

Respects of Dabney H. Maury

THE VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA.

PROCEEDINGS

—OF THE—

CONVENTION OF NATIONAL GUARDS.

ST. LOUIS, OCTOBER 1ST, 1879.

ST. LOUIS:
John J. Daly & Co., Printers, 213 North Third Street.
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CONVENTION

ST. LOUIS, OCTOBER

For more than a hundred years the great problem of organizing an efficient citizen soldiery has perplexed this government. But no advance has been made in its solution since an annual appropriation was fixed of \$200,000 to the States for the purpose of arming the people.

The whole population of the Republic was then about 4,000,000, of whom the arms-bearing men were enrolled in a militia organization, which proved inefficient in time of war, and which, when the war broke out between the States, was swept away to give place to great volunteer organizations.

Meantime an expensive standing army has been maintained, always increasing in costliness from 1799, when its expense was \$1,500,000, until now, 1879, when it exceeds \$40,000,000!

The wars of this country have all been fought by citizen soldiers, and their histories are all honorable records of the constancy and efficiency of citizen soldiery.

The recent war between the States has facilitated and encouraged the organization of State volunteers.

The example of Great Britain in creating her great army

of volunteers for home defense, and of the Dominion of Canada, in establishing her militia on such an efficient footing, as enables her to dispense with all regular troops, have convinced our people that our own citizen soldiery can be soon placed in an efficient condition of organization, equipment and discipline.

The labor strikes of 1877 imparted a fresh impulse to this feeling.

And in 1878 the first conference of volunteer officers was held in Richmond, Va., to discuss measures of practical reform. In January, 1879, a general Convention of officers was called in New York to consider this great subject, and on September 30, 1879, another convention of volunteers met in St. Louis to further consider and promote the objects in view. The members of these conventions represented most of the States of this Union. They were delegated without respect to section or political parties, and their deliberations were conducted with entire accord, and in a spirit of earnest coöperation for the accomplishment of a great public good.

The chief measures recommended were the increase of the annual appropriation for arming the militia proportionately to the increase in population of the States, and a reform in the existing means of educating officers for the State forces, and for the army of the United States.

The proceedings will be found set forth herein.

The National Militia Convention which assembled in New York City, January 16 and 17, 1879, adjourned to meet in St. Louis, Missouri, September 30, 1879, and in pursuance thereof the Convention reassembled at the appointed time, at the Armory of the 1st Regiment, Missouri National Guard, in St. Louis.

The Convention was addressed by Hon. Henry Overstolz, Mayor of the city, who was responded to by Gen. L. F. Hunt, of Ohio, after which a temporary organization was effected by the selection of Gen. J. W. Denver, of Ohio, as

President, and Gen. Wm. L. Alexander, of Iowa, as Secretary. By the rulings of the Convention it was decided that each State should be entitled to cast six votes upon all questions brought up for consideration.

The States represented in the Convention were Massachusetts, New York, Virginia, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Michigan.

The delegates from these States then asked for a report from the Committee which had been appointed by the New York Convention for the report of a Constitution and By-Laws for the organization of a permanent Association of the National Guard of the United States.

The Committee reported the following

CONSTITUTION.

I. This Association shall be known as the National Guard Association of the United States, and its purposes are to promote military efficiency throughout the active militia of the United States, and to secure united representation before Congress for such legislation as it may deem necessary for this purpose.

II. The officers of the Association shall be a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Corresponding Secretary, a Recording Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected for the term of one year, and shall hold their respective offices until their successors are elected.

III. There shall also be an Executive Committee appointed by the President, to consist of one officer from the New England States, one from the Middle States, one from the Southern States, one from the Western States and one from the Pacific States, of which Executive Committee the President of the Association shall be *ex-officio* a member.

IV. The Executive Committee shall be vested with the full powers of the Association, during the intervals between the meetings of the Association, in all matters where the Association itself has not otherwise ordered.

V. The members of the Association shall be commissioned officers of the National Guard of the various States, and shall be elected annually as follows: The National Guard, or active and uniformed militia of each State and Territory, including the District of Columbia, shall be entitled to send five delegates to the Convention of this Association, which delegates shall be selected from the commissioned officers thereof, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Adjutant-General thereof. Such delegates shall be entitled to cast one vote for each State represented in the Convention. The vote shall be taken by States in alphabetical order.

VI. The annual convention of this Association shall meet at such times and places as the Executive Committee shall from time to time direct.

VII. The election of the officers of this Association shall take place at the annual convention of the Association, and shall be decided by ballot. The person receiving the highest number of votes cast for each of the offices named in the second section hereof shall be declared to be duly elected.

VIII. The revenue of the Association shall be derived as follows: The Adjutant-General of each State and Territory shall contribute annually to the funds of the Association, on behalf of the National Guard thereof, the sum of fifty dollars, which amount shall be paid at the beginning of each annual Convention of the Association to the Treasurer thereof.

IX. Two months prior to the meeting of each annual Convention the Secretary shall give notice thereof to the Adjutant-Generals of the various states, and to the delegates attending the last Convention of the Association, and request that notice of all matters intended to be brought before said Convention shall be given to him on or before a date to be

specified in such notice, which date shall be at least three weeks before the date fixed for the Convention.

The Secretary shall transmit to each Adjutant-General, two weeks before the Convention, a statement of all subjects which he has been informed it is proposed to bring before such Convention, so as to enable the delegates from the different States to be prepared to discuss and act upon them intelligently.

No subjects shall be brought up for discussion at any Convention except those of which notice has been given as above mentioned, or which relate thereto, except by unanimous consent.

BY-LAWS.

The following By-Laws were adopted for the government of the Association:

I. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Association or Executive Committee, and shall call meetings of the latter whenever he deems it necessary, or at the request of three members thereof, and shall perform the usual and customary duties of President.

II. It shall be the duty of the Corresponding Secretary to notify delegates of the annual Convention of the Association, or of any additional meetings of the Association, and perform such other duties as may belong to his office.

III. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep the roll of the organizations joining this Association, and of the members annually elected to the annual Convention of this Association, and to report the same at all regular meetings.

IV. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge of the funds of the Association, to collect yearly dues, keep an accurate account thereof, and to report to the Association at its annual meetings. His books shall always be open to

the inspection of officers of the Association, and shall be annually audited by a committee of three to be appointed by the chair.

V. The President shall approve all disbursements for, or on account of, said Association, and the Treasurer shall pay no amount unless it shall be first so approved by the President.

No officers of this Association shall contract any debt of any kind, except by direction of the Association, when in session or by order of the President.

VI. Such commissioned officers of the regular army of the United States, of the navy of the United States, and of the National Guard of the various States, shall have the privileges of the floor at the Annual Convention of this Association as each such annual Convention may prescribe.

VII. No organization entitled to representation in the annual Convention of this Association, as defined in section V of the Constitution, shall be allowed such representation when in arrears for yearly dues.

VIII. The rules of procedure and debate generally recognized in all deliberative bodies, except as herein modified, shall govern all meetings of this Association.

The chair shall be taken at all meetings, whether regular or special, by the President, or, in case of his absence, by the First Vice-President, or any other Vice-President, in the order of succession, as the case may be. In the event of no Vice-President attending, a President shall be *pro tempore* chosen by a *viva voce* vote of the meeting.

The nays and yeas shall be taken and recorded on the demand of any member.

IX. The following shall be the order of business at all meetings, viz :

- 1st. Call the meeting to order.
- 2d. Roll Call.
- 3d. Reading the Minutes of previous meeting.
- 4th. Reports of Committees.

5th. Reading of Correspondence.

6th. Annual Election of Officers.

7th. Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws.

8th. Resolutions and Motions.

9th. Miscellaneous Business.

10th. Unfinished Business.

11th. Essays and Papers.

12th. Adjournment.

To amend this Constitution and By-Laws, the proposed amendment shall be signed by —— delegates representing at least three States, and shall be transmitted to the Secretary, who shall cause notice of such proposed amendment to be transmitted to the various Adjutant-Generals two months before the annual meeting, who shall cause notice thereof to be sent to the various delegates from their respective States. A two-third vote at the annual Convention shall be required to make the amendments.

Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws may be adopted at the annual Convention by a unanimous vote, although no notice thereof may have been given.

The Constitution with the By-Laws were unanimously adopted. A committee appointed reported the following as permanent officers of the Association.

For President, Gen. Geo. W. Wingate, of New York.

First Vice-President, Gen. G. T. Beauregard, of Louisiana.

Second Vice-President, Gen. James W. Denver, of Ohio.

Corresponding Secretary, Maj. Morris B. Farr, of New York.

Recording Secretary, Gen. William L. Alexander, of Iowa.

Treasurer, Gen. A. Hunn Berry, of Massachusetts.

The Convention unanimously agreed on the nominations of the Committee, and elected the gentlemen suggested to the respective offices.

The reading of the bill now before Congress was called for section by section.

The bill entitled "An Act to Reorganize and Discipline the Militia of the United States," is in the hands of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives.

THE BILL.

Every able-bodied male citizen resident, between the ages of 18 and 45, except lawful exemptions, shall constitute the militia.

The militia shall be divided into two classes, the active, to be known as the National or State Guard; and the inactive, to be known as the Reserve Militia.

The active shall consist of regularly uniformed and enlisted troops in the several States as are or may be organized, and shall be liable to be first called out for service. The inactive may be enrolled in such manner as the Legislature may direct, and they shall be liable to active service in time of war, invasion, riot or insurrection.

In time of peace the number of the National or State Guard of each State, upon which such State shall be entitled to receive aid, shall not exceed in the aggregate 700 regularly uniformed commissioned officers and enlisted men for each congressional representative.

The organization of the National or State Guard shall be prescribed by the Legislatures of the respective States and Territories. Such organization shall conform as closely to the method prescribed for the regular army as the circumstances will permit. In time of peace the numbers, rank and duties of the staff officers, and the organization of bureaus of administration in the active militia of the several States, shall be such as the Legislatures thereof may from time to time direct. When called into the service of the United States, the militia, if called out by regiments, may be organized by the President into brigades and divisions, as the

public interests may in his opinion require, and he may assign and designate the commander of such brigades and divisions; and the number, rank and duties of the staff officers shall be the same as prescribed for the regular army.

The President shall appoint a board of seven officers, two of whom shall be officers of the army, and five selected from the active militia of the Eastern, Middle, Southern, Western and Pacific States respectively, for the purpose of selecting a suitable pattern of campaign dress and equipment for the active militia.

Each State receiving any part of the appropriation shall cause its active militia to be provided with a complete service dress and campaign equipments, after a pattern selected by the board. This provision shall not interfere with the wearing of any full dress uniform permitted by the State, provided that serviceable fatigue clothing and equipments in use need not be replaced.

The uniform and equipment of the militia shall be exempt from all suits, distresses, executions or sales for debt, or for the payment of taxes.

The President shall appoint a board of seven officers to prepare a system of rules for the discipline of the active militia. This discipline board to be appointed similar to the uniform board. The rules are to be based on the regulations prescribed for the army, and when approved by the President shall be published by the war department in a small pocket volume, and issued upon State requisitions, so that each officer and soldier of the active militia shall be provided with a copy. The Legislature or Governor of a State may make such consistent additions to said rules as may be deemed desirable. The Adjutant-General of the army shall give due notice of the changes occurring in the regulations for the army for the information of the State authorities.

The sum of \$1,000,000 to be appropriated annually for the purpose of providing arms, ammunition and other ordnance

and quartermaster's stores for the active militia of the several States and Territories, and for the other purposes caused by the proposed act. Such appropriation shall be apportioned among the several States and Territories in proportion to the number of their regularly organized and uniformed militia in service on the first day of December in each year.

The small arms and ammunition shall be of the pattern selected by the States respectively, but of the same calibre and chamber as that prescribed for the regular army, and to be suitable for military service. The war material shall be delivered to the State as soon as it has passed the required inspection, and the cost shall be charged to the quota of such State out of the annual appropriation for the active militia.

There shall be an Adjutant-General in each State and Territory, who shall, under the direction of its Governor, carry into execution and perfect the system of military discipline, and collect and forward to the war department all reports required by the proposed act.

For the purpose of ascertaining the number and condition of the active militia in the several States, an annual inspection shall be made by an officer of the active militia; and the President shall detail an officer from the active or retired list of army to accompany the State Inspector during the inspection, and observe the general condition of the troops and public property, with the consent and under the general directions of the Governor of such State. The inspection officer appointed by the President shall have no authority in any way to control or interfere with the State Inspector, or to exercise any powers or authority during such inspection over the officers or men of the militia inspected.

Each State receiving any portion of the appropriation shall be required, within one year after the passage of the act, to equip and maintain at least one rifle range for the instruction of its active militia in rifle practice, and to require the militia-men to be instructed in such practice.

The Secretary of War is authorized to offer annually to the regularly organized and uniformed militia of each State and Territory, provided they number at least 1,000 men, a prize not to exceed \$100 in value, for competition in rifle practice; also to annually offer a prize of \$1,000 to be shot for by a "team" or detachments from the National Guard or active militia of each State and Territory, from each of the three divisions of the army and from the navy, to be divided among the three teams standing highest in such match. The expense of transportation of the teams, not to exceed fifteen men in number, to be paid out of the militia appropriation.

Upon the application of any regimental, brigade or division commander of the active militia, the Governor may apply to the Secretary of War to assign an officer from the active or retired list of the army to act as Adjutant of such regiment, or Assistant Adjutant-General or Chief of Staff of such brigade or division. The assignment asked for to be made at the option of the Secretary of War. No officer is to be so assigned to the prejudice of the regular army, nor unless he shall have seen at least three years' service in the field. Such assignments may be revoked at pleasure by the Secretary of War, by giving notice thereof to the Governor of the State.

There shall be at least one annual encampment of the active militia of each State and Territory by regiment, brigade or division, or such portion as the State authorities of such State may prescribe, to last at least five consecutive days. So much of the annual appropriation as may be due upon the State quota may be applied toward the subsistence and expense of the troops encamped, not to exceed the rate of \$1.00 a day per man, and for the purchase of necessary camp and garrison equipage.

No name or designation which may be given by any State to its active militia, shall invalidate the claims of the said active militia under the provisions of the proposed act.

The Secretary read eleven sections of the bill and was stopped by objections presented from Ohio. More latitude was asked for the Governors of the respective States in controlling the militia, especially to approve of the rules and regulations for the discipline of the State militia after the action of the military board.

Considerable discussion ensued upon this point when it was moved by Col. Leigh O. Knapp, of Missouri, that the question be referred to a committee for their advice. Gens. Sam'l F. Hunt, Ohio; S. W. Heath, Michigan, and W. W. Blackmar, of Massachusetts, were appointed, and made the following report:

THE NATIONAL MILITIA BILL.

The Committee to whom was referred the bill entitled "An Act to Reorganize and Discipline the Militia of the United States," with pending amendments, respectfully submit the following report:

The bill in question having already been introduced in Congress, and under consideration in that body, the committee feel that it would be inexpedient at this time to do more than to present some suggestions in the form of amendments which should govern in the act to reorganize and discipline the militia of the United States.

While the bill in question is acceptable in the main, the committee would recommend, as the sense of this Convention, that in the adoption of any rules for the discipline of the active militia of the respective states and territories, that all such rules and regulations shall first be approved and adopted by the Governors or Legislatures of the respective States and Territories before the same shall become operative in such State or Territory. While there should be uniformity of rule and method for the government and discipline of the

militia when called into the active service of the United States, yet the committee insists that the authorities of the States or Territories shall have absolute control and direction of their own National Guard, except when called into the service of the United States and may be necessary for the national defense.

The committee is further of the opinion that the government should not be restricted to the purchase of ordnance or quartermasters' stores from private manufacturers, as now provided in section 12 of the pending bill, but that the same should be stricken out, and that all such ordnance and stores should be purchased as may be deemed best for the good of the service.

The former legislation passed by Congress as early as May, 1792, considered the necessity of the militia system, and when the States were in their infancy, the sum of \$200,000 was appropriated for the whole body of the militia. This amount, owing to the rapid increase of population in the various States, is inadequate to the wants of the national guard. To the end, therefore, that the militia may be placed on a proper footing, and in order that the same may be made available for the service of the States and the United States, in whose service they are liable to be called, the committee recommend that the sum of \$2,000,000 be appropriated out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of perfecting the militia system of the respective States and Territories, and for carrying into effect the provisions of this act.

The committee would further recommend that a committee of five be appointed by the President of this Convention to act in conjunction with the committee appointed by the convention which assembled in New York, on the subject of federal legislation, whose duty it shall be to present the subject to Congress and the necessity of action, and to this end shall have full power and authority to so amend and change

the pending bill as in the judgment of the committee will secure the efficiency and better organization of the National Guard.

SAM'L F. HUNT, *Chairman.*
W. W. BLACKMAR.

A MINORITY REPORT.

Gen. Hunt also submitted a supplementary report, in the nature of a minority report, as follows :

Gen. Hunt, from the committee to whom was referred the bill to organize and discipline the militia of the United States, with pending amendments, respectfully submits the following report :

The committee recognize in all its force the idea of the volunteer system. The militia comes from the people, and is the reliance of the State for the protection of property and the preservation of public order. In the apportionment of the fund appropriated for the benefit of the militia of the States or Territories, under the provisions of this act, there should be such a distribution as will secure to the States and Territories a proper share of the fund raised from the revenues of the people of all the States and Territories. In order to secure a proper distribution of this fund the appropriation authorized by Congress for the support of the active militia should be appropriated among the several States and Territories in proportion to the population of any such State or Territory as will appear from the federal census next preceding the decennial period at which such appropriations shall be made, or from the representation of any such State or Territory.

This was the intent of the present militia act of the United States, and there seems no good reason for departing from the long-established law and precedent which have governed the subject. It is not well to remove the ancient landmarks which our fathers have set.

The committee, however, would earnestly recommend that such changes and amendments be embodied in the pending legislation as will require the several States and Territories to organize their militia in order that they may avail themselves of any share in such appropriation.

SAM. F. HUNT.

The minority report was adopted unanimously, and the question was put by States as to whether they favored a distribution by militia strength, or pro rata of population. The following was the vote.

Population—Missouri, Iowa, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Virginia, Kansas, Indiana and Louisiana—9.

Militia—Mississippi, Michigan, New York and Massachusetts—4.

The minority report was ruled as adopted as a supplement to the general report.

Gen. Maury, on behalf of the Special Committee appointed at the previous Convention to consider how to promote an efficient military education among the officers of the state and national forces, made the following report :

I have the honor on behalf of the committee of this Convention, appointed in our meeting held in New York in January last, to consider the best measures to be adopted for the promotion of education of commissioned officers of the state and federal forces, to submit the following report :

We recommend the introduction and the organization of the school of the soldier and of the company into the primary schools and the public schools and academies of every State.

The establishment, where they do not already exist, of one or more military academies, in every State, of the grade of the U. S. Military Academy at West Point. That the graduates of all such military academies shall, on graduation, receive commissions as officers of the state forces, and shall be assigned to regiments of their respective States—in which

they shall be required to serve as drill-masters, or instructors of tactics, for a stated period—and that they shall be eligible to fill vacancies in the United States army, after proper education and examination therefor, as hereinafter proposed.

That in every State a system of promotion shall be established throughout its system of schools, based on good conduct and proficiency in studies, and that appointments of cadetships to the State Military Academies shall be conferred according to merit.

That vacancies in the cadetships of the United States army shall be filled by appointment thereto of the best qualified graduates of any academy or college of the State of the appointee, who shall not be under ——— years of age, nor over ——— years of age. The Governors of the States to nominate to the President said appointees after due examination into their mental, physical and moral qualifications, and into their proficiency in the theory of the cavalry and artillery tactics, and in the drill of the schools of the soldier, the company and the battalion.

That the course of instruction at West Point be advanced appropriately to meet the requirements of the more highly educated young men who will be sent there under the plan above proposed.

That all appointees to vacancies in the grade of cadet, as above proposed, shall proceed to the National Academy, at West Point, where they will remain for years, under instruction in the higher branches and accomplishments of their profession, before entering upon active service in the United States army.

That, whenever the number of cadets thus appointed shall exceed the requirements of the service, those in excess shall be placed on the rolls of the United States army as supernumerary or auxiliary officers, to receive rank and pay only when actually called into service.

That, when practicable and consistent with the interests of

the service the Secretary of War shall be authorized to organize camps of instruction at such times and places as the Governors of the States may indicate, about which the State forces, volunteers or militia, may be assembled for instruction in the discipline and tactics of the several arms of the service.

And that authority may be granted to the Secretary of War to permit officers of the volunteer artillery to report for duty, and to serve at any of the forts and garrisons of the United States where they may be instructed in the service of the ordnance and artillery under such limitations as he may prescribe.

That a committee of three delegates from every State represented in this Convention shall be appointed to procure in their respective State Legislatures the enactment of laws necessary to carry out the objects of this report, and that the President of this Convention shall appoint a special committee of three members to secure the enactment by Congress of the legislation necessary to accomplish the reforms herein contemplated.

In submitting this report, your Committee call attention to the fact that the measures recommended will require but little legislation or expense. They simply propose to adjust more effectively the machinery now in existence. There are at this time a large number of schools and academies in which military discipline and instruction are established.

Some of these academies are private, but most of them are established by the governments of their respective States, or of the United States. There are thirty agricultural colleges which receive aid in money and arms from the General Government, and in which military organization is required. There are now in every State public schools of every grade, in which education is free to all classes of the people. Therefore, all that is necessary to be done to secure the benefits herein proposed, is to so establish the relation between these

schools, that promotion from the lower to the higher will depend on merit. The establishment of this essentially democratic process will give the son of the poor mechanic and of the man of higher social claims, equal opportunity on a fair field to contend for these great prizes.

We have consulted many members of Congress on these proposed changes, and we find them generally approved. With regard to the patronage in the appointment of cadets, they assert their readiness to surrender it. They find it more annoying than serviceable. Heretofore these appointments have been sought and conferred as rewards for political service; and as there are annually many more applicants than appointees, they have become the source of frequent complaint from the disappointed. The plan attempted by some members of sending all applicants before a board of examiners to undergo competitive examination, neither obviates the embarrassment nor attains the end sought. Such examinations, no matter how carefully conducted, can never adequately substitute the specially thorough and progressive education contemplated in this report. We believe this system, which has long been pursued in continental Europe, is more readily adapted to the United States than to France even, and we therefore hope that no time will be lost in securing the few and slight changes in the laws of the several States and of the United States necessary to place all the schools of the country in a condition of harmonious coöperation, and in establishing a system of education deeply rooted in all the States, and uniting them firmly for a grand common purpose.

DABNEY H. MAURY,
Chairman.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

After having received the suggestions of the various members of the Convention, Gen. Geo. W. Wingate has appointed the following Executive Committee, as provided for in the Constitution:

NEW ENGLAND STATES:

GEN. WHITMAN W. BLACKMAR.

MIDDLE STATES:

GEN. FRANK REEDER.

SOUTHERN STATES:

GEN. JOHNSON JONES.

WESTERN STATES:

GEN. S. W. HEATH.

PACIFIC STATES:

COL. W. R. SMEDBERG.

EX-OFFICIO:

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

COMPLIMENTS
-OF-
GEO. W. WINGATE

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Third Annual Convention

OF

THE NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION

OF THE

UNITED STATES,

HELD AT

Philadelphia, March 7th and 8th, 1881.

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<i>New York</i>	Gen. GEORGE W. WINGATE. Col. JOSIAH PORTER. Major W. BOORUM WETMORE. Major H. WALTER WEBB.
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	Adj.-Gen. JOHN W. LATTA. Gen. FRANK REEDER. Gen. E. R. SNOWDEN. Major A. D. HEPBURN.
<i>Virginia</i>	Gen. DABNEY H. MAURY.
<i>North Carolina</i>	Col. JOHN W. COTTON.
<i>Louisiana</i>	Gen. WM. J. BEHAN. Col. WALKER.
<i>Maryland</i>	Gen JAMES R. HOBART.
<i>Illinois</i>	Col. E. D. SWAIN. Col. J. H. SHAFFER.
<i>Iowa</i>	Adj.-Gen. WM. L. ALEXANDER.
<i>Ohio</i>	Asst. Adj.-Gen. A. H. AXLINE. Gen. JAMES W. DENVER. Gen. L. F. HUNT. Col. CHARLES P. HUNT.
<i>Missouri</i>	Gen. WM. A. VAN CLEVE.
<i>Dist. of Columbia</i>	Gen. ALBERT ORDWAY.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The President of the Association, Gen. Geo. W. Wingate (N. Y.), in calling the convention to order, said :

GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION—I have much pleasure in informing you that since the last convention of this Association met in St. Louis, in October, 1879, a substantial progress may be considered to have been accomplished towards carrying out the ideas we have met together to promote, a progress that is more gratifying, as proving how rapidly the opposition originally experienced from so many quarters, is being overcome.

This opposition has been based upon many and very different grounds, but all of them, when examined, will be seen to be founded on some misapprehension either as to our plans, or as to the existing militia law. Thus, on the one hand some have opposed our association from the fear that the reform we propose contemplates an attack on the liberties of the country, by organizing and arming some bloodthirsty and mysterious organizations for the purpose of enabling the States to defy the authority of the National Government.

On the other, we find the same measure denounced as an attempt to place the militia of the States under the absolute control of the President, and create a new Federal army of 150,000 men, to enable the General Government to trample on the rights of the States.

The last objection, as you are probably aware, is founded upon a paragraph inserted by the committee of the House of Representatives in the bill reported by them to that body, although that paragraph is a *verbatim* extract from the law of the United States as it was, and is, and has existed without alteration since 1792, or some eighty-nine years.

Sometimes, as in the recent report of the Senate Committee, both these objections, inconsistent as they are, are found combined.

After our St. Louis Convention, the bill advocated by our Association was slightly altered and introduced in Congress early in the session of 1880, by Gen. Scales, of North Carolina, more for the purpose of eliciting criticism than with an idea that it would be passed during that session.

The prevalent idea at first in Congress appeared to be, that there was a job of some kind—a great gun contract—or something of that description, concealed, somewhere in our proposed law. It apparently seemed almost incredible to members of Congress that there

could be a number of gentlemen in the various States who would put themselves to any inconvenience solely from a desire to advance the military strength of the country, and without any idea of personal benefit, and it has been difficult to disabuse their minds of this impression.

To remove these objections, to explain the true objects and desires of this Association, to point out that a law of the description asked for, and giving really more power to the President over the militia than ours, has stood upon the statute book of the country from the very organization of the Government, to explain that all that is desired is not to make any "new departure," but merely the alteration of antiquated and obsolete legislation, so that instead of providing for "spontoons" and similar articles, the United States militia law shall be made to conform to the existing state of the country and of military science (as it did when it was passed eighty-nine years ago), has been the task of the officers of this Association during the past year, and I assure you it has been no sinecure. For this purpose the Executive Committee had printed a pamphlet stating the origin and objects of our Association, which you have all seen. This was extensively distributed among the press and public, and, I think, was of substantial value. From all sides and from all States the leading military men of the country united in commending our plan, and in March last, the Committee of the House of Representatives having become converted, made an elaborate report recommending the passage of the bill, which, in itself, constitutes a strong argument in our favor.

This committee did not report the bill as framed by this Association, but modified it in several important particulars. The arms to be issued were required to be of the Government pattern and manufacture, and there were other alterations, but none which materially interfered with its general scope and purpose.

With the view of making a complete law, the committee incorporated in their bill all the existing provisions on the Statute book, which it was not proposed to repeal, and in this way inserted those provisions as to the President's power to issue orders direct to the militia, which have caused more adverse criticism than anything else in the bill.

As thus reported the bill has been recommended to Congress in the official reports of the President, the Secretary of War, and the Chief of Ordnance, and has also been formally approved by the National Guard Conventions of many States.

I regret to say, however, that an unfavorable report has been made to the Senate by its Military Committee. This, as I am informed, arose through a mistake, and must not be considered as representing the real opinion of that committee. It certainly was made without any hearing having been given to the the friends of the bill, and was, I am informed, made without any consideration of it by the committee itself. It was based upon a letter written a year previously

of a New York National Guard officer whom the meantime had changed his views, and who had announced himself as an advocate of the necessity of legislation of this description at the very time this report was made—a singular instance of the irony of events.

Besides this, the report was based upon the bill as originally prepared, and not upon that as modified and as reported to the House. On the whole, therefore, this adverse report, although disagreeable, cannot be really considered as damaging.

The really great obstacle which we have to contend against is, the apathy of Congress. Few who have no actual experience can imagine the difficulty of procuring the passage of any law by that body which involves no personal or political interest, and particularly on a subject like this, upon which the average Congressman knows nothing and cares less.

A distinguished Senator once remarked to me that this almost impossibility of procuring affirmative legislation was the great safeguard of the Republic. If he was correct in the belief that such a difficulty constitutes any protection, our country is certain of a happy future.

The fact that this association has no funds to defray the traveling or other expenses of its officers, and has to depend entirely upon gratuitous services and the personal influence of its members with their respective Congressmen to secure any consideration for its projects, has certainly not tended to make it any more successful. In this connection I wish to suggest to the convention that there are scarcely any of the States in which any provision exists for paying dues to such an association as this from the Treasury. As anything that is paid must therefore be contributed by the delegates themselves, it would seem wise that the dues now required to be paid by each State (\$50) should be considerably reduced.

In the management of the bill and in recommending amendments to it, I desire to impress upon the convention that the fewer changes that are made in the law as reported to the House the better. Undoubtedly, it is not the best that could be framed, but it is a great improvement over the law as it now stands, and is the result of much discussion and a combination of views. To obtain success we must remember that we must yield to criticism, and be willing to surrender those points which we find, by experience, attract opposition, in short, take what we can get rather than get nothing by insisting upon what is impracticable.

We must remember that the proposed law is not for one State, but for all, and that the interests, and objections, and even the prejudices of all must be considered, and above all, that the present bill being so well known, and so highly commended (while no really serious objection has been made against it), necessarily stands in a much more favorable condition than could be expected of any new measure.

While we have met with a strong support in most of the States,

in a few mainly of those whose National Guard have been so well supported by their State as to render them indifferent to any aid which might be expected to result from the passage of this bill, there has been considerable indifference among a portion of the officers in regard to our Association.

I am glad, however, to be able to say that this is wearing away, as the ideas and aims of the Association become more generally understood, and to-day, I think it is no exaggeration to say, that the action we are advocating has the sympathy of the best military men of all the States. Even those who were first opposed, are now coming over to us, and there can be but little doubt that by persevering in the future, in the policy that has been adopted in the past, by avoiding, as far as possible, all causes for objection, by impressing in every way upon the public mind the true object of our organization, and above all by keeping up a steady pressure upon Congress and public opinion, we shall within a brief period see our efforts crowned with success, by the enactment of a law which will be of substantial benefit to every section of this great country, and which will make the National Guard of the various States powerful and efficient organizations, without in the slightest degree interfering with the Constitutional rights of either the States or the General Government.

I cannot close without expressing my obligations to Gen. Albert Ordway, one of the delegates to our first convention. Although not at present a member of the National Guard of any State, few are more enthusiastic in favor of our Association, or more ready to advance its ideas. As he is a resident of Washington, he has been of the greatest assistance to me in our attempts to procure Congressional action. In fact, I do not know how we could have accomplished as much as has been done if it had not been for his aid. I am also under obligations of the same kind to Gen. S. V. Benét, the Chief of Ordnance, U. S. A., whose report in favor of our bill you have probably all read. In view of the interest that has been taken by both these gentlemen in the plans of this Association, I have taken the liberty of inviting them to be present during this convention, and would suggest that they be granted the privileges of the floor.

Inasmuch as our plan of legislation is in such a condition that we can do but little during this convention to aid it, I wish to suggest whether it would not be wise not to confine ourselves to that alone.

In addition to the questions which you have been notified will be brought up for discussion, cannot something be done to obtain from those now present a statement of the condition and progress of the National Guard of their respective States? We have now in attendance the leading representatives of nearly every State having a uniformed militia. Almost every one of these is yearly making some innovations, trying some experiments, some of which are successful, some not. If the experiences thus obtained could be brought to the attention of this convention and discussion elicited upon those points upon which it was desired, it seems to me it would tend to make our annual conventions

of great value to the National Guard of the whole country, and do much to promote the interests of our Association. Those matters, however, are for the convention to decide upon.

I am pleased, gentlemen, to find so large a representation present on this occasion, and trust that our deliberations will be as pleasant and profitable as during our two former conventions. What is the pleasure of the convention?

On motion, the minutes of the convention held at St. Louis, Mo., September 7, 1879, were approved.

On motion, General Albert Ordway (District of Columbia) was granted the privileges of the floor during the convention.

The report of the Treasurer, Gen. A. Hun Berry (Mass.), was read, showing the receipts for the year to have been \$206.85, and balance on hand, \$153.15. On motion, the same was referred to an Auditing Committee, consisting of Gen. E. H. Rhodes (R. I.), Col. E. D. Swain (Ill.) and Col. Josiah Porter (New York), by whom it was subsequently reported as correct.

A communication from Colonel J. E. Peyton, in relation to the Yorktown Centennial, having been received, was referred to a committee, consisting of Col. Benjamin B. Martin (R. I.) and Gen. Wm. L. Alexander (Iowa).

After some discussion, the following articles of the constitution of the Association were amended, so as to read as follows:

“ARTICLE IV.

MEMBERS.

SECTION 1. The members of the Association shall be commissioned officers, or honorably discharged ex-officers, of the National Guard of the various States.

SECTION 2. The National Guard, or active and uniformed militia of each State and Territory, including the District of Columbia, shall be entitled to send five delegates to the convention of this Association, which delegates shall be selected from the commissioned officers, or honorably discharged ex-officers thereof, in such manner as may be prescribed by the Adjutant-General thereof.

SECTION 3. Any commissioned officer, or honorably discharged ex-commissioned officer, of the National Guard of any State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, who shall pay the initiation fee of three dollars (\$3.00), and two dollars (\$2.00) a year annually thereafter, shall become a member of this Association, and may attend its meetings, and unite with the delegates appointed by the Adjutant-General in representing his State.

SECTION 4. Such delegates and members attending shall be entitled to cast one vote for each State represented in the convention. The vote shall be taken by States, in alphabetical order.

ARTICLE VI.

REVENUE.

SECTION 1. The revenue of the Association shall be derived as follows :

SECTION 2. Each member shall (besides the payment of the initiation fee of three dollars) pay an annual tax of two dollars to the Treasury of the Association, which tax shall be due and payable on the first day of January for the year ensuing.

SECTION 3. The Adjutant-General of each State and Territory shall contribute annually to the funds of the Association, on behalf of the National Guard thereof, the sum of fifteen dollars, which amount shall be paid at the beginning of each annual convention of the Association to the Treasurer thereof.

ARTICLE VII.

SECTION 5. The Corresponding Secretary shall two months before each convention forward a circular to the Adjutant-Generals of the several States, requesting that a report be made to the convention in the following particulars in relation to the National Guard of their respective States, and stating what change, if any, has taken place therein during the year, viz. Strength, equipment, discipline and instruction ; if any camps have been held, their management and the proportion of troops present, and any other matters of interest or suggestions to the convention.

BY-LAWS.

IX.

The first clause was amended to read as follows :

Amendments to the constitution and By-Laws may be adopted at the annual convention by a two-third vote, although no notice thereof may have been given."

On motion of Major W. Boorum Wetmore (N. Y.), a committee of five was appointed to present names for officers of the Association for the coming year.

The Chair appointed as such committee :

Major W. BOORUM WETMORE (N. Y.).
Asst. Adjt.-Gen. A. H. AXLINE (Ohio).
Adjt.-Gen. C. H. BARNEY (R. I.).
Gen. E. R. SNOWDEN (Pa.).
Gen. WM. A. VAN CLEVE (Mo.).

On motion of Gen. E. H. Rhodes (R. I.), the committee was instructed to report the following morning.

On motion, it was

Resolved, That at all conventions of the Association, the delegates be requested to wear the uniform of their rank.

On motion of Gen. C. H. Barney (R. I.), the delegates from those States whose annual assessment had been paid, were granted the privileges of the meeting without the payment of initiation fee and annual dues, required by the existing amendments to the constitution.

A recess was then taken to three P. M.

Upon reassembling, the following discussion took place upon the questions, as to which notice had been given :

I.

CAVALRY AND ARTILLERY IN THE NATIONAL GUARD.

The President, Gen. GEO. W. WINGATE, of New York : The following question is now in order for discussion by the convention : "Is the efficiency usually obtained in the cavalry and artillery in the National Guard sufficient to justify their cost, and if so, to what extent should they be encouraged?"

I presume the best way is to call the States in their order, and I will first call on Vermont and ask the opinion of Col. T. S. Peck upon the subject.

A Delegate : I would suggest that any member of the convention be allowed to speak, because two or three members from the State might have contrary views, and wish to express their opinions.

Gen. WINGATE : All members are at liberty and are requested to state briefly their views upon this as upon all similar subjects that may be presented for discussion. It is important that there should be a full expression of opinion upon this particular subject, as in some States steps have been taken to disband all their cavalry, on the ground that it does not pay to have any in a National Guard service.

VERMONT.

Col. T. S. PECK, of Burlington, Vermont (commanding 1st regiment) : Our State has a small National Guard. We have one ten company regiment of infantry, two unattached companies, and a battery (4 guns) of light artillery, but no cavalry. I believe we should have a squadron of cavalry, or mounted riflemen. In my judgment, a squadron of cavalry (or mounted men, with long range rifles, who could have their sabres attached to the saddle, if desired) should be attached to every brigade of infantry. Although without cavalry, Vermont has done well for her infantry and artillery. The Fuller Light Battery is one of the finest artillery organizations in the

United States; officers and men are mostly veterans, and take great pride in the service; as far as possible, the same horses are used each year, and become well trained. I am heartily in favor of having both cavalry, or mounted riflemen and artillery, as part of the National Guard. I also think that each regiment of infantry should have two Gatling guns.

RHODE ISLAND.

Gen. E. H. RHODES, commanding Rhode Island National Guard: Mr. President—My experience in the field taught me the value of the cavalry service in time of war, yet I am convinced that the employment of large bodies of mounted troops in the militia service is not only expensive, but practically useless.

With our modern breech-loading arms, I believe that infantry troops will be found equal to all emergencies in times of riot or tumult in our cities and towns. In saying this, I do not wish to be understood as reflecting upon the mounted service. The men may be as brave and the officers as well posted in their duties in the cavalry as in the infantry, but the difficulty experienced in procuring suitable horses will always be found to be a serious obstacle to the efficiency of mounted militia troops.

In our State, which made an honorable record in the cavalry arm during the late war, we find the mounted service to be a favorite one. In the City of Providence a command was formed in 1842, known as the Providence Horse Guards, which continued in service until 1879, when the present force was enlisted. The Horse Guards were undoubtedly the means of fostering a military spirit among the young men of our State, and from this and similar organizations Rhode Island sent into the field three regiments and one squadron of cavalry.

On the reorganization of our State militia it was thought best to disband the existing cavalry companies and to enlist two new companies (one stationed in Providence and one in Pawtucket) to be known as the 1st Battalion of Cavalry, Rhode Island Militia. For convenience a battalion organization was given to these companies, and a major with a full staff was appointed to the command. We have succeeded during the past year in bringing this battalion to a higher degree of efficiency than ever before existed in the cavalry of our State. These troops are armed with sabres and the U. S. breech-loading carbine, calibre .45, and have all the equipments that would be issued to troops of the same arm in the Regular Service. While I doubt the expediency of employing mounted men in street fights, on account of the horses being untrained, yet dismounted they would give a good account of themselves, and can be rapidly moved to distant positions. The principal use that we make of our cavalry is for orderlies and messengers. This duty I regard of importance, for in times of disturbance it is necessary to have well trained men who can be relied upon to carry despatches promptly. It is my opinion that each

State should maintain a small cavalry force as a school of instruction for officers and men, as a nucleus for the formation of regiments, should occasion require. Our last five day camp was of great benefit to our cavalry battalion, as it taught the men not only to ride but also to handle their sabres while mounted. The camp was located fourteen miles from Providence, and the march to and from proved that men could learn to sit on their saddles even in a few days of drill.

I am decidedly of the opinion that each State should maintain one or more light batteries. We know the prominent part that artillery plays in war, and I think that we will agree that it is important that each State should have both officers and men trained in this important arm. The artillery drill is not so readily learned as the infantry, and for this reason we find fewer officers of the militia posted in the tactics of this branch. It is a science that requires much study and practice to perfect an officer. Rhode Island has always taken a great interest in the artillery service, and from a militia battery, known as the Providence Marine Corps of Artillery, sent a full regiment of light batteries into the field. The procuring of proper draught horses is often a serious question, but we find it easier to train horses to artillery than to cavalry service. After a few hours of drill, the horses become accustomed to the firing, and we have no difficulty in moving the guns upon the field. We have one light battery in our brigade, which I believe is equal to any similar organization in the country.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY, Adjutant-General, Mass.: I had hoped to hear from some of the officers of the line in regard to their experience before we heard from the executive officers—the Adjutant-Generals should be called upon later—so that we might learn a little from the discussion of this question by the line and get the benefit of their experience with these arms of the service. I can hardly do more than give the details of these organizations in Massachusetts, as the other officers have done. We have at this present time an allowance for six days' duty in the year. In May or June we have an annual inspection provided for, superintended by the Inspector-General with two assistants; the days are fixed by the officers of the organization, and are such as will suit their convenience; a thorough inspection is made of arms, equipments, dress, and of the men's proficiency in drill; it occupies a whole day. The forenoon is devoted to drill, and the afternoon to ceremony and an exhibition drill, to show their efficiency before the inspectors. In the latter part of the year, August, September or early in October, we have our camp of five days; for this duty the men of all arms are allowed the sum of \$2 per day, the mounted troops being allowed, in addition, \$4 per day for their horses. Besides this, in each town or city in which a company is located the city or town is obliged by law to provide

an armory, for which the State allows a sum not exceeding six hundred dollars for a company of cavalry or artillery, and four hundred for a company of infantry. For this we get a good deal of service; the men work hard, drilling at least one evening each week, and their proficiency is constantly increasing. The active militia is divided into two brigades of about 2,300 men each; to one is attached one company of cavalry and one battery; and to the other is attached a battalion of cavalry and a battalion of artillery, each of two companies. The battalion of cavalry is located in the City of Boston, and the company is located in Middlesex County, its members being scattered over a territory of 15 or 20 miles in diameter. In this company, located as it is in the country, nearly all the members own their own horses. The men take great pride in their organization, and have raised it to a very high standard of efficiency. The companies in the city are not so well provided for in regard to horses, but they have constant dismounted drills, and they are quite proficient in their branch of the service. The cavalry arm is used mostly in camp as a provost guard for patrolling the approaches to camp to pick up stragglers, tramps, or any violators of law; any disturbance created within a mile of the camp is looked after by this patrol. The artillery is located in the State about in the same manner as the cavalry. It is mostly engaged firing salutes, but its value in case of riots has been fully and effectively proven in Boston. And I think a great benefit in the same direction, under the same circumstances, would be derived from the existence of the cavalry. The five days' camp duty, with the artillery, as with all the other troops in the State, has been improved to the utmost, and the batteries show in the last day's drill a great improvement over the first day's work. The great trouble seems to be in the lack of instruction among the drivers; this, however, is speedily corrected by a few hours' drill with horses. I certainly am of the opinion that a reasonable allowance of artillery and cavalry with the infantry is very beneficial in the National Guard service, and that all the encouragement possible should be given to those arms of the service, notwithstanding the expense the State is at in maintaining these companies. I think we feel in Massachusetts that the work done and the efficiency shown at encampments and inspections fully warrant the expenditure of the sum appropriated for their maintenance. At the same time only a small amount of these arms of the service is needed in connection with the infantry, while they could do a great deal of good in case of trouble. If there is need for increasing them it can be very quickly accomplished. They are very popular branches, and it would take a very small amount of time to raise a large number of artillery or cavalry soldiers. My impression is that in the coast States the artillery arm should be more cultivated than it is, particularly in the branch of heavy artillery, and I see no reason why all the infantry organizations could not devote part of their time to heavy artillery service to make themselves efficient in that arm, especially as the

General Government is very willing that the forts on the sea coast should be used by military organizations for practice, or as schools of instruction. I do not know as I can add anything more to what has already been said on this subject. I should like to hear some of these line officers and get their views.

A member: You remarked that cities and towns were compelled to furnish armories, and then said that the Commonwealth paid the cities or towns; does that come out of the public treasury of Massachusetts?

Gen. BERRY: It comes directly from the public treasury. The city and town authorities at the end of the year file a return at the Adjutant-General's Office of the amount that is paid for the armory (which may be more than \$600). The Adjutant-General having inspected the armory during the year passes on that return and allows the whole rent or part as he may judge proper. A return of the amount allowed is passed over to the State Auditor, and as soon as that is passed on and is ready for payment the authorities of the cities and towns are notified and they draw the money from the treasury.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Col. JOHN W. COTTON, of Tarboro, N. C.: My experience with cavalry is limited. In North Carolina we have the misfortune not to have any militia organization. Our Guard is a voluntary association entirely, all the expenses being borne by the individual members of it. I hope we will get some appropriation from the Legislature this year that will enable us to profit by what I hear here. We have two good batteries in our State. We have the same trouble with horses that the other delegates have alluded to, but still the batteries are effective. I am of the opinion that one battery is necessary to each brigade, and that they are worth all the trouble and expense that is required to maintain them. We have only one cavalry troop, and that is in a badly demoralized condition. I do not know as I can say anything further; I did not propose to offer any suggestions or make any remarks; I came with the idea of learning something and being able at the next meeting to report a very great improvement in the efficiency of the State Guard of North Carolina.

ILLINOIS.

Col. E. D. SWAIN, of Chicago, Ill.: Mr. Chairman, I do not know that I can add much to what has been said. We have a battalion of five companies of cavalry, all located in the City of Chicago. It grew out of our riots of 1877, previous to which time we had no cavalry in the State. During the riots it was found necessary to have cavalry, and we hastily organized a battalion of cavalry among our business men who had seen cavalry serve during the war. This cavalry was very efficient. As the enemy they were compelled to meet were not armed with long ranged rifles or breech loaders, the cavalry were

able to make many successful charges. They also did good service from the rapidity with which they could go from one part of the city to another to quell any disturbance. Our cavalry was not equipped by the State. It belongs, however, to the National Guard, but was equipped and uniformed complete by the Citizens' Association of the City of Chicago. This association is composed of business men, who look after the best interests of our city. We have in the State three batteries of artillery, and they are very effective. They are well drilled, as has been demonstrated in camp at South Chicago two years ago. Their firing was most excellent. We had floating targets in Lake Michigan, and the practice was carried on with perfect safety. They proved themselves to be very efficient gunners. Of course both branches of the service under discussion labor under the same difficulties that they do in other localities, in the men not owning the horses. The last company organized in our city and State is made up of men who do own their horses, and it is expected that this will become quite an attractive organization, and will be used for escort and orderlies duty, etc. We feel that both branches of this service should be encouraged. We all know how effective light artillery may be made upon any unorganized crowd. Canister is very unhealthy indeed for that kind of people, and very effective.

MISSOURI.

Gen. WILLIAM M. VAN CLEVE, of Macon, Missouri: I am in favor of encouraging a limited cavalry and artillery service in the National Guard. In Missouri we have but one company of cavalry and one of artillery, and these are both in St. Louis. We found that they were very great conservators of the peace in 1877. Owing to the expense of those organizations being much greater than that of the infantry, I think it would be well to have them limited to as few companies as possible, but am of the opinion that a small proportion of both cavalry and artillery can be maintained in such an effective condition as to more than make up for the expense they cause to the State.

IOWA.

Gen. WILLIAM L. ALEXANDER, Adjutant-General of Iowa: In the reduction of the National Guard of Iowa by the Legislature in 1880, it was deemed advisable to muster out both the cavalry and artillery. The reasons for this course were not that they considered these arms of the service wholly unnecessary, but the force was so large—nine regiments of infantry, one of cavalry, and one of artillery—that in order to attain a standard of efficiency that was desirable, or that would at all compare with the older States, a very material reduction was required to be made. In my judgment, in the States where the appropriations are small, in attempting to maintain all arms of the service, all are materially injured. It should, therefore, be their policy to attempt to maintain infantry only, and only so much of

that as the money the State chooses to devote to the purpose will maintain in a suitable manner. The policy of States having so large a militia force that the State provides about half of its support and the men of the force the other half, is productive of the most disastrous results. Every man feels a financial interest in affairs, and desires a voice in the management, to the extent of the capital invested. In the States where appropriations are liberal, and the people give a hearty support to everything tending to better the condition of their militia, all arms of the service should be retained. But where the contrary is the case, gun squads for artillery should be detailed from infantry and cavalry altogether abandoned. To make the latter at all effective, the horses must be as well drilled as the men. This cannot be done except where companies own them, an expense that should not be thrown upon the individual, and that could not well be incurred by the State.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Adjutant-General T. W. LATTI, of Pennsylvania: Mr. President, I would rather that you would call upon my comrade here at my right, Gen. Reeder. He is an officer of the line: I am an executive officer only. The cavalry and artillery force of Pennsylvania has gotten itself by continual reductions into very creditable shape. We have now five brigades; one cavalry company and one battery is attached to each. The infantry company allowance is \$500 per annum. Double that is appropriated annually to each cavalry and battery organization. Besides twice each year, the batteries are paid the actual cost of horsing. It varies in amount with location. In one cavalry command each member owns his horse. This military service of ours is a cadet school; it is a sort of system of academic instruction. I suppose in that light instruction in those two branches under discussion is as necessary as instruction in the infantry school. For this thousand dollars a year a full performance of all the duties of each arm is expected. It cannot but be admitted that the financial aid offered is limited to what the real expenditure of such service requires.

I can safely state that those two arms of the service in our State are in a very creditable and satisfactory shape. We cover a large territory. From Lake Erie to the waters of the Delaware is several hundred miles. It is generally impossible to bring together by railroad transportation horses from distant points; they have to be hired where the camp or inspection happens to be. That is a difficulty. When commands are in the immediate vicinity of the camp or inspection rendezvous, or within thirty or forty miles, the men can come with horses somewhat accommodated to the service. I conceive it to be a necessity in the way of military education that these two arms should be maintained in a limited extent with the organized National Guard of each State, and that the money that is spent upon them is a wise investment.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Gen. ALBERT ORDWAY, of Washington, D. C. : I am inclined to differ from the majority of opinions I have heard expressed. With my view of the objects and use of military organizations, I cannot but consider every dollar expended by the State in maintaining cavalry in the militia as money wasted.

To make efficient cavalry the horse needs as much instruction as the man, and the instruction of both is essentially practical rather than theoretical. The horse and the man together constitute the soldier. The instruction necessary to create such a soldier must be long and continuous, and is wholly impracticable in the militia. In any service which militia would be called upon to perform, mounted troops would only be desired when rapid movement to a designated point should be necessary. In such an emergency it would be as feasible to mount the necessary number of infantry as to employ the so-called cavalry, and on reaching the point of danger the infantry fighting on foot with their breech-loading rifles would be much more effective than unskilful men fighting with sabres and pistols on untrained horses.

On the other hand, I think that great attention should be given to training the militia in artillery service, and particularly that in sea-coast States systematic effort should be made to foster and encourage attention to heavy artillery, which hitherto has been almost wholly neglected. Artillery service requires the intelligence which is naturally to be found in the volunteer militia. Instruction in artillery, especially for the officers, is to a great extent a matter of books and theory, and there is nothing to prevent a militia officer from becoming thoroughly versed in it. The Government would, undoubtedly, allow the militia the use of the forts for practical instruction, and there is no reason why, in case of danger, our forts could not be efficiently reinforced by militia. While the same objection might be raised against militia, field artillery, as I have made against cavalry—the impossibility of training horses—the objection does not hold in the same degree. The principal occasions on which light artillery would be required for service in the militia would be those in which no field manœuvres would be necessary or practicable, and no service would be required from the horses except to haul the guns to the point at which they are to be used. Men and officers can be thoroughly trained and instructed in the militia, in the manual of the piece, the nature and effect of projectiles, in the theory of gunnery, and in target practice. If called into the field it would not require much time for them to train horses and attain moderate skill in battery drill.

I am not prepared to debate the question at length, but my convictions are : that efficient cavalry is unattainable in the militia, and that existing organizations do not justify the cost of maintaining them ; that artillery instruction in the militia is both feasible and de-

sirable, that light artillery organizations should be maintained, and greater attention than heretofore given to book instruction in artillery, and that the sea-coast States should take speedy measures and seek the co-operation of the General Government for training a portion of the militia in the use of heavy artillery and the defence of fortified positions.

Gen. FRANK REEDER, of Easton, Penn : I think, perhaps, we may not have obtained a fair expression of opinion upon this subject in discussing this question in its present form. The question is, whether the efficiency usually obtained in cavalry and artillery service is sufficient to justify their cost. If we were to inquire whether the efficiency usually obtained in militia infantry regiments is sufficient to justify their cost, may there not be a division of sentiment upon that point? I think the real and higher object of the National Guard of all the States should be to advance the standard of efficiency, and the proper question to discuss is whether it is possible to reach such a standard of efficiency in those two arms of service—the cavalry and artillery—as will justify the cost of supporting them, and this appears to be the view taken by those who have preceded me. As Gen. Latta has said, and as has been repeated by Gen. Ordway, there are two objects in our military system : the first to protect the peace of the several States, the second to supply officers for volunteers when called into service—a sort of citizens' West Point. We cannot educate, of course, engineers in the National Guard, neither can we have an Ordnance Department, but we can and should educate men and officers for the three separate arms of the service ; and we should support organizations which we form—a cavalry school and an artillery school for our young men of military tastes, just as much and just upon the same reasoning that we should support infantry organizations as an infantry school. I think there can be no question as to the efficiency of the artillery in the National Guard in putting down riots. In time of riot, a battery loaded with grape and cannister has a most discouraging effect upon a body of rioters. I think that to all brigade organizations there should be attached at least one battery, and I believe that attached to that battery there should be at least one Gatling gun. I believe further that there should be attached to each brigade a troop of cavalry ; but I also believe that that troop of cavalry should be organized in those localities, and in those localities only, where the men would own their horses, and possess that sort of understanding which should always subsist between the cavalry horse and his rider. From my own personal experience as commander of a brigade in the National Guard of Pennsylvania, and from my observation of a battery and troop of cavalry belonging to it, I am convinced that the state of efficiency of those two organizations is quite high, and it is entirely satisfactory to me. In my cavalry troop the men all own their horses. It is an organization located in one of the richest districts in the State. The men are all farmers and their horses are magnifi-

cent specimens. Notwithstanding the value of the horses in that troop, the men are sufficiently zealous to be willing at any time to load their horses upon box cars and ship them to any point where they may be required. In 1877 those horses were carried in box cars a distance of at least seven hundred miles, their first step being from Chester County to Pittsburg. They were then sent to Scranton, where they served. Here they were of great service, serving in the open country where even the general officers and general staff were dismounted. Being mounted they furnished the means of rapid locomotion, and orders could be sent by them to points where relief could be obtained. Their services at that time were of sufficient value to reimburse the State for all the cost the State has been put to on their account from the time of their organization to the present. There can be no question as to the value of artillery as a conservator of the peace, and I think now, that with a little trouble, National Guard artillery can be made efficient and valuable.

NEW YORK.

Major W. B. WETMORE, of New York: General Ordway's remarks fully cover my ideas on this subject. If I were asked whether we should have any cavalry in the National Guard, I should say "no." They cannot, under the present system be made effective, unless the State owns the horses and they are trained. The horses and men must be trained together. No one would for a moment say an infantry soldier was trained, if, when he desired to go a certain way, to obey a certain command, his legs carried him in the opposite direction. The same with the horse and his rider. They must be one. The horse must go where the rider desires, and not the rider where the horse chooses. The will of the rider, communicated to the horse by the pressure of the leg or by a touch of the rein on the horse's neck, should be the horse's will, and until they are trained together it is not possible to have thorough cavalry. Even with the best cavalry, the pavements in the streets of some of our large cities are so slippery, that I question if cavalry could charge with any effect without half the horses falling and throwing the rest into confusion. Last year I was present at a review by a German battalion of cavalry. The horses came from carts and car lines and were untrained as well as the men. At the trot the utmost confusion prevailed, and one horse by turning around in a circle and the man falling off, not only broke up his whole platoon and halted it, but all the rest in rear were thrown in inextricable confusion, the first three platoons disappearing in the distance, leaving the rest of the battalion behind. This will always happen while the horses are taken untrained out of carts and cars; and I even question if trained riders could do much under such conditions.

In regard to the artillery, I was detailed as instructor of tactics at the artillery camp of instruction at Fort Hamilton last fall. As Col.

Ordway says, we can make very efficient artillery and get riders good enough to take the pieces around.

National Guardsmen, we find, do very well as far as the manual, the loading and firing, firing with shell, the mechanical manoeuvres, the dismounting of the guns. The men can be made efficient in this. They should also be trained in heavy artillery, and it can be easily done, but to-day we have no heavy artillery in the militia service, and in case of war it will be absolutely necessary to man some of the forts in our large harbors with militia organizations, as the regular force is not of sufficient size to do so. We ought to have some of our infantry sent to our coast fortifications and instructed in that branch of the service. In regard to the light batteries, the same difficulty is experienced until the horses are trained and until the drivers are trained to ride them, unless we consider them not as batteries for manoeuvre, but the horses and riders as merely the means of moving the three and three and a half inch guns into position to hold a place in case of riot. But in this case probably a foot battery of Gatling or Hotchkiss guns would be better. We could have several companies in the larger cities especially drilled for that purpose, a platoon, say, in one company of each regiment, without giving up the infantry organization and the drill of the company, and the guns could be kept in regimental armory of the company until needed, and would always be ready for use.

The States do not allow enough money to properly support cavalry and light artillery organizations. It takes one year to make a thorough infantry soldier, while it takes three years to make a thorough cavalry soldier. These organizations get now more than infantry ones of the same size, and even this is insufficient, and I question if it is practicable to keep them up and properly train them, except in the cases I have named, without larger appropriations to maintain proper horses and riders. But in either case, in time of war, we must rely on the militia to supply the infantry and the Regular Army, the cavalry and light artillery, which should to-day be increased to double its present strength.

RHODE ISLAND.

Col. WM. H. TURNER, Asst.-Adjt. General, Rhode Island: I am not satisfied that proper credit has been given to the cavalry service by my colleague and comrade. I have an affection for this branch of the service by reason of my experience in this arm during the late war. The State that I have the honor in part to represent sent three regiments and a squadron of cavalry into the field, and the nucleus of the regiment first organized was the Providence Horse Guards, a militia company, as was also the Marine Artillery the nucleus of the many batteries that Rhode Island sent to the war, and which reflected great credit upon the State. The commanding officer of the Horse Guards was detailed by the Governor of the State as chief of cavalry, and upon him devolved the duties of super-

intending the recruiting and organization of a regiment of cavalry, which in efficiency and valor bore a conspicuous reputation. If necessity requires the employment of cavalry in quelling a riot, the fact that the horses have not had much previous training would be overcome by the natural disposition of animals to herd together, and the momentum gained in a charge would be the most effective way of dispersing a crowd. If in militia organizations of cavalry the horses are owned by the men, the efficiency of this branch of the service would be greatly enhanced. I would advise, therefore, that a small number of cavalry be attached to each brigade of infantry, composed of such men as own their own horses.

CONNECTICUT.

Col. SIMEON J. FOX, Asst.-Adjt. General, Conn.: I wish to say, Mr. President, that my State has not had any cavalry in its National Guard for the last twenty years. There are two companies of Governor's Horse Guards—mounted troops—but they are not connected with the National Guard in any manner, so I cannot give you any experience in regard to the cavalry. In reference to the artillery, we have one battery. During the first two or three years of my connection with the Adjutant-General's Office, from 1869 to 1872, we had two batteries of artillery. In the reorganization in 1872 we disbanded one battery, and about two years later the artillery force was reduced to one platoon, located in the country at Gailford. We have in the last two years added another platoon to it, located in a town almost adjoining, and our artillery now consists of one battery of four guns. The platoon that we have retained since '72 we have never had any trouble with. At first our artillery did not go into camp every year, but for the last five years we send them into camp regularly, and we see a great improvement in that branch of the service. The State pays for the horses, etc. Our artillery is located in the country. We found, by experience, that artillery in the cities did not give satisfaction. The procuring of horses here and there, and the drivers being mechanics and merchants, led, as can be easily seen, to badly managed teams and indifferent success in field manoeuvres. But our artillery, now being from the country, does work to advantage. Most of the members either own their horses or else have worked in connection with horses, and know how to take care of them, how to use them, and how to drive them, and we find a great improvement in that particular. We are decidedly opposed to artillery in the city for the reason that the men, not knowing about horses, do not do their work to advantage. Col. Jones, Asst. Inspector-Gen., U. S. A., who inspected our force while in camp last year, in his report to the Adjutant-General, U. S. A., says: "The battery manoeuvres were executed remarkably well as a rule, and it was difficult for me to account for the drivers and cannoniers being so well drilled and instructed." We think that, with our force, one battery of artillery is all that is required.

OHIO.

Col. A. H. AXLINE, Asst. Adjt.-General, Ohio: Judging from the reports made by the representatives from other States, Ohio, perhaps, occupies the front rank in the efficiency of her artillery as well as in some other respects well known to the people of the Union. We are in favor of long range guns, because ours is a far-reaching State.

Our National Guard consists of 100 companies of infantry, two troops of cavalry, and eight batteries of light artillery. The law limits us to this force, and the quota is full. Besides our two troops of cavalry in the National Guard, we have an independent troop, located at Cleveland, that is not excelled in the United States. It formed the escort of honor to the President at the last inaugural, and it received the highest praise for its soldierly bearing on that occasion. Our two troops of cavalry are an honor to the service. They are not as well drilled, perhaps, in mounted service as they should be, as the furnishing of horses for every parade is expensive and inconvenient; but as dismounted men, or infantry, they are well drilled. We believe that, with our improved breech-loading arm, the gallant cavalry charges of the past will be known only in history; that hereafter cavalry will fight principally dismounted. They will supply the place of dragoons or mounted infantry, and horses will be used simply for rapid movements. I had some experience in this service during the last war, and know of its efficiency.

Our cavalry are merely skeleton organizations, around which regiments can be speedily formed in emergencies. For this reason we hold their existence should be continued. Our laws do not allow our troops to be brigaded in time of peace, hence our cavalry are left unattached, to be used as circumstances may require. Cavalry will always be a necessary arm of the service, although its proportion should be kept small on account of expense. The great State of Ohio should have at least two companies, and these should be well kept and provided for. Our State furnishes horses for not more than seven days in the year, and allows \$1.00 per day during that time, otherwise our cavalry companies are provided for as the infantry.

But as we have said before, our artillery organizations are especially efficient. We now have eight batteries of light artillery, seven four-gun batteries, and one two-gun battery. The guns are six and twelve pounders. The organizations are all in good condition, and would be a valuable force if called into active service. Out of these eight batteries we could speedily organize a force of artillery that would do credit to our State.

At the outbreak of the rebellion we had a good battery in northern Ohio, and that formed a basis on which the 1st Regiment of Ohio Light Artillery, that rendered such gallant service in the field, was organized. The existence of that battery made the organization of the 1st Regiment an easy matter.

Our batteries have not yet been called into service to suppress

riot, as their services have not been needed, the infantry being sufficient in such cases. However, a few days ago one of our batteries rendered valuable services to the City of Cleveland, which is worthy of notice.

During the late floods the ice banked up and threatened to overflow and destroy the lower part of the city. The 1st Battery of Light Artillery, Ohio National Guard, was hastily called out, and a heavy cannonade, with 12 lb. shells, soon broke the ice, opened up the channel, and left Cleveland free from danger.

In conclusion, I would state that artillery is also an important arm of the service, and its existence should be encouraged in the National Guard. They should be supplied with good guns and equipments, with plenty of ammunition for target practice, and, if well supported, they will render every service required.

The smallest force should be cavalry, next artillery, but the main body should be infantry.

VIRGINIA.

Gen. DABNEY H. MAURY, Virginia: I think, Mr. President, if the strict designation of cavalry is, men who fight on horses with sabres, it is not practical in the National Guard service; but I believe it would be quite practical to attach a troop of horse equipped with rifles or six shooters to each brigade, who would render valuable service. Men who know how to ride a horse can learn to shoot very accurately from his back with a six shooter, and also can and should be trained to get into position quickly from which they can use their rifles on foot, and in that position are very effective. It was my fortune to belong to a mounted rifle regiment during a portion of our late war. We adopted a system of very simple evolutions. The cavalry tactics of the U. S. Army were first taught, and afterwards the men were manoeuvred in single rank at speed, and trained to fight on foot. The horses were provided with links to fasten them together when the men dismounted. I have seen troops of mounted riflemen when galloping, and the trumpet sounded, dismount and deploy to fight in seven seconds. The horses were merely linked, a number being held by one man. The men soon learned to do it and to handle their arms. The idea of shooting a rifle from the back of a horse is totally impractical, but I know, from experience, that any man who can handle a pistol tolerably well on foot, and can manage his horse, can shoot a pistol very well when mounted. A man cannot learn to use a sabre efficiently under several years, and when he does learn to use it, it is an inefficient weapon as compared with the pistol. I believe that young men who join the cavalry of the National Guard should invariably be good horsemen and be thoroughly taught the use of the pistol and the rifle. A simple system of rank evolution and fighting dismounted can be acquired in a very short time, as I know from experience in companies, and in the case of my regiment. To become a good swordsman will require years of practice, but I

consider the sabre, even in the most skillful hands, inferior to the revolver. The old time "sword-in-hand cavalry" has passed out of the organization of modern armies. The moment that we adopted long-range guns the functions of cavalry changed entirely; and within the last twenty years past we have seen nothing except mounted riflemen. I think the cavalry on both sides, during the war, were really nothing but mounted riflemen. I think it would be well to have a troop of horse attached to every brigade of the National Guard, as a nucleus on which to form and educate cavalry in time of war. As to artillery, I think that it is very essential to have one four-gun battery of artillery with every brigade of the National Guard, and think there is no great difficulty in doing this and having them efficient.

LOUISIANA.

General W. J. BEHAN, of New Orleans, La.: I will state, Mr. Chairman, that the artillery arm in our State is one of the most favored branches of service in the National Guard. The young men there have great taste for that branch of the service, and they have attained a high state of proficiency in it. We have three battalions of artillery in the State. One of these, the Washington Artillery, dates back to the time of the Mexican war. It was kept up to the opening of the war of 1861, and went through our late unpleasantness with great distinction, and is well known on both sides of the line. They yet maintain their organization, and take great pride in the reputation they have won. They stand very high, not only as an artillery command, but also in their drill as infantry. Our State is not very liberal to its National Guard, and it is well known that the artillery service is one that requires considerable means to keep up. The great expense of parading artillery has been one of the reasons why they drill and parade as infantry. The care and attention that horses require necessitate that the force of artillery in the National Guard should be small. But I must say that I think that there is great need of artillery organization in the National Guard in the different States of the Union, and I should think it would be an easy matter to keep up quite a number of batteries, according to the strength of the National Guard in each State, say at least one battery to each brigade.

As to the cavalry in our State, we have neglected that branch of the service. The great reason of this is, the difficulty of finding men who own their own horses, and where men have to go to the public stables and hire horses for a drill or a parade, it becomes quite expensive, and the horses lack experience as well as the men.

I consider the horse as much a part of the cavalry as the men. They move together, and to be well up in the drill and manoeuvres, they should drill together. That is one of the difficulties in maintaining that arm of the service in the State of Louisiana, as in the other States.

The President : Have you had any encampments in Louisiana ?

General BEHAN : As to the matter of encampments, I think that is one of the most useful institutions that the National Guard can maintain. We have had no encampments in Louisiana, because we are without camp equipage. We have made two efforts to obtain this equipage from the General Government, but these efforts have failed, and that is one great reason why we are to-day so anxious to have this new bill passed by Congress, so as to enable us to put ourselves on the proper footing. We are very much in favor of going into camp at least once a year. We all know the value of such service, and think that one or two weeks in camp would give us more knowledge than a year's duty in the drill-room. I sincerely hope we shall be successful in accomplishing the passage of the proposed militia bill for this reason even if there were no others.

II.

NATIONAL GUARD CAMPS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT.

The President : If there are no further remarks on the subject of cavalry and artillery, the next question in order will be, "Camps, and the best manner of managing them." I would ask Col. Edgar D. Swain, of Illinois, to state the experience of his State.

ILLINOIS.

Col. EDGAR D. SWAIN, Illinois : Mr. President, I suppose that the difficulties we have had to contend with in Illinois are about the same as have been related by other delegates who have given their experience. These are unquestionably about the same in each State, until the various obstacles encountered at the outset are surmounted, and the Guard thoroughly organized, equipped, and the necessary appropriations secured. The Code of Illinois now provides for a tax for military purposes of $\frac{1}{10}$ of a mill per annum upon all taxable property, giving annually about \$100,000, one-quarter of which is set aside for the purchase of camp and garrison equipage, and the expenses of our annual camp (by brigade), of at least four days' duration. Each of the three brigades have been in camp once under this arrangement, and they were admitted to be successful and profitable schools of instruction, particularly in the very important branch of a soldier's education, guard duties, to which particular attention was paid. As most of the remainder of the year is devoted to company drills by companies, in their armories, at home, very little attention was paid to the school of the company while in camp, it being thought best to pay more attention to the ceremonies and battalion drills.

Illinois has tried different methods of subsisting her troops in the

field and in camp ; she has tried the best of caterers, with the result of much style and little to eat ; caterers of the second class, with spoiled meat and poor rations in large quantities, and the larger the supply the more indignant the men, and the larger the volume of grumbling. She has consequently concluded that this is not the way to feed soldiers, and now they are fed upon the regular army ration purchased and issued by the State through the regular channels, to the regiments and companies, in accordance with U. S. Army regulations.

Illinois now issues camp and garrison equipage sufficient to put in camp her largest brigade, which numbers about 3,000 men. Illinois troops were not put in camp last year, there being presidential as well as general election for State officers going on. Besides, the Commander-in-Chief was a candidate for re-election, and had little time to devote to his army. The regiment which I have the honor to command decided, however, to hold a camp for eight days, and here I desire to say that four or five days is too short a time, as it allows only time to get well settled before preparations must be made for breaking camp. Ten days to two weeks is none too long, especially when the expense is borne by the State. Illinois pays to officers and enlisted men one dollar per day, subsists and transports them to and from the camp. Mounted officers and men are allowed extra pay and subsistence for horses. The experience of my own regiment in the eight days' camp was very satisfactory. Rations were very largely donated by the business men of Chicago, which were placed in charge of the regimental quartermaster, and were issued daily upon provision returns, based upon the number of men in the company, to the company sergeant. Each company provided itself with a three-hole gasoline stove, to which was attached an oven. With this, and an open fire for heating the water, boiling meats, etc., in the camp kettles, they were well provided for cooking. Each company was permitted to hire a professional cook, and each day two or three men were detailed from the company as assistant to the cooks, and for the purpose of instruction in the culinary art. The duties required were those usual in a well regulated camp, except company drill, which was supplanted by battalion drill. Each morning two companies were excused from battalion drill for the purpose of rifle practice. Two targets had been arranged by the regimental inspector of rifle practice, and the firing was conducted under his supervision ; every man in camp was enabled to use the ammunition allowed him by law for this purpose, and extra ammunition was expended in file and volley firing, and a small amount of blank cartridges was expended in skirmish firing. The entire command (300 men) shot through the second class and third classes during the eight days' encampment. I do not think, as I said before, the same results could have been had during a five days' camp. I do not think there can be any question as to the advantage of encampments. They are the most efficient schools that we can have, and more can be done in a week's en-

campment, I think, to instruct the National Guards in the duties of the soldier, than it is possible to do in armories or by the companies at home and alone during the year. I know a great many of my men, upon their return home, came to me individually and said that although they had been in the service then five years, they did not know that they had so much to learn, or that it was possible to learn as much in so short a time.

The convention then adjourned until March 8th, at 10 A. M.

MARCH 8, 1881.

The Convention met pursuant to adjournment, and the discussion of the previous day was continued as follows :

The President : I would request Col. Fox, the Assistant Adjutant-General of Connecticut, to state its experience in regard to camps.

CONNECTICUT.

Col. SIMEON T. FOX, the Assistant Adjutant-General, Conn. : Mr. President, Connecticut has for a number of years encamped the whole or a portion of its National Guard. We have camp equipage enough for the entire force, which consists of one brigade, under the command of a brigadier-general. The quartermaster-general goes to the camp ground a few days before the time for encamping, pitches the tents so that the troops on arrival at camp, are all ready to give their immediate attention to drills and camp duties. In having tents pitched without losing time, levelling, or anything of that kind, we found a few years ago that this practice was advantageous in another way, as on one occasion as we arrived in camp a heavy shower came on, which lasted the entire day, and if our tents had not been pitched so that the men could have gone under shelter, they would have had a very wet and disagreeable time, and would have been obliged to sleep in damp clothing. We camp six days ; from Monday morning until Saturday night. The time is none too long, as it seems to get away very fast. There has been a proposition made the last year to extend the time two days and abolish our spring parade of one day, which we now have under the law. But after looking into that matter very thoroughly, the officers were satisfied that a large number of men would not be able to get away more than a week from their business. They have a certain vacation, and the probability is that one-third of the men would not be able to be present the additional two days, and so it was finally decided to allow the matter to remain as it was, devoting the day of the spring parade to company target practice, under the supervision of the regimental inspectors of target practice. Each company is to be ordered out by the regimental commandant, who sees that the inspector of target practice is present,

and the command properly started in target practice for the season ; a portion of the day may also be devoted to company drill.

We think that by thus giving the matter of target practice a reliable start in the spring, it will be followed with increased interest by the men.

The subsistence is a matter which the companies have generally taken charge of. That is, the State allows thirty cents a day per man for rations. The men feed themselves, either by cooking their own rations, or by caterers. We have tried once, at Philadelphia, four years ago, when we encamped our whole brigade, the plan of having the rations all furnished under the charge of one person. With the usual result of these occasions there was a great deal of growling at what we considered very good feeding. We find we have less trouble in the matter of subsistence, by allowing the men to furnish what they feel inclined to pay for. Some men pay fifty cents, and some a dollar a day ; and if there is dissatisfaction, it is right with themselves. Our officers feel that they would prefer their men to devote all their time to drilling rather than cooking rations. They think the time cannot be spared to pay attention to that. We have this year followed Massachusetts, and have bought a camp ground, and we shall have soon our quarters for cooking, feeding, etc., in proper shape to be used every year regularly, so that there will be less expense to the men as to that part of it. We have not devoted any time in camp, except one year, to rifle practice. It was found that it interfered with the drilling, and the general commanding and the colonels felt they would prefer to devote the entire week to drilling purposes, getting the men to understand thoroughly the camp duties and the drilling, and that the rifle practice would be better attended to by the men outside. We have been moderately successful in regard to rifle practice. The men qualified in one regiment quite largely, and we have 546 qualified marksmen in 1880, so that we think that we can get along without devoting any time in camp to that practice. It is probable, that with a permanent camp ground, we shall have permanent targets erected, and if it is found that the season's practice of any company is not satisfactory, it can be attended to in camp. But that kind of instruction can be more profitably carried on elsewhere than in the short time available in a week's encampment.

The State issues a marksman's badge, which is given to every man who can make the necessary score. This induces the men to attend to rifle practice outside of camp.

The President : You find that a good inducement ?

Col. FOX : Yes, sir ; we find this a valuable inducement. We have made a slight change in regard to these badges. Our badges were at first issued every year to the captain of each company, and he was responsible for them. We found that where the captain had thirty or forty badges out, there would be somewhere from two to ten of that number that he would have to pay for in the fall. So we changed the plan, and last year we gave the badges outright. Any one now

who qualifies keeps the badge, and a new bar is given for all future qualifications. If there is any other point, or any other questions that any gentleman would like to ask, I shall be pleased to answer them.

A Member : I did not hear the duration of the camp.

Col. FOX : Six days. As I said, we did talk this year of extending the time. The plan of extending the time to eight days was withdrawn, as we found, after inquiry amongst the officers and men, that there were a large number who would not be able to give more than six days from their business to camp duties. This time they have as a vacation from stores and shops, and they can give one week—the period of their vacation—and they devote that to camp. For the other two days we would not be able to get over one-half or two-thirds of the men into camp, and one of those days being Sunday, would be of but little benefit to the State. Therefore, the plan of having a camp for eight days was dropped for the present.

Gen. AXILINE (Ohio) : I would like to ask what the State gives for military purposes.

Col. FOX : Our State has a different method from other States in regard to raising money for military purposes. We do not have to go to the Legislature to get an appropriation every year; a thing which occasions a great deal of trouble, as you all undoubtedly well know. Every citizen of our State between 21 and 45 is obliged to pay a commutation tax of two dollars a year, unless exempted from some physical disability, or by service in the army, or by five years' service in the National Guard. This is collected from the town officers and paid to us in November, and gives about one hundred thousand dollars a year. It gave us one hundred and five thousand last year. It is a regular thing, and we know what amount we have to depend on, and we know the cost of the maintenance of the National Guard. Consequently, we have no difficulty in meeting the demands for camp and other regular expenses.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY, Adjutant-General, Mass. : Our trouble is in raising the funds.

Col. FOX : This is the plan we have used for the last fifteen years, and it works satisfactorily.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : What per cent. of the tax do you get?

Col. FOX : We get one hundred per cent. of the tax and about seventy-five per cent. of enrolled militia pay, the tax amounting last year to one hundred and five thousand dollars.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : What per cent. of the men do you get into camp?

Col. FOX : About eighty-five to ninety per cent. The 1st regiment last year took over ninety per cent. into camp. Last year we only put two regiments in camp for the reason that for the previous two years we had been providing new uniforms and overcoats, etc., which occasioned a large outlay, and we had to forego encamping the entire force for that reason. Now that we are entirely re-uni-

formed and have full camp equipage, there will be no reason why we shall not encamp our entire force every year.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : Does your fund increase every year—is there any balance left?

Col. FOX : Our fund has increased from \$52,000 to \$105,000 in 12 years. There has been a balance left. We are not limited in spending just the amount realized each year. We can use more than the amount that is paid into the treasury. We sometimes spend more and sometimes less, but try to average up even.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : So, if you have a balance you can use it if you need it?

Col. FOX : Yes, sir; any balance is not covered into the treasury beyond use next year.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : That pays the entire expenses of the military department?

Col. FOX : Yes, sir. We are not limited exactly to that amount. In fact, the law allows us to draw over the amount collected if it is found necessary.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : I would ask you if you have any fine for non-attendance at camp?

Col. FOX : Our fine for non-attendance at camp or other legal parades is \$5 per day.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : How do you collect fines?

Col. FOX : Our proceedings are very simple. The captain notifies the man within so many days of his incurrance of the fine, on a form furnished by the Adjutant-General. It is a legal form provided by law. If the fine is not paid the captain notifies the colonel, who notifies the soldier that he is subject to a fine and he will hear what he has to say. He hears the case, and unless there is some good excuse the fine is imposed, and unless paid a warrant is given the sheriff to collect the fine or take the body. We don't have many courts-martial in our State. We have not had one since in '71. We try to get along without them.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : Are you successful in collecting these fines?

Col. FOX : Yes, sir. I don't think that very often we lose any. When it generally comes down to that point they pay up. In 1873 we had a test case in court in regard to the matter; it went through the various courts, and we had a decision favorable to the right to enforce the fine by arrest, and that decision is always brought up and controls all other cases, so that we feel very confident in regard to it.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : What is the time of your encampment.

Col. FOX : From the 10th of August to the 20th of September.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY : I would ask if all the members of the National Guard are exempt from that commutation tax?

Col. FOX : Yes, sir. The members of the National Guard are exempt while doing duty and from the payment of the tax after five years' service.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY—Does your law provide for the exemption of jury duty?

Col. FOX: No, sir, it does not.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY: I would like to inquire what month of the year you consider best for your encampment?

Col. FOX: We find the latter part of August or the first part of September the best time. We generally take the week of the full moon in the last of August.

Gen. A. HUN BERRY: Do you not find it too warm then?

Col. FOX: No, sir; not with us. We have a ground located right on the shore, where we have encamped for the last five years. It is open right out to the Atlantic Ocean. There is nothing to prevent the southerly wind coming in. One year that we encamped there there was an encampment in New Jersey the same week. It was a very hot week, and in the camp in New Jersey a large number of the officers and men were taken sick, so that they were obliged to break up the encampment, while our force drilled all through the week regularly on an average three hours a day besides company drilling. Other States have not been quite so fortunate as we have. This is on account of our location. We have a southerly wind there most always, which makes it cool and pleasant.

VERMONT.

The President: The convention would like to hear a report from Vermont.

Col. T. S. PECK, of Burlington, Vt.: Vermont has an annual encampment of its entire force. Each company messes itself and has a large mess, tent, kit, dishes, etc. Cooks and tent squads go before to arrange, and when the men arrive they find everything in readiness in camp. The companies provide the mess from their own funds, the State allowing two dollars per day and transportation.

We try to follow Army Regulations as closely as possible in the management of our encampment. The provost marshal is responsible for men outside of the camp, and all misdemeanors are promptly punished. Guard duty is thoroughly performed, except on Governor's day, when the camp is open to everybody; guard being kept at headquarters, and over stores only, each company guarding its own property. When the Governor and staff leave we clear the camp and return to business. Under our laws we have little trouble with liquor, no booths being allowed near camp, except the sutler's, who is inside the lines, and is not allowed to sell liquors. Two men of each company are allowed passes at a time between drills; when these are returned two more are issued, etc. All must be in camp at "taps," or are liable to arrest by provost guard. Camp usually lasts for five days, which time is principally spent in guard mount and duty, battalion and skirmish drills, manual of arms and firings, parade, inspection and review; and the gain in drill and discipline is very great, company pride being a great help. The regiment coming

together only once a year makes strict attention to duty, vital to improvement; all work hard and with a will, so that when the review and inspection takes place before the Governor and Adjutant and Inspector-General, which is generally on the fourth day, we have always been able to present a creditable appearance. Could ten or fifteen days be spent in camp our improvement would be wonderful. Rifle practice has been done by the several companies at their homes, no time being available during camp. We have no range, marksmen's badges or prizes, although we appreciate their value. We hope soon to be able to take up rifle practice and signal duty, as both are important. To this date courts-martial are unknown. Scattered as the command is, our experience demonstrates conclusively that no matter under what disadvantages you labor, close study and application to drill by earnest officers and men, at home, with five to ten days together in camp, near a small town, make a serviceable and trustworthy corps, which, if ably led, would render a good account of itself in time of necessity.

RHODE ISLAND.

The President: Will Gen. Barney favor the convention with a report from Rhode Island?

Gen. C. H. BARNEY, Adjutant-General, Rhode Island: Mr. President: It seems to me that this subject could be more profitably discussed by the officers of the line who have had actual experience and control of the men in camp; still, as you have called upon me I will say a few words in regard to the provisions of our State law, leaving it for the Brigadier-General commanding our troops to answer the questions in detail as to the management of the camp. I think no argument is needed to prove the value of annual encampments to the military of any State; certainly none is needed in the States in which such encampments have been held. In Rhode Island, until two years ago, our law did not provide for annual or any other encampments; but we were so fortunate as to be situated very close to the State of Massachusetts, which has held such encampments for many years—encampments conducted in a most excellent manner, and which have been visited by many of our own officers. The Governor of our State has been invited to visit those Massachusetts camps on several occasions, and the result has been that such a sentiment has been worked up in our State that years ago a provision for annual encampments was incorporated in the new law then adopted. We commenced with an encampment of three days, but by an amendment adopted a year ago increased the time, and we are now allowed five days. That is the law at present. Our experience of only two years has already shown us the great value of annual encampments, and I think there is little danger of a change in the law abolishing them.

Now, permit me to say a word or two of the way in which our camps are managed. The troops are ordered into camp for five days.

In addition to that, on the previous day a camping party of a sufficient number of officers, non-commissioned officers and privates are detailed to set up the camp. This detail employ one day in setting up the tents and getting everything in readiness for the arrival of the troops the next morning. In regard to the pay of the men, the State allows every officer and man alike, for each day's duty in camp, \$1.50 a day, besides all the expenses of transportation. Both the rations of the troops and forage for the horses are paid for by the State. Each officer and man whose duties require him to be mounted is allowed two dollars and a half per day for the use of his horse, in addition to his \$1.50 per day. Our practice heretofore has been to allow a certain amount as commutation for each man and horse, instead of issuing rations and forage in kind; eighty cents per day for each man and fifty cents for forage for each horse has been the allowance; this is drawn in money. The board of officers of each battalion make their own arrangements for feeding their men, and hire their own caterers. This plan has not worked so entirely satisfactory as desired, and I hope to hear this discussion of the experience of other States on the particular point of feeding the men. While in camp our troops are under strict military discipline, and perform the usual duties of camp, conforming as nearly as possible to what would be required in actual service, except on the day when the camp is visited by the Governor, when the greater portion of the day is devoted to the ceremonies of inspection and review. That is about all I can state in general terms in regard to our annual encampments. The details of the management of the camp I shall leave to be described by the commanding officer of our brigade, Gen. Rhodes. A word as to rifle practice. In the two encampments which we have held but little attention has been paid to rifle practice, for the reason that so many other matters which could not be learned elsewhere have occupied the time of officers and men. The important matter of rifle practice has received considerable attention by armory instruction, and by target practice, performed voluntarily by troops, on various days other than those spent in camp.

As the encampments get to running more smoothly, I do not doubt that more time can be gained for rifle practice in future. Still I think the best results can be had in deliberate practice by squads at local ranges than in the hurry of a short encampment.

Gen. E. H. RHODES, of Rhode Island: Mr. President: We have in our State one brigade composed of five battalions of infantry, one battalion of cavalry, and one light battery.

One battalion of infantry has six companies, three have four, and one has two companies. All the battalions, with the exception of the one with two companies, are commanded by lieutenant-colonels. The companies are allowed fifty officers and enlisted men each, and are enlisted for the term of three years. The State supplies full dress and fatigue uniforms, with overcoats, knapsacks, woolen and rubber blankets. The troops are armed with the Springfield breech

loading muskets, calibre .45, and have new equipments of the latest pattern. The State requires five days of camp duty, and pays the expenses. Our camp has been carefully surveyed and laid out by the engineer attached to my staff, and conforms as nearly as possible to regulations. It is located upon a large level plain on the shore of Narragansett Bay, and is found to be cool and comfortable. We have three hundred and twenty large wall tents, each tent accommodating from six to eight men. We perform regular camp duty from reveille to taps, and maintain the strictest discipline. Brigade guard mounting is the main feature of the morning, and while this is going on each battalion mount guard for practice. The brigade guards, consisting of about eighty officers and men, are retained on duty for the twenty-four hours, but the men going on battalion guard mount are dismissed with the exception of sufficient men to guard battalion headquarters. Company, battalion, and brigade drills are regularly held, and I intend in the future to devote considerable time to field movements and marches into the adjoining country. One day is set apart as the Governor's day, and the afternoon is given to the ceremonies of review by the Commander-in-Chief. Brigade or battalion dress parades close our day's work. We have had some difficulty in feeding the men, as we have depended so far upon the services of caterers. I trust I shall hear the experiences of other officers in regard to the manner in which their men are subsisted while in camp. My own idea is that it is better to issue rations when practicable, and have them cooked in camp.

This may be our plan for the next camp. Our camp is set up by details previous to the arrival of the troops. I favor this plan because the time allowed for camp duty is too limited to waste a day in pitching tents. The experience gained by the men would be of no special value, as troops serving in the field would not be supplied with wall tents. We have attempted target practice in camp, but I find it takes too much of our time, and had better be done on other days. Blank cartridges are issued to accustom the men to loading and firing.

Adjutant-General ALEXANDER, Iowa; I would like to ask whether you prevent citizens from coming into camp?

General RHODES: No. We allow all respectable persons to enter the camp during the day, or from reveille to tattoo. No citizens are allowed to remain in camp during the night, except upon written permission of the brigade commander. Our law gives the general commanding certain authority over the country within a radius of three miles from camp, and I have authority to arrest for liquor selling, and to seize temporary structures which are used for this purpose. We enforced the law last year and sent several parties to the County Jail. I found that in order to protect my camp, that it was necessary to use extreme means, and I did not hesitate to seize liquor and it empty into the bay.

Adjutant-General ALEXANDER, Iowa: Many of us would be glad

to get the benefit of the experience of those States that have had encampments for many years. Do you keep a chain of sentinels on duty all the time?

General RHODES: I do. Our camp is on a peninsula, and we have a chain of sentinels on the land side. The guards do duty day and night, rain or shine.

General ALEXANDER, Iowa: Is your camp located near a large city or town?

General RHODES: Our camp is fourteen miles from the City of Providence, and the nearest village is three miles distant.

In conclusion, I desire to say, that in my opinion the proper way to train militia troops is to require them to do camp duty.

I believe that a few days in camp, subjected to proper discipline, is better for the men than many days of street parade. The men learned more rapidly in camp than in the armory or streets. Our experience of the past two years convinces us that our present manner of doing duty is much superior to that of the past.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The President: Will Adjutant-General Berry state the method of encampment adopted in Massachusetts?

General A. HUN BERRY, Adjutant-General Mass.: Encampments in Massachusetts were established in 1849, when the law provided for two days of camp duty; they have been kept up continually ever since, undergoing several changes in the length of time, being extended to three days in 1853, to six days in 1862, reduced to four days in 1864, further reduced to three days in 1866, and again extended in 1867 to five days, where it has since remained.

Between 1861 and 1865, when we had an army in the field, encampments of the active militia were not held.

These encampments usually begin in the month of September. Generally on the day before camp four men from each company proceed to the camp ground, pitch the tents, and make everything ready for the troops; this is for the purpose of saving time. The organizations arrive there between nine and twelve o'clock in the forenoon, the time depending altogether on their distance from the camp ground. Immediately after dinner camp duty commences; the guards are established, not to be withdrawn until the breaking up of camp, except that when the weather is exceedingly stormy, they may be temporarily relieved to prevent unnecessary exposure. A detail of cavalry is sent to brigade headquarters for patrol or provost guard duty, and pickets are posted on the various roads about the camp.

With this cavalry patrol it has been the practice the past year or two add an infantry patrol or picket.

The State has a camp ground of 120 acres, situated about twenty miles from Boston, on the Albany Railroad, about one mile from the depot and village. It has a fence on three sides of it, about five feet

high, on the fourth side there are woods and hills; on this camp ground there is a rifle range of 200 yards, with eleven targets, which I am sorry to say is not used as much as I wish it was.

The camp is pitched regularly and as nearly in accordance with tactics as the ground will permit. The routine of duty begins early in the morning, and is carried out thoroughly every day; every hour is occupied in some way. Usually on the fourth day of camp the Governor makes his annual visit and reviews the troops. The review takes place in the afternoon of that day, the whole brigade taking part, after which such drills are added as the Governor may wish to see. There is a detailed inspection of the troops by the Assistant Inspector-General of the brigade, and a general inspection of the camp by the Inspector-General. These inspections are not necessarily made on the day of the review, but are made at different times through the week.

In 1879 the practice was inaugurated in our State of asking the General of the Army to detail an officer of the Regular Army to visit our camps, inspect or look thoroughly over our camp and other duty, tell us where we were at fault in any particular, and make any suggestions he thought fit. That practice was carried out again last year with the same beneficial results. It is popular with the troops; every officer in the whole force being thoroughly in sympathy with the movement, and supporting it heartily. I think it is one of the best things we have had in the State to add to our efficiency. Discipline, and military courtesy have been good the past four or five years, but I think they were much better last year than ever.

The Adjutant-General of the Army, Gen. Drum, has paid a great deal of attention to the militia; much of his report was devoted to the reports of the inspections by the United States Army officers of the camps in the different States. By the courtesy of the Adjutant-General I was enabled to put a copy of his report in the hands of every captain in the State. I considered it very valuable, for it gave one an idea of how the active militia of the country appeared in the eyes of the United States Army officers; I was much gratified to learn that they spoke very highly of what was done in the way of camp duty; I do not wish to convey the impression that they praised the organizations and camp duty of the different States indiscriminately, but, that it gave me an idea that the active militia in the various States were working hard to bring the standard of discipline up to that of the Army and West Point.

The active militia of Massachusetts consists of sixty companies of infantry, three of cavalry, three of artillery, and two corps of cadets, or 312 officers and 3,854 men; it is organized into two brigades of three regiments of infantry each, a battalion of cavalry and a battalion of artillery being attached to one brigade, and a company of cavalry and a battery of artillery being attached to the other. Three of the regiments have twelve companies, and the other three eight companies; each regiment is organized on the German

system of two or three battalions of four companies each, a major being assigned to each battalion who is responsible for the tactical instruction of the four companies composing it, under the general direction of the colonel, the regiment being the unit, having but one headquarters.

The Corps of Cadets are two and four-company organizations, each with a lieutenant-colonel for commander. They are independent, not being attached to either brigade. The first corps, a four-company organization in the City of Boston, is the Governor's body guard. The second corps is a battalion of two companies, and is located fifteen miles out of Boston. These two organizations have the same duty to perform as other infantry troops, and receive the same pay.

The troops are uniformed at the expense of the State. Last year a new uniform was provided, a sort of chasseur or zouave pattern, consisting of a double-breasted dark blue coat slashed at the sides, and trimmed with light blue cloth of the same color as the trousers, which are of the zouave pattern, tucked into gaiters of russet leather. This uniform, I may say, was adopted partly because its make was such that it would fit any man, and if a tall man was discharged a short man could take his place and fill his uniform, the extra length of trousers falling over the gaiters.

For duty at encampments, general, field and staff officers receive four dollars per day, enlisted men two dollars per day, horses for mounted men and artillery, four dollars per day additional. Transportation is allowed for officers and men at the rate of two cents a mile. For the inspection in May or June the pay for officers and men is two dollars per day, four dollars per day being also allowed for horses for mounted troops.

In the matter of messing, the troops pay their own expenses out of their State pay. Some of the companies provide their own rations, detailing a cook from the company, or they hire them and detail a sergeant for commissary. Other companies employ a caterer. The cost of messing at camp last year, as returned by company commanders, varied from 80 cents a day with company cooks, to \$1.87 with caterers, the average cost being \$1.33. In one of the twelve-company regiments there has been for two or three years one caterer for the twelve companies; each company having a dining table of its own, all under one tent.

We have a signal corps organized by detail from every company in one of the brigades, and there are now in the State one non-commissioned officer and one private in every company in that brigade, that is familiar with the Signal Code, and is competent to send messages by flag or torch. Signalling was first practiced in our militia service by a detachment in the 1st Corps of Cadets, and messages have been signalled by this and other detachments from five to ten miles. Very efficient service in this branch is carried on by the cavalry company in the 1st Brigade; it has extended through the command

so that I think there are more than a dozen officers and men who are familiar with the Signal Code and can send messages. I was much surprised last spring to find that not only the men of the company, but the wives of officers and men had become familiar with it, and were able to translate at sight and answer by the same Code.

I am happy to say that our excellent Governor takes great interest in everything that pertains to the militia, and shows it by his presence on many occasions of duty where he is not required to be present by law.

We have an excellent Code of regulations compiled by a board of officers appointed in 1876, and our militia law, passed by the Legislature in 1878, was framed with reference to it. The greatest care was taken in its preparation, and all matters of tactics and of ceremony were submitted to Gens. Upton and Barry, of the United States Army, and everything was made to conform to Army regulations and customs. This Code was published early in 1879, and a copy of it is now in the hands of every officer, and many of the men. The State expenses for pay and transportation are about \$80,000. This pays the officers and men for inspection, camp, or any other duty they may be ordered on by the Commander-in-Chief. In addition to this the State pays about \$30,000 for armory rents. A Board of Examiners meets every Saturday for the examination of officers who are elected or appointed to positions in the militia, and those who cannot pass that board are immediately discharged. An officer cannot exercise command until he has passed this board of examination and received orders assigning him to duty. Officers ordered before the Board of Examiners receive four cents per mile for travel. No officer or man is ordered upon any duty unless paid for it.

Adjutants receive \$20 a year; paymasters, of which we have one for every regimental or battalion organization, receive \$12.50 per year for each company in the regiment or command to which they are attached.

Our men are mustered in for three years, and are only discharged for certain causes. For desertion, or absence from all duty for a year, they are dropped from the rolls and can only be restored by trial by court-martial.

A Member: If you fine a man how do you collect it?

Gen. BERRY: We do not collect it; we discharge the man. The companies have in their by-laws certain fines; if they can collect them, they do so; we have no State fine; it was found to be impracticable to collect it. The militia law only provides that when companies by their by-laws prescribe fines, they shall not exceed a certain sum.

Adj.-Gen. ALEXANDER (Iowa): What arms do you use?

Gen. BERRY: We use the Springfield breech-loading rifle, calibre 45.

Gen. ALEXANDER: Are the soldiers discharged by court-martial?

Gen. BERRY: They are. They may be discharged by regimental

or general court-martial; the power of the regimental court extends to the discharge of a man and the disqualifying him from holding office in the militia of the Commonwealth.

One great trouble is in the discharge of men. The proportion of changes is about one-third of the force every year. These changes occur by reason of removal from the State or locality of the company; change of business in such a manner as to prevent men from attending to military duty, by their own request, or for other reasons.

A man may be voted out of the company by a two-thirds vote.

Gen. ALEXANDER: You expressed the opinion, or made the statement, that you experienced some difficulty with rifle practice. I would be pleased to know the nature of the difficulty?

Gen. BERRY: It is in this way: The State range at South Framingham is not used as I would like to see it during the encampments; the whole rifle practice of the State is not up to what it should be; my idea is that a thorough system of rifle practice should be started in a systematic way in the armory, and after that the test on the range should be given to officers and men to see how proficient they have become by their armory practice; this will be shown by the practice on the range.

It is prescribed in our regulations that each man shall have six hours' drill in each year in the preliminary practice; that is to be certified to by any commanding officer of the company, through the proper channels to the Adjutant-General, when the company will be allowed the first part of the annual allowance of ammunition provided by the State; this gives each company 1,000 rounds, which is expended in firing by command, by company, platoon, rank and file; a return of this company practice is made in a similar manner to the armory drill, when the last third of the ammunition is given to the companies, which may be expended as the captain may deem best calculated to make good shots; after that he makes return of the marksmen or those who have reached a score of 17 or more in 5 successive shots; for this a badge is presented to each man. In October a State competition is held at which prizes are given, which concludes the rifle practice of the year. There was only a very small proportion of the militia participated in rifle practice; the past year, out of sixty-six companies of infantry, only nineteen completed the drill required to obtain the first allowance of ammunition; five of these completed the company practice with ammunition, and four of these entered teams in this annual match. The State allows, twice each year, transportation to and from the camp ground for rifle practice. This year I have been instructed to allow transportation to any approved range, and I am in hopes that at the end of the rifle year, which is the 1st of November, a much larger number will have taken part in rifle practice than ever before. At camp the difficulty has been, as suggested by the gentleman from Rhode Island, in finding the time to devote to that practice. It has been urged that brigade

commanders should give their commands some time to practice at the range during the encampment, but hitherto there has been no time at all which could be made available.

In conclusion, let me add that from our experience of over thirty years with camp duty, I have no hesitation in saying that there is no money expended for the maintenance of an organized militia, that returns such an equivalent in efficiency, as that expended upon an annual encampment of troops. There is more soldierly spirit and true duty engendered in the few days devoted to this purpose, than years of drilling in an armory will ever accomplish. Armory drill is indispensable, but it must be supplemented by camp duty to render troops of value in the first moments of need.

OHIO.

The President: Has Ohio had any camp?

Asst. Gen. A. H. AXILINE, of Ohio: Yes, sir.

The President: Can you give us a report?

Gen. AXILINE: I will call on some other representative from Ohio, Gen. Denver or Col. Hunt. Either one of them will speak on the subject, as both have commanded camps during the past year; then I can perhaps give some details.

The President: Col. Hunt, will you give your experience?

Col. C. B. HUNT (Ohio): I can only give the experience of my regiment on this question, as to whether a camp is a benefit to the National Guard. I think it is a great advantage; the only trouble is that the time is too short. The men should be in camp two weeks if possible. In three or four days I do not see that it is of any good; it is just about a picnic and that is all. If you can get a camp for two weeks you can come down to business at once. I camped last year eight days. We were paid for six days and we managed to raise money to pay the extra expenses. We go into camp on the Regular Army plan. The men erect their own tents. I do not send out and have a party do that work. I want the men to do that themselves and learn how to do it; of course if there should be a heavy rain about the time of going into camp, it would be a little disagreeable, but it does not do any harm. I feed my men on the regular army rations, contracted for and brought into camp every morning. Each company is required, if they have no cook, to provide one. We find it is a bad plan to put inexperienced men to cooking. They make a bad mess of it. If we were going into service for six months, then it would be proper to teach the men to cook, but when we are going into camp for only a few days, it is better to have experienced cooks. You can get them for almost nothing. They are glad to go for a week's relaxation. I can feed my regiment for twenty-four cents per day per man, give them all that they expect, except butter and milk, which they provide for themselves. I provide a place for them to eat—a shed for them with tables, etc. The cooking is done out in the open air with the same

kind of cooking utensils used in the army. Our pay from the State is one dollar and thirty-three cents per day. A dollar a day for the pay and thirty-three cents a day for the subsistence. We sometimes get the amount at once and sometimes we wait nearly a year for it.

Col. AXILINE, of Ohio: That was when we first started; it is all right now.

Col. C. B. HUNT: I have always waited for the appropriation. Last year I received a hundred dollars from the citizens of Middletown where we camped, as a gift from the residents to come there again. I received a hundred dollars from the sutler for allowing him the privilege of selling everything but intoxicating liquors. I saw that eight days encampment would bring us into debt, and on Sunday morning I put a guard at the entrance and charged ten cents admission, and got one hundred and ninety-six dollars.

The President: What time did you go to camp?

Col. HUNT: August 16.

A Member: Do you take into consideration the subsistence?

Col. HUNT: I furnish the subsistence for the men and take pay from the State. If there is anything left over it goes into the general fund, and provides for drayage, straw, etc.

A Member: The regiment does not furnish forage?

Col. HUNT: No, sir; I have been in camp four years and never have had any trouble. I generally camp near a town if possible, for the purpose of getting the supplies. I think the men would be in just as good a condition and would preserve as much order if they camped in one of the squares in the City of Cincinnati, as in an out of the way place, and, I think, would preserve just as good discipline. If you start properly with the men you will have no trouble.

The President: I would ask Gen. Denver if he will give us his experience?

Gen. J. W. DENVER (Ohio): Mr. President: my experience has been very much the same as you have heard, probably the only difference is as to the manner of subsistence. Our State furnishes no rations in kind. They allow thirty-three cents per man per day, and at the outset, three or four years ago, I ordered the different companies to be divided up into messes, six in a mess, as near as they could, and required each mess to furnish its own subsistence for the six days that they were to be encamped, and we would get the commutation from the State afterwards. That plan has worked well. We have had no difficulty at all, and by allowing a sutler on the ground he can supply all wants that may arise, and provide anything that may be needed during the encampment, in the way of provisions, that they may have not brought along. As for the general management of the camp it has been the same as in service. Our guards were kept up constantly, and men were not allowed to go out of the camp without passes, and during the day visitors were allowed to come in the camp with few restrictions, but at night they were not allowed to come in at all. The guards

at night follow the same rule that govern the Regular Army. In day time their duty is to keep loafers from around the camp and to prevent any disturbance from outsiders, and not allow any intoxicated persons around, or allow any intoxicating drink or anything of that sort. Our experience has been that the people in the neighborhood of our encampment have been so well satisfied that they have always wanted to get us back to the same place every year. They have met with no losses and with no depredations whatever. No complaints have been made, and the people have been entirely satisfied. One man said that he was entirely satisfied when he saw his flock of turkeys pass through the camp and they were not molested.

Gen. SAMUEL F. HUNT, of Ohio, having been called upon said: Mr. President: In response to the call of the convention, I can only say that my observation of the conduct and efficiency of the National Guard of Ohio has been more in general than in detail. It was my pleasure during the past two years to visit almost every encampment held in the State. During the last year of my service as Judge-Advocate General of Ohio, it was not even found necessary to convene a general court-martial. The officers in every instance faithfully observed their duties, and not a single occasion arose for the intervention of military law.

It was a special characteristic of the National Guard that it always recognized the supremacy of civil authority. No arbitrary power was intruded. The people of our State love peace and the methods of peace.

The officers in command at Camp Wade, near Cleveland, during my administration, where the 8th, 10th and 15th regiments and the 2d and 6th batteries of artillery were encamped, had undoubted proof that intoxicating liquor was being sold within the encampment, in violation of law and to the detriment of the peace of the camp. A guard was accordingly stationed about the booth to prevent the approach of any of the enlisted men. Civil process issued from a justice of the peace for Cuyahoga County for the arrest of the officer and the guard on the charge of assault and battery. The writ was promptly obeyed, and, after a full hearing, the case was dismissed.

Civil process issued from a justice of the peace for Hamilton County, for the arrest of an officer and several enlisted men of the 16th regiment during the encampment at Camp Robinson, near Cincinnati, on the charge of assault and battery. The supremacy of the civil authority was again respected, and the case was dismissed at the costs of prosecution.

The statute of our State provides for preserving the order of these annual encampments. The commanding officer of every such encampment may fix certain bounds to his encampment including any public roads, within which no spectator shall enter without permission; and whoever shall intrude within such limits, after being forbidden, or whoever, after entering by permission, shall conduct himself or herself in a disorderly manner, or whoever resists a sentry or

guard, acting under order to prevent such entry or to prevent disorderly conduct, may be arrested by the commanding officer. The sale of intoxicating liquors is prohibited. No person shall sell, or expose for sale, give, barter or otherwise dispose of, in any way or place, any spirituous or other liquors whatever at or within a distance of two miles from any such encampment.

The cases in question were of an aggravated character. In both instances the peace and good order of the encampment were threatened. There was force enough to resist the writs for the time, and the temptation was great under the circumstances; but a better judgment prevailed. The National Guard, faithful to the teachings of civil law, answered the process of court, and observed that authority which it always stands ready to maintain.

The best order prevailed in every encampment. The Guard of our State, consisting of about eight thousand men, did no act to occasion criticism from any of the civil authorities. There was the mirth of camp life, but not any disorder that required discipline.

The energy of Gen. Meily, the Adjutant-General of our State, secured the most complete outfit in the way of tents. We have the best in the country. Every regiment is supplied.

The Guard, too, is composed of the best young men in the State. They are intelligent and zealous in the work. I have a firm confidence that the National Guard of Ohio will always be found willing to respond to the call of patriotism and duty.

Asst. Adjt-Gen. H. A. AXILINE of Ohio: Mr. Chairman: Col. Hunt and Gen. Denver having given you some particulars concerning the encampments of their regiments. I would like to say a word or two concerning our encampments in general. As we stated yesterday, our force is not classified into brigades. We have one hundred companies of infantry assigned to fourteen regiments. The regiments generally hold separate encampments. These camps are visited as far as possible by the Governor and the Commander-in-Chief; the troops are inspected, mustered, and reviewed then by the Adjutant-General, or some officer from the Adjutant-General's Department. The camp routine is carried out in regulation manner. Battalion drill occupies the greater part of the time, as many of our companies are so located that this branch of instruction is neglected during the year. Our encampments are in every way satisfactory and beneficial. We consider them a success. They have become a fixed thing in our State. Many of the commands have encamped for the fourth time under the present organization. The appropriations made for our National Guard are reasonable, and are quite a support in rendering our force efficient.

The President: What time in the year do you have your encampments?

General AXILINE, of Ohio: During the months of July, August and September. The time is not limited by law.

The President: Don't you find it too hot in August?

General AXILINE: The men bear it out—sweat it out.

The President: Would it not be better in September or October?

General AXILINE: That is rather late. We find the attendance better at an earlier date.

Thirty-three cents per day per man has been allowed for subsistence. We find that amount fully sufficient for the purpose.

The men are paid \$1 each per day for the time actually in camp. Transportation is furnished to and from camp. Companies are paid from \$75 to \$100 each for care of arms, etc. Uniforms are furnished enlisted men. The municipalities or townships in which companies are located are required to furnish suitable armories and drill-rooms free to companies. The State furnishes all arms and equipments. Our tents are the best that can be procured—wall tents, with flies, sufficient for the whole force.

By a Member: I would ask General Axiline what he would do if an intoxicated person came into his camp, or liquor was brought there?

General AXILINE, Ohio: In that case we destroy the liquor and put the man in the guard house.

General ELISHA H. RHODES, Rhode Island: We would the same thing.

General AXILINE: What is your method of destroying it?

General RHODES: Narragansett Bay took it the last year. We destroyed twenty gallons.

General FOX, of Connecticut: Our laws gives us that power. We can take the liquor and destroy it.

NORTH CAROLINA.

The President: Has North Carolina any report to make?

Colonel JOHN W. COTTON, Tarboro, N. C.: I would simply state that we have had a little encampment in North Carolina of one brigade and one regiment. As to subsistence, it has been a voluntary act. The men paid all their own expenses. It has been demonstrated very effectually to us that camps are very clearly essential to the proper instruction of the National Guard in all the details of military life and discipline. We went into camp and carried out to the best of our abilities the regulations governing encampments in the United States Army. The effect was very beneficial indeed. We have had no appropriation whatever, and the prospects are that it will be a long time before we can get any. Yet we have had encampments and very successful ones. It has been very thoroughly demonstrated that they were a good thing for our State.

MISSOURI.

The President: I will now call upon General Vancleve, of Missouri, for his experience.

Brigadier General VANCELEVE: We have no encampment in our State. We have no State law authorizing camp. We have a bill

pending in the Legislature, which I hope will pass, authorizing an encampment. If it does, we expect to have a general encampment this fall.

IOWA.

The President: I would ask what is the case with Iowa?

Adjutant General W. L. ALEXANDER: Mr. President: The first encampment ever held in Iowa under State authority were held last fall. They were for five days, five in number, and by regimental organizations. The drill, discipline and general management, were given up to each regimental commander who adopted such measures as he thought would be productive of the best results. The men were in all but one instance fed by caterers. I am strongly of the opinion, the best plan for subsistence is, to issue uncooked rations direct to companies. Besides being cheaper, this course is open to fewer causes for complaint, and the knowledge of how to cook his rations on the field, a feature of military life that should be as much a part of a National Guardsman's education as the use of his rifle. The State pays all the expenses of encampments, but does not, as I think it should, and in time will, compensate the men for their time. I believe no feature of our military system offers such opportunity for thorough and practical military information as that offered by encampments. No system of rifle practice has yet been adopted in Iowa, but some companies have ranges and have given the subject very considerable attention.

Last fall one of our companies sent a team into our neighboring State of Illinois, very much to the discomfort of some very good marksmen in that State.

The President: The convention would be pleased to hear from Pennsylvania.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Adjutant-Gen. JAMES W. LATTA: On the subject of encampments, it might be stated that Pennsylvania has a statute profuse in arrangement and detail, but silent as to the financial means for their conduct and support. Pending legislation, it is hoped, will shortly remove this obstruction. There is a law, however, that provides for the payment of transportation of troops to and from the point selected for the annual inspection. Somebody conceived the notion last year that if the railway companies could be induced to carry the soldiers at one-half the rates fixed—two cents per mile per man—that the other half could be appropriated to, and would meet the cost of subsistence. A calculation showed that this notion as to the expense of subsistence was well conceived; and upon representing the matter to our railway authorities it met with a cheerful and hearty acquiescence. In this way and through that aid our State was enabled for the first time last year to place her troops under canvas. Two camps of instruction were organized, one at Fairmount Park, Philadelphia,

known as "Camp George G. Meade," composed of the 1st, 2d and 3d Brigades, and the other at Thompson's Station, near Pittsburgh, composed of the 4th and 5th Brigades, and known as "Camp Alexander Hays." The average percentage present was 67½. It was reduced considerably because of the nearness of the locations to the homes of the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh soldiers. Major-General Hartranft, the division commander, had command of both camps. They were conducted strictly on military business principles, and the reports of Gen. De Russy, of the Army, in the one, and Gen. Gibson, of the Army in the other—which officers were specially detailed by the War Department to inspect them—show that the end sought for was accomplished. Such also was the judgment of the experienced and critical. It must be recollected that these efforts were purely experimental and preliminary to the formation of a judgment as to the real value of such encampments, and whether the benefits derived from them would warrant the expenditure of the public moneys for their future maintenance and support. The conclusions from officials were favorable, and the recommendations from the Governor in his annual message to the Legislature, and the division and brigade commanders, earnestly urge that the necessary moneys be appropriated for their continuance. The comments of the press and the opinion of the public seemed in full accord with the judgment of our officials.

The commissariat was managed with skill and judgment, and the issues were full and satisfactory. The stores were in quality and quantity equal to those supplied United States troops. The men were supplied with camp kettles, mess pans, knife, fork, spoon, meat can, tin cup, etc., and generally did their own cooking. The cost of all this was moderate. In the eastern encampment it was 19.58 cents per day per man, and in the western 18.88 cents per day per man. In one instance it is currently reported that in one of our celebrated city organizations, specially noted for its tone, its membership had, without the knowledge of their commanding officer—satisfied with their rations—provided themselves with hotel appointments for their service. When the matter came to his knowledge, cooks, napkins, and table linens were speedily disposed of, and the men comfortably and enjoyably settled themselves to the real business of a soldier's life. If there be instances, judging from an old volunteers experience, subject to frequent and conscientious growling, it is when the commissary bureau was limited in the quantity of or inferior in the quality of its issues. Reasoning from these times, "not yet so very olden," the absence of all complaints with our people, founds the belief that everything was satisfactory.

The troops served in these encampments with but a single day's pay, our law providing only for payment for the actual day of inspection. The officers' pay is the same as that for like grades in the Army, non-commissioned officers from \$3 to \$2, and privates \$1.50; rather large for soldiers' rates for enlisted men in active service, but paltry when seven days' service is demanded and only one day paid for.

It has been the effort in Pennsylvania, ever since the reorganization of the militia began in 1873, to bring it down to a system. In that year there were in commission twenty-one major-generals, whose so-called division commands were more particularly distinguished by their geographical limits rather than the soldiering that came under their authority. There were some three hundred companies equipped in all varieties of uniforms. There were regimental organizations in the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, but outside of these, except in two or three cases, companies stood upon an independent basis, and knew no military authority between them and the division commander. Gradually from that year until now, at each recurring legislative session, amendments were grafted on the old statute of 1864, and obsolete matter taken from it that looked to improvement in organization and increased financial support. Now, Pennsylvania boasts of a division organization of the old army with its one major-general, five brigadiers, eighteen regiments of infantry, one battalion of infantry, one independent company of infantry, five companies of cavalry, and five batteries of artillery. The law limits the organizations to one hundred and fifty companies of infantry, five of cavalry, and five of artillery. This force is equipped after the pattern of the fatigue dress of the Army, has the great coat, blanket bag, rubber blanket, canteen, haversack, etc. All the clothing and equipment was manufactured under the supervision of United States officers and at United States arsenals. Legislation is now under consideration, with fair hopes of a successful result, looking to the more efficient means of securing a better established system of military financial procedure, providing means for an annual encampment and for the encouragement of rifle practice.

General ALEXANDER, Iowa: Do you consider the location of a camp near a large city a good one, or do you consider the one as given by General Rhodes a better one?

General LATTA: One of our camps was only about as far from Pittsburgh as the general's was from Providence. I don't know that, as a rule, it is wise to select the vicinity of large populous centres as the location for military encampments. Judging, however, from the point of view I had, and my opportunity for observation, I am not prepared to say that we did not secure a fair proportion of duty and really very good discipline. I know of no instance of the infraction of regulations requiring the exercise of severe authority. I am disposed to think that in a service such as ours, when the soldier can be made to understand the use of a short liberty in a short season of duty, it is well to surround the service with some attractions. I do not want to be understood as advocating the vicinity of large cities for each successive year's encampment, but all opportunities being equal to the occasion, as it is the people's money that is being expended—say once in every four or five years—they should have a chance to see whether they think their money is being well spent. There is no better opportunity, after our soldiery have been educated

to a point to stand it, than to establish camps at these extended intervals in the vicinity of a great city.

General SNOWDEN, Pennsylvania: In regard to order, I may say that, during the six days' encampment in Fairmount Park, we did not see a drunken man in our camp. The rations supplied by the State were ample; both in kind and quality they gave perfect satisfaction to all. The officers were not under pay, and were obliged to defray their own expenses; the State allowed rations to be supplied to them, so they were all familiar with their character. The rations were taken in charge by the commissary sergeants, and then taken to the different kitchens (which were erected in the rear of all the camps), where they were cooked. The companies had stoves, which they had hired or bought—some companies having bought stoves, and other companies having hired them; a few companies had hired cooks, but in most of them the cooking was done by the men themselves, and the men were well satisfied with the way in which it was done. The order in our camp was very good. Our attendance was not so large as it might have been, in consequence of being near home. Men did not find that change of scenery or variety that they would have found had they gone further away. Another objection to being so near the city, was that we had a great crowd of people there running into the camp. On the day of the review of our whole division of three brigades, we, of course, had an enormous crowd. I held also a dress parade, when we had trouble. The 1st City Troop were mounted at the encampment on their own horses. Our battery was also mounted at their own expense; they are allowed an annual compensation of about \$13,000. The officers and the men were inspected by General Latta, the Adjutant-General of the State, and General De Russy, of the Regular Army. The officers and men were allowed one day's pay for the inspection, which is all they receive for the entire period of the encampment. I think that, in order to make encampments a success hereafter, the officers and men ought to be paid. You ought not to require the men to leave their homes unless you pay them. It is a duty they are performing to the State, and no amount of love for it is sufficient to compensate a man for his absence from home and loss of wages. Many of the men are laboring men, a number are mechanics, clerks, etc., and it is not fair to ask them to leave their homes without some compensation. If the law is amended so as to feed and pay the men, the encampments will be a perfect success.

We had regular guards mounted throughout the brigade. The battalions had regular battalion drill, and I think if two or three things were removed, the encampment would make a National Guard in many respects equal to the Regular Army. The volunteer forces in our army were equal in every respect to the Regulars. Of course, in the higher branch of engineering, we could not expect to compete with them; but take one of our regiments and put it in the field, and you have as good a regiment as they have in the Regular Army, in

my judgment. We had the army rations, consisting of all the vegetables, potatoes, onions, fresh and salt beef, hard and soft bread, coffee, sugar and candles. Our arrangements for tents were very good indeed; the officers all had wall tents, and, in addition, at brigade and division headquarters, hospital tents. The men were supplied with the "A" tents.

Colonel GEORGE SANDERSON, Jr., Division Inspector of Rifle Practice, Penn: Mr. President: In the matter of rifle practice and encampments, gathering my reasons from the experience had in the camps of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, I am emphatically of the opinion that rifle practice, as a system, cannot be carried to any reasonable degree of success if it be confined to a few days' annual practice while our guards are in camp. Rifle practice, sir, has become a necessary part of the soldier's education. As it is a science, and the acquisition of knowledge of any science comparatively slow, it necessarily follows that eight or ten days a year for this purpose would be a ludicrously small time. We hear much from men now and then who think that rifle practice is but a fancy and expensive indulgence, and should be entirely subordinated to other duties. Sir, a good alignment, a perfect wheel by company front, a well-timed manual, are pretty things to look at, but the very men who dress so well, and stand so bravely shoulder to shoulder, may know little or nothing about the rifle they carry, except to handle it brilliantly in the manual. I venture to say that two-thirds of the militia of our country are neophytes in the practical and actual use which the rifle they carry is intended for—I mean accurate and effective shooting. They know, of course, a rifle will kill, if pointed at any one, but their knowledge extends very little farther. Now, sir, as I look at it, an annual encampment is intended for that instruction, which the guardsman cannot obtain elsewhere properly—battalion and brigade drill, skirmish drill, guard mounting and guard duty, and all that general experience he can obtain only in active service. These duties are manifold and urgent, and consume about all his time. To devote what little time is left to rifle practice would result in a certain failure. During the encampment of our National Guard at Fairmount Park, last August, I endeavored to have some little rifle practice, with a view to ascertain whether it could be made practicable. Complaint came in constantly that guard details were broken up and battalion drills interfered with by the absence of large numbers of officers and men at the range, and, as a consequence, I was compelled to desist. Now, it strikes me that this will be an insurmountable objection to rifle practice in camp. All things should be at the right time, and the camp is for other duties than rifle practice, because the latter can be as easily taught elsewhere, and with as little expense to the State government. I earnestly trust, sir, that the effort which seems to be under way in some of our States, to confine rifle practice to the annual encampment, will prove abortive. It will be against my views if it is ever effected in my own State.

Colonel HENRY M. BOIES, 13th Regt., N. G. P., Scranton, Pa: Mr. President: The real benefit to be expected from an annual encampment of the National Guard is the opportunity afforded for its instruction in those military duties, a knowledge of which cannot be imparted in the hour drills. These are chiefly for the men, the science of cooking the army ration and living in the field, and their training as skirmishers; for the officers, battalion and brigade tactics, and the manoeuvres of battle; for but few regiments ever are assembled at any other time; for the staff departments, upon which everything depends in service, the encampment furnishes almost the only means of acquiring that experience and knowledge which is essential to efficiency, and existence, indeed. In this view, it would seem desirable that the entire organization of each State, if composed of one division or less, should be assembled in camp at the same time. The time being necessarily brief, the camp should be so located that there would be nothing to distract attention from the actual business in hand. All ideas of a picnic and excursion nature, either as an incentive for attendance or attraction in camp, should be banished. It is my experience that nothing is so satisfactory to officers and men as the consciousness of learning something useful continually, and that men who feel themselves to have been kept at work advantageously during an absence from home on military duty, will be much more likely to wish to repeat the experience than those who have wasted their time in idleness and pleasure-seeking. At any rate, the men who go to camp for a spree are of no use in the National Guard, and the State would be wise to cease spending time or money on them.

Battalion drills and guard mounts in the morning, rifle matches during the middle of the day, brigade movements and dress parade in the evening, should be the ordinary programme, and will leave little enough leisure. I hope to see the time when at least two or three days of the tour will be spent in campaigning and in sham engagements between huge bodies with all arms employed. Nothing could be more interesting or instructive to all. Another advantage in large encampment is the opportunity of comparison between good and inferior commands, which, being apparent to officers and men alike, operates both as a stimulus to improvement, and affords an example to be copied.

In rifle practice, as practice, I am satisfied but little can be accomplished, or should be attempted in a week's camp, more than to test the training and proficiency of the several commands by volley and skirmish firing and team competitions. Indeed, compulsory rifle practice is an impossibility in the National Guard. A love for the art and an ambition for the distinctions conferred for excellence must be relied upon to secure the practice required during the greater leisure in the summer. It is of importance, therefore, to cultivate these sentiments by the award of badges and prizes, by mention in orders, by public ceremonies of presentation, and, especially, by giv-

ing to each organization a credit for excellence in marksmanship which shall be shown in its general rating at the annual inspection.

The encouragement of rifle practice, aside from its value on its own account, which is great even in the National Guard, which, as a general thing, knows nothing at all of modern weapons of precision, not even how to load or fire them, is certainly one of the most efficient methods of inducing the enlistment of the better class of men, and keeping them in the Guard, and thus becomes an important factor in its maintenance in general efficiency.

OFFICERS FOR 1881.

Adjutant-General C. H. BARNEY (R. I.), on behalf of the committee appointed to present names for officers of the association for the ensuing year, reported the following :

President—General GEO. W. WINGATE, New York.

First Vice-President—Adjutant-General G. T. BEAUREGARD, New Orleans, La.

Second Vice-President—General JAMES W. DENVER, Wilmington, Ohio.

Corresponding Secretary—Major W. BOERUM WETMORE, New York.

Recording Secretary—Adjutant-General WILLIAM L. ALEXANDER, Des Moines, Iowa.

Treasurer—Adjutant General A. HUN BERRY, Boston, Mass.

On motion of Col. Cotton (N. C.), the Secretary was directed to cast the vote of the association for the officers above named, who were thereupon declared unanimously elected.

The President appointed the following Executive Committee :

New England States—General ELISHA H. RHOADES, Providence, R. I.

From Middle States—Major AND. D. HEPBURN, Philadelphia, Pa.

From Southern States—Adjutant-General JOHNSTON JONES, Morgantown, N. C.

From Western States—Inspector-General L. W. HEATH, Grand Rapids, Mich.

From Pacific States—Colonel HARRY T. HAMMOND, San Francisco, Cal.

Gen. ALBERT ORDWAY, of Washington, D. C., then addressed the Convention as follows :

Mr. President: As one of the principal objects of our association is to secure legislation to promote the efficiency of the militia, I deem

it desirable, before this Convention adjourns, to make a short statement of the progress that has been made toward that end. A substitute for the existing militia law was framed by our convention that met in New York two years ago, and was submitted to Congress. As the only member of that convention resident in Washington, I felt it my duty, on the request of our President, to do what I could to represent the convention before the committees of Congress, and urge attention to our desires. This accident of circumstances has made me familiar with the whole matter, and will, I trust, be sufficient apology for my detaining the convention for a few moments before its adjournment to explain what measure of success has so far rewarded our efforts, and what obstacles have been met in securing our objects.

In the House of Representatives the bill framed by the convention was exhaustively considered by the Committee on Militia, who framed a substitute for it, which they presented to the House with a report setting forth the importance of the subject and the necessity of some legislation to revise the existing law. The bill reported by the committee, while it differs in some of its details from the bill proposed by us, is based upon the same principles, and would, undoubtedly, be acceptable to all of us. The enormous mass of business on the calendar prevented consideration of the bill by the House, and though a very complete and able speech on the subject was made by Hon. R. M. A. Hawk, of Illinois, a member of the committee, it was found impossible to get action. In the Senate, the Committee on Military affairs made a report adverse to any action on the subject. That the adverse report may not discourage our efforts, I deem it proper to say that it was made without any notice to the friends of the measure, and without their being heard on the subject, and, as I am authoritatively advised, without any discussion of it in the committee.

My own impression is that we have made a very decided progress. Such objects as we have in view cannot be speedily accomplished. It is only by patient and persistent efforts that obstacles can be removed, but I feel that we have met with sufficient encouragement to warrant us in adhering to our purposes, and to justify the hope of final success.

My own experience has been that all objections to the proposed revision of the militia law arise from two causes: an absolute ignorance of existing law, and a total misapprehension of the objects and provisions of the proposed law. In fact, it may be said that the misapprehension of the proposed law arises from ignorance of the existing law.

Ignorance of existing law prevails not only among our law-makers, but among the militia, and is scarcely to be wondered at when we consider that the existing law became practically a dead letter before any of the members of this convention were born.

An intelligent consideration of the proposed changes requires

a knowledge of the existing law, I will venture to give a very brief outline of its history.

Soon after the Federal Government was organized, General Knox, Secretary of War, submitted to Congress his celebrated plan for organizing the militia. His plan was very elaborate and thorough, and is asserted to have been sanctioned by President Washington. He proposed that every American youth, on attaining eighteen years of age, should be furnished with arms and a uniform by the Government, and be obliged to serve in camp of military instruction thirty days in each of the next two years and ten days of the third year, so that on attaining the age of twenty-one years, he would have received the elementary instruction of a soldier. He proposed that the rights of citizenship should be withheld from any person who had not thus served. From the age of twenty-one to forty-five the citizen was to serve in the main corps of the militia, and on attaining the age of forty-five, to be transferred to the reserve corps, and liable to be called on duty until sixty years of age.

The question of the militia was debated through three successive sessions of Congress, the plan presented by Gen. Knox being modified, changed and amended until it lost all of its original features, and, as is usual in legislation on symmetrical plans, an incongruous and inconsistent law was finally passed in 1792. This law has remained on the statutes, and, with a few changes and additions, is the militia law under which we nominally are acting to-day.

We have not time to consider the details of the law, and, therefore, I will only say that its leading feature is, that it enforces militia duty on every citizen between eighteen and forty-five years of age, and requires each individual to provide himself with arms, ammunition and a knapsack.

The law was found to be defective as soon as it was attempted to put it into operation, and efforts were immediately begun to amend it. The country increased so rapidly in population that it was found impracticable and unnecessary to require militia duty from every citizen, and it was recommended by President Jefferson that the militia be classified by age, and only a portion held to active duty.

The desirability of dividing the militia into active and inactive classes was constantly urged upon Congress by successive Presidents, and the subject was continually agitated, but all attempts to agree upon a plan failed, and the only change effected in the militia law was the provision made in 1808 for an annual appropriation of \$200,000 to furnish arms.

Without attempting to follow the subject in detail, it will suffice for me to say that from the time of its enactment, down to the year 1861, unremitting efforts were made to devise a practicable substitute for the militia law, but, notwithstanding frequent petitions from State legislatures, appeals from the militia, recommendations of Presidents, reports from the War Department and from boards of officers, it was always found impossible to secure sufficient unanimity to enact a change.

In view of the many fruitless efforts that have been made, our present attempt to secure legislation might be regarded as hopeless. I do not so regard it, but, on the contrary, believe that the time has now come that if we can secure intelligent attention to the subject the difficulties will vanish. In other words, I conceive that time has solved the problem for which statesmanship has hitherto failed to find the remedy.

I have indicated as the chief defect of the militia law that it holds to service the whole population. The absurdity and impracticability of this provision is apparent from the fact that if now enforced it would require the maintaining of an armed force of nearly seven million men. In proportion as the country increased in population the States began to disregard the Federal law and to foster volunteer militia organizations, until finally the whole law ceased to be considered, and the only militia now organized or known are the volunteer militia, and with our present population they furnish as large a force as can ever be required for militia service.

It appears plain to me that nothing now remains to be done except for the Federal law to classify the militia into active and inactive portions, to recognize the volunteer militia as the only active militia required, and to increase the annual appropriation to a sufficient amount to maintain it. That is the purpose and object of our proposed bill.

I regret that there is not sufficient time for me to present the subject more fully, but I would suggest as the best mode of removing all misapprehension as to the nature and object of the purposes of our association, and for the purpose of properly presenting to Congress our views and desires, that this convention adopt a memorial expressing its views and urging Congress to enact such amendments to the existing law as will carry our views into effect. I have drafted a memorial which I would submit to the convention for such amendment and action as they deem proper.

ADDRESS TO CONGRESS.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives:

The National Guard Association of the United States, composed of delegates from the active militia of the various States, respectfully represents:

That the existing militia law has for many years been inoperative, for the reason that changes of circumstance and condition since its original enactment in 1792, would make any attempt to enforce its provisions now, both absurd and impracticable. The law requires military duty from every citizen between 18 and 45 years of age, and requires each individual to provide himself with arms, ammunition,