TAKING ON THE BLUE

Recruiting Soldiers at Indianapolis for Uncle Sam's Army.

Transforming a Hoosier Youth Into a Dashing Indian Fighter—Some of the Vicissitudes of the Life.

A United States recruiting office is located at 82½ East Washington street. Up two flights of stirs and to the left two dingy little offices are open from 8 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, where the stalwart Hoosier youth who wants to serve his country is always welcome. The furnishings of the Indianapolis recruiting station are not elaborate. The walls are not hung with gilded portraits of famous generals. Two or three cheap prints representing hard-fought battles on land and sea constitute the art collection. Lieut. Carter has his private office, where he smokes his pipe like a private soldier after mess and writes out long reports to the honorable Secretary of War. To the youth of the land the "reg'lar army" has a fascination. It is safe to hazard the guess that into nine-tenths of the average young men of America there has at one time come a longing to wear the uniform of Uncle Sam. The recruiting office is without doubt an effectual check to much of this budding military ambition.

Of the many who apply but few are chosen, and those who pass muster do not enter the service with glowing imaginations of a future life of happy ease. The hardships, the difficulties and the possibilities of failure are laid before the applicant by the officer in charge of the recruiting office. After a young man has passed the age of eighteen, and while he is yet lingering between the period of sapient youth and matured manhood, he begins to cast about for a life business. After two or three years he may make a general failure of everything he lays his hands on, and perhaps the shadow of a disappointed love has been cast over his life. He finds that the world has bumped him hard, and he's tired of it. Then it is that the recruiting office has a new applicant. The unfortunate young man concludes that the frontier is the place for him, and he proposes to sacrifice himself to the army.

After the applicant has passed up the two flights of stairs, stood the scrutiny of Sergeant Walsh's skilled military eye and has been in the presence of young Lieutenant Carter for two hours and a half he begins to realize just what a wonderful institution of system and red tape this United States government has grown to be. If he weathers the fire of 250 shrewd questions and has withstood the test of a rigorous physical examination he is accepted. Then he belongs to the government for five years. He is put astride a cavalry horse or a musket is thrust into his hands, and he is expected to fight, if need be, to the death. In return for this duty the government feeds him, keeps him clean and pays him $13 a month. The applicant enlists as a private, and he remains in the rear rank unless he possesses sufficient intelligence to utilize the opportunity given him by the government and educates himself to a promotion. By diligent study and honest, faithful service he may, after three or four years, reach the rank of a corporal. Then he may look forward to an increase of a few dollars a month pay. The private, however, is usually sent to the front to perform the government's menial labor. He is thus informed in the recruiting office. He is not going out there to roll cigarettes and join theater parties. It is a hard, practical fight with Indians, fate and whisky ague, and chills. Lieutenant Carter, the bright young officer who lays out the line of duty to the aspiring candidate, tells him of all these things. The Lieutenant can dance, and play the piano, and make an after-dinner speech to a company of army officers and their ladies, because he was "soldierized" at West Point. But the young fellow who leaves his home in Indiana and dons the country's blue must make up his mind to five years of isolation from civilization and refinement.

It is not the distinction of birth or education that cuts the private soldier off from the enjoyment of social privileges at the frontier fort. The rigid discipline of army regulations makes it impossible for the captain or lieutenant to meet his men on equal footing. That trite old saw, "Familiarity breeds contempt," is an army axiom generally observed.

Lieutenant J. McI. Carter, who represents the government's interest in Indianapolis, has seen active service on the frontier and has danced with the belles at West Point. He was turned out of that institution in 1886 and sent to the Southwest to join his fortunes with those of the Fifth Cavalry. With the straps of the first lieutenant on his shoulders he chased Mexicans and Indians on the Rio Grande for eight years and was then transferred to the less hostile division of the army at Indianapolis. The young officer has been in charge of the recruiting office here since last October, and has sent scores of fine Hoosier lads scurrying toward the Western plains.

Applicants for enlistment must be between the ages of eighteen and thirty years, unmarried, of good character and habits, able-bodied and free from disease. The government doesn't want married men or men who have relatives dependent upon them. The enlisted soldier is the property of the institution that employs him, and he must have no obligations outside of his duty to the flag. He has his choice between fighting Indians on horseback or dodging bullets from behind a tree with a musket in his hand. For infantry and artillery the height must not be less than five feet four inches, weight not less than 128 pounds and not more than 190 pounds. Cavalry applicants must measure five feet four and five feet ten inches and must tip the scales at a weight not to exceed 166 pounds. The physical examination is severe, and the applicant must submit to a personal examination by the lieutenant, who goes about the work like a skillful practitioner. A minor can be enlisted only with the written consent of his parents or guardian and when his physical development is exceptionally good. The government has provided for the punishment of fraud, and if, after the recruit has entered into active service, it is learned that he has deceived the recruiting officer as to his age or name, he is apt to be punished. After Lieutenant Carter has done with the successful applicant he is turned over to Sergeant Walsh.

The Sergeant has been the humble representative of the government for sixteen years, half of which period he spent in one of the hottest Indian campaigns in Montana. There is no romance about the army for him, and he hustles the raw recruit off to a bath and then to the store room. The department in which the government's suitings are stored is on the third floor of the building, and here the recruit is taken to be fitted out in the government's blue. He incases his figure in a suit that is probably two sizes too small for him, and the new private is then ready for active duty. For two or three weeks the programme is varied. The new recruit usually spends his time between loafing about the barrack room and displaying his brass-buttoned proportions at the foot of the stairs. After a time the recruit grows weary of admiring his own figure and he longs for the fever of battle. Here he is disappointed, for Lieutenant Carter has by this time recruited a dozen or more applicants, and the lot is bundled off to David's Island, New York harbor, or to the Jefferson Barracks at St. Louis. Here again the recruit meets a bitter disappointment. There are no available Indians to kill, but instead there is three months of hard military discipline and incessant drill. Adjutant General Ruggle, at Washington, says that some of the Western regiments need recruiting and the raw material is started for the frontier.

From the first year's pay of the private a month is retained, with 4 per cent. interest added, which will be paid to the young soldier upon his discharge, provided he has served honestly and faithfully. The term of service is five years, but after having served one year the soldier is accorded the privilege of purchasing his discharge at any time upon the payment of $120. After completing three years service he is entitled, if he has served his country well, to a furlough of three months, with the privilege of discharge after timely notice. Lieutenant Carter deplores the fact that an erroneous impression of army life has been created in the public mind. The service is not vicious, and is only what a man sees fit to make it. The government doesn't undertake to reform its servants, but stands ready to help a man better himself. There is at nearly every military post in the country a library and reading room, in which is kept a good assortment of books, magazines and newspapers. The recruit may take advantage of these facilities. On the other hand he may plunge into the dissipation that is easily found and drink himself to death in a year. The government will give him a military funeral.

THE TANNHAEUSER MUSIC DRAMA.

Selections to Be Given at the Wagner Opera Festival.

Selections from Tannhaeuser will be a feature of Mr. Stem's Wagner opera festival on May 7, and besides the work of the chorus Mr. Emil Fischer will sing basso solos. Sousa's band will furnish the instrumental music. The music drama of Tannhaeuser is more fully represented on the programme than any other of Wagner's works.

The opera of "Tannhaeuser" was written in the years 1844-5, and was first produced in October of the latter year. It has been preceded by "Rienzi" and the "Flying Dutchman," and, like them, failed at first to meet with the reception the composer had hoped, if not anticipated. Its story is based upon the Tannhaeuser legend, which still exists in Thuringia, the site of the famous Wartburg castle, where the Landgraves of the thirteenth century instituted peaceful contests between the Minnesingers and the knightly poets. Wagner was interwoven with the main facts of the legend, the poetical contests in the Wartburg and the exquisitely beautiful character of Elizabeth, the princess of the castle, who knows the eternal mercy, and who has the strength to die for his redemption. By her martyrdom Tannhaeuser's wild and vehement nature is broken. By her death he is freed from sin, and in his own death he finds relief. The story is based upon the grand motive which appears in others of Wagner's operas, noticeably "Lohengrin" and "Parsifal," namely, the world-old struggle between the flesh and the spirit, and the opposing principles of good and evil, which Goethe developed with such astounding power in "Faust."

The first scene of the second act introduces Elizabeth, who greets the hall in the Wartburg, which will be sung by Francesca Gurthrie Moyer. In the second scene Tannhaeuser appears, and is rapturously welcomed by Elizabeth, to whom he relates the miracle of his escape from Venus. The fourth scene opens with the familiar march and chorus and a festival song is prepared.

In the third act the introduction illustrates Tannhaeuser's pilgrimage. In the first scene the "Pilgrim's Chorus" is heard, followed by Elizabeth's prayer, one of the most strikingly beautiful numbers in the whole work. The second scene is devoted to Wolfram alone and includes the exquisite romance, "The Evening Star," sung by Emil Fischer, the great basso from the Metropolitan Opera House, New York. The last scene is occupied with Tannhaeuser's repentance, the last effort of Venus to entice him once more to the mountain, the death of Elizabeth, which releases him from her magic and Tannhaeuser's own death. The Hallelujah Chorus of the young pilgrims brings the scene to its close. The chorus will sing "Hail Bright Above," one of hte most beautiful choruses in the music drama.

HOMELESS WOMEN.

The Newcomers in a City and Their Lonely Hall Bedroom Lot.

Chicago Tribune.

"Did you ever think," asked a woman who is making her own way, "how many homeless women there are in Chicago? Women who never know what it is to sit down and expect a visit, or hang up a picture or fix a screen, or arrange a corner, the same as other women whose lives are rounded by home? Women who have to turn out so early and so hastily in the morning that they have no time to arrange their room before going to the shop? Who have no one to say as they leave for the day's trials, 'Good-bye; take care of yourself?' Who go back to these same rooms at night and find them dark and often still as they were left in the morning? Who, when Sunday comes, have to utilize the day for mending and stitching and fixing up the rents and the pinned up places of the week? Who have to work Sunday nights on the 'only decent gown,' which they laugh at when it is fixed, for they wonder when they can wear it, and where?

"Of course there are many of the shopwomen of the city who live at home, and their mothers or sisters attend to the little wants. But the majority of them have no homes except the little hall room or the back room, on the top floor. And when they wash out a pocket handkerchief in their room the landlady glares at them if she knows it, as she is apt to, and they dare not speak. As they are tired out after their day's work they have no time for company in the evening, and if they had they have no place to receive such company except the parlor in the boarding house, and any woman who has ever tried that knows what it is.

"Is it any wonder you see so many women whose faces are white, whose lips are ashen and whose tapering fingers are purple? Women who have no time or place to be loved, not even time or place to hear one endearing word. Sometimes the burden gets too heavy and then there is a nursing woman until the lake gives back its dead, and a three-line item in the coroner's news is all that the world knows."

TORTURING ECZEMA

Editor Iowa Plain Dealer Cured of Insufferable Itching and Pain by the Cuticura Remedies.

No Less Than Five Physicians Consulted. Their Combined Wisdom Followed Without Benefit.

I am sixty-six years old. In August, 1889, was troubled with the peculiar skin disease to which people of my age are subject, known among medical men as eczema. Its first appearance was near the ankles. It rapidly extended over the lower extremities until my legs were nearly one raw sore; from legs the trouble extended across the hips, shoulders and the entire length of the arms, the legs and arms greatly swollen with an itching, burning pain, without cessation. Although the best medical advice attainable was employed, no less than five physicians of the place being consulted and the prescriptions being the result of their combined wisdom, the disease, though apparently checked, would recur in a few days as bad as ever; during its progress my weight fell away about twenty-five pounds. As an experiment I began the use of CUTICURA, following the simple and plain instructions given with the REMEDIES, and in four weeks found myself well, with skin soft and natural in color, the itching and pain entirely relieved.

W. R. MEAD,
Editor Iowa Plain Dealer, Cresco, Ia.

CUTICURA WORKS WONDERS

CUTICURA REMEDIES speedily cure every humor and disease of the skin, scalp, and blood, with loss of hair, whether itching, burning, scaly, pimply, and blotchy, whether simple, scrofulous, hereditary, or contagious, when physicians fail.

I was operated on two years ago for an abscess, which left a running sore, which five doctors said could only be helped by another operation. I almost gave up in despair. $3.50 worth of the CUTICURA REMEDIES cured me, and I am now well and strong. MRS. ANNIE KULEN,
2101 Lawrence St., Denver, Col.

Sold throughout the world. Price, CUTICURA, 50c.; SOAP, 25c.; RESOLVENT, $1. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CORP., Sole Proprietors, Boston.

"How to Cure Skin Diseases," mailed free.

PIMPLES, blackheads, chapped and oily skin cured by CUTICURA MEDICATED SOAP.

FREE FROM RHEUMATISM.

In one minute the Cuticura Anti-Pain Plaster relieves rheumatic, sciatic, hip, kidney, chest, and muscular pains and weaknesses.

Bargain-Counter Bicycles

Are worth just what is asked for them, no more. Don't be misled in trying to save a few dollars, at the expense of a season's annoyance from a clap-trap marked-down wheel. Our wheels are standard the world over, and we are exclusively Bicycle Dealers.

HAY & WILLITS, THE CYCLISTS

70 NORTH PENNSYLVANIA ST

Open evenings. Payments or Cash.

Motors and Dynamos

With forged iron field Magnets, for electric power, incandescent lighting and electro plating.

COMMERCIAL ELECTRIC CO

111 South Tennessee Street, INDIANAPOLIS, Ind.

MODEL

We have had many great Sales in the past -- Sales in which the crowds have kept us jumping from morning until night. But never have we had anything to compare with the

FIRE

Sale now in progress. Many times on Friday and Saturday

The Crowds Were So Great

That we were obliged to close our doors. This week our force of salesmen will be greatly increased, and we expect to be able to wait on everyone promptly. The prices we have placed on the salvage of over $50,000 of MEN'S and BOYS' CLOTHING, sent us from the recent fire at our factory, are the most remarkable ever quoted. There is no exaggeration----no humbug about our advertisements. On the contrary, they do not half express the wonderful values we are giving in this sale. These values will be found in every department, for the managers of our Hat and Furnishing Departments fairly outdid themselves in picking up snaps, so that their end would compare favorably with the Big Bargains in Clothing. These VALUES ARE VERY ATTRACTIVE IN PRINT. YOU'LL FIND THEM EVER SO MUCH MORE SO WHEN YOU COME TO EXAMINE THE GOODS.

MEN'S PANTS.

Men's Dark Linen Pants, worth 75.... **49c**

Men's Moleskin Pants, worth $1.25 **69c**

Men's Cassimere Pants, real value, $2.50..... **$1.48**

Men's Cassimere and all-wool Cheviot Pants, worth $4 and $4.50..... **$2.98**

Men's Fine Worsted Pants, worth $6 and $7..... **$3.90**

SPRING OVERCOATS.

A lot of Spring Overcoats, were in the heart of the mass **79c**

Spring Overcoats, worth $8 and $10.. **$5.00**

Spring Overcoats, worth $12 and $13.50 ..... **$7.50**

Spring Overcoats, worth $15 and 18... **$9.50**

Finest Spring Overcoats, many lined throughout with silk, worth $20, $22 and $25..... **$13.50**

MEN'S SUITS.

Men's Sack Suits, worth $12, $10 and $8 ..... **$3.75**

Men's Sack Suits, worth $12 and $10.. **$4.25**

Men's Sack and Frock Suits, worth $15, $12 and $10.... **$5.75**

Men's All-wool Black Cheviot Suits, worth $18 and $15..... **$7.75**

Men's Cassimere and Cheviot Suits, sacks and frocks, worth $18 and $15.. **$7.75**

Fine All-wool and Fancy Worsted Sack and Frock Suits, worth $20 and $16 50..... **$9.75**

Odd Coats, **39c, 79c, $1.48, $1.98, $2.50, $3** and **$3.50.**

Above Coats are from $30, $25, $20, $18 and $15 Suits of which pants and vests are burned.

BOYS' DEP'T

Knee Pants, worth 50c..... **19c**

Shirt Waists, worth 35c..... **19c.**

Star and King Laundered Shirt Waists, regular price $1.... **59c**

Superior quality all-Wool flannel waists and blouses, regular price $2..... **$1.29**

KILT SUITS

75 one-piece Kilt Suits, worth $2, $2.50 and $3, **99c**

100 two-piece Kilt Suits, worth $3 and $3.50, **$1.49**

200 two-piece Kilt Suits, worth $4, $5 and $6, **$2.49**

Knee Pants Suits

Single and double-breasted Knee Pants Suits, worth $2.50 and $2.75, **$1.49**

Single and double-breasted Knee Pants Suits, worth $3.50, $4 and $4.50, many of them all wool, **$2.79**

All-Wool Knee Pants Suits, all shades and colors, worth $5, $6 and some even $7, **$3.79**

YOUNG MEN'S SUITS

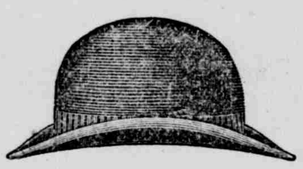
Young Men's Suits, sizes 14 to 19, worth $5 and $6..... **$3.65**

Young Men's Cassimere and All-wool Suits, worth $8, $9 and $10..... **$5.90**

Young Men's all-wool Suits, worth $10 and $12..... **$6.90**

Young Men's all-wool Suits, worth $13.50 and $15..... **$8.90**

HAT DEP'T.



In connection with our Fire Sale of Clothing we offer the most remarkable Hat bargain ever advertised. We offer an unlimited quantity of elegant

$2 Stiff Hats

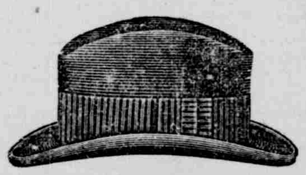
In above new shape and coaching shape at

79c.

On every hat we sell we are losers 57c. But it's a great ad.

All our new shapes in Black and Brown Stiff Hats, regular price $2.50,

$1.89.



All our regular $1.25 Flange Hats

79c.

A regular $2 Flange,

$1.19.

Boys' Cloth Hats,

9c, 29c, 39c, 59c.

Novelties in Children's Caps; were $1 and 75c,

48c.

Furnishing Dep't

On Tuesday

We shall place on sale 1,000 dozen

White Linen Collars

In all sizes from 14 to 18; shapes, turn down and a half dozen nobby standing styles. These will go at the phenomenal price of

5c

Not one that is not worth 15c to 25c. Also, a limited supply of Cuffs at 10c a pair.

Purchased direct from the factory, 300 dozen White and Colored Shirts. Some are slightly imperfect; many are their travelers' samples; all worth $1.50, $1.25 and $1. Our price from Tuesday on:

White Shirts

59c

Colored Shirts

69c

In this lot you will find the latest designs in Percale and White Shirts.

BE WISE

Take Our Advice

DON'T WAIT

People that come first aren't fools. They pick out the choice goods—the bargains. Why shouldn't you be among the first? Why shouldn't your money go as far as the next man's? If you need a Suit, a pair of Pants, Furnishings or Hats we can save you big money on your investment.

Hard Times Are Banished!

Everybody can afford clothes during the Model's Fire Sale.

MODEL