistically wrapped around her, a black cow was brought to the city hall this morning by the military police and the flag removed. When the owner made his appearance he was taken in charge by agents of the Department of Justice and asked his reasons for so desecrating the National banner.

He stated he did it to keep the flies off of her. He was censured by the Department of Justice agents and discharged when it became evident he was ignorant that he had desecrated the flag.

It goes without saying that a patriotic Legislature must also be a humane body of men, consequently laws have been passed ameliorating the condition of insane, convicts and children and that the moral consciousness of our State is aroused as never before.

"And in addition copies of following laws passed in 1919 have been sent me by State Superintendent of Schools.

4 million dollar aid act for rural schools.

Equal pay for men and women teachers.

Submitting Constitutional amendment to remove tax limit for schools.

State Free Text Book law."

The foundation for these beneficent laws was laid, mind you, before we entered the war, and the Grand Army and other like organizations do not stand self-condemned for non-patriotic fervor as we have heard so many orators condemn themselves and others for having lost the spirit of their fathers, till Germany aroused them from indifference and thoughtlessness to energetic action. We have to thank Germany for reviving the spirit of '76, though her intent was to harm us and by her intent, we must judge her. Larger sums of money are set aside for schools than ever before. Longer terms and better equipped rooms and better paid teachers are some of the results and Texas is making Hiawathian strides toward the top of Literate States. Instead of isolated retail flag raisings and lectures, these are now given in wholesale, even in joblots, and almost every hall, church, lodge room, public building and store is decorated with the Stars and Stripes, often outside as well as in, as well as millions of homes and other millions of coats and middies. A few years ago, when we were working for a School Flag law and most of us had little faith in obtaining it, I stated in our Post meeting that if we did get it, I felt that we could exclaim with good old Simeon: "Lord, letttest us now thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." But now we have far more than we asked or hoped for, yet I do not feel like departing, for I feel there are more good things, if not even better, coming. Miss Annie Webb Blanton, State Superintendent of Schools, reports to me there are now 14,506 public school buildings, all of which are supplied with flags, that the number of pupils is 1,004,250. The pupils take an interest in the flag, the State Law makes it obligatory to have the flag and salute the flag daily, and the teachers show a lively interest in this work, and 10 minutes a day must be given to patriotic instruction, etc.

The G. A. R. has reached its goal, and almost reached its end, but another organization is already here that will largely govern this country for the next half century, and glory to God, it will not be sectional (the American Legion.) The whole nation will support it. South Carolina will stand with Massachusetts, Wisconsin with Mississippi, and it will train all the children in the doctrine, "one country, one language, one flag, with freedom and justice to all." In 1904, our State Encampment was held in San Antonio. John H. Bolton was commander. We then had 800 members; now by our last report, we have 282. So rapidly are we passing. Our memorial Sunday and Memorial Day are well attended and we fraternize with the Confederate Camp, and its sons and grandsons have joined with ours in fighting for World Democracy. On our Washington and Lincoln birthday anniversaries, we have usually Southern men for speakers. Judge J. O. Terrell a native of Texas, Bishop Capers of West Texas Episcopal Diocese, a native of South Carolina whose father was a Confederate officer, who also I think was Bishop of South Carolina, Attorney Marcus W. Davis, son of a Confederate, etc., and I never heard stronger eulogiums on Lincoln from any source, not surpassed even

by those of Henry Waterson and Samuel G. Clemens. Finally, Comrades and Friends, do not think that all is accomplished that the world needs. Payson says, 'I am immortal till my work is done.' We should try first to make all America, not only safe for democracy, but for the souls of men. Aside from the imperfections that we have in our own country, some of the countries south of us, Republican in name, and American in public spirit, yet maintain a system of peonage closely allied to and in some aspects worse than actual slavery. After America is fully free, it will be possible to free the world and in all humility, with the world in its present condition, we can from our inmost souls cry out "Our help is in the name of the Lord who hath made heaven and earth," and so we must hold fast to our God, to our Country and to our Flag."

Run up Old Glory!

Let it blaze,

In red and white against the sky

And tell the story of the days

When hearts were stout and hopes were high.

Forget the daily fights of greed

Forget the struggles, the dismay

Of facing cruelty and need—

Run up Old Glory for the day.

Approved by vote of the Encampment and at the suggestion of J. S. Dunlap ordered printed in full, together with attached correspondence, in Department Journal.

ANSON MILLER,
Department Commander.
J. S. DUNLAP,
Asst. Adj. General

A FEW SAMPLE LETTERS SHOWING THE PATRIOTIC SPIRIT
OF STATE OFFICIALS

Austin, March 19, 1917.

Mr. C. S. Brodbent,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir: Your favor on the seventeenth instant has arrived at this Department and has had my careful attention. In reply permit me to state that I am heartily in favor of the singing of patriotic songs in the public schools of the State, and of teaching patriotism both directly and indirectly through public school exercises. This nation can become a united people only by all citizens agreeing to teach their children love of the country which gives them shelter and sustenance.

I have no objection whatever to the singing of such songs as the "Marsellaise," or "Die Wacht am Rhine," or the national anthems of other nations with which we are at peace, but the principle emphasis should be given in all cases to such songs as "America," "Star-Spangled Banner," etc. Sincerely,

W. F. DOUGHTY,
State Superintendent.

Austin, April 25, 1917.

Mr. C. S. Brodbent,
San Antonio, Texas.

My dear Sir: I thank you very much for your letter expressing your appreciation of the remarks that I made in the Senate about the American Flag. I was just talking with Senator Bee, and we are both in accord with you in regard to your idea about furnishing and requiring each school in the State to place upon its building the United States flag.

A law on this subject would doubtless be a good thing, but I do not know whether we will be permitted to pass one at this session or not.

With best wishes, I am, Yours, very truly,

F. M. GIBSON,
Senator, Third District.

Austin, March 8th, 1918.

Mr. C. S. Brodbent,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir: Permit me to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 7th inst., commending my Patriotism Bill, a copy of which I am pleased to hand you herewith.

I wish you to know that I appreciate more than I can tell, your letter regarding this matter and shall ever prize same most highly. I have had this idea for the past several years and think such a law should have been enacted years ago. Letters such as yours, make a fellow feel that he is doing the right thing, and as such I appreciate it.

Again thanking you, I am Yours very truly,

C. B. MONDAY,
House of Representatives.

Austin, March 8, 1918.

Mr. C. S. Brodbent,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir: I am taking the liberty to address these lines to you in view of the fact that Representative Mondy showed me a certain letter which he had received from you and which he wanted me to read. Mr. Mondy is greatly delighted over your kind remarks relative to the introduction and passing of the bill providing for the compulsory teaching of patriotism in our public schools, which bill was my privilege to introduce in the Senate, co-operating with Mr. Mondy in that regard; and I therefore consider myself obligated to likewise thank you for your remarks on the subject and for thus voicing your appreciation. Very truly yours,

MARTIN FAUST,
Senator, 21st District.

Austin, March 16, 1918.

Mr. C. S. Brodbent,
San Antonio, Texas.

Dear Sir: As soon as copies of the public school flag law become available for distribution your request will have attention. Before preparing the program to which you refer, it will be necessary for us to consider provisions of the new law which has not yet been printed. Sincerely,

W. F. DOUGHTY,
State Superintendent.

Austin, April 6th, 1918.

Mr. C. S. Brodbent,
San Antonio, Texas.

My Dear Mr. Brodbent: Permit me to acknowledge receipt of and to thank you for your letter of March 27th, expressing your appreciation of the School Flag Law, recently enacted by the Legislature. Sincerely yours,

W. P. HOBBY,
Governor of Texas.

Austin, April 16, 1919.

Mr. C. S. Brodbent,
San Antonio, Texas.

My dear Mr. Brodbent: I am returning to you the blank that you wish to have filled out. Some of the questions seemed to refer to the Chapter activities of your organization. We answered such questions as we were able.

I am sending you, under separate cover, bulletins 98 and 99, giving the new school legislation.

I trust that it is not too late to congratulate you upon the celebration of your seventy-seventh birthday and to wish you many happy returns of the day.

Yours very truly,

ANNIE WEBB BLANTON,
State Superintendent.