"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

(ESTABLISHED 1877.)

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.
INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.

Foreign postage, $1.00 in addition to subscription price.

Canada postage, 50c in addition to subscription price.

ADVERTISING RATES—FLAT.

50c per agate line for display.
20c per agate line for Classified Columns.
50c per count line for reading notices.

Advertising can be canceled at any time five days before date of issue.

No discounts for time or space.

Columns 2¼ inches wide; 21½ inches long; seven columns to the page.

Sample copies mailed on request.

Entered at Washington, D. C., Post Office as second-class matter.

JOHN McELROY, Editor.

Office: 14th and E Streets Northwest.

WASHINGTON, D. C., MAY 5, 1910.

NOTICE.

When you send in your subscription always state whether renewal or new subscriber.

When you renew from another post office give former address as well.

When change of address is desired be sure to give former address.

If the reports about the destruction of the cotton crop are only partially true, the boll weevil is going to have a hard time living thru the Summer.

The extension of irrigation is given as the reason for the low price of potatoes. The market was loaded with potatoes from the Far West.

A plea for the use of borax is made to the effect that it will cheapen the cost of living by reducing the price of vegetables and meat.

The principal packers think that the operation of the Pure Food law is beneficial to them, as it stops the watery, slushy packing of unscrupulous manufacturers.

Greece is foolishly monkeying with economic laws, by an order compelling all producers of the so-called Zante "currants" to destroy 25 per cent of their vines, in order to diminish the supply and raise the price.

The total vote in the 32d New York District at the regular Congressional election was 57,310. At the recent special election, at which James S. Havens was elected, it was only 43,785. It would seem that about 14,000 voters stayed at home.

The Forestry Bureau says that the center of the turpentine business was once in eastern North Carolina, but it moved farther south, and remained for a long time in Georgia. To-day the center is in Florida, with most of the turpentine coming from Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

When the Americans took charge of Cuba they found that not more than one per cent of the population had a real education, and 64 per cent could neither read nor write. The school laws and system of Ohio were introduced and given vigorous efficiency, so that all reports from the island speak glowingly of the progress of education.

Democrats are likely to be quite as uncertain as Republicans these kaleidoscopic days. James S. Havens, of New York, whose victory in a Republican District was regarded as the first break of the coming Democratic day, was received with joyous acclaim by Champ Clark, and his fellow-Democrats. He cast his first vote with the Republicans on the railroad bill.

How big any little thing may become in this great country is shown by Odebolt, Iowa, becoming the popcorn center of the United States, with an annual product of 15,000,000 pounds. They have cribs out there that will hold 1,000,000 pounds, and it is calculated that if lightning should strike the cribs and burn them down, the popped corn would cover the country to a depth of six feet. One man made a net profit of $3,240 on 40 acres of popcorn last year. Probably he is wailing over the increased cost of living.

Florida vegetables have been holding the markets for some time, with good prices, but the Charleston and more Northern truckers are now coming in with their products. Florida squashes range from $1.25 to $1.50 a crate; salad brings from 50 cents to $2 a basket; beets have been reduced to from $2.50 to $3 by the arrival of the new crop from North Carolina; Virginia and South Carolina; Florida new potatoes range from $5 to $5.50; eggplants are in fair demand at from $2 to $2.50 per crate; Florida tomatoes range from $2 to $3; cucumbers from $3 to $3.50, but the price of strawberries has fallen to from 10 to 15 cents per quart, on account of the competition of the more Northern truckers. Probably a great deal of this competition has since been destroyed by the storm which raged over the country north of Florida.

After a year of stress and storm, the British Parliament has at last passed the Budget. So violent was the agitation at one time that it threatened a severe revolution, and the extinction of the House of Lords was one of the possible outcomes. The Liberal Party made a direct issue of either limiting, reforming or altogether abolishing the House of Lords, and there was a sharp controversy as to whether the unicameral or bicameral Parliament—that is, one or two Houses—would be best. The Liberals, however, did not manage as shrewdly as their competitors, and probably also they were baffled by the infallible conservatism of the people. The Conservatives dragged in their requests of first-class importance, such as tariff reform and a stronger navy, and the result has been a drawn battle with neither side able to claim a victory.

DEATH OF GEN. J. P. S. GOBIN.

A grand man has fallen in Pennsylvania. A man of the loftiest patriotism, of high abilities, of pure life, and who devoted himself for a half century to the best interests of his community, his State and his country. Gen. John P. S. Gobin died at his home at Lebanon, Pa., May 1, of paralysis. He was first stricken Feb. 25, and altho he made a brave fight against death with all of his strong will, he was at last forced to succumb to the Conqueror of All. Gen. Gobin was born at Sunbury, Pa., Jan. 26, 1837, and came from sturdy colonial stock, his ancestors having been soldiers in the Revolutionary and Indian wars. He began life as a printer; then studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1858. He gave this up at once upon the first call for troops, and entered the service April 19, 1861, as First Lieutenant of Co. F, 11th Pa. Upon completing this service, he recruited a company for three years, and Sept. 2, 1861, was mustered in as Captain of Co. C, 47th Pa. His natural soldiership and his zeal in his duties brought him rapid promotion to the Colonelcy of the regiment, and he was brevetted a Brigadier-General for meritorious service, and complimented in orders for gallantry at Pocotaligo. He commanded a brigade for some time in the Shenandoah Valley, and distinguished himself at Cedar Creek, where his command was the right of the line and gave the enemy his first repulse.

Later he became Judge-Advocate-General of the Department of the South, and then was in command at Charleston of the First Subdistrict. So valuable a man was he that he was retained in the service until Jan. 9, 1866. He returned to Pennsylvania, settled in Lebanon, resumed the practice of the law and was unusually successful. He was elected County Solicitor, and then to the State Senate, in which body he served continuously for 15 years, when he resigned to become Lieutenant-Governor. He was a Trustee of the Soldiers and Sailors' Home at Erie, Commissioner of the Soldiers' Orphans School and of the Gettysburg Monument Association. He kept up his interest in military matters, and in 1874 was commissioned Colonel of the 8th N. G. Pa., which commission he held for 15 years, when he was promoted to Brigadier-General, and did valuable service in the Molly Maguire and like troubles. Gov. Pennypacker promoted him to the command of the Pennsylvania National Guard, with the rank of Major-General. At the beginning of the Spanish war he offered his service, and was commissioned a Brigadier-General.

From the first he took a deep interest in Grand Army matters; was elected Department Commander in 1886 and Commander-in-Chief in 1897. He was also active in the Loyal Legion and the Sons of the Revolution; was Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of Pennsylvania, Grand Captain-General of the Grand Encampment, Grand Generalissimo, Deputy Grand Commander and Grand Master of the United States. He was Past Grand Patriarch of the Odd Fellows of Pennsylvania. He took a part in all that made for the development of his community and was prominent in business, banking and railroad circles. No man who ever passed away had filled his life more full of good, brave, unselfish work in every direction, and his death is a sad loss to the Grand Army of the Republic and to the State of Pennsylvania, which has the utmost reason to be proud of the career of one who was a Pennsylvanian born, bred and in every fiber of his being.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF'S ITINERARY.

Comrade George Brown, of the "Big Four," sends the following itinerary of the Commander-in-Chief:

May 16.—Lv. St. Louis, Big Four, 12 noon.
May 16.—Lv. Chicago, Big Four, 1 p. m.
Ar. Cincinnati, 8:50 p. m.
Lv. Cincinnati, C. & O., 9 p. m.
May 17.—Ar. Charleston, 3:25 a. m.
Ar. Louisville, 11 a. m.
Lv. Louisville, I. C., 12:01 noon.
Ar. Central City, 3:30 p. m.
May 19.—Lv. Central City, I. C., 4:25 a. m.
Ar. Louisville, 7:50 a. m.
Lv. Louisville, Southern Ry. and Q. & C., 7:50 a. m.
Ar. Knoxville, 5:55 p. m.
May 20.—Lv. Knoxville, Southern Ry., 8:30 a. m.
Ar. Newport, 10:35 a. m.
May 21.—Lv. Newport, 4:25 p. m.
Ar. Chattanooga, 10 p. m.
May 22.—Lv. Chattanooga, Q. & C. Route, 9:45 p. m.
May 23.—Ar. Cincinnati, 8 p. m.
Lv. Cincinnati, Big Four, 8:40 a. m.
Ar. Chicago, 5:25 p. m.

Comrade Brown has written to the different Department Commanders as follows:

"The above is the itinerary and schedule of the trip of Commander-in-Chief Hon. Samuel R. Van Sant, to make a visit to your Departments, and attend your State Encampments. Please arrange for the Campfires on the night at each Department noted below:

"Campfire at Charleston, W. Va., on the night of May 17.

"Campfire at Department of Kentucky, Central City, May 18.

"Campfire at Knoxville, by the comrades of the different Posts, May 19.

"Campfire at the State Encampment at Newport, Tenn., May 20.

"I received the following letter from the Commander-in-Chief this morning:

"'You see I leave direct for Montana, going from there to Missouri and Kansas, and will from there go direct to Charleston, W. Va. I hope at each one of these places that they will have as large Encampment as possible, as I am leaving out some of the larger Departments in order to visit these Southern Departments. I am sure they need the encouragement more than some of the larger ones.'

"Our Commander-in-Chief up to the present date has traveled over 25,000 miles in making visits to the different Departments of the Grand Army of the Republic in the United States. He is anxious to keep his word, as he pledged to the 43d National Encampment, which was held at Salt Lake City last year, that he intended to visit every State Encampment or Department before the National Encampment met at Atlantic City September, 1910.

"The Commander-in-Chief is a thoro Grand Army man, and takes a deep interest in the organization. There never will be a Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic travel the miles that the Hon. Samuel R. Van Sant has already put in up to this date in visiting the different Departments and Campfires of the comrades that belong to the Grand Army of the Republic."

THE LIGHT BREAKING.

The first sign of a brightening day for pension legislation was in a speech by Hon. Ralph D. Cole, of Ohio, in the House last week. Representative Cole is a young man, but a firm and zealous friend of the veterans, of whom there are many in his district in northwestern Ohio. He lets no occasion pass to help the veterans, and with his abilities his help is always valuable. We give his speech entire, because we think it unusually significant. It shows that the watchers on the housetops have seen that the imperative need for economy in the National expenditures is passing away; that the Treasury is assuming a much more comfortable condition under the operation of the Payne-Aldrich law, and that with this return of financial gladness, there comes the hope of more liberality toward the men and women who are now the most pressing objects of attention that the Government can or should have. Mr. Cole said:

Mr. Speaker: This Congress should grant substantial relief in the way of increased pensions to the surviving soldiers of the civil war, their widows and orphans. There has been no general pension legislation for a period of two years. The McCumber act, known as the old-age pension law, granting to all soldiers who served 90 days or more and received an honorable discharge, $12 at the age of 62, $15 at the age of 70, and $20 at the age of 75, passed this House more than three years ago.

The widows' pension act, increasing the rating from $8 to $12 per month, became a law over two years ago. The wisdom of these laws has been vindicated, but the time is ripe for renewed evidence of the Nation's loyalty to the veteran and those dependent upon him.

A bill has been reported from the Committee on Military Affairs providing for the creation of the civil war volunteer officers' retired list, and granting a pension of $30 a month to all soldiers 70 years of age whose physical or mental condition is of such degree of disability as to require the frequent and periodical aid and attention of another person.

I believe in a dollar-a-day pension law. It may be impossible to secure the passage of such an act at this time, but in view of the replenished condition of the Federal Treasury, a great increase should be made now over the existing rates. There has been a demand for rigid economy in appropriations during this session of Congress. That demand has been heeded and the ordinary expenditures of the Government have been reduced almost $50,000,000 per annum. The new tariff law has proved its capacity as a revenue raiser. The receipts under the Payne law are $50,000,000 more annually than under the Dingley law. As a result, the deficit in the Federal Treasury has been cut down from $80,000,000 to less than $20,000,000. Before the end of the fiscal year the Government will be in possession of a substantial surplus. The pension appropriation bill last year carried about $163,000,000; this year it has been reduced to about $155,000,000. A reduction of $8,000,000 in one year is a sad reminder of the fact that the veterans are rapidly passing away. What we do must be done quickly. If these veterans are to enjoy the bounty of the Government during their declining days, now is the time for action.

As the bill comes from the committee, it will call for an increase of perhaps $10,000,000. It is estimated upon the best evidence obtainable that striking out the disability clause and granting to all soldiers 70 years of age a pension of $30 per month would add another $8,000,000 to the bill. If the opportunity is presented when the bill comes up in the House for consideration, I shall introduce an amendment striking out the qualifying clause as to physical and mental condition, and the necessity of the assistance of another person.

Between the ages of 65 and 70 is the period of life when the greatest number of soldiers enjoy the benefits of a pension. I would favor an increase to at least $25 per month at the age of 65. This is the rating fixed in The National Tribune bill, which, I believe, has received the indorsement of every Grand Army Post in the Eighth Ohio District. The consideration of this bill will give us a splendid opportunity for granting substantial relief and doing justice to the men who saved the Nation.

Two years ago when the widows' pension measure was up for consideration, I made the following statement on the floor of the House:

"I deeply regret, however, Mr. Speaker, that this measure does not go further and eliminate the clause in the law of 1890, making ineligible to pension widows who have married soldiers since that date. There are thousands of widows thruout the United States who have married soldiers since 1890. They have taken care of these old veterans during their declining days, and have made them as peaceful and happy as the passing of the sunlight from the hillside. They cannot be charged with other than the purest motives, as they married these men in the face of the fact that they were not entitled to a pension under the law. Many of these noble women are in needy circumstances, and should receive the generous treatment which has always been characteristic of the American people."

I will stand by that statement. We should strike that clause out of the law, and grant to these noble women a pensionable status. I believe the widow should receive the same pension which the soldier received, as she is in much greater need of assitance as a rule after the death of her husband than before. Many times the veteran is able to contribute something to the support of the family, even tho he has a rating of total disability. But after his death the widow is absolutely dependent for the necessities and comforts of life upon the stipend granted to her by the Government.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the most substantial manner of paying our debt of gratitude to the soldiers of the civil war is in the form of a pension from the Federal Government. This Nation has been liberal beyond all precedent in the sums appropriated for that purpose. This is as it should be. No criticism of the Government's liberality in this respect is heard from any class of our citizenship. The high-water mark in pension appropriations was made last year, when the bill carried $163,000,000. These figures seem somewhat imposing, but when we consider the fact that the Nation owes its life to the men and women who are receiving this recognition, the sum which each receives is by no means adequate for the service rendered. Let us heed the injunction of Lincoln and "care for him who shall have borne the heat of battle, his widow and orphan."

There is very much in this to think over, and every sentence would repay careful reading. In most things Mr. Cole is in marked accordance with The National Tribune's ideas, and, of course, we heartily approve of his position, particularly his support of The National Tribune pension bill, including the removal of unjust limitation on widows' pensions.

The United States Department of Agriculture finds that meat and poultry constitute 16 per cent of the average family's food; dairy products, 18 per cent; cereals, 21 per cent, and vegetables and fruit, 25 per cent. It has issued a bulletin to teach the science of buying economically, and of good cooking.

LOUISIANA'S RACE LAWS.

Consternation reigns in Louisiana owing to the Supreme Court having sustained Judge Chretien's decision that the law which forbids alliance between whites and negroes refers only to persons of pure and unadulterated negro blood, and not mulattoes, quadroons, griffes and others of mixed white and black bloods. The effect of this decision will be to turn loose all persons who have been indicted of violating these laws. The law has been generally approved by both whites and negroes, and under it the negroes have enjoyed more priveleges than heretofore. Under it segregation has been possible, and it is felt that segregation is for the benefit of both races. One good effect of the statute has been to demonstrate that the talk about miscengenation has been more baseless than anyone believed. The Supreme Court holds the Legislature to blame for not having done what the Legislatures of other States have done in defining the word "negro." In most of the other States the dividing line has been drawn at about one-eighth or one-sixteenth of negro blood. That is, in some States, an octoroon was a negro, but a child of an octoroon by a white man, who would have one-sixteenth of negro blood, would be pronounced white. The lawmakers have not been in accord with the lexicographers, who invariably define the word "negro" to mean anyone that has any negro blood in him. In Louisiana the old Creole laws made a distinction between the negro and the "homme de couleur." The three Justices of the Supreme Court who supported the decision were all Creoles, and the Creoles have always lived with the negroes in perfect friendliness, while the two dissenting Judges are of straight Anglo-Saxon descent, and are not supposed to regard the colored man with the same charity and sympathy that the Creoles do. The Legislature will convene in a few days, and it is expected that the law will be amended so as to meet the objections of the Supreme Court.

WATER AT ST. CLOUD.

Altho the people in Florida drink the water of the lakes and the shallow wells with entire safety and claim it is entirely healthful, the Seminole Land & Investment Company felt that this was untrustworthy for St. Cloud, and one of the Company's first moves was to begin the installation of waterworks. Delays occurred in getting the necessary machinery, but this is now on the ground and ready for operation, and the boring of an artesian well has been going on for some time. The well began with 12 inches diameter, which has now been reduced to eight inches, and it has reached a depth of 400 feet. Some 60 feet down a belt of quicksand was struck, which made very hard boring for about 40 feet. One day only an inch of progress was made. After this stratum of sand was passed a most interesting stratum of what was apparently an ancient bed of the sea was reached. This abounds in fossil shells and palaeozoic forms of life. Every day the tools bring up very interesting specimens of ancient life, which are collected and examined with great interest by the people of St. Cloud. It is expected that a fine flow of artesian water will soon be struck, which will be sufficient for all the needs of the town. As a rule, the artesian water does not rise more than 60 feet above the level of the sea, and as St. Cloud is something over 70 feet above sea level, the water will come to within about 10 feet of the surface. When it is reached, it will be as fine water as there is in the world.

It is hard to say whether we are more pleased than regretful at the appointment of Gov. Hughes to the Supreme bench. We are pleased that the Supreme bench has gotten a lawyer of the highest ability and one whose character will strengthen it in the esteem of the people. On the other hand, he is doing an invaluable work in the purification of New York politics—something that was sorely needed and something which it is likely no other man can do. He had gotten the confidence of the people of New York to such an extent that he was able to overmaster the bosses and carry out his work of reform. We wish we could believe that his mantle would fall on someone else equally zealous and effective. Mr. Hughes's idea was that the life and success of the Republican Party depended upon its making itself worthy of the people's confidence. His method was superior to all the machine methods that could be introduced, and he was going ahead relentlessly and fearlessly in purging the party of the members who are debasing it for their own corrupt purposes. These men have fought every step of his reform policy, but with the people behind him, he has been too powerful for them to resist.

HONOR TO GENERALS.

The movement, in which Gen. T. S. Peck is one of the leaders, to erect tablets to Gens. William Wells and George J. Stannard, is progressing admirably. Gov. Prouty has promised that the tablets will be in place before the opening of the next Legislature. This will be a high gratification to the Vermont veterans, of whom those Generals were such good representatives, and who followed their lead with so much enthusiasm and valor. Maj.-Gen. William Wells commanded a brigade in Custer's Division, Sheridan's Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac, and was the last commander of that Cavalry Corps. The General entered the service as a private, rose to be Colonel of the 1st Vt. Cav., and then was commissioned a Brigadier-General, and brevetted a Major-General. Maj.-Gen. George J. Stannard entered the service as a Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2d Vt.; was promoted to Colonel of the 9th Vt., and then to Brigadier-General. He commanded the Second Vermont Brigade, which did such crushing work on the flank of Pickett's column on the afternoon of July 3, 1863. He also led the First Division of the Eighteenth Corps in the storming of Fort Harrison, Va., on the north side of the James River. He captured the fort, and the next day, April 30, he repulsed the charge made by the rebel troops under the eye and direction of Gen. Lee. It was at that time that he lost his arm.

ST. CLOUD PUBLIC UTILITIES COMPANY.

The St. Cloud Public Utilities Company has been incorporated with a view to meeting immediate demands and further developing the town of St. Cloud, Fla. The Company has installed a complete and modernly-equipped electric light and power plant, ice-manufacturing plant, and will soon have completed the foundations of the waterworks. A telephone system, the construction of concrete sidewalks, street railway service, and other essential facilities are within the scope of its charter and are now being considered.

The early installation of these advantages in a growing town, rendering possible the equipment of the new home with many of the comforts and conveniences of the older established towns and cities, should prove both popular and profitable.

The Company is capitalized at $100,000 par value of shares of $100 each. It is, however, the purpose of the Company, in order to afford an opportunity to those now interested in St. Cloud, to acquire an interest in the Public Utilities Company, to offer a limited amount of the stock to early subscribers at $80 per share. Those desiring to avail of this offer should at once make application for the number of shares wanted, accompanied by their check for the amount subscribed, bearing in mind the fact that the Company reserves the right to limit the number of shares to be issued to any one subscriber at this price; also the right to reject any subscription and refund the amount advanced.

Applications should be addressed to J. W. SQUIRES, Cashier, First National Bank, St. Cloud, or THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

RETROCESSION OF THE DISTRICT.

The following resolution has been formulated by the House Committee on the District of Columbia, and is being considered by the District Commissioners and others:

"Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Attorney-General of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to institute and prosecute whatever suits or actions in law or equity which may in his judgment seem appropriate or necessary to determine the boundaries of the District of Columbia, as defined in the proclamation of President Washington, dated March 30, 1791, made in connection with the act of the State of Maryland of Dec. 23, 1788, entitled 'An act to cede to Congress a district 10 miles square in this State,' which was accepted by act of Congress approved July 16, 1790, and the act of March 3, 1791, amendatory thereof, subsequently ratified by an act of the State of Maryland, dated Dec. 3, 1790, and also to determine the validity or constitutionality of the act of July 9, 1846, to retrocede the County of Alexandria, in the District of Columbia, to the State of Virginia."

In spite of the urgings of William Jennings Bryan, the Democratic members of the Legislature of Nebraska have refused to vote for the initiative and referendum. This is one of the misfit ideas that imperfectly-educated agitators are trying to import from Europe. There may be some reason for the initiative and referendum in Europe, where the people are denied full and free expression in their Parliaments, but there can be none in this country. Any man who wants to have a bill introduced in the Common Council, the Legislature or Congress can do so by simply drawing up his bill and sending it to his Representative. In the same way, there is the most complete referendum periodically when the Representatives come up for re-election. There is a referendum even bfore this, because any obnoxious law is canvassed vigorously and the public have many ways of making themselves felt, so as to secure its repeal or modification. Initiative and referendum is wholly unnecessary, and, therefore, an undesirable complication of our political system.

Some criticism has been expressed at the use of The National Tribune columns for John McElroy's candidacy for Commander-in-Chief. The friends of all the other candidates and possible candidates for Commander-in-Chief have been urged to use the columns of the paper for their candidates precisely as freely as it has been used for John McElroy. They have been repeatedly told that the paper is not the organ of any one man, but of all the veterans of the war of the rebellion, and that John McElroy had no privileges in the paper other than would be cheerfully accorded to anybody else seeking that high office or any other. Everything that has been sent into this office by the friends of any of the candidates has been used in full, and will continue to be published to the same extent that the expressions in favor of John McElroy are given a place in its pages.

The charges made against Comrade John E. Gilman by the Finance Committee of Boston have not been sustained by the City Council. He has been fully exonerated, and the Mayor of Boston has reappointed him with high compliments to his fidelity and competence in the discharge of his trying duties. All will be glad to hear of this deserved compliment to Comrade Gilman, who is a most excellent comrade and worthy of the esteem and affection of everyone. We have already stated that he has received the indorsement of Massachusetts of his candidacy for Commander-in-Chief, and to this has been added that of New Hampshire.

Ex-Gov. Heyward, of South Carolina, says that the consumption of rice is greatly increasing in this country, and that the abandoned rice fields of South Carolina are being brought into cultivation once more. He claims that Carolina rice is the finest in the world. The farmers of South Carolina are quite prosperous, and Charleston has the brightest hopes that she has entertained since before the war. It is expected that the construction of the Panama Canal will greatly benefit her, as it is claimed that the shortest route to Colon is by the way of Charleston. An effort is being made to have the mails sent that way.

Comrade George Brown, of the "Big Four," National Tribune are entirely free to friends of every candidate for Commander-in-Chief, and they are cordially invited to make use of them.

VETO OF THE DIGGES BILL.

Altho Gov. Crothers, of Maryland, was one of the instigators of the vicious Digges bill to nullify the 15th Amendment and disfranchise the negroes, he saw a light after the bill actually passed. He was overwhelmed with protests against his signing the bill. Bankers and merchants' associations were among those who united in these protests, and a very large portion of the Democracy outside of the controlling ring also appeared in opposition. Mayor Mahool and most of the city officials of Baltimore were quite earnest in their opposition. At first the Governor was disposed to ease himself down by having a test case made up and submitted to the court, but it was found that this would not satisfy the opponents, and at last the Governor felt constrained to take the decisive step of actually vetoing the bill. Then he was heartily congratulated for the bravery and independence he displayed in vetoing a purely party measure. Not the least of the reasons which impressed the Governor were the representations from Democrats from all over the country that the Maryland Democrats were putting a club in the hands of the Republican Party, with which to maul them in the coming campaign.

The following is revised as a specimen of the old-time war yarns:

Oh, tell me, Sergeant of Battery B,
O hero of Sugar Pine!
Some glorious deed of the battlefield,
Some wonderful feat of thine;

Some skilful move when the fearful game
Of battle and life was played
On yon grimy field whose broken squares
In scarlet and black are laid.

Ah, stranger, here at my gun all day
I fought till my final round
Was spent and I had but powder left
And never a shot to be found.

So I trained my gun on a rebel piece,
So true was my range and aim
A shot from his cannon entered mine
And finished the load of the same!

Enough, O Sergeant of Battery B,
O hero of Sugar Pine!
Alas! I fear that thy cannon's throat
Can swallow much more than mine.

Of course, the records do not show any such engagement as at Sugar Pine.

It is estimated that 100,000 of the people of Florida live by fishing. The principal branches are the mullet and sponge fisheries. The mullet harvest for 1909 reached the value of $653,030, and the sponge $544,880. Red Snapper comes next to these, bringing in $434,000 in cash, with shad realizing $319,800. The oyster business also brought in about $250,000. There were 50,900 alligator hides brought in, valued at $84,230.

The orange season in Florida is now virtually ended, with the growers well satisfied with the prices which they have received. Some of the grapefruit did not bring as good prices as was hoped for, but the oranges all did well. Several cars of grapefruit were frozen in transit, and this has led to a suit against the railroad companies.

It has been an unusually good season for the Florida cabbage growers, who have been receiving from $3 to $3.25 per crate, with their products in good demand. The price of lettuce has been fairly good, but not so good as in past seasons.

The price of Florida land is going up very rapidly.

COMRADE JOHN GILMAN.

He Has Been Exonerated and Reappointed—Indorsed by the Department of Massachusetts for Commander-in-Chief.

Editor National Tribune: John Gilman was confirmed by the Civil Service Commission on Saturday, which I am sure will please you, as it proves he is a worthy comrade.

The story regarding this matter is this: As Soldiers' Relief Commissioner of the city of Boston, Gilman refused to give a list of his pensioners to a Mr. Moors, President of the Associated Charities of this city, on the ground that they were not paupers.

Later, Moors became a member of the Finance Commission, and he was assigned to the duty of investigating Gilman's office.

His prejudice and desire for revenge led him to make a report, grossly unfair and unjust, with the recommendation Gilman be removed from office.

In the closing sentence of that report, it was stated "that no reflection upon the honor and integrity of Commissioner Gilman was intended." That single sentence killed all that went before; nevertheless Comrade Gilman was compelled to rest his case, with the powers that be.

Mayor Fitzgerald, a Democrat, appointed Gilman during his first term of office, and Mayor Hibbard, his successor, a Republican, did likewise.

At the banquet of our Department Encampment last month, Mayor Fitzgerald stated that he saw no good reason for not reappointing Gilman, and had done so, for a term of four years.

In view of the fact that Gilman cast his first vote for Lincoln, and has been a lifelong Republican, the act of the Mayor was especially pleasing to all our comrades.

The new City Council, consisting of nine members, seven of whom were elected on the anti-Fitzgerald ticket, stood unanimously by Gilman. They appointed a committee of three to investigate Gilman's office, and reported in his favor, condemning the report of the Finance Commission. They recommended additional help be given Gilman, and the report was accepted, and recommendation adopted by the Council.

All appointments of the Mayor must be confirmed by the Civil Service Commission, composed of three members, appointed by the Governor.

They took the various reports, and after careful investigation, confirmed Gilman's appointment, leaving several others in the air.

I give you the story in full, so that you may know the actual facts in the case. Your decision not to print anything concerning this matter, which was purely local, was most wise, and I thank you on behalf of Comrade Gilman, and all his friends, for your kindly consideration.

As you will see by enclosed card, our Department Commander is sending out Gilman's circulars, and I shall have very little to do with that work.

My own wish is that the contest be a friendly one for the office of Commander-in-Chief, which I remember you told me was your own desire. Any other course would be unworthy of our splendid comradeship.

Whoever is elected will receive the loyal support of Massachusetts. With high regard, E. B. STILLINGS,
368 Congress Street, Boston, Mass.

Good Roads in Florida.

Gov. Gilchrist, of Florida, recently made an address in which he presented very valuable information regarding the good-roads movement in Florida. He shows that there are fully 2,120 miles of hard, well-surfaced roads, 624 miles of graded, and 300 miles of strawed roads in the State. Of this, Osceola County, in which is St. Cloud, has six miles of marl road, three miles of clayed road and four of stone road. The Commissioners have adopted a plan of building hard roads leading from the County Seat to the settlements. The County has just completed three and one-half miles from the Orange County line to Kissimmee. At the Orange County line it will meet the system of roads of that County, upon which the convicts are being employed. Osceola is assessing the highest rate allowable in road mileage, which is six mills. As a general thing, the clayed roads cost from $360 to $600 a mile, and the strawed roads from $35 to 45 a mile. Clayed roads give great satisfaction. After the roadbed is prepared in the usual manner, a coating of clay from six to 12 inches is laid and heavily rolled. If after a heavy rainfall the clay is found in any way sticky a coating of sand is applied, which makes an ideal road at all seasons of the year. A fine clayed road is pleasanter and easier to travel over than any other form that can be found. The Governor advocates a law requiring all convicts to be employed in their own Counties upon the roads, and stopping the leasing of the State prisoners. At present the Counties receive their share of the money paid by the contractors who lease the prison labor. The Governor gives some interesting information in regard to determining the presence of clay. There are two kinds of black-jack oaks in the country, one having an angular and the other a rounded leaf. Wherever this rounded leaf is found there is usually clay within three or four feet of the surface.

Revolution Survivors.

Hood Post, of Medina, N. Y., has adopted a preamble and resolutions setting forth that whereas a bill was offered in the New York Legislature three years ago to build a monument to Daniel Frederick Bakeman as the last survivor of the Revolution, but was rejected because it was discovered that he had never served as represented in any New York command; that John Gray, of Ohio, who died 12 hours before Bakeman was found to have an equally defective record; that Samuel Downing, of the 2d N. H., who died in 1867, cannot be found serving at Yorktown in 1781; but it has been found that Lemuel Cook, of Clarendon, N. Y., served in Washington's Army at Yorktown, and held a discharge signed by Washington when he died at the age of 107 years, and was buried with Masonic honors in 1866. He holds the cleanest record of all as the last survivor of the Revolution from the active army in the field. Therefore, Hood Post requests the Pension Bureau to correct its printed statement as to Daniel Frederick Bakeman and others and give the honor to whom it is due, to wit: Lemuel Cook.

1st W. Va. Cav.

Editor National Tribune: This is the third time I have written to you asking for a brief history of the 1st W. Va. Cav. I know our regiment captured more battle flags than any other in the service. Cos. E, C. and L were not with the regiment until after the second battle of Bull Run. Co. A was never with the regiment until after Lee surrendered. I believe that if the regiment was credited with all the engagements its companies were in, it would have fully as many as any other in the service. We all want John McElroy for Commander-in-Chief.—Joseph L. Buckley, 1st W. Va. Cav., Parkersburg, W. Va.

The 1st W. Va. Cav. was organized at Wheeling, Clarksburg and Morgantown from July 10 to Nov. 25, 1861, and was mustered out July 8, 1865. The first Colonel was Henry Anisunsel, who resigned, and was succeeded by Col. H. P. Richmond, who also resigned. Col. Henry Capehart was in command of the regiment when it was mustered out, and was brevetted a Brigadier-General. The regiment or some portions of it was constantly engaged from the time of its formation until the close of the war.—Editor National Tribune.

The 18th Wis.

Editor National Tribune: Please give me the history of the 18th Wis.—John Enckson, Box 315, Jackson, Minn.

The 18th Minn. was organized at Milwaukee from Jan. 20 to March 10, 1862, and after serving out two enlistments finally mustered out July 18, 1865. It was commanded by Col. Jas. S. Alban, who died, April 7, 1862, of wounds received in action at Pittsburg Landing, succeeded by Col. Gabriel Bouck, who resigned Jan. 4, 1864. Lieut.-Col. Chas. H. Jackson then took command. The regiment took part in the following battles: Pittsburg Landing, Corinth, Iuka, Corinth (Oct. 3 and 4, 1862), Jackson, Champion Hill, Siege of Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Allatoona and Wise's Forks. It belonged to J. E. Smith's Division, Fifteenth Corps, and lost 56 killed and 169 from disease, etc.—Editor National Tribune.

Flag Presentation.

Ransom Woman's Relief Corps, No. 6, Department of Missouri, auxiliary to Ransom Post, No. 131, both of St. Louis, have been engaged in some very beautiful patriotic work. The Frank Louis Soldan High School is said to be the finest equipped high school in the country, and on Washington's Birthday Ransom Corps presented this school with a handsome storm bunting flag, 16½ feet in length.

They had a very fine program at the presentation of music and speaking. Mrs. Bell C. Kimball, Past National Secretary of the Woman's Relief Corps, presented an oleograph of the "Origin of the Stars and Stripes;" Mrs. Mary M. Stark, Patriotic Instructor of Ransom Corps, in beautiful language presented the Flag, which was accepted for the high school by Prof. John Rush Powell, Principal. The closing remarks were made by Rev. Thomas H. Hagerty, Chaplain of Ransom Post, No. 131.

The Flag which was presented to the Corps was donated by the B. Nugent & Bros. Dry Goods Company of St. Loius.

Cure for Rheumatism.

C. L. Spielman, Blandinsville, Ill., sends a recipe from the Medical World for rheumatism which he thinks may help some of the comrades. It is an old household remedy which the physician has tried with success. The plaster is made of mustard and brown buckwheat flour mixed with honey or glycerine and spread on a piece of oilcloth, which is attached to the soles of the feet by sticking plaster. Before applying the feet are soaked in hot water to open the pores. Instead of buckwheat flour common flour may be used. It is necessary to wear socks so as to hold the plasters on during the night. A number of patients have experienced great relief from this, but it does no good in inflammatory rheumatism.

The Volunteer Officers' Retirement Bill.

R. R. Randall, 50th Ill. and 17th Ill. Cav., Brooklyn, Ill., enters his protest against the passage of the volunteer officers' retirement bill. The officers were no better morally, mentally or socially than a large majority of the rank and file, they were exposed to no greater dangers on the battlefield, they got higher pay and all the honor, and after the war claimed all the credit. The enlisted men who were starved in Andersonville and other prison pens are denied any compensation. The injection of a clause for totally disabled enlisted men will not benefit one in 100.