



THE END OF THE MARCH



At the G. A. R. encampment at Milwaukee [September 2 to 8, 1923] there was no response when the state of Arizona was called.

It is not difficult to imagine the silence that filled the Milwaukee auditorium as the Grand Army waited for a response from Arizona. The old boys in blue knew what it meant. It meant that the Arizona division of the Grand Army of the Republic has been virtually wiped out during the last year in the unequal conflict with the rider of the pale horse, "whose name is Death."

There was but feeble response from some of the other states— next year perhaps there will be the same silence when the names of other states are called. Arizona was the first state to fail when the roll was called, that is all. Never before has this happened. But next year, and the next and the next it may become the rule, until the last encampment is held. A few years ago Arizona was at the annual encampments boasting of its big representation for a state so small in population. A few years ago the boys from every state sang:

Bring the good old bugle boys, we'll sing another song,
Sing it with a spirit that will start the world along;
Sing it as we used to sing it, fifty thousand strong,
While we were marching through Georgia.

And there were fifty thousand to join in the chorus of the old rallying song— a few years ago.

But Arizona's out! No need to spend any time explaining what is happening to the wearers of the bronze button. They know. The men who stood against the charge of Pickett's at Gettysburg; who plowed through the Wilderness with Grant; who climbed Lookout Mountain; who marched with Sherman to the sea, need not be told when the tide of battle turns against them. That's the meaning of no response from Arizona this year.

When the Grand Army marched down the streets of Des Moines last year, Arizona was there, and it flashed back the proud message that it would be in Milwaukee this year. But the parade is over for the Arizona division. Not many more parades for any of the members of the Grand Army.

The Grand Army of the Republic is passing! Put out the flags along the line of march, and stand at attention as the depleted lines makes its way for the remaining short distance yonder to the eternal reviewing stand! Arizona has already reached the end of the march.— New Mexican (newspaper).

Carlsbad Current-Argus (Carlsbad, New Mexico)
September 14, 1923