

Company H In Trouble.

Company H, Texas, Dec. 11. All left Home Station the 26th with one hundred and twenty enlisted men and officers. Thirty men were disqualified at Richmond physical examination, leaving ninety men and three officers. Twelve men have been transferred to other companies to make up their minimum. Eight men have been released on account of dependent families. One officer has resigned and another elected in his place. This leaves us today with sixty-five men and three officers.

The enlistment period of the following men will expire in December, January and February, viz:

Sergeant Thomas R. Cochran,
Sergeant Hugh P. Young,
Sergeant Amos P. Hammond,
Cook William B. Wax,
Cook Jerome L. Wells,
Corporal David E. Wright,
Musician Leslie C. Sween,
Private Hiram Sizemore,
Private Joe Nickels,
Private Henderson N. Horsley,
Corporal Herbert Brown,
Private George A. Rhoads,
Sergeant William G. Matthews.

Not one of these men will enlist—and who can blame them? If we were certain that we were going into Mexico, it would be different; their patriotism, and soldierly spirit of never running from danger, would hold them. But when it comes to "hiking" here on the Border at fifty cents a day, the bravest and the best and all the rest, say—"Nay, Nay, Uncle Sam may go to hell and get his soldiers where he can—I am going home!"

This feeling is wellnigh universal with the men of Company H. This Company is regarded as one of the best on the Border. It won out over all others in the Second Regiment in the competitive drills in August. The report for the tests in October has just been published, and again Company H leads the list. The other companies in the Regiment got from one to as many as twelve "blue marks", which mean deficiency in the subject marked. Company H was the only company without a single "blue mark" against it—Company G of Petersburg came next with only one mark and Company L of Pulaski third with only two marks.

If the spirit referred to prevails in Company H, one may be well assured that it is even more prevalent in the other companies, and such is the fact. They are all, not only in the Second Virginia, but in all the Regiments on the Border, being rapidly reduced to mere skeletons—None can now muster more than five or six squads, and some not over four—and recruits have absolutely stopped coming.

The Regulars are in equal or greater trouble. They have full complements of officers, but comparatively few enlisted men. They have been trying to draw from the National Guard, but few, very few, have responded.

This is truly pitiful and, likewise, shameful and disgraceful. To think of a great country of over one hundred million people not being able to raise, for emergency, an army of two hundred thousand! It would be unbelievable if it had not been demonstrated beyond possibility of dispute by the past six months of effort and failure.

But, for the shame and disgrace of it, the National Guard is in no manner responsible. Neither is the Regular Army. They have both done their duty well. Wherein then does the trouble lie?

In my judgment the following are the chief causes:

First—*Dormant Patriotism*.—I am unwilling to believe that the people of the United States are lacking in patriotism; but there is no doubt that what there is of it is fast asleep. We need a good spanking from Germany or England or Japan; or, perhaps, who knows? We may get it from even poor old Mexico! Then, and not till then, will we be aroused.

Second—*Inadequate Pay*.—The skilled laborer can make at home from three to six dollars

a day—unskilled, from one dollar and fifty cents to three dollars.

To suppose that these men can be procured for service in the Army at fifty cents a day, is stupidity, asinine, goose and bull-moose all combined.

The service is harder, much harder, than in civil life, whether in peace or war. Harder in peace, because more monotonous, and because he who enters here must say goodbye to every vestige of personal liberty—He must rise by the bugle, eat by the bugle, drill, shovel and ditch by the bugle, and by it go to a dusty or muddy bed. If he was born with a brain, he is unfortunate. The enlisted man should leave it at home when he joins the Army.

Harder in war, because war maneuvers test strength and endurance to the limit, and because the danger of personal injury is many-fold greater than in civil life. The coal digger makes from two to five dollars a day. He is an unskilled laborer. His high wages are paid as compensation for the risk of personal injury from slate falls and the like. Why should a soldier not receive like compensation.

Third—*The Gulf between Officers and Men*.—Officers in the Army and National Guard are considered "Gentlemen" and receive every where as such. They attend the balls, hops, banquets and other social functions, given by the elite in every community.

Enlisted men, on the other hand, are "Men" not "Gentlemen." They cannot eat with an officer, or dance or play or sing with an officer or where an officer is. The lady who receives or goes with an enlisted man is blacklisted by officers' wives, daughters and female friends. She must choose the one or the other. Very few have sufficient standing and personality to breach the custom and go with both. The result is that enlisted men, generally, are debarred from female society, except of the lowly.

There are in the National Guard many enlisted men who go in the best society in their home towns. To them the custom is galling beyond endurance. Not only this, but they must salute and stand at attention whenever an officer speaks to or approaches them. Effort is made to teach them that this is but the "friendly greeting" of "the free man" handed down from Knight-errantry of the Middle Ages. But the men don't look at it in this way. They regard it, call it what you may, as a badge, a token, an acknowledgment of servility. The custom should be abolished except when on actual duty.

Never will we be able to get real manhood in requisite numbers to voluntarily join the army, whether the Regulars or the National Guard, until we bridge this gulf between officers and enlisted men.

Thirty-five years ago I was Captain of Company E (cavalry) of Louisville Legion. There was no such gulf in the Militia in those days. The enlisted man danced at the hops at the Armory and at the encampments along with the officers and officers' wives and daughters and sweethearts. His social standing as a soldier was the same as, neither better nor worse than, his social standing as a civilian. If, as the one, he was entitled to dance with the belle of the ball, so, as the other, he danced with the belle of the ball, and vice versa.

Did it interfere with discipline? Not at all. On the contrary it made for good fellowship and a loyalty between officers and men which is non-existent under the present regime.

In conclusion, let me say that unless the pay is increased and the gulf bridged, as above contended for, there is but one alternative, and that is compulsory service. The Hay Bill is a dismal failure. It should be repealed and another enacted by the present Congress. Either make the service attractive, or else force everyone alike to take his share of the national dose.

J. F. BULLITT,
Captain 2nd Va. Inf.

Farmers

Meet and Organized the Lee-Wise Farm Loan Association.

A meeting of the Stockholders of the Lee-Wise National Farm Loan Association was held pursuant to adjournment at the Monte Vissa Hotel last Saturday at noon for the purpose of completing its organization, receiving new subscribers and the transaction of other necessary business incident to the formation of such an association.

A large number of representative farmers from both Lee and Wise Counties were in attendance, and applications were received for loans amounting to \$73,000.00 carrying with them stock subscriptions of \$3,650.00.

The meeting was called to order by Gen'l Ayers. J. M. Willis was elected temporary chairman and the meeting proceeded to the election of a Board of Directors as follows:

H. C. Stewart, J. D. Johnson, James H. Reesor, J. P. Scott, J. W. Powers, J. B. Wampler and E. G. Wells. The meeting then adjourned and a meeting of the Board of Directors was called for two o'clock at the office of Gen. R. A. Ayers.

J. B. Wampler was elected chairman of the Board and J. B. Ayers, Secretary-Treasurer of the Association. The following being appointed members of the Loan Committee: F. G. Yeary, P. M. Reesor and L. H. Wade, their duties being to appraise the lands proposed to be mortgaged to secure loans applied for.

Upon application to the Secretary-Treasurer blank applications for membership and loans will be furnished, or mailed to those who write for them. All applications for membership and loans will be acted upon by the board of directors at its next meeting and the applicants notified.

All inquiries relative to the Association will be promptly and fully answered, and such inquiries are solicited from both members and prospective members of the association.

U. D. C. Meeting.

Mrs. L. O. Pettit was hostess on Wednesday afternoon December the 13th, to the ladies of the Big Stone Gap chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy in their regular monthly meeting.

Mrs. J. L. McCormick president of the chapter, presided. Reports of the different officers were heard and the business of the month dispensed with. Aid was given a needy Confederate Veteran by the chapter.

Mrs. C. C. Cochran read an interesting report of the convention, Virginia Division, recently assembled in Lynchburg.

Mrs. G. L. Taylor led the historical lesson, subject for the month being "The War of 1812". Mrs. C. C. Long read notes from Miss Rutherford's address showing the important part the south has had in the building of our nation, and Mrs. M. H. McCorkle read a paper, "Interesting Facts of the War of 1812" which gave some idea of the attitude of the English, at that time, toward the United States. Miss Janet Bailey told, "How Wingfield Scott Rescued the Irishmen." Mrs. Pettit read a poem "Voice of The Night" by Howard Weeden. Miss Olga Horton sang very sweetly, "The Vale of Dreams" and "A Little Gray Home In The West."

Mrs. A. J. Wolfe will be hostess of the chapter in January and members will answer to roll call with some incident relative to Lee or Jackson.

A delightful social hour followed the business session during which the hostess, assisted by her daughter, Adelaide, served a dainty salad course.

Those who enjoyed Mrs. Pettit's hospitality were: Mesdames A. K. Morrison, D. B. Sayers, C. C. Long, C. C. Cochran, J. L. McCormick, A. J. Wolfe, M. R. McCorkle, G. L. Taylor, S. A. Bailey, Misses Janet Bailey and Olga Horton. Mrs. A. J. Wolfe, Cor. Sec.

Telephone Company

Aids Employees to Meet Unusual Conditions.

Theodore N. Vail, President of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, said today:

By co-operative action on the part of the Companies constituting the Bell Telephone System, certain classes of their employees throughout the United States will be aided in meeting the unusual conditions now existing by an extra class payment, or payments, equivalent to two or three week's salary according to length of service.

Employees who have been in the service for over one year, and who are receiving \$3,000 or less per year, will receive the equivalent of three weeks' pay, while those of the same class who have been in the service over three months but less than one year, will receive the equivalent of two weeks' pay. Employees receiving over \$3,000 and less than \$5,000 per year will also participate in the payments, but not in the same proportion as those receiving the lesser rate of pay.

This is not intended to be a distribution of profits nor do all employees participate. It is intended to help those employees whose margin between income and necessities is narrow.

These payments will not take the place of the wage increases for demonstrated merit, or the readjustments to meet changed conditions of service usually made at this time of the year.

All details as to the time and method of distribution will be arranged by the several Companies constituting the Bell System as in each case, in the judgment of the local management, may be for the best interest of their employees. It is estimated that the total amount to be distributed will exceed \$6,000,000.

Mr. E. M. Milton, of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, which is the Associated Bell Company operating in this territory, stated that the payments announced by Mr. Vail will affect the employees in this district and that the distribution of payments will be made before the first of the year.

Mr. Geo. Roebuck Weds Miss Gladys Wolfe.

A marriage which will come as a pleasant surprise to a large number of friends through this section of the contracting parties was the quiet marriage of Miss Gladys Wolfe, of the Gap, to Mr. George Roebuck, a traveling salesman, of Norton, at Norton last Sunday afternoon a week at the home of Rev. H. E. Kelso, the Methodist minister. Misses Bessie Young and Roxie Lent, of Stonega, accompanied the popular young couple to Norton and were witnesses of the ceremony. The bride, who is very accomplished, is the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Wolfe, of the Gap, and is a graduate of the public school here and of Sullins College of Bristol, and taught for the past three years in the Stonega Public School, where the romance began, which culminated in the above, while the groom has written several very successful plays which were produced in Richmond and other large towns in the State, but at the present is a traveling salesman.

Immediately after the ceremony the happy young couple motored back to Stonega to the home of Mr. Roebuck's sister, Mrs. O. C. Rhodenhizer, where they will spend a few days.

How's This?

We offer One Hundred Dollar Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. Cheney for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by him. NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Catarrhs cured free. Price 75 cents per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

Mine Rescue Work.

Department Issues Report Making Plea For Preparedness Against Disasters.

Washington, Dec. 7.—A plea for preparedness at coal and metal mines, so that if a disaster comes and imprisons many miners the officials may have a definite plan for action in saving life is outlined in a report just issued by the Bureau of Mines of the Department of the Interior and which is being sent to practically all of the mines in the United States. The Bureau of Mines has aided in rescue work at many mine explosions and has been instrumental in saving the lives of many men, but in almost every instance where there has been a great disaster the bureau's officials they have found great confusion prevailing with much valuable time wasted before a proper rescue organization could be effected. There has also been a serious absence of the equipment necessary for the recovery of the men entombed. Lack of such preparedness, the bureau says, no doubt has often resulted in unnecessary loss of life among the imprisoned men and also among the rescue force.

Since the bureau began its rescue work it has endeavored to guide in the formation of competent rescue organizations at mine disasters, but has been greatly hampered because of the different methods in practice in different parts of the country. Based on its experience at many mine disasters the bureau has now formulated a code which it is felt should be in the hands of every responsible official at a mine. This code provides for an organization at each mine that would become automatically active the moment there is a disaster. It also gives a list of the necessary materials to have on hand at all times and outlines the most important duties for these organizations during such emergencies.

"At times there has been some little misunderstanding as to just what part the Bureau of Mines is expected to take in rescue work," said Van H. Manning, director of the bureau.

"This manual is intended to define the duties of the rescuers and to bring about a better understanding between the men engaged in rescue work as to the functions of the bureau. It has been a popular notion that the rescuers of the bureau, wearing heavy oxygen rescue apparatus, should carry the dead from the mine, and there has been some little disappointment at the refusal of the rescuers to take part in this work. It has been my policy that the rescuers should seek to save live men and give them assistance, and should not be called upon except in special emergencies to carry bodies, and then only for a short distance.

"The entire strength of the men, thus handicapped by the heavy apparatus, should be expended in saving life.

"Disasters do not come frequently to individual mines, and there has been a natural feeling that they will never come. Consequently very little thought is given to what should be done when such a catastrophe does come. The result has been very little preparedness

and considerable confusion, especially when some of the best men in the employ of the company are imprisoned or killed. The manual is intended to give the operators and superintendents and other officials of the mines some idea of the character of organization that should be normally in force at a mine every day it is working, and explain how this organization may be turned into an effective rescue force when a disaster comes. It is an effort on the part of the bureau to save the possible number of men imprisoned in a mine and at the same time to safeguard the lives of the rescuers, many of whom have been sacrificed in the past. The bureau does not like to think of disasters happening; at the same time it believes in preparedness when they do come. If the suggestions in this article succeed in saving the life of a single miner the bureau will be repaid for its efforts along this line."

Honor Roll

For November of Pupils In Public School.

- FIRST GRADE
Miss Maiden
Axley Hardine, Ed Townsend, Billy Mason, Jack Taylor, Jack Fuller, Stuart Carter, Jim Beaman, Charles Bird, Mary Debord, Dorothy Goodloe, Grace Mahaffey, Maxie Payne, Lydia Chestnut.
- SECOND GRADE
Miss Belta Thompson
Margaret Kelly, Adelaide Winston, Mildred Barron, Margaret Beaman, Ried Dowell, Muncy Mullen, Guy Lane, William Rogers, Otis Mouser, Claude Jones, Leslie Hisel, Winston Graham, Evelyn Wilson, Omer Akens.
- THIRD GRADE
Miss Janet Bailey
Lettia Shoemaker, Ollie Garrison, Leola Hamblen, Elsie Collier, Loekie Shelton, Newton Lawson, Richard Wilson, Robert Bird, Kenneth Stator, Joe Moore, Bernard Helton, Oliver Orendor.
- THIRD GRADE
Miss Kemper
Robert Barron, Clarence Johnson, Louise Pettit, Mildred Wolfe.
- FOURTH GRADE
Miss Olga Horton
Margie Witt, Maude Carpenter, Gilbert Knight, Hiram Draper, Ralph Brown.
- FOURTH GRADE A SECTION
Miss Kemper
Dakota Barnes.
- FIFTH GRADE B SECTION
Miss Roberts Buck
Eugene Burchette, Ben Cole, Caroline Goodloe, Alice Slem, Alma Stutzer, Rose Turner.
- FIFTH GRADE A SECTION
Miss Flora Bruce
Dora Patton, Mattie Burk, Jermima Willis, Charles Gilly.
- SIXTH GRADE B SECTION
Miss Winnie Mullins
Otha Hisel.
- SIXTH GRADE A SECTION
Ruth Barron, Anita Goodloe, Juanita Taylor.
- SEVENTH GRADE
Miss Charibel Lockett
Lucile Draper, James Gilly, Bonnie Catron, Ethel Cole, Helen Carico, Irene Draper, Ruth Marrs, Henrietta Skeen.
- ### High School Honor Roll.
- Elizabeth Sprinkle, Edith Vangorder, Fannie Hay.
- For Christmas Day,
THERE'S a bustle in the kitchen
And a rattle and a din
And such peculiar goings on
You'd best not venture in:
The eggs are being beaten,
And the butter's being dripped;
And the flour's being shaken,
And the cream is being whipped.
The nuts have had their heads cracked;
The jelly's all a-quake.
Outsiders keep your distance—
Daisy's making Christmas cake.
- Don't say she's lost her ribbon
And her apron's all awry;
Don't speak of flour upon her nose
And smut above her eyes;
Don't tell her that the pans aren't
greased,
The powder's quite at fault,
That the heaping cup of sugar
Was a heaping cup of salt;
Don't mention that the fire is out,
'Twould be a grave mistake.
Onlookers, keep your distance
When Daisy's baking cake.
—Nancy Bryd Turner in St. Nicholas.

Congress is strictly up against it this session or rather will be after March 4. With a woman member in its midst—young, beautiful and brilliant—the old duffers will have to refrain from cussing, fighting, snoring, and many of their other favorite forms of amusement.