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THE NATIONAL GUARD MAGAZINE

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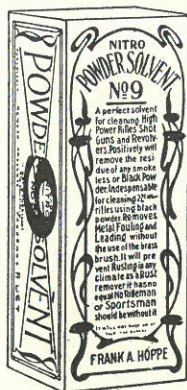
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CONTENTS FOR AUGUST

	PAGE
MONEY FOR MANEUVERS FINALLY APPROPRIATED, <i>By William Wolff</i>	
Smith.....	307
DISTRICT ARMORY BILL PASSES SENATE.....	308
ARIZONA'S NEW MILITARY CODE PROVIDES A RESERVE.....	309
PROMOTION OF RIFLE PRACTICE, <i>By Major M. J. Phillips</i>	310
A PROPER COURSE IN RIFLE PRACTICE—OPINIONS OF ADJUTANTS	
GENERAL AND INSPECTORS.....	314
WHAT THE STATES ARE DOING, <i>By our "Publicity Men"</i>	316

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Volume IX.

AUGUST, 1912

Number 8

THE NATIONAL GUARD MAGAZINE

Money for Maneuvers Finally Appropriated

House Passes Joint Resolution Appropriating a Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars on July 1st—Senate Promptly Concurs and the Program Now Goes Forward.

By WILLIAM WOLFFE SMITH.

FOLLOWING his veto of the Army appropriation bill, containing the appropriations for the National Guard, particularly those for the encampments and maneuvers, on the ground that it contained general legislation detrimental to the administration of the Army, President Taft, on behalf of the War Department authorities, on June 24 sent to the House of Representatives a special message urging that appropriations for the Militia maneuvers be made by Congress by July 2, realizing that the Army bill could not pass by that time. President Taft vetoed the Army bill on June 17, the day before the Republican National Convention. From then on until July 1 Congress was only in session two days a week, both Republicans and Democrats being away at their respective conventions, and only unanimous consent matters being considered.

In his message President Taft pointed out that the arrangements for the maneuvers have been made which had been set aside by the failure to have an appropriation July 1. He urged an immediate appropriation for the maneuvers, saying:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

Very complete arrangements have been tentatively prepared for the participation in camps and maneuvers of a large portion of the Organized Militia of the United States. Preparation has been made for this most important military instruction both by the United States and by the various States whose Organized Militia will participate. The magnitude of the maneuver plans can be seen when it is estimated that 70,000 officers and enlisted men of the Organized Militia will take part in them during the coming year. Should it be impossible to carry out the contemplated maneuvers it will be at a very great loss of efficiency to the troops concerned and will entail a great disappointment to the thousands of men who, with the maneuvers in view, have been preparing themselves therefor.

In contemplation of the maneuvers it has been necessary already to expend the sum of \$80,000 from the unexpended balance of last year's appropriation for maneuver purposes for the Organized Militia, which sum will be lost should the project of maneuvers not be consummated. In addition to this, the various States have made arrangements to expend large amounts from their apportionment from the funds appropriated by Congress under section 1661, Revised Statutes, or from funds appropriated by the State. Without an appropriation by Congress the maneuvers may not be held. I have the honor, therefore, strongly to recommend and urge that the following item, taken from House bill No. 18956 (Army appropriation bill), be enacted separately and specially:

One million three hundred and fifty thousand dollars "Encampment and maneuvers, Organized Militia. 1912-1914"

In addition to the appropriation for the Organized Militia for maneuver purposes it would be necessary that certain amounts be appropriated and made immediately available for the Regular Army to participate with the Organized Militia and aid the latter in the purpose of the maneuvers. This appropriation would total \$367,500, and is made up of the following items:

Regular supplies	\$160,000
Incidental expenses	4,500
Barracks and quarters.....	33,000
Army transportation	75,000
Roads and walks, etc.....	4,000
Water and sewers.....	57,000
Clothing and equipage.....	34,000

Total..... 367,500

The immense importance of the training of the militia leads me again to urge most strongly that the two appropriations mentioned be made available on or before the 2nd day of July, 1912, since, unless the maneuvers can be definitely determined upon by that date, the plans for the encampments and maneuvers of the great portion of the Organized Militia of the United States will have to be abandoned.

WM. H. TAFT.

The White House, June 24, 1912.

After the message was read to the House, Representative Hay of Virginia, Chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, and author of the general legislation on the Army bill which President Taft vetoed, stated that the recommendation of the President would be acted upon as speedily as could be under existing circumstances, but the House and Senate had practically adjourned until July 1. He moved the reference of the message to the Committee.

Representative Mann of Illinois said that as the maneuvers began July 5, if the appropriation was made by July 2 it would be in sufficient time to provide for them. Mr. Hay understood likewise. Mr. Mann asked if it was practical for the Army and the Militia to proceed with their plans meanwhile with any sort of assurance that the appropriation would be made. Mr. Hay said the appropriation would be made as speedily as possible. Hay and Mann thought it could be passed July 1. Mann thought it would be well if the Army and Guard officials understood that it is the expectation of gentlemen in Congress to make the appropriation. Mr. Hay said that in order that the maneuvers should be held the entire appropriation of \$1,350,000 in the Army bill would have to be made. The message was then referred to the Committee.

Secretary of War Stimson in a letter to Chairman Hay of the Military Affairs Committee urged that \$1,350,000 for encampments and maneuvers of the National Guard be appropriated at the earliest practicable date. He said that tentative arrangements for these maneuvers had been completed contingent upon the passage of this appropriation bill.

tion and the National Guard had entered into these arrangements with the War Department in perfect honesty and good faith. Failure to make this money available would be detrimental to the best interests of the Guard and deprive it of instruction most necessary to its morale and efficiency. It was necessary to authorize much preliminary preparatory work in the nature of preparation of camp sites, arrangements for stores, supplies, sanitary measures, etc. Eighty thousand of the unexpended balance of last year's appropriation for maneuvers had already been authorized. Various States had made arrangements to spend large amounts from their apportionment from funds appropriated by Congress or appropriated by the State. The magnitude of the maneuver plans could be seen when it was estimated that 70,000 officers and men of the National Guard will take part in them during the year and that the total of money disbursed from all sources will exceed \$2,000,000. The Secretary pointed out that unless these appropriations could be secured by July 2 the plans for the encampments and maneuvers of a large part of the Guard will have to be abandoned.

With these statements of the President and Secretary of War before them the House Committee on Military Affairs met on Monday, July 1, the expiration of the period of recesses taken for the previous two weeks, and authorized Chairman Hay to report a resolution authorizing the appropriation for the maneuvers, and also reported the Army appropriation bill.

When the House met that same day Mr. Hay presented a resolution appropriating \$1,350,000 for the encampments and maneuvers of the National Guard and there was no objection to its consideration. Mr. Hay explained that the encampments could not be carried on unless the appropriation was made. He would not have been in favor of the appropriation had it not been for the fact that the States in good faith had prepared for the maneuvers and spent money to carry them out. The resolution was then promptly passed.

In the Senate, on July 3, Senator Du Pont, Chairman of the Military Committee, reported the House Joint Resolution appropriating \$1,350,000 for the National Guard maneuvers and obtained immediate consideration. The House failed to put in "America" after "the United States," and this was done in the Senate and the resolution passed without debate. It was returned to the House and Representative Dent tried to secure the adoption of the Senate amendment, but no quorum was present and it went over.

On July 5 the House, on motion of Representative Hay, concurred in the Senate amendment inserting "America," thus passing the resolution, and it was engrossed for the signatures of the Speaker of the House and presiding officer of the Senate. This was had on Saturday, but President Taft did not return