THE GRAND ARMY.

News From the Departments---New Posts, etc.

HEADQUARTERS BULLETIN.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, G.A.R.,
MADISON, WIS., July 15, 1887.

The recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council of Administration and the committee selected from the General Executive Committee of the citizens of St. Louis at Madison last week was not only important in a business point of view, but was exceedingly enjoyable. The reception given by the local Post was satisfactory in every respect, and the gentlemen from St. Louis, consisting of some of the leading business men of the city in various callings, were especially happy in their remarks, and the best of feeling prevailed throughout. The tea given by Mrs. Fairchild to the visitors was especially enjoyed by all. The business transacted was the first business pertaining to the 21st National Encampment, and the utterances already published were the first authoritative announcements in that line that have emanated from National Headquarters concerning the St. Louis Encampment. The expressions from all sources as to the result of the deliberations express approval both by Grand Army men and those who are otherwise interested in the Encampment this year. St. Louis being so nearly in the center of the whole Union, is undoubtedly the most desirable place for assembling the large number of people at this National Encampment, and the committee at St. Louis are aware of the fact that they must make preparations for the largest number of people ever assembled on such an occasion.

All the talk and newspaper comments that have preceded this meeting will now be understood as having been done without authority and as having originated in the vivid imaginations of various people.

From Dec. 31, 1885, to Dec. 31, 1886, the increase in members of the Order has been 28,784, and there are assurances from many of the Departments that the June returns will show a marked increase over these figures.

The G.A.R. is not disturbed by the clamor, confusion and attempts to disintegrate it. It will go on in the line of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, and will continue so to do until extinguished by the death of its last member.

The following is an official statement of the Department of Wisconsin recently made by the Commander:

New Grand Army Posts have been organized and given charters up to date as follows: No. 230, at Kenosha, Geo. Hale, Commander; 231, Poyssippi, Waushara County, F. E. Noyes; 232, Rhinelander, S. F. DeVoin; 233, Mindoro, La Crosse County, L. B. Cox; 234, Bangor, La Crosse County, Wm. E. Hewitt; 235, Cataract, Monroe County, H. H. Atchison. Arrangements are now in progress to organize Posts at Prairie Farm, Barron County; Loyal, Clark County, and Trimbelle, Pierce County.

Adjutants' reports are now being received for the second quarter of 1887 with more than usual promptness, and they show a healthy growth of the Order throughout the Department and a universal interest in Grand Army affairs. Information so far received at the Department Headquarters indicates that the attendance of the comrades of this Department at the St. Louis Encampment will be larger than any had expected.

The National Pension Committee's Bill, to be presented in the first session of 50th Congress, has been sent to the Posts of this Department. The vote of each Post will be taken upon it and returns made before Sept. 1.

Some inquiry having been made in Grand Army circles regarding the comradeship of Adj't-Gen. Drum, of Washington, who first conceived the order to return the battle trophies, it is officially stated by the Department of the Potomac that the General was mustered in privately by special dispensation in his office in the War Department, and that he has never attended a Post meeting nor otherwise betrayed any interest in the Order whatever.

DEPARTMENT NEWS.

ARIZONA.—

Burnside Post, Tombstone, has adopted resolutions of regret on the death of Wm. Dichl, one of its members, who was killed by Indians.

ILLINOIS.—

On May 28 Charles Chatfield Post, No. 590, Bath, was presented with a beautiful silk flag, the gift of the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of soldiers, living and dead. The presentation address was made by Mrs. P. A. Beane, of Bath, and was one of the best ever listened to in that vicinity, and worthy of the noble woman who delivered it. After the presentation the people were regaled at the Town Hall with ice cream and cake furnished by the ladies. At a subsequent meeting of the Post, the following resolutions were adopted:

Whereas on the 28th of May Chas. Chatfield Post, No. 590, G.A.R. was made the recipient of a beautiful silk flag, the gift of the noble, patriotic and generous mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of soldiers, as a mark of their esteem for the gallant service performed by the soldiers of this Post in the late struggle for constitutional Government and liberty: Therefore,

Resolved, That we tender the ladies of Bath and vicinity our heartfelt and grateful thanks for the tender regards shown us in the presentation of this beautiful flag, and that we will ever hold them in grateful remembrance; that we will march proudly under its folds, and if need be uphold the principles of which it is the emblem with our lives and defend it with our blood.

Resolved, That to Mrs. Beane, especially, we tender our sincere thanks for the patriotic address so nobly conceived and ably delivered.

S. N. Sanders Post, No. 395, Ascola, was served with a beautiful supper by the ladies of the W.R.C. recently. There were 97 members of the Post present, besides 56 visiting comrades and many friends. After the supper exercises were held in City Hall, which was crowded to its utmost capacity. A very interesting program of music, singing, speeches and recitations was rendered. One of the pleasant features of the evening was the presentation of a handsome Bible to the Post by the ladies of the Corps. Department Commander Sweetzer presented the Bible.

MICHIGAN.—

O. N. Earl, Pewamo: Hathaway Post, No. 378, has a membership of 26, all in good standing, and stands as a unit against the present administration of Mr. Cleveland concerning the veto business, and will stand solid to a man in favor of the present Dependent Pension Bill to be presented to the next Congress.

Dansear Post, Sturgis, was recently presented with a magnificent copy of Col. R. F. Hill's Soldier Memorial Record. The hall was filled with members and citizens, and the presentation speech was made by Senator J. S. Drake. The book is a large, handsomely-bound volume, 12 x 17 inches, containing about 550 pages. This allows one page for every member of the Post. The book was presented by a number of the leading citizens of Sturgis.

We have received a roster of Fairbanks Post, No. 17, Detroit. This is the banner Post of Michigan, and has a membership of 633. Its officers are: Commander, M. P. Thatcher; S. V. C., Geo. A. Winslow; J. V. C., A. R. Sewell; Adj't, W. S. Ostier; Q. M., Charles H. Salter; O. D., W. P. Sumner; Surg., Dr. D. L. Dakin; Chap., J. E. Norton; O. G., W. H. Acheson; S. M., P. H. Andrews; Q. M. S., H. W. Langley.

MISSOURI.—

John Matthews and McCroskey Posts, of Springfield, tendered Gen. Franz Sigel a reception on July 8, and although in feeble health, the General enjoyed the occasion very much.

Marion Post, No. 119, Stanberry, indorses the Dependent Pension Bill.

The Citizens' Committee of St. Louis in charge of the Grand Army Encampment have appropriated $10,000 for decoration. Among these will be a Grand Army arch, erected at an expense of $4,000.

NEW JERSEY.—

John L. Wheeler, Department Commander, has issued the following General Order concerning the forthcoming gathering at St. Louis: The 21st National Encampment of the G.A.R. will be held in St. Louis during the last week of September next. This will probably be the largest gathering of veterans which has taken place since the close of the war. It is hoped that New Jersey will be largely represented. Arrangements for the lowest possible rates of fare on the railroads will be made, and no effort spared by Department Headquarters to make every comrade's visit pleasant. It is the desire of Department Headquarters to charter a special train to St. Louis to leave New York or Philadelphia, as circumstances may decide. Every comrade in New Jersey who intends going to St. Louis is cordially invited to accompany the Department Commander and staff on this train. It will leave probably on Saturday, Sept. 24, and reach St. Louis Sunday night, the 25th; returning, will leave St. Louis on Saturday, Oct. 1. Every comrade of this Department who intends going to St. Louis is requested to send his name, his Post and his postoffice address on a postal card to Samuel N. Rockhill, A. A.-G., Bordentown, N. J., at once. The comrades will give this their immediate attention, in order that the Department may arrange for transportation and quarters. The headquarters of the Department of New Jersey, G.A.R., will be established at the Lindell Hotel, St. Louis, on Monday, Sept. 25, and all the comrades of this Department are cordially invited to call at headquarters during the Encampment.

NEW YORK.—

Farragut Post, No. 75, G.A.R., R. S. Hellferty, Commander, held a picnic and shooting tournament last week at Iona Park, on the occasion of the 17th anniversary of the Post. Forty-eight other Posts were represented by delegates. Adj't Kennard won the first prize in the shooting tournament, Comrade Stafford second, and Comrade Douglass third. The gold medal open to competition to all comers was won by Citizen Horn. The man hitting the target three times and making the poorest score won a ham. There was dancing in the evening, and at 9 o'clock a salute of 18 guns was fired in honor of the anniversary. Later there were fireworks.

OHIO.—

John W. Manning, Commander, Post No. 235, Salineville: I desire to warn all comrades of the G.A.R. and the public generally against one Wm. B. Lawrence, a pensioner, who claims to belong to Greensburg, Pa. He succeeded in leaving an unpaid board bill here, by making it appear that he was expecting to draw two quarters pay of pension money from Columbus, O. He received the same at some other postoffice, but since failed to show up here. He tries to make it appear that he is a member of the G.A.R., and this is to warn the comrades to be on the lookout for him, and have him brought to justice and to meet the demands of the law.

Caldwell Post, No. 245, Wetmore, has adopted resolutions unanimously indorsing the pension bill proposed by the National Pension Committee of the Grand Army.

PENNSYLVANIA.

One of the Posts in this Department that is rarely heard of, but continues in the good work, is Post No. 58, of Harrisburg. This Post is gathering new recruits in a most astonishing manner, and is very rapidly becoming the largest Post in the Department. At the end of the last quarter in 1885 the Post numbered 450 comrades. Its membership on June 30, 1887, was 541 comrades in good standing, and its report for the same quarter showed that 51 members had been gained by muster. While these figures submitted show a gain of 91 in 18 months, the losses show nearly the same number, and taking that into consideration, it is a most astonishing gain, being about 30 new members each quarter. It is the determination of the comrades of this Post to become the largest in the State, and while it ranks as the third highest at present, (Posts Nos. 2 and 94, of Philadelphia, having considerable more members,) your correspondent must admit, although inclined adversely, that if it continues in the manner that it has since the election of Capt. Thomas F. Maloney as Commander, their great desire will be attained. While Posts Nos. 2 and 94 are considerably in the advance, your correspondent would not be surprised if at this time next year the relative positions of the two Posts be changed, and Post No. 58 treading on the heels of Post No. 2.

The pension bill formulated by the National Pension Committee is meeting with almost universal approval throughout this Department. While comparatively few Posts have taken action on the measure, there seems to be a general feeling of approval, and the few Posts that have taken action on it have declared themselves unanimously in favor of it, with but one exception. Among the Posts that have approved the measure are Posts No. 3, of Pittsburg; 16, of Reading; 39, of Johnstown; 468, of Altoona; 78, of Middletown, and 5, 10, 19, 51, 94, of Philadelphia, representing the strongest Posts in the Department. At all the Posts due notice had been given that the subject would be brought before the Post at a stated meeting, the result being a large vote. One of the most enthusiastic and largest meetings was the one held by Schuyler Post, No. 51, of Philadelphia, 213 comrades being present and registering themselves unanimously in favor of the bill. These seven Posts represent at least 2,700 comrades. The one Post, so far as heard of, that has declared itself against the bill is Post No. 45, of Phœnixville. This Post numbers about 160 comrades, and at a meeting the Post declared itself against the bill, only about 20 comrades being present and only 18 voting, showing very clearly that the measure was not given very delicate and just consideration. Watson Brothers Post, No. 432, by a vote of 9 to 1, declared against the bill, but stated that they "wanted something better or nothing."

In a letter to your correspondent from Past Senior Vice Department Commander Burchfield, of Pittsburg, he says: "The inspections in this District, under charge of J. F. Schroeder and Wm. T. Bradberry, Assistant Inspectors-at-Large, are nearly completed, and the showing for Allegheny County will be favorable, including two new Posts and a large increase in membership. The National Pension Committee's Dependent Pension Bill will receive almost unanimous indorsement. The rebel flag order excitement, which was intense, has subsided; but a determined feeling exists that future legislation will be closely scrutinized. Our Congressmen need not be in doubt about the feelings of the veterans in this quarter."

The association of officers of the Northwestern Association, G.A.R. of Pa., the subject of the Reunion August 25 at Oil City was fully discussed, and judging from present indications it will be one of the grandest meetings of the kind that has ever been held in Pennsylvania. The Committee appointed to procure transportation at reduced rates has arranged with all railroads upon which members of the Association will wish to travel to and from the meeting for one fare for the round trip. Posts wishing to arrange for special trains or special rates can do so notwithstanding the action of the Transportation Committee. It is now arranged for Department Commander Samuel Harper and Comrade Chill Hazzard to be present as speakers, and it is expected in addition to these that Gov. Beaver will come and hoped that Col. Fred Grant will come. It is hoped that every veteran within the bounds of the Association will interest himself in the success of this Reunion. The Sons of Veterans are expected to turn out 500 or more.

The regular Summer Encampment of the Department of Pennsylvania was begun on Saturday, July 9, on the battlefield of Gettysburg. The camp was named "Camp Vincent," in memory of Col. Strong Vincent, who commanded the First Division of the Fifth Corps, and who was mortally wounded in the second day's fight on Little Round Top. The attendance at the Encampment was very large, especially the representation of the Philadelphia Posts. On the morning of July 9 a special train left Broad-street Station, Philadelphia, at 8 o'clock, under the charge of A. Q.-M. Gen. H. C. Wilson, U.V. The train consisted of 10 cars, and contained about 500 persons, of whom at least 350 were comrades. The trains contained the following "Gettysburg Clubs":

The "By-Laws," of Post No. 1, with 20 men.
The "Sunflowers," of Post No. 5, with 60 men.
The "Razors," of Post No. 8, with 80 men.
The "Lambs," of Post No. 51, with 60 men.
The "Skye-terriers," of Post No. 18, with 20 men.
The "Lambs," of Post No. 51, were accompanied by the Morgueonian Band of 25 pieces, and officered as follows: President, Q. M.-Gen. John Taylor; Leader, Thomas H. Kay; Drum Major, Chas. J. Barger. A live lamb, beautifully decorated with various colors, was taken along as an insignia of their name. At the depot the comrades formed in line, and preceded by the Frankford Cornet Band marched to camp, where they were assigned to their quarters by A. A.-Gen. Stewart.

The camp was located on East Cemetery Hill, and consisted of about 600 tents, and was under the personal command of Department Commander Harper. Until late in the evening the comrades kept arriving from the different parts of the State, and the number of comrades and the condition of the camp could not be well ascertained until the next day. Bright and early Sunday morning the comrades were up and about, and then it was seen that at least 3,000 comrades were in camp, and 1,000 more located at various hotels and private houses. At 10:30 o'clock Sunday morning the services were held in the National Cemetery, at which Department Chaplain, Rev. John W. Sayers, officiated and delivered an appropriate sermon, to the very large audience. In the evening he also officiated at the services held by the "Sunflowers." Immediately after the services in the Cemetery a sacred concert was held in camp by the band. In the evening dress parade was held, which was participated in by 500 comrades, and was one of the very best ever held on the battlefield. It was reviewed by the Department Commander and the other Department officers, and Past Commanders-in-Chief Louis Wagner and A. B. Beath, and P. D. C., Col. Chill W. Hazzard, John Taylor, J. M. Vanderslice, and Austin Curtin. At least 10,000 people congregated on the camp grounds in the evening to listen to the Frankford Cornet Band, and all were well pleased with the elegant musical selections rendered.

On Monday afternoon the survivors of the 18th Pa. Cav. assembled in the Court-house and formed a permanent organization and elected the following officers: President, Thomas J. Grier; V.-P's John Britton and L. J. Richards; Sec., J. A. Wilt, and Treas., George W. Neiman. In compliance with a motion that was adopted, the President will appoint a committee to make proper arrangements for the erection of a monument to mark the position held by the regiment during the battle.

In the evening a sham battle was fought at the base of Cemetery Hill, in which the "Sunflowers" of Post No. 5 came off victorious. At the conclusion of the battle Capt. James T. Long, the battlefield guide, delivered an illustrated lecture on the first three days' fight at Gettysburg. The views were exhibited on canvas by Professor Wm. W Bartram, of Post No. 8. The Captain pictured the battle of Gettysburg as the most decisive one of the war, and showed that it was the desire of Gen. Lee to destroy the State Capitol at Harrisburg. On the map he gave a very interesting and entertaining account of the marches of the various Divisions on the few days preceding the battle, especially picturing the route taken by Gen. Reynolds, and the work done by him on the first day. He showed the position held by both Union and Confederate troops and the work done by both on that day. The Captain held the attention of the large crowd for nearly two hours, and was frequently interrupted by the applause. After the lecture the band rendered several selections. On Tuesday evening the Captain gave a graphic account of the second day's fight to an audience of considerable numbers.

On Monday morning the business session of the Encampment was called to order by Department Commander Harper at 10:30 o'clock. A resolution was adopted at the meeting thanking Gen. Wagner for his services in connection with the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools. A resolution was also adopted asking that the next session of the National Encampment be held in Pittsburg in 1888.

It has been suggested by numerous comrades that if the National Encampment be held in this State next year, to have its business sessions the last three days of June, and hold the Department Summer Encampment at Gettysburg on the first six days of July, so that the comrades attending the National Encampment can visit the battlefield. As there are several other Departments that are striving to have the next National Encampment meet at some certain place, it would be safe to say that if the comrades deem it prudent to visit Pittsburg next year, they will receive such a welcome that ever after they will have a place in their hearts for Pennsylvania. The "Sunflowers," "Razors" and "Lambs" visited the various points of interest on the battlefield, and the day closed with the usual music by the band.

At 7 o'clock Tuesday morning about 150 comrades and friends boarded a train and visited the famous Luray Caverns in West Virginia. Many of the comrades remained at Luray over night, and next day visited the battlefields of Antietam and Harper's Ferry. "The Razors" formed in line on the same morning, and headed by the band wended their way to Spangler's Springs, where the day was spent in jollifications of various kinds. In the afternoon the 87th Pa. held its annual Reunion and transacted routine business and held election of officers, which resulted as follows: President, John W. Schall; V.-P's James Turner, James A. Stahle, N. G. Richl, John Fahs, John Allbright and C. H. Buchler. Comrades J. K. Rapp and T. J. Thomas were elected Secretaries. The next Reunion will be held in York on Sept. 24 of next year. The Battlefield Memorial Association held a meeting in the afternoon and decided to mark the spot where Gen. Armistead, of Pickett's Division, was killed inside our lines during the charge on July 3, 1863. Considerable discussion was caused by a reference made to a recent resolution passed by the association barring from the grounds all materials with the exception of real bronze and granite. The question was definitely settled by the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the action of the Board taken Feb. 25, 1887, designating material for monuments, be adhered to and no further action be taken on the subject until the monument of the 4th Ohio, now being constructed, shall be erected; *Provided*, that the Executive Committee is authorized to consider and dispose of any application for the use of native marble.

The White Bronze Company, of Bridgeport, is the one mostly injured by the resolution. The annual election of officers was held and resulted in the re-election of the old officers. They are: Vice-President, Col. C. H. Buehler; Sec., John M. Krauth; Treas., J. L. Shick; Superintendent of Tablets and Legends, Col. J. B. Bachelder; Superintendent of Grounds, N. G. Wilson. Gov. Beaver is President of the association ex-officio.

The 56th Regimental Association held a Reunion in the hall of Corp'l Skelly Post, No. 9, in the morning, and re-elected T. D. Cunningham, of Blairsville, President, and J. M. Stover, of Chester, Secretary and Treasurer. The association is arranging for the erection of a monument on the battlefield, which they expect to dedicate at the time of their next Reunion, which will be held on July 1.

The usual dress parade that had been indulged in was dispensed with on account of the indifferent feeling of the comrades. In place of the dress parade the "Razors and Lambs" held a burlesque parade, which afforded considerable amusement to the spectators. Later in the evening the "Sunflowers" proceeded to the town and held a general serenade, and made things very lively for the citizens.

Wednesday was spent in wandering over the battlefield and relic hunting by a majority of the comrades. "The Sunflowers," who ate and cooked their meals in camp, invited the Department Commander and staff to dinner on Wednesday, and the invitation being accepted a very enjoyable time was passed. After the dinner Department Commander Harper, A. A.-G. Stewart and Commander Coggins made addresses. Thursday morning found the camp greatly forsaken, and the few remaining were making preparations for departure. The day was spent by "The Lambs," "Razors" and "Sunflowers" at Spangler's Springs, where a very jolly afternoon was passed.

In the evening a large Campfire was held, at which 8,000 persons were present. Adj't-Gen. Stewart presided, and his genial introductions and witty sayings added to the success of the Campfire. After a selection by the band Department Commander Harper was introduced, and spoke at length on the success of the Encampment and the generous hospitality of the people of Gettysburg. He also protested against the great grave at Pickett's Division is receiving, and showed clearly that the men who withstood the assault of that division were as brave, if not braver, than the men of Pickett's Division. He then made way for Comrade Tom Kay, of Post No. 51, who enlivened the audience with "Old Coffee Kettle," part of them joining in the chorus. He also followed that with his version of "Yum Yum," which caused considerable merriment. Past Department Commander J. M. Vanderslice was next introduced, and made an eloquent speech. He pictured how, in a few more years, the Encampments will have to be done away with, owing to the fast decrease in members. After a few selections from the band Comrade Stewart introduced Past Department Commander Maj. Austin Curtin as the noisiest man in camp, and complained that he deprived many comrades of their sleep at night because of his noisy disposition. The introduction was enjoyed hugely by the audience, owing to the fact that Comrade Curtin is of a retiring disposition, and had been complaining of the noise. As soon as he could Comrade Curtin admitted that the joke had been fairly placed on him, and then proceeded with a lively address.

He was followed by Comrade Thos. L. Vanderslice, of Post No. 2, who amused the audience with a story entitled "Fare you well, Father Watkins." After "Recollections" by the band, Comrade Kay again entertained the crowd with "Paddy's Curiosity Shop." While singing the comrade tore a neat tidy from an old newspaper, which he presented to Mrs. Wilson, wife of Serg't N. G. Wilson, Superintendent of the National Cemetery. He followed the same with "You Grow More Like Your Dad Every Day," and then gave an imitation of flute playing on a cane, both of which were greatly appreciated by the audience. Comrade Patterson, of Post No. 7, came next with a cornet solo, that entertained the people for some time. Commander Harper introduced A. A.-G. Stewart at the conclusion of the solo, in a very pleasant manner. After a few witty sayings Comrade Stewart recited "The Soldier Tramp" in a truly original manner, and at its conclusion was vociferously applauded. The band then rendered several other musical selections, and at their conclusion the Campfire ended. Friday morning at 9 o'clock camp was broken, and a special train taken for home. The Philadelphia train arrived at that city at 3:19 in the afternoon.

NOTES OF THE ENCAMPMENT.

The "Jolly Bucks," of Renovo Post, No. 142, were present in large numbers. The association has the following officers: President, R. N. Martin; Sec., Frank Elliott; Treas., Archer McDonnell.

The "Doves," of Post No. 226, of Marietta, attracted considerable attention. About 45 members of this club were in camp. The officers of this association are: President, H. L. Haldeman; V.-P., A. R. Lutz; Sec., E. W. McElroy; Treas., W. L. Smedley; Chap., E. L. Reinhold; Surg., G. W. Reich.

Post No. 5, of Philadelphia, had seven Past Post Commanders present in camp. Comrade John Stewart, of this Post, lost a very handsome gold presentation watch while asleep. The "Razors," of Post No. 226, also attracted considerable attention.

Every morning and evening a salute was fired. On Tuesday evening fireworks were displayed.

Several accidents happened in camp during the week, the most serious being those sustained by Comrades Thomas H. Kay, of Post No. 51, who sustained a very bad injury about the left eye; Commander Coggins, of Post No. 5, who sprained his hand, and A. Freeman, of Post No. 8, who seriously fractured his right leg.

While the Encampment was not held at a time desired by many, yet it was the most successful and enjoyable one ever held by the Department, notwithstanding the fact that last year it was held on the anniversary of the battle.

Credit is due to A. A.-G. Thomas J. Stewart, A. Q. M.-G. H. G. M. Williams, N. G. Wilson, Wm. M. Bartram, James T. Long and J. M. Vanderslice for their untiring efforts in working for the success of the Encampment. The various "Gettysburg Clubs" are also to be thanked for the interest manifested in the Encampment, especially the "Razors," "Lambs" and "Sunflowers" of Philadelphia. The first two organizations have been for years past the sole life of the camps, and their efforts this year in making the camp lively have met with the greatest success, and show that the "boys" are not yet losing their old-time vim.

TENNESSEE.—

P. E. Johnson, Jamestown, Tenn: Ellsworth Post had a grand old time on the 4th of July. With many of their friends they celebrated the anniversary of the Nation by holding an old soldiers' Reunion. Comrades met at 10 a. m. about 60 ex-soldiers and about 100 soldiers' sons formed in the public square and marched out to the Academy, where the Declaration of Independence was read by Comrade Lacy, after which a dinner of hardtack, bacon and coffee was served.

VIRGINIA.—

At the last regular meeting of John A. Logan Post, No. 26, Chesapeake City, it was unanimously resolved that the language and action of the Commander-in-Chief in relation to the return of the captured flags should be fully indorsed by the Post, and the Adjutant was instructed to request THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE to publish their action in the matter.

See Comrade Taylor's adv. on page 5.

EX-PRISONERS OF WAR.

Meeting and Organizing.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

At the regular monthly meeting of the Association the following were elected delegates to the National Meeting in Chicago: Comrades T. R. McKee, S. E. Thomason, L. P. Williams, M. T. Anderson and Chas. P. Lincoln; Alternates, L. A. Littlefield, W. H. Norton, Adolph von Haake, Eli A. Berry and J. A. Macauley.

See Comrade Taylor's adv. on page 5.

First in Petersburg.

EDITOR NATIONAL TRIBUNE: I think that I can throw some light on the subject of the first troops to enter Petersburg. On the morning of April 2 our corps (the Sixth) broke through the rebel works on our left near Fort Fisher, and the corps massed, if I remember, on the rebels' right. That afternoon there was a detailed picket made of a squad under the command of Lieut.-Col. J. A. Fay, 40th N. J. The next morning we saw what we thought was a flag of truce, and the Colonel ordered an advance. We were met by the Mayor of the city, and he said: "I have come to deliver in your hands the keys of the city of Petersburg." The Colonel then ordered Capt. Ezra Stewart, of Co. I, 40th N. J., and myself, the only officers from his regiment with the reserve picket, to go into the city. Before we got in he ordered Capt. Stewart, with part of the command, to guard the junction of two roads, and directed me to take the rest of the men and go into the city and stay until further orders. I halted my men on an open lot beside a large tobacco factory. The tobacco was consigned to the French Government, but the boys got there all the same. This was just at daylight, and we were there a long time before I saw any other troops. The first ones I did see looked as if they had been run through a clay-pit, but I did not know to what command they belonged. Now, if the Michigan regiment had its colors on the courthouse first, how is it that the colored troops did the provost duty in the city, as I have always understood? I claim it was the 40th N. J. that had the honor of being in the city of Petersburg first.—EDWIN HEDDEN, Lieutenant, Co. B, 40th N. J., Orlando, Fla.

See Comrade Taylor's adv. on page 5.

W. D. Kirkpatrick, 17th Ind. M. I., Owensville, Ind., writes a brief sketch of the heroic conduct of Wilder's Brigade in defending the breach in the line at Chickamauga.

RELIEF CORPS NEWS.

Gleanings from National Headquarters--Notes from the Departments.

HEADQUARTERS WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS
SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

ELIZABETH D'A. KINNE, National President.
NELLIE G. BACKUS, National Secretary.

419 CALA ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.,
July 8, 1887.

DEAR TRIBUNE: The National President frequently receives letters asking to whom a Corps can extend relief, and if it can assist any but the families of the comrades of the Post whose name the Corps bears. While a subordinate Corps cannot be chartered unless the application for charter is signed as approved by a Post Commander, and the Corps thus chartered bears the name of the Post whose Commander signed the application, yet the charities of that Corps are not necessarily confined to that Post.

In many instances old-established and flourishing Posts have a large relief fund, and the services of the Corps are not called upon except in visiting the sick or to provide some little luxury, or possibly clothing, or to aid the Post in social entertainments, and yet the Corps may at the same time be aiding the families of veterans or of soldiers who are numbered among the 300,000 who did not return to home and loved ones at the close of the war. Such cases never appeal in vain to a Corps, and thousands of dollars are expended every year and large quantities of clothing distributed among widows and orphans. All the proof required by a Corps from applicants for assistance is that they are veterans of the civil war or their dependents, and substantial aid is immediately and cheerfully given.

Only two days ago a disabled veteran presented himself at National Headquarters, and was anxious to get back to Leavenworth, Kan. He was without money or friends in San Francisco, and desired money to take him to his friends. The Relief Corps came promptly to his assistance, furnished the money for railroad fare and packed a lunch-basket, and sent the old soldier away happy.

As the Woman's Relief Corps was organized for purposes of charity, Corps should keep their treasury well supplied, for each year the demand for such assistance as they are able to give will increase. Many a widow who has struggled and worked for years to provide for herself and family finds herself unable longer to work, health and sight failing, and to the Relief Corps she naturally turns for comfort and support. It is very gratifying to know that while these demands are increasing the means for meeting them are also increasing, and everywhere new Corps are being organized and old ones gaining members.

The new Department of Maryland, the last one organized, is making excellent progress, the membership of the Corps in Baltimore increasing; the ladies are working nobly, and assisting the Posts at their Campfires and entertainments. The Department will probably number 10 Corps at the close of the quarter.

Sarah Plummer, Department President of Michigan, is very enthusiastic over the increase of membership and interest in her State.

Mrs. Marion L. Powell, Chairman of the Committee for the fifth National Convention, has secured a very beautiful and convenient hall for the Convention, and also one for the reception which will be given by the W.R.C. to the G.A.R. The committee are working earnestly and faithfully, determined to do all in their power for the comfort of all who may attend the Convention.

The National Chaplain, Mary Garard, writes most cheerfully and encouragingly of our progress of the work in Iowa, and is looking forward with much pleasure to a Reunion at St. Louis. She is anxiously awaiting the reports of the Department Chaplains, which she should receive by the 15th of the present month, and there certainly can be no possible excuse for a delinquent report. Miss Garard is very prompt herself, and will not delay her report for laggards.

Among the pleasant members of the Order that it was our good fortune to meet at Portland, Me., we were especially delighted with Mrs. Adaline Kent, the able President of the Department of New Hampshire, and the Past National Junior Vice. Illness in the family has prevented her the past few months from active duties in the Corps, but her interest has in no degree lessened, and she assures us that she has watched with pleasurable pride the advancement of our beloved Order during the past year. It was a great disappointment to Mrs. Kent not to have been able to attend the fourth National Convention in San Francisco, but we certainly hope that we may have her cheerful presence and valuable assistance at St. Louis.

It is to be confidently expected that nothing will prevent any of the past National Officers from attending the next Convention.

EUREKA.

EXTRACT FROM GENERAL ORDERS, NO 7.

The following Assistant National Inspectors are announced:

Sarah J. Farwell, Oakland, Cal.; Hannah B. Wilson, Denver, Colo.; Kezia A. Peck, Bristol, Conn.; Mary E. Elson, Huron, Dak.; Mary P. Gale, Lacon, Ill.; Freelone Elam, Valparaiso, Ind.; Maggie Monroe, Iowa City, Iowa; Anna Bell, Great Bend, Kan.; M. Isabelle Foster, Hanover, Me.; Alfrena J. Whittredge, Malden, Mass.; Hattie A. Thompson, Flint, Mich.; Lulie A. Becker, St. Paul, Minn.; Bessie E. Young, Kansas City, Mo.; Mary R. Morgan, Alma, Neb.; Nancy M. Moore, Nashua, N. H.; Mary F. Appleby, Old Bridge, N. J.; Sarah E. Philips, Sauquoit, N. Y.; Janet M. Pond, Malta, O.; Ray Delano, Eugene City, Ore.; Lizzie Ross, Clarion, Pa.; Lucy J. Bradshaw, Montpelier, Vt.; Nellie Alexander, Seattle, Wash. Ter.

The National President learns with astonishment that some Corps have seen fit to make greater or less changes in the Ritualistic work of our Order, in direct disobedience to Regulations and General Orders upon the subject. Corps must not add to or take from the phraseology of our Ritual, or introduce any prayer or other matter beside that found in our services. The sanction of Department Officers or Conventions to any such innovations is entirely unauthorized, and Corps Presidents are charged with the duty of conforming strictly to our Ritual.

The fifth National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps will convene in St. Louis, Mo., on the 28th day of September. National Headquarters have been secured at the Southern Hotel, and information regarding accommodations for Departments or individuals can be obtained by addressing Marion L. Powell, Chairman of Committee of Arrangements for the W.R.C., No. 3100 Pestalozzi Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. While the Convention will be formally called together in future Orders, the National President desires to urge upon all representatives a full attendance, and would suggest that timely steps be taken to secure quarters.

While the National President is desirous of increasing our numbers, the fundamental principles as to eligibility to membership in our Order must not be overlooked, and Department Presidents are especially enjoined not to charter a Corps until they are satisfied that this principle is fully understood and will be faithfully adhered to. Department Presidents are reminded that, with the advice of their Council, they not only have the right but it is their duty to revoke the charter of any Corps, when satisfied that loyal women are not admitted to their ranks unless qualified by relationship to the Union veteran.

None are turned away from our Order; the patriotic woman who had neither husband, son nor brother whom she could give to the cause, if willing to participate in our labors of charity, is just as welcome as the veteran's wife or daughter who may have known nothing of those trying and anxious hours.

The founders of our grand organization wisely opened our doors for the admission of *all loyal women*, thus giving us opportunity to bring under our direct influence the families of our "communities in which we live," and "to inculcate lessons of patriotism," which almost of necessity must be inborn in the family of every Union veteran.

By command of
ELIZABETH D'ARCY KINNE,
National President.
NELLIE G. BACKUS, National Secretary.

THE INDIANA COMPLICATION.

By request of Indiana comrades and prominent workers in the W.R.C., we give place to a letter written by Mrs. Kate B. Sherwood, Past National President, to the President of Sion S. Bass Corps, Fort Wayne. It gives a clear understanding of the situation and defines the duty of the G.A.R. and W.R.C. in the case. It gives us pleasure to note that Sion S. Bass Post sustains the Corps in their successful stand for regularly-constituted authority and their allegiance to the National organization. Other Corps have fallen into line, and it is hoped that all may accept the general amnesty extended by the National President, Mrs. Elizabeth D'Arcy Kinne, and speedily return to the true fold.

TOLEDO, O., May 14, 1887.

Mrs. M. B. Gorsline, President, Sion S. Bass Corps, No. 7, Fort Wayne, Ind.

MY DEAR MADAM: Your letter afforded me much pleasure, as showing the regard of solemn obligations upon the part of the officers and members of Sion S. Bass Corps, viz, to "obey all orders from proper authority."

The whole trouble in Indiana has arisen from a misunderstanding of the relations existing between the Grand Army of the Republic and the Woman's Relief Corps. In the strictest sense is the Woman's Corps auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic.

We are expected to work in accord with the underlying principles of the Order, which are ours—Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

But while this is true we are, in all that pertains to the internal self-government of the Woman's Relief Corps, a distinct organization. By which I mean we elect our own officers, arrange for our own times and places of meeting, and are amenable to our own proper authorities, as the Grand Army Posts are to theirs.

In the Grand Army of the Republic there is (1) the National Encampment, which is the supreme authority, the exponent of which, ad interim, is the Commander-in-Chief. (2) There is the Department, with its Department Commander, receiving orders from the National Encampment and the Commander-in-Chief. (3) There is the Post, with its Post Commander, receiving orders from the Department. Thus there is a grand chain from Post to Department, and from Department to National.

In the Woman's Relief Corps the same kind of relationship exists, viz, from Corps to Department, from Department to National.

Consequently a Corps President true to her obligations must obey the orders of the regularly-constituted Department President as the Department President must obey the National President.

The Woman's Relief Corps (and in this I speak by authority as one of its founders) received the right to use the word "auxiliary" from the Indianapolis National Encampment of 1881, and in accordance with this resolution effected a National organization at Denver in 1883. In giving this great privilege the National Encampment imposed no conditions, made no rules, prescribed no form or order of work. It simply laid its official seal and sanction upon the great woman movement in aid of the Union veterans, their widows and orphans, with the implied understanding that the patriotism and loyal fidelity of their sisters and mothers and daughters, and the born loyal women of the Union would hold them true to the principles under which they were to organize.

With this also was the implied understanding that should these women, so banded together, fall short of the trust imposed upon them, then the National Encampment could withdraw from them the right to use the word "auxiliary," under which such great things have been accomplished.

The Woman's Relief Corps, deeply sensible of the honor conferred upon them, thereupon set to work to devise rules and regulations not only for the furtherance of their organization, but for the protection and honor of the Grand Army of the Republic. And now please bear in mind that we women made our own rules. The use of the word "auxiliary" was our passport into every State and Territory to every Post desiring to organize. But we proceeded to impose upon ourselves the following conditions:

First. That no subordinate Corps could organize save as auxiliary to a Post and by vote of a Post, duly attested by the signature of the Post Commander. This is the best test of the need for woman's work in the G.A.R.

Second. That as soon as five subordinate Corps had been organized in any Department of the Grand Army of the Republic, said Corps could organize themselves into a Department, elect officers, hold Conventions, and discharge all the duties required in Rules and Regulations. Bear in mind that all subordinate Corps might have been governed directly from National Headquarters. The organization of Departments was for the better conduct of Relief Corps work in the several States, and to aid the Department of the Grand Army in any general work, such as for Soldiers' Homes, soldiers' orphans and so on.

In several of our Departments, as in Massachusetts, Ohio, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and California, the Departments of the Grand Army have given a formal recognition to the Departments of the Woman's Relief Corps and invited their aid and co-operation in measures of State relief. In all such depart