AN ORGANIZATION OF MINN. VETERANS

It Will Be Formed Wednesday Next at the State Capitol—History of the Various Regiments From Minnesota Who Fought in the Civil War.

Forty years ago, when the civil war opened, Minnesota possessed, probably, about the same number of white inhabitants as are now within the limits of the city of Minneapolis—in round numbers, 200,000—and these were scattered on farms and in primitive frontier villages from Houston county on the southeast to St. Cloud on the north. Duluth had been baptized but not peopled. Mankato and New Ulm were insignificant hamlets—outposts of civilization, so to speak—on the extreme southwestern border surrounded by bands of wild and untamable Sioux Indians, who one year later were to inaugurate one of the most cold blooded and barbarous massacres written in the annals of frontier butcheries. There was not a mile of railroad in the state, and all transportation was by steamer on the navigable streams during the summer season, by stages in the winter, and by ox, mules and horse-teams all the year round. In 1861 Minnesota imported wheat and flour for bread for her pioneer children, the steamboats on their up-river trips being laden with flour from the mills of Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa.

The scattered people of the state represented all of the northern and some of the southern states of the union, while most of the towns numbered among their thrifty citizens men and women of Irish, German, Scandinavian and Canadian blood.

It was the sturdy sons of this hardy pioneer stock who composed the 18,000 volunteer soldiers who upheld the honor of the north star state in the south during the trying period of the great rebellion, and who during the same dark season met and drove from our borders the most cruel and warlike tribe of Indians native to the continent of America.

Next Wednesday afternoon the survivors of that Minnesota army will meet at the state capitol in St. Paul to form an organization of Minnesota Veterans, and the purpose of this article is briefly to outline the military service performed by each one of the Minnesota organizations during that stirring war period, and thus to show that this state, while sending into the army a comparatively small number of men, was in no sense behind the older and more populous commonwealths either in patriotic ardor or in the maintenance of the righteous cause for which men fought and died in that dramatic and tragic period.

The First Regiment.

Alexander Ramsey—the only "war governor" of any state, north or south, who still survives—happened to be in Washington city when the news of the firing upon Fort Sumter reached the capital of the nation, and it thus happened that the First Minnesota regiment of volunteers was the very earliest offering made to President Lincoln for the cause of the union. This tender of 1,000 men was made by Governor Ramsey on the morning of April 14, 1861. On the 15th President Lincoln issued his call for 75,000 volunteers, and notified Governor Ramsey that his offer of 1,000 men was accepted. The governor telegraphed Lieutenant Governor Ignatius Donnelly to proceed at once with enlistments, and on the 29th of April the First Minnesota volunteer infantry—1,046 officers and men—was mustered into the service of the United States. The service of the First was, from the opening to the close of the great struggle, with the Army of the Potomac, in which field it achieved a reputation for courage, discipline and endurance unsurpassed by that of any body of men in any war in history. The men who commanded the First during its history, with the rank attained by them, named in their order, were: Willis A. Gorman, brigadier general (dead); N. J. T. Dana, brigadier general (living); Alfred Sully, brigadier general (dead); George N. Morgan (dead); Willian Colville (living). The original companies of the First were from St. Paul, Minneapolis, Stillwater, Faribault, Hastings, Red Wing, Wabasha and Winona, although there were men in the First from nearly all of the settled counties of the state.

The Second Regiment.

The Second Minnesota regiment was authorized on the 14th day of June, 1861, and was immediately filled by ten compani, nearly all of which had hoped to serve with the First. The companies composing this regiment came chiefly from Fillmore, Olmsted, Dodge, Blue Earth and other southern and southeastern counties. From June until September, 1861, the Second garrisoned frontier posts in the state. On the 14th of October the regiment started east under orders to proceed to Washington, D. C. On the arrival of the regiment at Pittsburg a countermanding order was received changing the destination of the regiment, and it proceeded to Louisville, Ky., reporting to General W. T. Sherman. In December the regiment was assigned to the Third brigade of the First division, Army of the Ohio, and placed under command of General George H. Thomas—under whose command it continued to serve for three years. The Second had the honor of participating in the first important victory of the war, that of Mill Spring, Kentucky, where the confederate General Zollicoffer was defeated and killed. The regiment was in all the important campaigns and many of the battles of Kentucky during its first three years of service, including Perryville, the Chickamauga campaign, doing more marching and fighting than almost any regiment in the United States service. In 1864 the regiment returned to the field in time to participate in the campaign against Atlanta, and crown its service by accompanying Sherman in his celebrated march across the state of Georgia from Atlanta to Savannah and thence up through the Carolinas—and finally to participate in the grand review in Washington at the close of the war.

The commanders of the Second were as follows: H. P. Van Cleve, brigadier general (dead); James George (dead); J. W. Bishop, brevet brigadier general (living). The Second came through the struggle bearing the reputation of one of the best regiments in the western army.

The Third Regiment.

The Third Minnesota infantry was organized on the 15th of November, 1861, with 901 officers and men. Two days later it started for the southern battlefields. It was ordered to Louisville, Ky., and soon after arriving there was detailed for picket and guard duty at Shepherdsville, Belmont, and points along the Louisville & Nashville railroad. After several months of picket and drill duty, the Third was stationed, with several other organizations, at the town of Murfreesboro, Tenn. On the 13th of July, 1862, General Forrest, the famous confederate cavalry commander, made a fescent upon Murfreesboro. After skirmishing with the men of the Third for a short time, he demanded that the command be surrendered. After consultation with some of his officers, Colonel Henry C. Lester, in command of the regiment surrendered the Third and the men were paroled upon the field. Later, after a full investigation, Colonel Lester and the officers who voted for the surrender were ignominously dismissed from the service. The men, and such of the officers as had counseled fight were sent back to Minnesota where the regiment was reorganized, and participated in the campaign against the Indians in Minnesota and Dakota. The Third was at the battle of Wood Lake and both officers and men distinguished themselves in that severe contest against the Sioux Indians. On the 16th of January, 1863, the regiment was reorganized, and having been duly exchanged, took its departure again for the south. In several skirmishes and battles in Tennessee, notably during this siege of Vicksburg, the Third had abundant opportunity to redeem itself, and it soon took rank as one of the famous fighting regiments under Grant's command. In July, 1863, it was a part of the comamnd of General Steele in the celebrated Arkansas campaign, and it remained in that state for the remainder of its first three years of service. In January and February the Third regiment veteranized, and after a visit to its home in Minnesota, returned and continued to the end of the war to do duty west of the Mississippi in various parts of Arkansas. It was discharged at Fort Snelling, Sept. 16, 1865.

The commanders of the Third were: Henry C. Lester, dismissed from the service; Chauncey W. Griggs, resigned, July, 15, 1863, (living); C. C. Andrews, brevet major general (living); Hans Mattson (dead).

The Fourth Regiment.

The Fourth Minnesota volunteer infantry was organized during the fall of 1861 from companies enlisting from the Minnesota valley and northward toward Glencoe and St. Cloud. During the winter of 1861-2 the regiment was split into details, guarding the frontier posts against Indians. On the 20th of April, 1862, the regiment left Fort Snelling, by steamer, having been ordered to report to General Halleck at St. Louis. After a few days spent at Benton barracks, the regiment was ordered to western Kentucky as part of the First brigade, Third division of the Army of the Mississippi. Its first serious service was seen at the siege of Corinth, and later it was a participant in the battles of Iuka, Corinth, and in the campaign down the Central Railroad of Mississippi. It was with Grant, at the siege of Vicksburg. It was under fire at the battle of Champion Hills in the assault on Vicksburg, and at the battle of Chattanooga, gaining fresh laurels in every engagement. In 1864 it "veteranized, and was back in time to get into the thickest of the battle of Altoona. In Sherman's march to the sea it was in the third division of the Fifteenth corps, and continued with Sherman in the Carolina campaign. It again distinguished itself in the battle of Bentonville, and marched with Sherman's triumphant "Bummers" in the grand review at Washington to celebrate the coming of peace.

The commanders of the Fourth were: John B. Sanborn, brevet major general (still living): John E. Tourtellotte, later an officer in the regular army.

The Fifth Regiment.

The Fifth Minnesota volunteer infantry was the last Minnesota regiment raised under President Lincoln's first call for 500,000 men. It was recruited during the winter months of 1861-2, and its first duty was to garrison the frontier posts. It was while performing this monotonous but necessary duty that the Indian outbreak came, and during the terrible scenes of that summer of horrors, the Fifth was the main reliance of the settlers on the Minnesota frontier. Officers and men of this regiment were at the siege of Fort Ridgely, at the battle of Redwood, and in the siege of Fort Abercrombie. In May, 1862, seven companies of the Fifth were ordered to the south, and were with General Pope in the field before Corinth, and in the battle of Iuka and the second battle of Corinth. It marched in the campaigns through central Mississippi and western Tennessee, and was with Grant at the siege and surrender of Vicksburg. After the regiment had "veteranized" it participated in the Red river expedition and was at the battles of Pleasant Hill, Mansura and Bayou de Glaise. It was one summer in a campaign through Arkansas and Missouri, and after chasing Price and Van Dorn out of the country, the Fifth was ordered to join General Thomas at Nashville, where it arrived Nov. 30, 1863, in time to immortalize themselves by one of the most celebrated charges of the whole civil war. This charge has often been recounted and all accounts agree that it was second only to Pickett's immortal charge against Meade's lines at Gettysburg. The Fifth, under command of Colonel Hubbard, led in this celebrated action.

Later the Fifth was in the trenches before Mobile and at the assault on Spanish Fort and Blakely. On the twelfth of April, 1865, Mobile surrendered and the work of the Fifth was done.

The commanders of the Fifth were: Rudolph Borgesrode, resigned Aug. 31, 1862; Lucius F. Hubbard, brevet brigadier general (living).

The 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th.

The Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Minnesota regiments of volunteer infantry were organized at the same time under President Lincoln's call for 600,000 men—during the summer of 1862. The process of recruiting was in full swing, when, in August, 1862—like a peal of thunder from a clear sky, came the Sioux Indian outbreak, which painted one vast flame of barbarous war along the entire frontier of the state, from Alexandria, following the line of the "Big" Woods south to the Iowa line. As fast as companies were filled, they were started pell mell for some endangered settlement on the frontier, the union into regiments being postponed. Out of the state's possible 200,000 population, 6,000 of the cream of its young manhood was already on southern battle fields. Another 5,000 sprang immediately to arms for the defense of the frontier.

The history of the Sixth regiment commences with the thrice-told tale of the battle of Birch Coolie. While about 150 men of the Sixth were sleeping—at 4 o'clock in the morning of the 2d of September, 1862—they were surprised by more than 500 savages. The brave men of the Sixth held the savage foe at bay for over twenty-four hours, without food or water, until relieved by comrades of their regiment, and by hastily organized militia. During that twenty-four hours twenty-three of the 150 were killed and forty-five wounded—a casulty list of nearly 50 per cent.

The Sixth continued to do service in the Indian war—participating in the battle of Wood Lake, and the rescue of Indian captives at Camp Release during the summer of 1862. The regiment was organized in October of that year. The companies were then scattered throughout the widely exteneded frontier for garrison duty during the winter. In April, 1863, the regiment joined the Sibley expedition to the Missouri river driving the hostile Indians before them away from the settlements; and after discharging this duty, again became guards of the frontier during the winter of 1863-4.

On the 9th of June, 1864, the Sixth was at Fort Snelling making arrangements to go south. At first it was ordered to join the Second corps and become a part of the army of the Potomac. Then the order was changed, and on the 14th of June, at 7:30 p. m., the regiment went on board the boat en route to the south. It went to Helena, Ark., arriving there in July, and remained there until the 4th of November, on which date it was ordered to St. Louis. In the spring of 1865, it was in New Orleans and became a part of the Sixteeth army corps under General A. J. Smith. It formed a portion of the line that stormed and captured Fort Blakely, Mobile, and continued in this service until the surrender of Lee and the close of the war. The regiment received the news of Lee's surrender while on the march to Montgomery, Ala. They were mustered out at Fort Snelling, Aug. 19, 1865.

The men who at different times were in command of the Sixth regiment were William Crooks, resigned October 28, 1864 (living); John T. Averill, brevet brigadier general, (dead).

The Seventh Minnesota infantry was recruited simultaneously with the Sixth, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth, and had a somewhat similar career. Its first duty was in resisting the savages after the outbreak, and furnishing garrisons for frontier posts. It accompanied Gen. Sibley on his Dakota campaign against the Sioux in 1863, returning therefrom in the fall and going south on the 7th of October, 1863. It did provost duty in St. Louis during the following winter, and furnished guards for public property. In April, 1864, it proceeded to Mississippi and became a part of the Sixteenth army corps, participating in the battles of Tupelo and Nashville, the Oxford raid, and followed the omnipresent voice through Arkansas and Missouri. Its final service was rendered at Mobile and Spanish fort. On the 16th day of August, 1865, the Seventh was mustered out of the service. The two commanding officers were Stephen Miller, brigadier general (dead), William R. Marshall, brevet brigadier general (dead). Both of these commanders later became governor of the state.

The Eighth regiment was organized in 1862, participated in the Indian war, and went south in September, 1863. It participated in the battle of Murfreesboro and during Sherman's march to Savannah, was ordered around to North Carolina, where it was engaged in the battle of Kingston, and was with Sherman in front of Johnston at the final surrender, and was mustered out in August, 1865. Its colonel, Minor T. Thomas, began his military career as a second lieutenant in the First Minnesota; was promoted to major of the Fourth for gallantry at Bull Run, and to colonel of the Eighth at the time of its organization. He was brevetted brigadier general in North Carolina, just before the war closed.

The Ninth Minnesota infantry was enlisted in August, 1862, participated in all the campaigns against the Indians and went south on October 30, 1863. Its first service was chasing Price in Missouri. On May 29th, 1864, it went south from St. Louis, and was placed under the command of General Sturges, and was first under fire at Guntown, where its colonel—Alexander Wilkin—was killed. It was also in the battles of Tupelo and Nashville, and saw the close of the great struggle in the trenches at Mobile. It was mustered out a Fort Snelling in August, 1865. The Ninth was the only regiment serving from Minnesota whose commanding officer was killed outright on the field of battle during the war. Colonel Wilkin was succeeded in command of the Ninth by Josiah F. Marsh (dead).

The Tenth Minnesota Infantry regiment was organized in August, 1862, and was in all the early campaigns against the Sioux Indians. It went south in the spring of 1864, and was engaged in the battles of Tupelo, and Nashville, the siege of Mobile, and various raids in the southwest. It was mustered out in August, 1864, at Fort Snelling. James H. Baker, brevet brigadier general, was its only colonel. Lieutenant-Colonel S. P. Jennison, commanded the regiment during its most important compaigns.

The Eleventh Regiment.

The Eleventh Minnesota infantry was enlisted in August, 1864, under President Lincoln's last call for troops. It enlisted for one year. In November, 1864, it went to Gallatin, Tennessee. Here its entire service was performed in guarding railroads and escort duty, varied by an occasional race after guerrillas. It was mustered out July 11th, 1865. It was commanded by Colonel John B. Gilfillan.

The Sharpshooters.

The first company of Minnesota sharpshooters was organized by Captain Francis Peteler, a Mexican war veteran, and mustered into the service Oct. 5, 1861, and became a portion of "Berdan's Sharpshooters," a regiment that gained much distinction in the Army of the Potomac. Captain Peteler was made lieutenant colonel of the regiment. He is still living.

The second company of sharpshooters was mustered in in March, 1862. It was commanded by Captain Wm. F. Russell. It participated in the battles of the peninsular campaign, under Captain Berdan, and was then detatched from his command, and assigned to the First Minnesota, becoming Company L of that regiment. From that time it was commanded by Captain Mahlon Black and its history was merged into that of the "Old First."

The Cavalry.

The First Regiment of Minnesota cavalry, the mounted rangers) was a one-year regiment and did duty against the Indians and protecting the frontier. It was commanded by Samuel McPhail, and participated in all the exciting scenes that followed the Indian outbreak.

The Second regiment of Minnesota cavalry succeeded the Mounted Rangers as a cavalry organization to guard the frontier. It was organized and mustered January 11, 1864, with Colonel R. N. McLaren as commanding officer. It was with General Sully in his Yellowstone campaign, and served faithfully in the position assigned to it, until the close of the civil war permitted it to be relieved by soldiers of the regular army.

Brackett's battalion, a cavalry organization consisting of four companies, enlisted in September, 1861, and was mustered out in June, 1866. It was first assigned to duty as part of the Fifth Iowa cavalry, and was in the battles of Shiloh, Corinth, Lockridge Mills, Donaldson and the Tullohoma campaign. It served three full years in the south; veteranized, and thenceforward served on the Minnesota frontier against the Indians. Major A. B. Brackett was in command during its entire service.

Hatch's Independent Batallion of Minnesota was organized in August, 1863, and served until April, 1866, on the frontier against the Indians. It consisted of six companies of cavalry and was first commanded by Major E. A. C. Hatch, who resigned, and was succeeded by Lieutenant Colonel C. P. Adams.

The Artillery.

The First Minnesota Heavy Artillery was organized in the summer of 1864, and assigned to duty at Chattanooga, Tenn., in charge of the defense of that important point. It consisted of 1,200 men, and was commanded by Colonel William Colville, who had commanded the "Old First" in the celebrated charge at Gettysburg.

Three batteries of light artillery were organized in Minnesota during the civil war. The first was commanded successively by Emil Munch and William Z. Clayton, and served with credit from the Battle of Pittsburg Landing, through the siege of Vicksburg, Atlanta campaign, march to the sea and to the close of the war.

The Second was commanded by William A. Hotchkiss, and opened its career at the Battle of Perryville, did good service at Stone River, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and other celebrated battles. Captain Hotchkiss (still living) was promoted to the rank of major and became chief of artillery of one division of the army.

The survivors of these various organizations are called to meet at the state capitol next Wednesday afternoon to form an organization of "Minnesota Veterans."

—Frank J. Mead.

Attention G. A. R.

On Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th, the Wisconsin Central railway, the official route of the G. A. R., will sell round trip tickets to Cleveland for $14.82 good to return October 8th. For your tickets and sleeping car berths call on or address V. C. Russell, C. P. & T. A., 230 Nicollet avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.

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Governor Van Sant With G. A. R. via "The Wilwaukee."

Governor Van Sant and party will accompany the G. A. R. headquarters train, carrying Department Commander W. H. Harries and staff from Minneapolis 7:50 a. m. Sunday, September 8th, via C. M. & St. P. Ry., en route to G. A. R. Encampment at Cleveland.

Rate Minneapolis to Cleveland and return $14.82 on September 7th, 8th and 9th.

All members G. A. R. and their friends are cordially invited to join the official headquarters train.

Only $50 to California and Return, General Convention Episcopal Church, San Francisco, Cal., Oct 2, 1901.

For this meeting the Chicago Great Western Railway will on Sept. 19 to 27, sell through excursion tickets to San Francisco, good to return Nov. 15, 1901, at the low rate of $50 for the round trip. Rates via Portland, Ore., $9 higher. Stopovers allowed.

For further information inquire of A. J. Aicher, city ticket agent, corner Nicollet avenue and Fifth street, Minneapolis.

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT, Vice-President of the United States, will open the Fair on Monday, September 2, and will deliver an address.

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NEED TO BE PARTIAL

Commercial West's View of "The Minneapolis Railway Policy"

ANSWERED BY F. F LINDSEY

The Charge of Partiality in Favor of Competitors of the "Omaha" the Points.

F. F. Lindsey of the railway and telegraph committee of the Commercial Club makes answer to an editorial in the Commercial West of to-day, entitled "The Minneapolis Railway Policy." He handles the charge of partiality toward other lines as against the Omaha as follows:

In to-day's issue the Commercial West, in referring to our controversy with the Omaha road, calls attention to the fact that this city treated the Wisconsin Central liberally, implying that it should therefore do the same with the Omaha. It must be borne in mind that the conditions under which the two roads come before the city asking for favors are entirely different. The Wisconsin Central railway, although largely a Chicago road, adheres to the policy of treating the shipping interests of Minneapolis and St. Paul fairly. Its line runs directly towards Chicago, or rather immediately into what is known as Chicago territory, and yet its rates are equitably adjusted between the twin cities and Chicago. Furthermore, it is not a large road like the Omaha-North-Western system, having lines penetrating all parts of the northwest, and were it disposed to work against us, as is the case with the North-Western system, its efforts could amount to but little; however, it has always shown a disposition to be fair in this matter of rates, and our shippers know of many instances where it has insisted on putting in reduced rates in the face of emphatic opposition and objections on the part of the Omaha-North-Western company and other stronger lines. The Wisconsin Central line does not extend into territory beyond Minneapolis, as does the Omaha-North-Western system, and maintain an adjustment of rates so outrageously unfair as to clearly show that it is doing all in its power to shut these cities out of such territory, if such a thing were possible. The Wisconsin Central is not, and does not pretend to be a great distributing line for the twin cities, as is claimed by the Omaha-North-Western company, and yet so far as its line is concerned where our merchants attempt to do business, its rates are fair and reasonable, and there is no apparent favoritism shown Chicago shippers.

On the other hand, one of the leading claims to consideration on the part of the Omaha-North-Western company is that it is a great distributing line affording a large territory in which Minneapolis and St. Paul merchants do business. It fails, however, to add that the territory which it offers is penetrated by Minneapolis and St. Paul shippers in spite of the efforts or policy of that system to hold it open only to Chicago and closed so far as these cities are concerned.

The Wisconsin Central's chief claim is that it is a line to and from the east affording our shippers of eastbound commodities and those of westbound merchandise an additional line and route over which they may do business, and all shippers well know its liberal policy in the matter of rates. Its policy has been to get business to and from these cities via Milwaukee and Manitowoc and its lake and across-lake routes. The well known policy of the Omaha-North-Western system, especially as regards merchandise, is to maintain prohibitive rates if possible, and compel the consumers of the northwest to deal with, or through Chicago. If the Omaha-North-Western officials suspect the Wisconsin Central of having reduced or of intending to reduce rates for the benefit of twin city traffic, they very quickly use their influence to force that company, or any other weaker line, to withdraw the favorable rates. The Wisconsin Central is engaged at the present time in preparations for the making of this city its terminus in fact as well as in theory. The Omaha company claims this to be a terminus, and is obligated under its charter from the state to own and operate a line from Minneapolis to Shakopee, but nevertheless is lacking absolutely in all that would constitute a terminal for that company.

So far as the shipping interests of the twin cities are concerned the Wisconsin Central is a willing factor in adding to and advancing our commercial prosperity; the North-Western an unwilling factor, having always done, and still continuing to do, all in its power to prevent or destroy the commercial prosperity of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Therefore, knowing and considering the policy of the two roads, can it be said that they should receive the same treatment from this city? To afford roads like the Soo, the Minneapolis & St. Louis, the Wisconsin Central terminal facilities and opportunity for drawing more liberally from the traffic offered by Minneapolis shippers means an increase in the number of their general office or shop employes who spend their earnings here, buy real estate, rent houses, patronize our merchants and build up the city generally. To afford better terminal facilities for the Omaha-North-Western system means the strengthening of an enemy, the building up of a system that is against us. It means the sending of money collected from our shippers in freight charges to St. Paul or to Chicago to be spent by shop and general office employes in those cities instead of in Minneapolis. It is considered by many at least that the time has come when instead of affording a strong opposing factor in our business fabric additional opportunity for opposing us and shutting out friendly lines or at least making it more difficult for them to assist us, that it is better to begin closing the door to such institutions and lend our aid and grant our favors to those lines which reciprocate.

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