NEXT YEAR BUFFALO

Continued From Second Page.

bravely offered and freely gave their lives for its salvation, and believing that this memory is of momentous value and should live through all generations, they would not encourage anything that would tend to efface it from the minds of the people. You say that 'it is intended that there shall be but one flag, that of the United States, and that it shall float over the whole parade.' Why not require the same as to uniform? The gray uniform is just as objectionable as the flag that it fought under. The distinctive color of the Union is blue. The sooner those who wore the gray cease trying to symbolize the "lost cause" by flag or uniform, and representing themselves as a distinct part of the people of our common country, the sooner will a fuller realization of the "festival of patriotism and fraternal co-operation" which you suggest, be brought about. I am sincerely yours, I. N. WALKER, "Commander-in-Chief."

The innumerable letters and resolutions that came to headquarters strongly indicated that the position taken was upheld to an overwhelming extent by the enlightened and patriotic sentiment, and the project of the proposed parade was abandoned. To the men who fought on the side of the South and who got through fighting at Appomattox, and who stand with us for our common country, its flag and its institutions, we extend a soldier's hand. We have recently mingled with them and shared their boundless hospitality at Louisville and Chickamauga.

The fraternal feeling between the North and South has been steadily growing for a generation, and the unpleasant memories of the late war will soon be as completely obliterated as were the angry passions of our English ancestors in the great civil conflict known as the "War of the Roses."

Pensions and Payments.

Early in the session of congress I asked our pension committee to meet me in Washington, where we had a consultation with the congressional pension committee, and urgently requested that action be taken at once to stop the illegal suspending and "sandbagging" of pensioners that was going on all over the country. The congressional committee expressed a willingness to aid in the matter, and all bills then before congress were taken up, carefully considered, and such measures of relief as we believed could be passed, were embodied in House Bill No. 5,549, known as the "Pickler bill." Our committee made no recommendations as to sections one and fourteen of said bill. There has been some criticism as to the advisability of these two sections, but the other measures of relief embodied in the bill were of such vital importance to all pensioners, and must prove so beneficial in the administration of pension laws, that I deem it my duty to urge its immediate passage, which I did, both to members of congress and to the speaker of the house, to whom I made a personal appeal. As you are aware, the measure passed the house by a large majority, and is now pending in the senate. When this bill became the law, as I believe it will at the next session of congress, the unrest and anxiety among deserving pensioners will cease, as no pension can then be discontinued except for fraud, clerical error or mistake of fact. We are unalterably opposed to all frauds, and of course want clerical errors and mistakes corrected whenever found. This law, when enacted, will guarantee to the pensioner that security and peace of mind which should come to him in his declining years.

The payment of all pensions by check through the mails was also urged upon the congressional committee. The measure was introduced by Mr. Overstreet, of Indiana, and has become a law. The salutary result, after two pension payments under it, have, I think, proven the wisdom of its enactment, in saving to pensioners and their families money from pensions heretofore lost through temptations and weakness.

In discussing this matter, the question comes forcibly to me, the payment of pensions from the several agencies by mail having proven a success, why can not all pensions be paid and mailed directly from the interior or pension department at Washington, and by so doing save two-thirds of the expense now incurred in keeping up pension agencies in nearly every important state. It would require but a few hours longer to receive a check through the mail from Washington than it does from the local agency, and would save a vast sum of money that could be applied to pension payments, as an ex-auditor of the treasury, through whose office pension payments are made, and who was one of the most competent men who ever filled the office, informed me when consulted about the matter, that with fifty additional clerks in his department he could readily have paid every pensioner on the rolls. The expense of pension agencies last year was nearly half a million dollars. You can readily estimate the saving that would accrue from such a change, without detriment to the pensioner.

The last encampment directed that a test case be selected embodying the question "that a pension when once granted became a vested right, and cannot be discontinued except by due process of law."

The council of administration selected the Long case, as they believed that it embodied the issues which we desired settled. The attorneys of Judge Long were consulted, and at their request the Hon. James C. Carter was employed to argue the case before the supreme court of the United States. The case came up for hearing in March, and after considering the matter for some weeks, it was not decided, but continued for a rehearing in October. I recommend that Mr. Carter be continued in the case until the same is decided.

Woman's Relief Corps.

In all of the duties and labor of the year, the Woman's Relief Corps, composed of the loyal women of the land, has been our constant friend and helpmate. I desire to add my testimony to that which has been frequently given by others in this position, to the loyal and efficient services of this noble auxiliary organization. Abundant is their special work of charity, helpful in every field of labor, full of patriotic enthusiasm, and happy to share with us the labor and glory of our Grand Army life. It has been my pleasure during the past year to meet the national officers at Boston and at many conventions. I have heard good of it from all quarters—evil from none. I am glad in this connection, to say a word in explanation of our attitude towards other organizations of women, who seek to be useful to the Grand Army. To those who have or will give attention to the record there can be no question that the national encampment held in Denver in 1883 gave recognition to the Woman's Relief Corps as our auxilary, and that it has remained silent in such action as to other organizations. The great success that has attended the Woman's Relief Corps has called into existence other women's organizations, and these, very naturally, have antagonized the older organization in the affections of veterans, until we have the humiliating spectacle of comrades who fought for four years in the same file, and whose comradeship has been cemented in fifty battles, now, at this late day in life, ruthlessly torn asunder because their wives happen to belong to different woman's organizations. It is human nature, and the Good Book declares "that a man will leave father and mother and cleave unto his wife," so this state of affairs will continue until the encampment shall take some action that will finally settle the matter. Hoping to accomplish something in this direction, I appointed a committee of five comrades, composed of past commanders-in-chief, those who have passed through the ordeal, to take up the question and see whether harmony or consolidation could not be brought about and the trouble stopped. This committee will report the result of its efforts, which I trust has been productive of good, and that harmony in the work of these organizations may be secured.

Sons of Veterans.

The Sons of Veterans are our natural successors. They are the reserve of the Grand Army. They have already become of great assistance to our organization, and are destined to exert a powerful influence for patriotism and loyalty long after we shall have passed away. The storms and sunshine of thirty years have successively come and gone since the ranks from which the Grand Army can be recruited have been forever closed. The struggles and privations of half a century have whitened the locks and impaired the energy of the majority of our comrades, and the summit of our lives has been reached. As we go marching with ceaseless tramp, but ever-lessening tread down the slope toward the great hereafter, there comes up on the other side, with sturdy stride and ever-quickening pace, the Sons of Veterans, to take the place we have filled. They sing the songs we sang, and carry the same flag under whose starry folds we fought. As we come off guard and take up our line of march to the eternal camping grounds, we shall be more content if the picket line is still manned and the uniform is blue.

Memorial Day.

Memorial day was more generally and appropriately observed this year than ever before. Great multitudes of patriotic citizens gathered under the auspices of our order, in the silent cities of the dead, and with loving hearts and willing hands covered the graves of our departed comrades with the sweet flowers of spring. This day, sacred to the memory of the fallen defenders of the republic, has become a most impressive and instructive national holiday. So long as the observance of the day is kept in all of its genuineness and purity, not given up to frivolity and amusement, it will impart to all a truer sense of the obligation resting upon us as citizens. In honoring our dead we increase our devotion to the living, leading us to nobler deeds of fraternity and charity that shall warm the cold, clothe the naked and feed the hungry.

T. S. CLARKSON,

Who Will Probably Be Named for Commander-in-Chief Today.

Colored Posts.

This administration inherited from the former the unsettled question of the organization of a colored post at Austin, Texas, over the protest of the Department of Texas. The executive committee of the council of administration took the matter up, and after going over all the papers filed in the case, directed that the department commander of Texas be instructed to muster the post. On receiving this order of the council, the commander of the department made such representations as to the applicants for muster that I deemed it advisable to send a trusted and impartial comrade to visit Austin and ascertain the true condition of affairs. Past Department Commander Stormont, of Indiana, was delegated to perform this service, and on visiting Austin and meeting the applicants and the comrades of that place, he was convinced that some of the objections to their muster were well grounded. The applicants had a conference with Comrade Stormont and decided to withdraw their application for muster, which stopped further action in the matter.

If this action had not been taken and the report of Comrade Stormont had shown the applicants worthy of membership in our order, the post would have been mustered. I shall never forget that the only men who aided and shielded me in my escape from a rebel prison had black faces. This is a serious problem in Southern departments, but no honorably discharged veteran should be discriminated against on account of the color of his skin. There must be other and valid reasons for his rejection.

School Histories.

It has been aptly said that the public school is the nursery of state, and it is quite important that the food therein supplied for the expansion and growth of the mind of the child should be pure and wholesome, and of such flavor that obedience to law and love of country be early imbibed and deeply rooted. Because of the large and ever increasing number of children of foreign born parents of our country, it is particularly important that the history of our country and its government should be a prominent subject in the curriculum of all our schools, and that it should be carefully and correctly taught. While it is possible under our beneficent public school system that all children may be pupils, yet through the circumstances of the parents, or the inclination of the child, it is shown by statistics that but a small per cent of the great number who at one time or another attend said schools ever reach the grade of advanced scholarship. Hence the importance that the first impression of this subject gained from the study of primary school histories should be correct and patriotic. The subject of the history of our country, especially that part that relates to the period of the war for the Union, is one that I consider of the utmost importance, and I can think of no more useful or patriotic work for this great organization of ours to encourage than to see to it that in every department such histories are used in the schools as properly reflect the spirit of truth and loyalty and justly record the services of our comrades, the soldier citizens of our land. To this end I heartily commend the work of the Departments of Pennsylvania and Indiana, and congratulate them on the good results obtained and recommend that the good work be taken up in all departments, and suggest the appointment of a committee on school histories, who will supervise the work and report the results to the next national encampment.

Military Instruction in Public Schools.

The report of Comrade Henry H. Adams, chief aide in charge of military instruction in public schools, shows that great interest is being created in that branch of our work, and I direct your atention to his interesting report on the subject. I believe that this work should be vigorously prosecuted.

The report of the judge advocate general covers all decisions and opinions that have been rendered during the year.

The committees on picket posts, Sons of Veterans, in memory of loyal women of the war, revision of service book, expenses attending Memorial day in the South and a legislation, will all submit reports to this encampment for its action, and to which I direct your earnest attention.

Archives at Philadelphia.

By direction of the last national encampment I visited Philadelphia and appointed a custodian to take charge of the archives of our order, arranged for the necessary cases and shelving for the rooms set apart in Independence hall, and appointed a board of survey to examine and destroy useless papers. Comrade J. Henry Holcomb was appointed custodian at a salary of $50 per month. He has carefully tabulated and filed all papers that have accumulated at national headquarters for years. Comrade Holcomb took charge of the matter on the 20th of January and made report of the work already accomplished.

In connection with this office of custodian of archives, I believe that it would prove beneficial to the work at national headquarters, and make quite a saving, if the office of the adjutant general and quartermaster general were consolidated, and supplies issued by the custodian of records at Philadelphia, under the direction of the adjutant general, as most of our supplies are manufactured there. He could do this for the salary now paid, and the duties of adjutant general would not be materially increased by the change.

Patriotism.

We meet today in a true spirit of fraternity, charity and loyalty. These annual gatherings of the men who rendered loyal, devoted and patriotic services to their country in its hour of peril, gives renewed strength to patriotism, tends to elevate and adorn our national character and make us stronger each succeeding year. We meet with no desire to boast of our services in the past. We were citizens before we became soldiers, and volunteered at the call of our imperiled nation, that we might fulfill the highest duties of citizenship, and the lessons we learned amidst the storm of battle made us more mindful of our duties as citizens. The men who saved the nation can be depended upon to defend its integrity and honor when assailed. The Grand Army stands for the rights of property and the supremacy of the laws. It stands for law and order and justice everywhere and at all times.

Comrades, the trumpet of God is sounding. It is not the bugle call to battle. The roar of cannon and the rattle of musketry have ceased. The sabre and the bayonet flash only on parade. The bivouac, the camp, the march are only a dream. The battalions hear no more the hoarse "Forward!" The shattered and glorious banners which you followed are carefully folded in legislative halls. The grass grows green over the soldier's lonely grave, and the bitter moans of sorrow mellow into a song of sadness. The conflict of arms is over, but not the conflict of ideas, nor the trials of the people. The field is changed, and now in the workshop, the home and at the capitol, through the press and on the platform we must insist upon the maintenance of law and order for which our comrades so nobly fought and so bravely died. We are called upon by the sacred memories of the past, in view of our needs and auspicious hopes, to cherish a lofty faith in the republic. We must have courage to meet our difficulties. We must remember that we have outgrown the past and that we have entered upon a new and higher national life. There need be no rancor nor needless recrimination. We must be inspired by hope. We must stand together. We must forgive and forget. We must rub out old animosities and take fresh, unstained parchment, fit to receive the ideas and lessons of later times. We must carry hopeful hearts and cheerful brows. We must fill the veins of education and the organizations of industry with the spirit of liberty regulated by law. We must mould the life of the nation by the force of great moral ideas, and rule through the royalty of principle, which can never be discrowned.

In Memoriam.

Comrades, it is fitting ere we enter upon the duties of another year, to pause upon its threshold, and, with one more backward glance, take leave of those who have thus far accompanied us on our march. Many who one year ago answered to the roll call, hold their encampment today in the halls of heroes in Valhalla, with Lincoln, Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas and Logan. As we run our eye over the old roster, now dimmed with age and burnt with tears, we sadly realize how "many a star has shed its fatal ray upon those we've loved long since, and lost awhile." Few posts have escaped the invasion of the Great Conqueror, and to many of us He has come very close and torn from us those to whom we were bound by close encircling bands. More than 7,000 of our number, within the short twelve months, have crossed the star-lit line, and ere another encampment assemples some in this presence will join their comrades on eternal camping grounds. National, department and post officers have often been called upon to perform the last sad rites over their fallen comrades, and with the simply bronze badge upon their breasts, they have laid them away upon their shields. I speak of many—you are thinking of one. Long had he served you and his state and nation faithfully; long had his firm, quiet character been a positive factor in public affairs. You learned to love him, you learned to trust him, you raised him to that high position for which he was so fitted. In the midst of his usefulness the Supreme Commander summoned him to a higher service. Death came suddenly, and you laid him away at Madison amid the flowers moistened by the tears of many friends. But, comrades, he is not dead. A patriot never dies! His spirit moves among us today! We see him not, but the inner soul catches the sound of his voice as in years agone. He comes not to claim his wanted place, but in our hearts he asserts his rights and while today we deliberate for the welfare of his comrades, may we still give heed to the guiding counsel of our departed but ever-living friend and comrade—Lucius Fairchild.

Comrades, our work for this year is nearly completed and in returning to you unimpaired the trust your suffrages imposed, I desire to express my profound sense of appreciation. I hope that amy efforts in behalf of our great organization have not been in vain, but that some lasting good has been accomplished. Permit me to again thank you for one of the greatest honors of my life, second only to that of being permitted to stand by your side in defending our country in its hour of peril, which service made it possible for me to become a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. When your duty here is performed and you return to your several homes, may you each and all be constantly under the guardian care of Him who shielded you in the hot flame of battle, and, finally, may each one of you hear from the lips of the Supreme Commander the "Well done, good and faithful servant."

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S REPORT

Which Shows the Financial Condition of the G. A. R.

The report and statistics of the G. A. R. are to be found in the document presented by Adjutant General Robbins.

He had the following to say:

After many years of intimate association in fraternal labors, I tender you my sincere thanks for the honor and confidence reposed in me by my appointment as your adjutant-general. I have used my utmost energy to meet the requirements of the comrades everywhere, and with very few exceptions I believe I have been successful. My efforts have met with hearty co-operation and courtesy. I trust that the records of the year will be found satisfactory to all. I respectfully submit this report of the business of my office from Sept. 14, 1895, to this date.

The report of my predecessor to the twenty-ninth national encampment showed that on June 30, 1895, our membership in good standing was 357,639, distributed among 7,303 posts, with 49,600 members on the suspended list, making a total of 407,239 on the rolls. From exhibit A it will be seen that on June 30, 1896, there were 7,302 posts, containing 340,610 comrades in good standing, with 42,561 carried on the rolls as suspended. In addition to this the last report shows "lost by delinquent reports," or the failure of posts to report at all, 2,285, making a grand total on the rolls of 385,456. The following shows the gains and losses for the official year:

RECAPITULATION.

Members in good standing June 30, 1895		357,639
Gain by muster in	13,467	
Gain by transfer	5,418	
Gain by reinstatement	13,095	
Gain from delinquent reports	4,901	
Total gain	36,881	
Aggregate		394,520
Loss by death		7,293
Loss by honorable discharge		1,283
Loss by transfer		5,912
Loss by suspension		28,033
Loss by dishonorable discharge		154
Loss by delinquent reports		11,235
Total loss		53,910
Members remaining in good standing		340,610
Members remaining suspended		42,561
Total borne on the rolls		383,171

The following table showing comparisons of the death rate for the past eleven years, also percentage as to membership, is published for information of comrades:

		Per cent
Loss by death for year ending March 31, 1886	3,020	0.93
Loss by death for year ending March 31, 1887	3,406	0.95
Loss by death for year ending March 31, 1888	4,433	1.18
Loss by death for year ending June 30, 1889	4,696	1.18
Loss by death for year ending June 30, 1890	5,476	1.33
Loss by death for year ending June 30, 1891	5,965	1.46
Loss by death for year ending June 30, 1892	6,404	1.61
ing June 30, 1893	7,002	1.78
Loss by death for year ending June 30, 1894	7,283	1.97
Loss by death for year ending June 30, 1895	7,368	2.06
Loss by death for year ending June 30, 1896	7,293	2.21

EXPENDED IN CHARITY.

For six months ending Dec. 31, 1895	$105,559 67
For six months ending June 30, 1896	106,380 31
Total for year	$211,949 98

This exhibit must be very gratifying to all of us, as it shows an increase of $12,000 expended in charity over the preceding year, notwithstanding a decrease in membership. As a continuation of the labors of my predecessors, the following table is submitted, showing the total membership of the Grand Army from 1878 to the present year, on March 31, up to 1891 and on June 30 since then:

1878	31,016	1888	372,960
1879	44,752	1889	397,974
1880	60,634	1890	409,489
1881	85,856	1891	407,781
1882	134,701	1892	399,880
1883	215,446	1893	397,223
1884	273,168	1894	369,083
1885	294,787	1895	357,639
1886	323,571	1896	340,610
1887	355,916		

I do not suppose that any recommendation that I could make would produce any radical change in the business methods of the several posts and departments; still I cannot refrain from saying that when a post has a good adjutant or quartermaster, they should be retained from year to year, and when a department has a competent assistant adjutant general or assistant quartermaster general, they should be encouraged to perfect themselves in their duties by a permanency thereof. Where this policy has prevailed, my observation teaches me that it has been of great benefit to the posts or departments. The reports have been more accurate and promptly forwarded in these cases; and, as every soldier is aware, promptness and correctness are the great requirements in the field and in the office. Those departments that have consolidated the offices of assistant adjutant general and assistant quartermaster general have solved a large part of the difficulty in running a department, and have saved considerable in the expenses. Looking at the question of simplifying the duties of the offices referred to, and relying upon the report of the majority of the committee on blanks to the last national encampment, I have issued a new form "A" and "B," consolidated on a single sheet, whereby the assistant adjutant general is certain of receiving the report of the adjutant and quartermaster of a post at the same time, and also of receiving reports that agree with each other and with the preceding report. I am assured by the assistant adjutants general that these blanks have been beneficial. In accordance with the same idea, and knowing that national headquarters did not need the detailed reports of every post in the order, which were often imperfectly reported by the assistant adjutant general, I issued a new blank, form "C," which is a consolidated report from the assistant adjutants general, and assistant quartermasters general to the adjutant general of the condition of each department semi-annually. This form has substantially lessened the labors at department headquarters and enables them to transmit reports more promptly and accurately. This form gives all of the data necessary for the adjutant general to possess, and it is in such shape that it is more accessible. I have had some trouble with some of my comrade adjutants in regard to one line in these reports, which, however, is a copy of former blanks, and I recommend this encampment to decide by resolution, in line with the following statement of my opinion

IRWIN ROBBINS,
Adjutant General.

of the proper way to fill out this blank. The assistant adjutant general, in stating the "gains from delinquent reports," should give the difference between the number he set down in his last report "in good standing," for any post whose report had not been received by him in time for his report to the adjutant general and the actual number reported by said post, when its delayed report is afterwards received by him. Again, in the line, "lost by delinquent reports," he should deduct the difference between the number he had set down "in good standing" in his tabulation for any post that had not reported in time, as above stated, when he finally receives its report. My view of these lines is that this is the only interpretation that can be given to them. Some of the assistant adjutants general have claimed that when they had not received the report of a post or posts in time to include it in their semi-annual report to the adjutant general that they had the right to deduct the whole membership of that post, or of forty posts, if that many were delinquent from the report of those in good standing. My interpretation of rules and regulations is that no comrade can be suspended from a post except on notice and ballot at a regular meeting, and by a parity of reasoning no post can be bodily suspended except on due notice requiring it to appear before the council of administration and the action of the council suspending it being approved by the commander-in-chief, and until this has been done every post must be considered to be in good standing, and the number of its members in good standing must be obtained from the last report received from it. On no other theory can the reports and condition of our order be maintained. I have been impressed with the necessity of lessening the labors and expenses in all departments of our order. In view of that idea I believe that the offices of the adjutant general and quartermaster general should be consolidated, and that all blanks should be issued from headquarters, and that the other supplies for departments, which are principally manufactured in Philadelphia, should be issued by the custodian of records in that city on the order of the adjutant general. This would decrease correspondence and increase facilities for the transaction of business. The labors of my office have been incessant and of almost universal variety. Hundreds of questions on rules and regulations have been decided and thousands of queries answered with pleasure. Two editions of rules and regulations have been issued, amounting to 11,000 copies, containing all the amendments. The total printed and written matter sent out has amounted to over 250,000 pieces.

Past Commander-in-Chief Robert B. Beath has, at your request, prepared an entirely new edition of the Blue Book, which has entailed upon him an immense amount of labor that no other comrade could have performed as well. During the present year Comrade Beath has placed in the hands of the custodian of records a large number of books containing reports of national and department encampments and other meetings pertaining to Grand Army matters, which is, without doubt, the most complete edition in existence and will prove of inestimable value to the historian of the future. He is entitled to the gratitude of the comrades for his continued labors of love for our order.

I have shipped to Comrade J. Henry Holcombe, custodian of records at Philadelphia, all of the superfluous documents that were in my possession and am now prepared to turn over to my successor such papers and documents only as may be necessary for the proper carrying on of the business of this office. I have had bound the proceedings of the several department encampments for 1895. The library of the adjutant general's office now comprises a complete record of the national and department history as far as it is possible to be obtained.

In closing the business of the year, I desire to tender my thanks to all the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic and to members of kindred organizations that have been so kind to me.

EXHIBIT A.

Departments.	June 30, 1895. Posts	June 30, 1895. Memb's.	June 30, 1896. Posts	June 30, 1896. Memb's.
Alabama	13	243	13	198
Arizona	9	273	9	270
Arkansas	47	764	42	655
California & Nevada	105	5,677	106	5,329
Col. and Wyoming	54	2,181	52	1,991
Connecticut	70	6.403	69	6,047
Delaware	21	789	22	795
Florida	24	550	26	525
Georgia	12	450	13	649
Idaho	11	258	17	375
Illinois	576	27.450	573	26,625
Indiana	506	21,577	495	20,503
Indian Territory	11	237	13	248
Iowa	438	16.764	437	16.224
Kansas	425	15.355	440	14.710
Kentucky	179	5.341	139	5.094
Louisiana & Miss.	122	1.129	31	1,200
Maine	166	8.910	165	8.662
Maryland	51	3.293	53	3.078
Massachusetts	211	22.864	212	22,233
Michigan	362	16.951	366	16,367
Minnesota	186	7.683	183	8.170
Missouri	400	16.401	402	15,577
Montana	19	517	18	544
Nebraska	271	7.800	274	7,602
New Hampshire	92	4.595	93	4.432
New Jersey	114	7,221	113	6,607
New Mexico	12	193	8	134
New York	650	38.036	651	37,658
North Dakota	35	573	26	553
Ohio	689	36.601	681	35.020
Oklahoma	24	870	53	1.140
Oregon	59	1.884	59	1.932
Pennsylvania	627	43.213	607	36.682
Potomac	19	3.230	19	3.005
Rhode Island	26	2.508	25	2.369
South Dakota	77	2.138	85	2.250
Tennessee	91	2.924	98	2.920
Texas	37	1.009	42	852
Utah	5	182	5	170
Vermont	113	5,001	112	4.782
Va. and N. Carolina	53	1,450	51	1,229
Washington and Alas.	58	2,181	59	2,400
West Virginia	58	2,302	70	2,031
Wisconsin	274	12,072	275	11,393
Totals	7,303	357,639	7,302	340,610

Per Capita Tax Received by A. J. Burbank Quartermaster-General G. A. R., for the Year Ending Aug. 15, 1896.

DEPTS.	SECOND HALF Date '95	SECOND HALF Amount.	FIRST HALF Date '96	FIRST HALF Amount.
Alabama	M'ch. 3.	$2 44	Aug. 3.	$2 48
Arizona	Jan. 14.	3 40	Aug. 15.	3 38
Arkansas	May 1..	7 90	....	*
Cal. and Nevada	Jan. 13.	72 69	Aug. 1.	67 40
Colo. and Wyo.	April 3.	26 16	Aug. 3.	24 90
Conn	Jan. 28.	77 60	Aug. 6.	75 59
Dak. N	Feb. 28.	7 05	Aug. 6.	6 92
Dak. S	Feb. 3.	29 49	Aug. 14.	28 13
Delaware	Jan. 31.	9 96	J'ly 30.	9 94
Florida	Feb. 11.	6 97	Aug. 4.	5 95
Georgia	M'ch. 4.	6 80	Aug. 10.	8 11
Idaho	Mch. 13	4 29	Aug. 8.	4 89
Illinois	Mch. 24	336 61	Aug. 4.	332 81
Indiana	Feb 6.	261 90	Aug. 10.	256 28
Indian T.	Jan. 18.	3 10	Aug. 3.	3 10
Iowa	Mch. 13	204 82	Aug. 11.	202 80
Kansas	Feb. 26.	186 14	Aug. 4.	182 88
Kentucky	Feb. 20.	65 50	Aug. 15.	63 68
Louisiana & Miss.	Mch. 14	15 67	Aug. 13.	13 71
Maine	Feb. 17.	110 49	Aug. 8.	108 27
Maryland	Feb 4.	40 36	J'ly 30.	38 47
Mass	Jan. 14.	282 43	J'ly 20.	277 91
Michigan	Feb. 22.	209 55	Aug. 3.	204 59
Minn	Mch 3.	98 46	Aug. 13.	102 13
Missouri	Feb. 26.	193 74	Aug. 15.	187 68
Montana	Jan. 11.	5 91	J'ly 20.	6 80
Nebraska	Feb. 20.	94 85	Aug. 14.	72 86
N. Hamp.	Jan. 14	57 03	J'ly 20.	55 40
N. Jersey	Jan. 21.	87 39	J'ly 30	82 59
N. Mex	Jan. 31.	2 60	Aug. 4.	1 68
New York	Feb. 20.	470 36	Aug. 7.	463 23
Ohio	M'ch. 3.	444 38	Aug. 14.	437 75
Oklahoma	Mch. 13	11 93	J'ly 31.	14 25
Oregon	Jan. 28.	25 05	Aug. 4.	24 16
Penn	May 1..	460 10	Aug. 14.	458 52
Potomac	Feb. 4.	38 62	Aug. 10.	37 56
Rhode I.	Jan. 17.	30 00	J'ly 20.	29 61
Tennessee	Feb. 28.	37 24	J'ly 24.	36 50
Texas	Mch. 14	11 90	Aug. 13.	9 26
Utah	Jan. 11.	2 25	J'ly 20.	2 12
Vermont	Jan. 21.	61 14	J'ly 24.	59 53
Virginia & N. Car.	Feb. 22.	16 28	....	*
Wash. & Alaska	Feb. 22.	28 70	Aug. 11.	30 00
W. Va.	Feb. 28.	27 96	J'ly 30.	25 39
Wisconsin	Mch. 14	145 64	Aug. 14.	142 41
Total		$4,322 85		$4,202 42

*Per capita tax received too late for insertion in this report.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT AS PER REPORTS RECEIVED FROM DIFFERENT DEPTS

DEPARTMENTS.	Posts.	Members.	Posts in which the Members are Uniformed and Equipped.	Posts having Relief Funds	Aggregate of Relief Funds.	Expended for Relief.	Aggregate of all Funds in Hands of Post Quartermasters.	Value of Other Property Owned by Posts.
Alabama	8	136	1	......	....	$13 10	....	....
Arizona	7	250	......	......	....	54 95	$188 75	$1,380 00
California and Nevada	113	5,741	20	19	$11,120 69	2,212 96	10,396 11	28,096 91
Connecticut	69	6,351	34	51	54,597 95	6,971 32	....	....
Delaware	22	796	12	7	590 73	356 70	629 71	4,469 50
Florida	29	550	5	7	166 73	275 40	377 66	636 91
Georgia	13	544	1	6	12 00	104 25	582 10	490 00
Idaho	16	349	3	4	558 85	193 90	946 15	4,647 05
Illinois	500	26,929	30	105	10,176 00	5,670 06	51,152 59	87,743 79
Indiana	508	19,165	32	80	4,261 93	2,682 55	29,690 53	55,025 20
Indian Territory	13	264	......	......	....	....	128 65	854 65
Iowa	411	16,386	65	190	4,927 32	5,951 99	20,053 31	71,776 88
Kansas	363	12,939	30	48	1,287 86	4,0 8 35	11,:95 07	59,417 47
Kentucky	106	3,370	10	19	134 92	616 45	1,913 42	2,512 24
Maine	167	8,839	71	46	6,464 01	3,086 27	30,366 09	69,147 56
Maryland	57	3,025	21	12	1,552 81	1,785 25	4,133 91	15,923 95
Massachusetts	212	22,937	201	182	137,555 65	33,244 16	128,301 83	366,194 35
Michigan	358	16,623	40	102	2,660 92	3,412 90	13,530 97	70,588 45
Minnesota	189	6,751	39	52	1,584 18	1,666 71	7,721 23	43,065 29
Missouri	322	13,729	30	57	11,123 67	4,237 74	16,979 75	32,075 26
Montana	16	523	2	1	93 00	220 28	439 99	2,215 00
Nebraska	193	5,288	50	49	945 60	6,880 66	6,011 09	34,575 75
New Hampshire	93	4,549	41	63	8,184 30	1,516 50	19,580 04	49,861 34
New Jersey	115	7,341	......	67	42,730 08	9,141 50	48,188 31	75,170 51
New Mexico	10	177	......	......	....	30 00	....	....
New York	632	37,629	222	215	88,296 84	105,548 37	151,409 84	262,434 79
Ohio	586	34,428	92	111	3,780 56	9,009 17	45,013 44	133,684 97
Oklahoma	25	619	2	......	....	301 44	586 50	158 50
Oregon	53	2,007	......	......	150 44	1,691 10	1,898 34	7,505 78
Pennsylvania	590	37,971	550	178	31,312 72	24,649 71	232,895 92	522,324 00
Potomac	19	3,363	3	17	1,615 60	1,537 46	7,297 17	6,057 3
Rhode Island	26	2,517	22	15	11,200 77	1,538 65	13,459 67	31,115 11
South Dakota	89	2,276	1	20	245 68	609 21	1,551 41	6,994 76
Texas	35	818	1	6	115 66	241 33	618 62	2,071 85
Utah	5	180	1	2	5 55	374 95	477 04	1,640 95
Vermont	112	5,035	17	43	3,953 13	1,699 27	8,106 55	24,509 73
Virginia and N. Carolina	50	1,397	43	9	31 50	1,143 99	1,804 84	11,205 33
Wisconsin	264	11,650	31	10	943 52	3,871 06	19,843 80	66,599 98
Totals	6,396	333,382	1,723	1,793	$442,401 17	$247,669 66	$1,008,900 31	$2,139,924 42

Minnesota.

HARRISON WHITE, A. I. G.

I have the honor to report that I have made a careful inspection of the headquarters of the Department of Minnesota, and the records of the same, which I find in excellent condition.

The headquarters of the department are conveniently located in room 1117, Lumber Exchange, Minneapolis, are commodious and attractive to visitors, the walls being decorated with "Old Glory," souvenirs of the several national and department encampments, as well as portraits, handsomely framed, of past department commanders and prominent generals of the army. An interesting collection of relics of the war also form a part of the attractions to the old comrades and their friends. A fire-proof vault for the preservation of the department records opens from the room, where papers, books of record, and other valuable property are filed and stored safely.

The system adopted in 1893 for inspection of posts in the department by comrades from neighboring posts, has proved successful both in efficiency and from a financial standpoint, reducing the expense to simply postage on correspondence connected with the office of department inspector, and has been continued during the past year with satisfactory results.

Our soliders' home is beautifully located at Minnehaha Falls, on the banks of the Mississippi river, and under the management of an excellent board of trustees it has become a credit to our department. Their report shows a most favorable condition of affairs at the home.

The Woman's Relief corps is alive and active in their work of charity, and is doing a noble work throughout the department. I find that by their assistance and encouragement many local posts have bridged over their financial difficulties, been lifted out of despondency, and become live, working posts.

The department commander and his efficient corps of department and staff officers show a commendable zeal in the performance of their duties.

Montana.

PERRY H. MANCHESTER, A. I. G.

This department held its annual encampment at Bozeman, Mont., April 9 and 10. I regret to say that at that time I was sick in bed, and therefore could not make a personal inspection of the officers of this department, but I can truthfully report that this department, is in a flourishing condition at the present time.

The department headquarters in 1895 were in Helena, and the present year they are in Bozeman. I visited the present headquarters in May and found everything kept in good shape. There have been two new posts organized since Jan. 1, 1896—George B. McClellan post, with 17 members, and U. S. Grant post, reorganized, with 13 members. We have also had a gain in membership throughout the department, and on July 1, 1896, we had a membership of 544. So you can see that our department is in a good flourishing condition.

The 30th of May, 1896, witnessed the laying of the corner stone of our state soldiers' home at Columbia Falls, which is to be a fine building and a beautiful home for all of our needy comrades.

South Dakota.

R. T. ROBINSON, A. I. G.

I find that each department officer is fully alive to the importance of his position, and that the work of the department has been done in a systematic, businesslike manner. Commander Drake and his very efficient adjutant, Comrade Deering, have given their best efforts to the work, and as a result the department is today in splendid condition. I find that notwithstanding the general hard times and financial depression throughout the state, the finances of the department are good, the reports from posts promptly made, and delinquencies at the minimum.

I have been unable to visit the soldiers' home, which is located at Hot Springs, but from a published statement by the adjutant, and from information obtained from Department Commander Drake, the management appears to be good and the boys happy and contented. The present membership is 165, of whom 140 are pensioners, receiving each quarter $4,971.25. The appropriation from the state in 1895 was $26,630.

Wisconsin.

S. W. EAGER, A. I. G.

On April 29, 1896, I made a thorough inspection of the headquarters of the Department of Wisconsin, located at Fort Atkinson. Comrade S. H. Tallmadge, assistant adjutant general, cheerfully placed before me the books and papers of his office, which I carefully examined, and found to be neatly written up to date; the letters, accounts, requisitions and other documents, appertaining to the business of the office were systematically filed in bundles so that any particular paper could be found without a moment's delay.

On the same day I inspected the books of the assistant quartermaster general, Comrade D. W. Curtis, also located at Fort Atkinson.

At the time of my visit to headquarters, Department Commander Hord was absent from home, he being in attendance at a camp fire. I noticed in the memorandum book in the assistant adjutant general's office the dates and places of fifty-one camp fires and reunions which had been attended by the department commander and adjutant general during their official term in office.

On April 30 I visited and inspected the Wisconsin veterans' home, located three and one-half miles from the City of Waupaca, and was cordially received by the commandant, C. Caldwell, and the matron, Mrs. Ida J. Caldwell, his wife. The home is conducted on the cottage plan, and has been very much improved and enlarged since my visit there last year. A description of the grounds and buildings, as they were at that time, can be found in my report on page 197 of the Journal of the twenty-ninth national encampment, G. A. R., held at Louisville, Ky., 1895, so that it is hardly necessary to give any detailed account of it in this report, but I will record the additional improvements made during the past year for your information. A fine, new building, called Jerry Rusk hall, has been erected at a cost of $9,375. This contains twenty-four lodging rooms and three wards, completely furnished. Seven of the rooms were fitted up by donations from the general fund of the department woman's relief corps, and one room by a post. At each end of the main hall there is a large sitting room furnished with easy chairs, rockers, tables, etc. There has also been erected an amusement hall, 78x38 feet, costing $2,625, and capable of seating 300 persons. A new building, costing $1,164, has been built for a postoffice, which is furnished with boxes and other appointments necessary for the conduct of the business, in the very latest style of Uncle Sam's most approved offices elsewhere. In another part of the building is a barber shop, a tailor shop, and shoe shop. An addition, 40x40 feet, has been made to the main dining hall, which, with a good sized addition to the dining hall of the hospital, cost $2,290. The hospital building has been generally enlarged. The electric light plant has been made very much larger, and a new smokestack built. There are forty-two cottages on the grounds and ten or twelve large buildings and halls. The streets and surroundings impress the visitor as he approaches the place that he is about to enter a neat and well-kept village.

At the date of my inspection the membership of the home was 231 males and 116 females (86 wives and 30 widows). G. A. R. Post No. 125, composed of the veterans of the home, is in a flourishing condition. Commandant Caldwell is the post commander.

On April 18 I made a visit to the Northwestern branch of the national home for disabled soldiers, located near Milwaukee. This institution being a national and not a Grand Army nor state home, my inspection was of course entirely unofficial; nevertheless the officers welcomed me most courteously, and afforded me every facility to obtain items of interest connected therewith.

Veteran Post, G. A. R., No. 8, located at the national home, ranks among the best in the department, and has 275 members in good standing. Comrade W. F. Ryan is post commander. Comrade Ryan is also commander of Cushing Naval Veterans' post, which meets in the same hall, and has sixty members.

I obtained the following items from the department treasurer of the Woman's Relief corps:

The number of corps on March 31, 1896, was	129
Total membership in this department in good standing	4,654
Expended for relief, in cash and otherwise by the several corps	$6,186 89
Turned over to posts	915 27
Expended by department of Woman's Relief corps	855 28
Total	$7,957 44

The department encampment was held at Racine, May 20-21, and was a success in every particular. The attendance was very large, and the proceedings weree characterized by exceeding harmony. Among those present were Past-Commander-in-Chief Weissert, of Milwaukee, and nine past department commanders. The department commander of Illinois and his official staff visited our encampment in a body and addressed us.

PENSION COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Discussion of the Pickler Measure Now in Congress.

One of the most important matters before the afternoon session was the report of the pension committee, which body was under instructions to consider the bill now before congress looking to a rearrangement of the system in many of its features. The report of the committee comprised some 2,000 words, and the custodian of the records declined to give it out for publication at this time.

The report of the pension committee referred only to the Pickler bill, which passed congress last session and which is now before the senate.

The Pickler bill is designed to correct the errors of law and construction which have developed during the administration of the bureau of pensions during the last three years, and compelling liberality toward the pension rather than toward the government.

The report of the committee recommended that the encampment speak in no uncertain tones urging upon the United States senate the passage of this bill in all essential particulars, as it came from the house, leaving sections 1 and 14 to be adopted or amended as the consideration of public policy shall demand.

Sections 1 and 14, which are not included in the recommendation of the committee provide (1) that prior service in the confederate army or navy shall be no bar to a pension, and (4) further provides that the lack of an honorary discharge from prior service shall not disqualify. It provides also that whenever a case under consideration is in doubt, that the veteran shall be given the benefit of the uncertainty rather than the government. The report was adopted. Mr. Clarkson made a speech in its favor, and won friends for himself as well as for the measure.

The committee, consisting of Comrades Eli Torrence and Washington Gardner, appointed at Louisville last year to consider the matter of erecting monuments to the brave women of war times, reported in a lengthy memorial what had been done since the formation of the nation to perpetuate the memory of brave men and national heroes, and deploring the fact that the government had never erected a statue or monument to a woman. The resolutions recommended that steps be taken before congress and on other lines to secure the erection of fitting tributes to the bravery and self-sacrifice of the heroines of the country. The resolution was adopted.

Another resolution was presented by a special committee, recommending the adoption of the project of organizing a National Woman's Relief corps, with the privilage of appending the title, "Auxilliary to the Grand Army of the Republic," such organization to take the place of the several now in existance. The report favored the idea of consolidating the different organizations so that there would be but one woman's organization, one for the Sons, and one G. A. R. The report held over, and there will be many communications and resolutions to be acted upon today.

Elizabeth A. Turner, national president of the Woman's Relief Corps, presented a concise report of the work of that organization since its formation in 1883. The figures, which were somewhat surprising, showing the great volume of charitable work accomplished by the women, will be found elsewhere.

The report of the credentials committee showed that there were present 1,222 delegates entitled to a vote.

The Sons of Veterans came in for some little attention at the hands of the encampment, in a resolution from a special committee recommending that the S. V's. be allowed to attend sessions of the G. A. R posts, under restrictions binding them to keep inviolate the secrets of the order. This resolution presented a lively parliamentary struggle, and several minority reports and amendments were tacked onto the report of the majority of the committee. No definite action was taken in the matter, however, final discussion being postponed until today. The matter is one of great importance, both to the Sons of Veterans and the G. A. R., and the report is liable to bring on a lively debate.

On assembling the encampment, the officers of the day and assistants were detailed as follows:

Officer of the day, H. A. Norton.

Officer of the guard, Samuel R. McCullough.

Guards, R. W. Devore, Alf. S. Sayles, W. D. Mitchell, Charles Temme, Allen Swain, Henry A. Morse, James Chapoon, J. D. Hines, E. M. Reed, Levi Lamson, George T. Tyron, Peter Plunges, Charles Sissey.

FIRST WISCONSIN INFANTRY

Perfects an Organization and Holds a Happy Meeting.

The headquarters of the Nebraska department was utilized yesterday by the members of the First Wisconsin Infantry for the purposes of forming an organization which will meet every year. Department Commander H. C. Culver, of Nebraska, was a survivor of the First Wisconsin, and he was elected president of the new organization, and Capt. Robert W. York, of Minneapolis, secretary.

The First Wisconsin was mustered into service in April, 1861. When the first call for troops was issued, there was a great hustling among the companies then organized for admittance, as the state was allowed only one regiment under the first call. Among the companies accepted was one organized by James O. Pierce, of Minneapolis, and this company was given third place, or Company C. Comrade Pierce yesterday exhibited to the members of the old First, the original enrollment sheet and books of Co. C, in which many of the survivors present at the reunion found their own signatures, which were placed there years ago. Co. C was formed and mustered in service at Horicon, Wis.

YESTERDAY'S CARRIAGE DRIVE.

It Was Enjoyed by a Large Number of Guests.

The drive by the women's committee to the G. A. R. visitors was enjoyed yesterday by a large number of the veterans and their wives. The drive included all of the prominent streets of the city. Mrs. C. G. Higbee was the chairman of the drive committee. The start was made from the headquarters on Summit avenue.

"The Colonnade,"

Corner of St. Peter and Tenth streets, has the most comfortable suites of rooms in the city; hot and cold water, and elevator service. Prices moderate. Apply to Luther S. Cushing, 137 Endicott Building, or to the superintendent, on the premises.

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THIS WEEK.

This is a Bona Fide Offer.

Let every one wanting a Piano take advantage of this great sale during G. A. R. week.

...NO RESTRICTIONS MADE..

Every Piano in our warerooms.

CHICKERINGS,

FISCHERS,

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And Others at $50 to $75 reduction.

HOWARD, FARWELL & CO.,

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is a joy forever
E. Albrecht & Sons
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Poor Pilgarlic,

there is no need for you to contemplate a wig when you can enjoy the pleasure of sitting again under your own "thatch." You can begin to get your hair back as soon as you begin to use

Ayer's Hair Vigor.

A Handsome Complexion

is one of the greatest charms a woman can possess. POZZONI'S COMPLEXION POWDER gives it.