

CONDITIONS AT ST. CLOUD.

A Letter From the President of the Veterans' Association.

The National Tribune is in receipt of the following letter from Judge Robert Anderson, President of the Veterans' Association at St. Cloud. It is short and to the point and represents the sentiment of several hundred members of the Association:

St. Cloud, Fla., Jan. 20, 1910. Editor National Tribune: I am receiving so many letters from old comrades asking in the main the same questions. It is quite impossible to answer in detail with long letters. If you will kindly grant me space, I will answer the more important questions, and trust that all will regard it as personal to them.

The Colony holdings, in fact, all of Florida, are only comparable with the level of the soil in Minnesota. There is, except here the major portion of the surface is covered thinly with timber, principally pine, ranging in size from six inches to 12 inches every tall and straight, with here and there small oak and a few other varieties, and a low growth of palmetto.

The soil is from very light sandy loam to a black sandy, and then on to a jet black muck, resembling very much the black waxy loam of Texas. These lands in their various varieties are adapted to growing different kinds of vegetables. On a single five-acre tract of land may be found all of these various kinds of soils, blending into each other without the semblance of a rock, or even a pebble stone. As to productions, will say I have not been here long enough to speak from experience, but in 1909 I raised citrus fruits from 300 to 400 bushels of sweet potatoes to the acre, and from \$100 to \$300 worth of Irish potatoes, tomatoes, etc., to the acre.

Land in tracts can be had in this section from \$5 per acre up to \$100, depending upon the character, location, town, improvements, etc. It is my opinion this country to-day double discounts for opportunities and possibilities central Kansas 20 years ago, when I lived from 1877 to 1884, to say nothing about the difference in climate, and the latter is worth a good deal.

There are fewer flies, gnats and mosquitoes, in fact, insects of every kind, than in any place I have ever lived before.

The first issue of the St. Cloud Tribune, soon to appear, will print wages and market tables, and other interesting information. Board and lodging can be had here as cheaply as in any Northern town.

We have over 400 houses and tents, occupied by more than 1,500 people, the growth of five months. Nothing can stop us from growing. I expect to see thousands of contented, prosperous and healthy people living in St. Cloud before I am "mustered out."

A hearty welcome is extended by the old "coffee coolers" to all newcomers. A committee from the Association meets all trains and aids visitors in finding stopping places.

ROBERT ANDERSON, President Veterans' Association.

FOUR GENERATIONS.

They Will Make Their Homes Henceforth in St. Cloud.

Editor National Tribune: I herewith send a photograph of our four generations, supposing that it may interest you as being from an old soldier of 1861-65. The first is myself; the second

Col. J. B. Merwin, Middlefield, Conn. "I hope that every veteran will read your bill, and at once do all that he can to promote its passage."

Albert P. Flanders, East Calais, Vt. "Your pension bill suits me to a T. I was 26 years old last June, and am drawing \$14 a month for a gunshot wound in my left hand. I was in the service three years."

At a regular meeting of Henry Wilson Post, Alexandria, La., The National Tribune pension bill was indorsed and the paper thanked.

William Putnam, Lansing, Mich., approves of The National Tribune pension bill, and cites his own case. He served three years in the war, and was discharged at its close from his second enlistment for disability incurred in the service, and was given a pension of \$20 a month, which has never been increased. He is now over 86 years old and very needy.

At a regular meeting of House Post, 309, G. A. R., Department of Pennsylvania, resolutions were passed heartily indorsing The National Tribune pension bill, and members of Congress to give their active support of the bill. John C. Gubig, Commander; D. B. Nace, Adjutant.

At the last regular meeting of B. F. Hinson Post resolutions were passed indorsing The National Tribune pension bill and John McElroy for the next Commander-in-Chief. Wm. Wetzel, Commander; H. S. Husein, Adjutant.

Editor National Tribune: Your article in last week's paper on State pensions should be published in pamphlet form and sent to every Senator and Representative. Supporting all the States north of the Mason and Dixon line should pass pension bills, what would become of the veterans of Maryland, Virginia and other Southern States? We would be left out in the cold. The Union soldiers of all the States should be provided for, and not for an individual State.—J. W. Test, Sergeant, Cole's Cavalry, Phoenix, Va.

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Advertisement for Dr. Haux's 'Perfect Vision' Spectacles. Features a large illustration of a pair of spectacles and text: 'Get this Gold Air Eye', 'DON'T SEND ME ONE CENT', 'when you answer this announcement, as I am going to distribute at least one-hundred-thousand sets of the Dr. Haux famous "Perfect Vision" Spectacles to genuine, bona-fide Spectacle-wearers, in the next few weeks --- on one easy, simple condition.', 'I want you to thoroughly try them on your own eyes, no matter how weak they may be; read the finest print in your bible with them on, thread the smallest eyed needle you can get hold of and put them to any test you like in your own home as long as you please.', 'Then after you have become absolutely and positively convinced that they are really and truly the softest, clearest and best-fitting glasses you have ever had on your eyes and if they honestly make you see just as well as you ever did in your younger days, you can keep the ROLLED GOLD pair forever without a cent of pay if you accept my special extraordinary advertising proposition, and JUST DO ME A GOOD TURN by showing them around to your neighbors and friends and speak a good word for them everywhere, at every opportunity.', 'Won't you help me introduce the wonderful Dr. Haux "Perfect Vision" Spectacles in your locality on one easy, simple condition?', 'If you are a genuine, bona-fide spectacle-wearer (no children need apply) and want to do me this favor, write me at once and just say: "Dear Doctor;— Mail me your Perfect Home Eye Tester, absolutely free of charge, also full particulars of your handsome 10-karat ROLLED GOLD Spectacle Offer," and address me personally and I will give your letter my own personal attention.', 'Address: DR. HAUX, (Personal), Haux Building, ST. LOUIS, MO.'

NOTE.—The Above is the Largest Mail Order Spectacle House in the World, and is Perfectly Reliable.

NATIONAL TRIBUNE PENSION BILL.

Editor National Tribune: Last Friday evening Encampment 87, Union Veterans Legion, of Camden, N. J., held one of its largest and most interesting assemblies of the year. It happened to be the occasion for the nomination of officers—a circumstance, by the way, which demonstrated by the interest developed that 87 is still supplied with plenty of the very best material for making officers. Incidentally two or three matters of timely importance were discussed, among them being the proposed legislative measure known as The National Tribune pension bill. It was evident that the comrades present had been reading up on the subject, and were thoroughly familiar with its merits, so that when the suggestion of giving it the Encampment's official indorsement was proposed the resolution to carry it into effect was enthusiastically and unanimously adopted. In accordance with this action a committee of three Past Colonels was appointed to inform you of the same, and to assure you at the same time that 87 will not lose sight of the fact that the Congressman from this district, the Hon. H. C. Loudenslager, is Chairman of the House Committee on Pensions, and a tried and true friend of the old soldier.—Henry M. Aris, Crater, G. Stewart, C. S. Magrath, Committee, Camden, N. J.

S. J. Cappe, Commander, La Veta Post, 32, La Veta, Colo., says that the members of La Veta Post, 32, all indorse our pension bill, and think it will do justice to all just as it is, and we will send a petition to the Senators and Congressmen from this State asking them to please do all they can for its passage.

Editor National Tribune: The National Tribune pension bill is highly commended by all the veterans in this locality, and the old boys are enthusiastically in favor of the McElroy for our next National Commander. I have just finished reading McElroy's History of Andersonville and other prisons. Oh, the horror and shame of it all; the poor boys. My heart bled as I read of their sufferings at the hands of those traitorous fiends.—Chas. A. Cret, Captain, Hamilton Post, 311, G. A. R., Glenford, O.

J. B. Hoffman, Shiloh, N. J.: "I have read with much interest your National Tribune pension bill. It is all right so far as it goes, but if you will allow me to make a suggestion, it is that you incorporate into it the volunteer retired list, placing all volunteer commissioned officers on the retired list at three-fourths or regular pay. That would make an ideal bill."

G. A. Wright, Malone, N. Y.: "I belong to W. D. Brennan Post of Malone, N. Y., the largest in the northern part of the State, and have failed to find one member who is not in favor of your bill."

Ernest Hope, of Foster, Ohio, came here on the morning train Jan. 14 to see the town. He had heard of it and thought he would look it over before investing. At Jacksonville he was advised not to come, but stay there. He left his valise in Florida's metropolis, and ventured a trip this way. Stopping at several places, he found everywhere real estate men and others plugging every locality except the one particular spot. He came here considerably in doubt about Florida, engaged in company with citizens engaged in beautifying the State in which they live. He left on the evening train after buying four lots on Massachusetts avenue between 13th and 14th streets, and returned to Jacksonville to see if he could find his valise. He will return later to St. Cloud and build.

His Case Similar. John Orr, Captain, 107th N. Y., Duluth, Minn., says that his case is exactly like that of Lieut. Hallenborg. He enlisted in 1863 as a private in Co. F, 107th N. Y., and was promoted to First Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant and Captain, serving until the regiment was mustered out at the close of the war. He was wounded at Dallas, Ga., suffered a stroke on the march to W. Va., and was honorably discharged in 1865. He has since been afflicted with a stroke, which was the cause of ruining his business prospects for life, has never been considered.

At a regular meeting of Meade Post, 6, Fairmount, W. Va., The National Tribune pension bill was unanimously indorsed, and "we urgently but respectfully request our representatives in Congress to use every reasonable endeavor to secure the enactment of the bill." E. A. Billingslee, Taylor Richmond, J. W. Strayer, Committee; D. J. Curry, Adjutant.

At a regular meeting of Anna Post, 555, Department of Illinois, a resolution was passed unanimously indorsing The National Tribune pension bill. G. A. Norris, Adjutant; John Spire, Quartermaster.

At a regular meeting of Bandon Post, 66, Department of Oregon, The National Tribune pension bill was unanimously indorsed, and the Post will use its influence with its representatives to have the bill become a law.

At a regular meeting of West Vm. P. Green Post, 23, Department of West Virginia, resolutions were passed indorsing the bill just as it is printed, both in regard to the soldier and the widow. James King, Commander; F. M. Noble, Adjutant.

At a regular meeting of Kinsman Post, 7, Des Moines, Iowa, resolutions were passed unanimously indorsing The National Tribune pension bill, and members earnestly urged their Congressmen to do all they consistently can to have the bill become a law.

At a regular meeting of Housum Post, 309, G. A. R., Department of Pennsylvania, resolutions were passed heartily indorsing The National Tribune pension bill, and members of Congress to give their active support of the bill. John C. Gubig, Commander; D. B. Nace, Adjutant.

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Widows' Pensions.

J. Jennings, 21st Iowa, River Falls, Wis., is opposed to Comrade Brockman's position, and cites his own case. He has now been married five years to his present wife, and last Spring was taken down with rheumatism, and she has done an incomprehensible amount of watching and hard labor in caring for him. Yet if he should die she would be left without support. His present illness was due to injuries received in his service. In the charge upon the works at Vicksburg there were 23 in his company, of whom 10 were wounded and seven killed. They forced their way as far forward as possible, and then had to take shelter, from which they kept up an unsteady fire all day. At dusk the rebels began firing eye grenades from Fort Hill. His company supported Battery F, 1st Mo. Art., and he and his bunkmate were the closest to the guns. From this he became so deaf that he could scarcely hear anything, and has suffered from this ever since. He received an injury also to his arm.

Samuel Bickford, 11th N. H., Gossville, N. H., says that he married his third wife five years ago, and he needs her care and attention more than he did either of his other wives. He thinks she deserves a pension more than they. He is now over 83 years of age.

Isaac James, 18th U. S., Mount Victory, O., says that his second wife has had to do far more for him than his first. She also the daughter of a veteran who served three years and nine months, most of this in prison. He himself is a cripple on account of a gunshot wound in his hip, but is allowed only \$17 a month.

Frank P. Eckert, 14th Ill., Minneapolis, Minn., favors The National Tribune pension bill, and says that all the men who married veterans since the war or since June 27, 1890, are just as much entitled to a pension as those who married previous to those dates. There is a discrimination in the Minnesota State Homes against soldiers' widows, who cannot be admitted until they have been a resident of the State five years and have arrived at the age of 55 years.

Our good old comrade, James D. English, 41st Ill., writes from Renfrow, Okla., that he left Danville, Ill., last October for that place, but will soon go to Petersburg, Va., where he will remain a year at least with several of his regiment who are living near there. He says that he knew that the boys would all think one way or the other to John McElroy for Commander-in-Chief. "He will get there all right, and the boys will be glad when he does."

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Still Marching.

Our good old comrade, James D. English, 41st Ill., writes from Renfrow, Okla., that he left Danville, Ill., last October for that place, but will soon go to Petersburg, Va., where he will remain a year at least with several of his regiment who are living near there. He says that he knew that the boys would all think one way or the other to John McElroy for Commander-in-Chief. "He will get there all right, and the boys will be glad when he does."

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