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BURLINGTON, THURSDAY, AUG. 25.

WANTED.

When you want anything, advertise in the new special column of this paper. Some bargains are offered there each week which will pay you to read about. See page seven. This paper has more than 25,000 readers every week, and one cent a word will reach them all.

Judging from the accounts of the return of the Pennsylvania troops on Sunday, Philadelphia witnesses scenes not unlike those seen at Fort Ethan Allen. Maine troops are also homeward bound.

The gold reserve in the United States treasury has reached the highest point in ten years, the surplus now being over \$200,000,000. This surplus can hardly be compared to the free silverites.

Mr. Hay who succeeds Mr. Day as secretary of state is said to be ardently in favor of the retention of the Philippine Islands. In view of this statement Mr. Hay's selection for the state portfolio may have particular significance.

A palpable attempt is being made to bolster up the waning fortunes of the Klondike boom by the statement that gold in enormous quantities has been found inland, but the chances are against a renewal of the Klondike craze. A little Klondike gold goes a great way.

The announcement of the nomination of Speaker Haskins of Brattleboro for representative means of course that he is a candidate for re-election as presiding officer of the House, and in this turn means that whoever tries to run against him will have a difficult man to beat.

Washington advices are to the effect that no plans have been definitely settled for the military occupation of Havana and western Cuba, but Gen. Fitzhugh Lee has been assured of the command. He will take with him his corps, with additions to bring the force up to a numerical strength of 20,000 men.

Individual cotton mills at Fall River, Mass., have begun a movement to curtail production. The competition of the cotton mills of the South is beginning to be severely felt in New England, and the only satisfactory solution of the problem how to relieve the situation undoubtedly lies in the opening up of a larger market for America's cotton products.

Perry S. Heath, first assistant postmaster-general, who is now abroad, writes that whereas Republicans formerly believed that we would not fight if we could, and could not, if we would, they now look upon us as "the bravest, most skillful and most dangerous foe on earth." This is certainly worth fighting for and incidentally it will be of vast benefit to our commerce.

The eighth volume of the National Cyclopaedia of American Biography presents sketches of the forty-six governors of Vermont, with likenesses of most of them, together with three views of the Vermont State House. The presidents of the University of Vermont were similarly treated in the second volume. This cyclopaedia thus includes along with men of the time, sketches of the men of an earlier day who helped to shape the present.

Burlington republicans nominated Hon. W. J. Van Patten for city representative while Shelburne republicans renominated Dr. W. Seward Webb for representative. Both of these gentlemen have rendered public service which is an earnest of their usefulness in the next Legislature, and if other towns throughout the State make nominations equally as commendable as these Vermont will be assured of a high order of legislation the coming autumn.

According to the Army and Navy Journal the real hero of the present war is Enrique Curtin, who landed at the Port of Ponce, and with imitable cheek sent his ultimatum to the commander of the Spanish forces at Ponce by telephone. It adds: "Of all the astonishing incidents of this war nothing for novelty approaches this, and Mr. Curtin's story goes down in history as the originator of the 'Hello' method of reaching military results."

The general order from Washington promulgating instructions for the muster line out of volunteers, provides among other things for a thorough physical examination of officers and men immediately before the muster out; for use in the settlement of future claims for pensions. A provision is also made for the sale to the enlisted men of their arms and accoutrements, at prices ranging from one cent for a spoon to \$10 for a Springfield rifle.

The latest political rumor from Washington is that Senator McMillan of Michigan is to be appointed ambassador to England to succeed Ambassador Hay in order to make a place for Secretary Alger, who aspires to a seat in the United States Senate. It is stated that Senator McMillan has already announced his retirement from the Senate and has stated his preference for Secretary Alger as his successor; and that Gov. Pingree is a party to the arrangement. Has Pingree planted potato patches to no political purpose?

The Rutland Herald will not be comforted because the Vermont troops were not sent to the West Indies, even though peace was assured when their return to Vermont was asked for. It now seeks to discredit the Vermont National Guard; says there has been a good deal of kicking in regard to maintaining even one regiment and vents its spleen on all who have contributed to the recall of the troops to Vermont. The Marble City contemporary's idea of military honor must be almost as peculiar as the Spanish idea of national honor. But then such freak exhibitions as this from the neighbor have come to be expected, and it

petty idiosyncrasies are generally received with either ridicule or disgust.

It is announced that the brewers and distillers are ready to devote many thousands of dollars to the overthrow of the prohibitory law in Vermont. There must be some mistake about this. License advocates claim that liquor is sold as freely as kerosene oil or nails under Vermont's prohibitory law, and the brewers and distillers are not fools enough to pay for a license which is already open to them. If there is no mistake about the statement, however, the brewers and distillers in paying money freely for the overthrow of the prohibitory law will also be paying a handsome tribute to its efficacy.

Appraisal of Real Estate.

The equalization of the burdens of taxation is a difficult problem. It is not only next to impossible to compel the artful tax-dodger to bear his just proportion of the expense of government and public improvements but the widely varying standards of real estate appraisal employed by assessors also serve to increase the inequalities of taxation. Vermont affords excellent illustrations of the methods employed to shift the burden of taxation to the shoulders. In some towns each quadrennial appraisal of real estate sees that class of property assessed at a fraction of its real value, the standard being as low as one-third of the real market value in some instances, while in other towns real estate is appraised at it should be under the law.

The statute provides that real estate shall be appraised by the assessors "at its just value in money." This has been interpreted to mean, the value of the property, not under forced sale, but under ordinary sale in market. If the assessors of all towns in the State complied with this provision literally, one great source of inequality in taxation in our State would be removed, but it seems that the real estate assessors are not so conscientious. Appraisal of real estate is its "just value in money" in order that their respective towns may be relieved of a portion of the State tax, which under an honest appraisal would fall to their taxpayers, but which under the present order of things is borne in part by those whose real estate is appraised at its just value.

Burlington has contributed in the vicinity of \$11,000 annually for some years to other towns in the State owing to the fact that the State school and road taxes are imposed in accordance with the size of our grand list and the proceeds distributed on a per capita basis. It has also borne more than its just share of the State tax, but less cost of life and suffering and treasure many fair-minded and intelligent persons all over the land fully believe. Excuses and explanations make a poor substitute for performance of duty. The gentlemen who make the nomination in the ranks and line officers have done their duty, and by their courage and patient endurance have supplemented and overcome the defects of their superiors. For the needless sufferings they have endured the men responsible therefor, ought in due time to be called to a stern reckoning, beginning at the top.

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The importance of the work done for the State Board of Health as well as for various towns by Dr. J. H. Linsley has come to be thoroughly appreciated, and a movement is on foot to secure the recognition of his work in such a manner as to make his services available for the entire State. It will be remembered that a laboratory was set up in this city some time since under the auspices of the State Board of Health. It is now proposed to secure a small appropriation for the laboratory and some idea of the manner in which the project is viewed in other parts of the State can be gained from the following extract from a letter contributed to the columns of the Caledonian by Dr. W. J. Aldrich, health officer of St. Johnsbury:

"There is to be a bill introduced in the coming session of the Legislature asking for an appropriation of money to establish and conduct at Burlington a laboratory for the purpose of examining diseases of Vermonters. In this laboratory examinations will be made for the germs of diphtheria, scarlet fever, and other diseases which physicians cannot make themselves, which have been sending away to be made, and for which their patients have had to pay. Such a laboratory will be of service to every person who is sick or who may be sick, and that means all."

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The members of the First Vermont Regiment are again in their native State, and all Vermonters will rejoice that they are this to enjoy an opportunity to regain their health and strength in our pure, invigorating air and amid healthful surroundings. The people of Vermont expected that our troops would be obliged to undergo hardships and sufferings and possibly offer up their lives, for such are some of the penalties of war; but when it became certain that the services of our soldiers would not be needed in further war, and that they were to be sent home, their return was generally desired. If there had been further fighting to be done, Vermont would have been the last State to ask for the return of her troops. But when the conditions prevalent at Chickamauga became generally known there was instant demand for a change in their location.

If doubt as to the wisdom of this movement pervaded the minds of any of the people who watched the return of the troops at Fort Ethan Allen, it must have been dissipated by the sight of the long hospital train, crowded with over 200 of our brave boys, or nearly one-quarter of the regiment. Scores of the soldiers were unable to leave the cars without assistance, and a nurse was moved into the aid of stretchers. The pinched and drawn faces of all of the troops on the train told a tale more eloquent than words, of suffering and pain resulting from their struggle with unsanitary surroundings in an enervating climate. No one who saw them could regret that the State Department was asked to send them home.

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Secretary Alger's Defense.

The secretary of war recognizes the wide-spread and very serious criticism of the management of his department by a somewhat of the people's expression. Bolled down to a sentence it is a confession, or statement, that he and his subordinates were swamped by the size of the task laid upon them. Of course the bottom blame for the vast amount of needless loss of life and suffering endured by the troops must rest on Congress, which rushed the nation into war before any adequate preparation for war had been made. With that granted, the fact remains that the disclosures of incompetency, jobbery and neglect of duty in several departments of the army, which have been and are daily appearing, are simply appalling; and it will be quite impossible to persuade the people that with thoroughly competent men at the head of the Quartermaster's, Subsistence and Medical departments of the army, a large part of the suffering, sickness, delays and distress to which the men have been subjected in camp and in the field, might not have been avoided. Doubtless more or less of the blame belongs to generals and colonels, and to the subordinate positions; but with men of the right stamp at the head such incompetencies would have been to a good extent held to their duty or made to give place to better men. Weakness and inefficiency at the top, filters down through all the lower strata of an army. Men of commanding ability, high sense of duty, stern integrity and strong purpose, at the head, inspire like qualities in the men below them. Under all the circumstances the army has been fortunate in coming out as well as it has, as regards the results of the war. These results might have been secured at far less cost of life and suffering and treasure many fair-minded and intelligent persons all over the land fully believe. Excuses and explanations make a poor substitute for performance of duty. The gentlemen who make the nomination in the ranks and line officers have done their duty, and by their courage and patient endurance have supplemented and overcome the defects of their superiors. For the needless sufferings they have endured the men responsible therefor, ought in due time to be called to a stern reckoning, beginning at the top.

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VERMONT SOLDIERS

ONLY LACKED AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES.

Gen. O. O. Howard Commands Gov. Grout's Action in Asking For the Regiment's Recall When There Was Nothing More to Be Done.

Gen. Oliver O. Howard, who recently returned from working at the front on the Christian commission, was seen by a Free Press reporter at his home in Burlington, and he was asked to explain the action of the President in asking for the recall of the Vermont soldiers. He said: "I have had about as much of this war as any man ever had. Where shall I begin?"

In response to a question he said: "I returned to this city last Saturday evening. I landed from the Segura a week ago Saturday. I had business engagements in New York and Chicago, Ill., from which places I have just returned. Except for that trip I have been with our soldiers or our sailors during the whole of this war. I was on board the Segura 200 men representing 23 organizations, artillery, infantry and cavalry. Most of the other 11 or 12 very weak, as I imagine, from the account in your paper, the Vermont soldiers were not so well as the men from Cuba or Porto Rico or anywhere, where they could have a share in the active work of the campaign. It is evident enough that as only 200 men altogether (if I am correct) were called to the absolute front, that the remainder of the 200,000 volunteers were not so well as the men from Cuba or Porto Rico or anywhere, where they could have a share in the active work of the campaign. 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