

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

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New Guessing Contest.

We invite special attention to the particulars of the new Guessing Contest fully explained on page 1 of this issue. The best way not to be disappointed in the result of this contest is to be in it. Remember, that for every subscriber sent in the enclosure has one chance to get a share of the \$500 in cash, in addition to all other premiums.

Table with 2 columns: Date and Amount. Monday, Feb. 5, \$2,138,219; Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1,182,414; Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2,547,232; Thursday, Feb. 8, 1,936,383; Friday, Feb. 9, 1,548,919; Saturday, Feb. 10, 1,673,504.

AGINALDO seems to have at last run clear out of the sign and hearing of the most notorious newspaper reporter.

THE necessity for such extraordinary measures as the Court of Pension Appeals is the strongest indictment of the Commissioner of Pensions.

EVERYONE admits that Mr. Evans' pet scheme for beguiling the veterans by a Codification Commission is dead beyond hope of resurrection. THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE killed it by a simple explanation to the comrades of its meaning and effect.

IN ANOTHER column Private Dalzell goes to the root of the pension trouble with forceful clearness. We have not always agreed with Private Dalzell, but the disagreements have been as to policy, rather than on principle. His heart is always in the right place, and few men equal him in strong, clear pleading of a rightful cause.

THE legislation recommended by the National Pension Committee amending the act of June 27, 1890, will probably pass at an early date. But what good will it do with a Commissioner who is bent upon not carrying out the law at all?

At one time Mr. Evans held up his hands in horror at the idea of restoring Order 164, which he said would cost the country an unnumbered millions of dollars. Then, at the next visit of the National Committee, he told them that he was practically carrying out Order 164, an astonishing disability.

ONE good thing accomplished by the National Pension Committee has been to measurably shut off Evans' stream of abuse of veterans and their widows, with which he has been filling the press of the country for the three years that he has been in office. He does not seem to be furnishing manifold type-written reports to newspapers in view of his superlative keenness in detecting frauds, as much as he did.

It is not strange that the only man now connected with the Pension Bureau, or ever connected with it, who was really honest, who really understood the pension laws, and who could be really trusted to do the right thing at all times is Henry Clay Evans? When he is not abusing pension attorneys as the source of all evil he is scolding the Boards of Examining Surgeons, or some of the employees of the Bureau for their ignorance, incompetence, or too favorable leaning toward the poor man who wants his rights.

SENATORS Teller, Callom, Allen and a number of others expressed their very natural surprise that the bill which they had voted for to make no pension less than \$10 should be construed by the Pension Bureau to mean that a man with a \$2 rating, and no more, should lose that which he had. They stated that the meaning of the law at the time of its passage was that the \$2 man should be raised to \$6. Senator Teller denounced this misconstruction as an "atrocious and wicked thing."

HON. JAS. WILSON, Secretary of Agriculture, was present at the banquet of the Department of the Potomac, and heartily approved of the Commander-in-Chief's speech. He disclaimed being able to make a speech himself, but said that in a country which produced 2,000,000,000 bushels of corn, 500,000,000 bushels of wheat, and millions of cattle and hogs every year, it was utterly absurd that any soldier should starve, or even be in want. There was no justification in denying him his rights on the ground of expense, and he reminded the Congressmen present that no man had ever been defeated on the ground of voting in favor of liberality in pension legislation but the reverse was often true.

THE managers of the customary revolution in Venezuela ought to import some coaches of American football teams, so as to give the affair a little vim, and arouse public interest.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S SPEECH.

We give up a good portion of our space this week to the publication in full of the speech of the Commander-in-Chief at the Grand Army banquet in this city, Monday evening, Feb. 5. The speech is eminently worth all the space we give it. The Grand Army, represented by the Commander-in-Chief and National Pension Committee.

Now they will try what virtue there is in stones." Mr. Evans, with the aid of his ever-active literary bureau, has succeeded in deceiving the President, Congress, and part of the people as to what the Grand Army has really said and meant about him. Because the Pension Committee and the National Evancement spoke with reserve and dignity, because they did not specify him by name, and apply to him epithets which he richly deserved, he has had the audacity to claim that he was "indicated," "frustrated," "concocted," "concocted," etc. As none of the great daily papers published the report of the Committee on Pensions, and if they had it would have been difficult for the general and non-veteran reader to fully understand the necessity of a complete presentation of the case, he was able to deceive the public. But neither he nor his satellites can mystify or pervert the plain, straightforward words of the Commander-in-Chief. They are as clear, incisive, an arraignment of his administration of the Pension Bureau as the English language is capable of, and addressed directly to the sympathies of the common people with the men who saved the Nation.

The speech leaves absolutely no room for any one to mistake the sentiments of the Grand Army of the Republic toward Mr. Evans. It was as formal and emphatic a voicing as could be made of the bitter discontent of the veterans over the heartless breaking of the promises made to them in 1861. The speech was delivered at a public and formal gathering of the Department of the Potomac, G. A. R., and enthusiastically approved by every comrade present. It was delivered within stone's throw of the White House, in the presence of Members of the Cabinet, Senators and Representatives, and its more essential portions were published in the daily papers of the city so that it could be read by the President, Cabinet, and Congress. It was the first time that anything adverse to Evans has been allowed to be published in some of the papers.

The Commander-in-Chief followed up his arraignment by a vigorous letter to the Department of the Potomac, which is published elsewhere, in which he makes a crushing rejoinder to Evans' personal attack of "frauds" by showing how incomparably greater are the frauds with which the other Commissioners, those of Customs, Internal Revenue, Land Office, etc., have to contend with, and yet none of them continually "shook the general ear with horrid speech."

Differing markedly from Evans, none of these other Commissioners is constantly filling the papers with self-laudation as to how much smarter and more honest and more devoted to the public interest he is than any of his subordinates or predecessors. Unlike Mr. Evans, no other is forever telling how miserable he found the conditions of his office, how incompetent and untrustworthy are all his subordinates, how ignorant his predecessors were of the true meaning of the laws, and how his keen intelligence and unfinching integrity are all that stand between the Treasury and a mob of ravenous looters.

The speech was a masterly effort, and marks a new epoch in the agitation for justice to veterans and their widows. Its effect for good can not help being strongly marked.

BAD DIPLOMACY.

There is general and deserved condemnation of the Pannefote-Hay Treaty. We are not going to build the Nicaragua Canal as a benefit to the rest of the world. We are to construct it primarily for our own benefit, and incidentally allow the rest of the world the benefit of it so far as that does not conflict with our interests. President Hayes announced the correct doctrine when he said that the canal was to be a "prolongation of our coast line." We must have as full and absolute control of it as we do of our own coasts and harbors. Nothing less will be tolerable. We do not propose to spend \$140,000,000 merely to give the rest of the world a shorter line of transit. The intention is to give us speedy transit between our Atlantic and Pacific coasts, and to double the effectiveness of our navy by enabling us to quickly concentrate it in one sea or the other. This makes it imperative that the canal shall be as absolutely in our own hands as any section of our coast lines. We must fortify and guard it in the strongest manner, for it will be entirely too easy for an enemy to interrupt passage through the canal, at some critical moment defeat a vital concentration, and subject us to defeat. Lastly, the treaty is a violation of the Monroe Doctrine, as it admits British influence into a matter of the highest importance. The only Nations that have any legitimate interest in the canal are the United States and the Republic of Nicaragua. Everybody else must keep strictly out of the deal.

CAPT. P. H. CONEY, of Topeka, Kan., feels aggrieved at a recent remark of ours that we "knew of no pension attorney in the country that dared say his soul is his own." Capt. Coney, who has been valiant and outspoken in defense of veterans' rights, has been complimented by THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for his zeal and courage. We have never regarded him as a pension attorney, but rather that his pension business was merely a side-issue to his other legal practice, and conducted, as many comrades do, more for the benefit of his comrades than for any personal profit resulting therefrom.

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PENSIONS, BIRTS AND ABROAD.

The last war that importantly figures in our pension lists ended in 1865. Our army was then reduced to a primary nominal figure of 25,000 men, and remained at that figure for 33 years.

Five years later Germany fought one of the most strenuous wars in history, and ever since has maintained a standing army of half a million men, not counting reserves.

Yet Germany's total pension payments for military service amounted in the last fiscal year to only \$15,428,250, while our expenditure on the like account was no less than \$129,482,000, and the estimate for this year is \$145,000,000.

The British Empire is practically always at war in some part of the earth, while we had complete peace, except for Indian outbreaks, for 33 years previous to 1898. Yet the total British payments for army and navy pensions during the last fiscal year were only \$12,730,445, or less than one-tenth of our expenditure on the like account.

France, the nation that maintains the largest military establishment in Western Europe, and the nation traditionally most generous to its defenders, has a total army and navy pension list of only \$30,310,000, or about one-ninth of our payments.

Is patriotism a lost virtue? Is it not time to revise our notions of what constitutes title to a pension?—New York World.

The editor of the New York World only betrays his own ignorance by writing such stuff as this. The \$15,428,250, more or less, which Germany pays for pensions only represents a small portion of her actual pension system. Every department of public employment is reserved for veterans and their widows. This extends even to the old men and women who watch the grade crossings of railroads.

The same is true in another way of France. The Government gives its old soldiers and their widows substantial privileges in licenses to sell Government monopolies in tobacco, matches, etc. Great Britain pays over \$25,000,000 in pensions, or more than twice what the World says. The main difference is that the bulk of British pensions goes to the higher officers, instead of to the rank and file, as in this country. Then there is one fact that the World editor is ignorant of. That is, that, in spite of the numberless petty wars in which England has been engaged, our war of the rebellion cost more lives lost on the field of battle than England has lost in all the 800 years in which she has been a nation.

Another great fact, of which the World editor is grossly ignorant, and which shows a shameful ignorance of the history of his country, is that our pension roll represents more actual hard fighting than all the pension-rolls of Europe put together.

THE clumsy, sluggish way in which the British attempt their "turning movements" as they term them, reminds us of a song the Army of the Potomac boys used to sing: "Way down in old Virginia, not many months ago, Joe Hooker made a movement, but he made it mighty slow. The rebels soon found it out, and flung him on the right. And that's the reason why, my boys, we're bumming here to-night. In the ole Virginia lowlands, low, in the ole Virginia lowlands, low."

What the British should do is to send for a photograph of one of Sherman's long-legged marchers in 1864—the finest marcher and fighter the world ever saw. They would see a young fellow, with substantial army brogans on his feet, his socks pulled up over the ends of his pantaloons and tied there; his blanket and pup-tent thrown over his shoulder scarf-fashion; three days' rations in his haversack, 40 rounds of cartridges in his box, and 40 more in his pockets, a trusty Springfield rifle in his hands, and unlimited confidence in himself and his officers in his heart. He would easily cover 100 miles in three days, and fight and whip anything he encountered. If the British had a few thousand such as he, they would have no trouble in finding the Boers "end," and routing them out of their stronghold.

THAT noble Order of workers, the W. E. C. U., has sustained a severe loss in the death of Mrs. Anne Wittmeyer, who died at her home near Pittsboro, Pa., Feb. 2, aged 72. She was born of Scotch-Irish Revolutionary parentage in Sandy Springs, O., and married and removed to Keokuk, Iowa, where she opened a free school for the children of the town. She was from the first prominent in literary, church and temperance work. At the outbreak of the rebellion she helped to organize a soldiers' aid society, and then went to the front as a nurse, and manager of hospitals. She collected and distributed about \$100,000 of supplies during the war. After the war she went into home missionary and temperance work, and was the first President of the W. E. C. U., in which position she continued for five years. She entered the Woman's Relief Corps at its formation, and from that day until her death was prominent in its work. She was elected National President in 1889. She inaugurated and carried forward to success a movement for a Pennsylvania home for soldiers' mothers, widows and orphan children. She also inaugurated the movement for a National Woman's Relief Corps Home, which was established at Madison, O. At the time of her death she was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Home.

THE BRITISH have now in South Africa about as many men as Gen. Grant moved from all directions against Richmond in the Spring of 1864. This would include Meade's, Burnside's, Butler's, Sigel's, and Sheridan's forces, and those left for the defense of Washington and the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. But the fighting done by them is a very feeble comparison with that inaugurated when Grant crossed the Rapidan that fateful May 3, 1864.

OOM PAUL seems to be one of the Generals who can get along very well without a special correspondent at headquarters. The reporters at the other fellow's headquarters serve his purposes just as well.

SUPPOSE that, instead of some 250,000 all told, men, women and children, of Boers and Free Staters, Great Britain had to buck up against a Southern Confederacy of about 10,000,000 people.

HISTORY repeats itself. We started out with a Bull Run. Great Britain had on the Tugela River a Buller Run.

RIDICULOUS TACTICS.

The dispatches give us little hope that the British commanders are learning much of the practical side of war. There is still a clamor for more artillery, and more artillery ammunition, and much gasconade about "the terrible effect of our lyddite shells and Maxims." Every old infantryman in the United States must laugh at this nonsense about driving away an entrenched infantry line with shell-fire, or even shaking its nerves, though all the east-iron in England be hurled at it. One of the best illustrations of the futility of this was afforded by Gettysburg. There our infantry line lay out in the open meadow and wheat-fields, while Lee pounded them for three long hours with 200 guns only a mile distant. When Pickett finally came out, he found our infantry all there, with their nerves in fine shape, and they proceeded to tear him to pieces in the most approved manner. So far as Pickett's reception by the Second Corps was concerned every one of the tons of iron which Lee had been laboriously hauling up from Virginia to hurl at the Second Corps might quite as well have remained in the Tredegar Iron Works at Richmond. Pickett was whipped just as swiftly and completely as if the rebel guns had not fired a shell.

The Germans, French, Austrians, etc., have a great opinion of the noisy artillery, though Sheridan, riding over the bloody field of Gravelotte, where the Prussian artillery made its greatest exhibition, could not find an average of one man killed by artillery for each of the 200 guns concentrated upon the French. American soldiers quickly learned that the man with the musket is the decider of battles. Give him a chance to dig a little hole in the ground, or get behind a low ridge, and he will stay there in spite of all the cannon in the country, and he will kill everything for a half-mile in front of him, except another rifleman who has gained similar protection. The battle is really and always between those two fellows. The deadly infantry fire is the settling proposition. Artillery and everything else are merely sideshows to the men with the muskets. The Boers fight American fashion. They can only be whipped American fashion, by rifle-men who will take every advantage of the ground. Instead of slavishly following German and French models, the British should study the art of war as developed this side the Atlantic.

MR. EVANS is by no means one of his usual deceptive statements in the Internal Pension Committee, in regard to the Medical Division of the Pension Bureau, which he would have the Committee to believe was made up of old Army Surgeons. Many of them wearing a medal of honor. This is in line with his parading the number of veterans and their widows employed in the Pension Bureau—the fact being that in a Bureau which should be filled to overflowing with veterans and their widows, there are only 525 of these, in a total force of 1,741, or not more than 33 per cent. We do not care to go into an analysis of the membership of the Medical Division, since they are all men subordinates, who have to choose to do exactly as the Commissioner directs. The entire responsibility is with him. The fact is, however, that comparatively few of them are soldiers, and the majority of them do not fill the legal requirements of being "physicians and surgeons of education, skill and experience." They are clerks who have taken more or less education after hours, in the schools of this city, and have never practiced anywhere. But, as we have said before, this is immaterial. They are merely there to do Henry Clay Evans' bidding, and cut down or set aside the findings of surgeons of far more ability and experience, who have the additional advantage of having the claimant directly before them, and ascertaining his disabilities by the unmistakable evidence of their own skilled senses.

THERE is not much enterprise in any little town now that cannot discover and arrest a Goebel murderer.

Comrade S. A. McNeil, formerly of the 31st Ohio, has received upon his neck the sharp ax of the Hanna-Nash-Dick combination, and is no longer a clerk in the Adjutant-General's Office at Columbus, O.

NOMINATIONS.

Richard Scandall, Co. G, 70th Ind., Good Hope, Ind., nominates for President Benjamin Harrison; for Vice-President, Gov. Roosevelt; and for Commissioner of Pensions, Maj. Pickler.

J. C. Churchill, Junior Vice-Commander, Post 42, Lebanon Pa., nominates for President Brig.-Gen. J. P. S. Gobin, and for Vice-President, Gen. Baum.

Stephen M. Fitzer, Co. K, 31 Mo., Lebanon, Mo., nominates for President J. C. Churchill, Junior Vice-Commander, and F. Appenzeler, Adjutant, Post 334, G. A. R., Le Royville, N. Y., nominate Benj. Harrison for President, Gov. Roosevelt for Vice-President, and J. W. Wood, Co. B, 5th Tenn. Cav., Watertown, Tenn., nominates for President Benj. Harrison, for Vice-President John T. Wilder, and for Commissioner of Pensions Green B. Raum.

M. Douglas, Co. G, 88th Ind., Past Senior Vice-Commander of Post 3, Eaton, O., nominates Gov. Roosevelt for President, Representative Curtis, for Vice-President, and Maj. Pickler for Commissioner of Pensions.

J. W. Mason, Co. D, 12th Ind., Brookston, Ind., favors Benj. Harrison for President, and Gen. Alger for Vice-President.

A. C. Cutler, San Francisco, Cal., notes the discussion about the "Iron Brigade" of the Potomac, and says that it was made up at the Chain Bridge, on the Potomac, in October, 1861, of the 2d, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32d, 33d, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42d, 43d, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52d, 53d, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62d, 63d, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72d, 73d, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82d, 83d, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92d, 93d, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th.

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SI and the Boys Get Out of the Scrape, and Bring The Banker Inside.

SI and the rest were astonished at the submission of Shorty to the painful and degrading punishment of bucking and gagging. For things incomparably less Shorty had in the past filled the camp with tumult. In fact, in the earlier days of his captivity, which SI well-remembered, Shorty had been something of a ringleader in a mutiny against the sergeant who should so bravely the legally constituted

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