

organized militia is required to be the same as that prescribed for the Regular Army. There are three particulars in which conformity is required. The first is organization. This is essential but not of the first importance. This condition substantially has always existed. Conformity in organization makes the National Guard and the Regular Army homogeneous. The units or the companies in both services are organized alike and likewise the regiments and larger military bodies. The organization, however, is the mere skeleton without flesh or blood or spirit. It may simply exist on paper. There have been some changes, it is true, in the organization of the militia since the new legislation was enacted, but they have been matters of minor importance. The three battalion has been adopted and a few staff officers have perhaps been eliminated, but as far as the rank and file are concerned there has been practically no change.

Second, armament. Conformity in this respect is essential also, but arms and uniforms and equipment do not make the soldier. It is of prime importance that the National Guard should be thoroughly equipped and equipped in exactly the same way as the Regular Army. There has been a very great gain in this respect and except for overcoats, it is probable that the entire National Guard of the country is now substantially ready for immediate field service.

Third, discipline. This is vital and distinguishes a military organization from a mob. If the organization is the skeleton and the armament the body, discipline is the soul and life which animates that body. Discipline is drill, but it is more than drill. (See Century Dictionary: Discipline.) It is a course of study, a science, or an art. It is not only a set or system of rules and regulations, but obedience to rules and commands. It is not only training to act in accordance with rules, but it is the cultivation of mind and the formation of manners. In its broadest sense it is both mental and moral training. In its first analysis it should mean to every officer and man prompt and implicit obedience to orders and respect to superiors. While the United States may provide for disciplining the

militia, the constitution reserves to the states respectively the appointment of the officers and the authority of training the militia according to the discipline prescribed by Congress. Congress can say what the discipline shall be and has said it shall conform to that of the Regular Army, but the states themselves must train the militia and enforce the discipline. Conformity in discipline means that a regular and a National Guardsman cannot be told apart except by the insignia on cap or coat collar. How far we are from having reached that standard it is not necessary here to recount. It expresses the gulf to be crossed—the summit to be attained. Is it impossible of attainment?

Physical requirements should be the same in the organized militia as in the Regular Army and care should be taken to select officers and enlisted men who will and can respond to a call for duty. All military training should keep ever in mind the possibility at any time of a call to active service and training of men who can be depended upon and who are therefore the more valuable. No officer should be commissioned without a rigid examination. He should attend a service school or receive a course of instruction within his state. Whether appointed or elected, his commission should run during good behavior. Correspondence schools should be maintained for line and staff and field officers. Officers in the supply departments should receive special instruction appropriate to their respective duties. All should be required to be proficient in paper work. The state should be required to furnish suitable armories for the storage and protection of government property and adequate for the proper instruction of the companies on penalty of recommendation that the organizations not so housed shall be mustered out. Standards cannot be improved unless public sentiment demands it. This is a matter of education and will require time. There has been much improvement in the past seven years, but much greater improvement is possible and probable in the future. The basis of discipline is instruction and that instruction must not be confined to the citizen within the ranks of the National Guard.

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## Contents for January:

Possibilities of the New National Guard, by J. M. Dickinson, Secretary of War .....	15
Citizen soldiery, the Country's Defense, by Major General Charles Dick, U. S. Senator from Ohio.....	16
Ohio Military Club.....	21
Provisional Army Corps.....	22
Map Reading and Infantry Patrols (Concluded), by Ambrose Clogher, Lieutenant Second Regiment Infantry, M. V. M.....	27
Demand for Pay is Widespread.....	31
Comment on Current Events.....	36
What the States are Doing.....	42
Our Washington Letter, by William Wolff Smith.....	49
Another's View for Uniform Designation.....	55
Small Arms Practice, by Major M. J. Phillips.....	56
Delighted With It.....	60
Expert Review of Military Books, by General Ben. P. Runkle.....	61
United Spanish War Veterans, by W. D. Tucker.....	67

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