

## OUR SOLDIERS' COLUMN.

## A COMRADE'S SENSIBLE OPINION OF THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE.

How Public Sentiment Can be Molded in Favor of the Soldier and Made Irresistible—Earnest Pleas for Pensioners—Grave and Solitary for the Common Enemy—Soldiers to Protect Their Rights at the Polls.

## A COMRADE SAYS UP THE CASE EXACTLY.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE: When I subscribed for your paper a few weeks ago I had a idea that it was simply a cent-penny or a pennyworth of a concern, but I find it is conducted with so much ability and vigor, and is such an effective instrument in bringing about a better understanding of the just claims of the soldier, that I cannot withhold from it my aid of praise.

If five years has given it its present prominence and established it on such a firm foundation, I cannot see why another five years of close application will not secure for it a larger circulation and more powerful influence than any other paper in the Union.

Every ex-soldier should first subscribe for THE TRIBUNE, and then be as vigilant in endeavoring to procure other subscribers as if he was on the picket line again watching the foe.

The prejudices of the money classes—a mighty power, indeed—seems to be against us, and we shall have hard work, and up-hill work, to overcome this, and compel a reluctant Congress to make satisfactory provision for the wards of the Nation.

In no other way can this be more successfully accomplished than in running up the subscription list of THE TRIBUNE into the hundreds of thousands, and thereby creating and molding a public sentiment that shall be irresistible.

Comrades and brothers, let there be a general and simultaneous advance all along the line. Forward, march!

R. CORNELL.

Ex-Soldier of 1st N. J. Cav.

## ITS NECESSITY RECOGNIZED.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I have been reading a sample copy of THE TRIBUNE, and consider it the paper for every old soldier. There seems to be a necessity for such a paper. The defenders of the country demand proper recognition in Congress, and THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE is the soldiers' friend. I served as a private soldier in company C, Fourteenth Iowa Infantry, and was in all the engagements with the company. Our regiment was taken prisoner at Shiloh, April 6, 1862, and sent to Memphis, Tenn.; Mobile and Cahaba, Ala.; and Mazon, Ga., where, after suffering for food and clothing, and having no blankets, we were paroled. I am not a pensioner, but should Congress pass an act giving ex-prisoners of war a pension many men would thankfully accept it and regard it as their due. Enclosed find \$1, for which please send me your paper. Respectfully,

Geo. Nulton.

MORNING SUN, IOWA, June 21.

## JUST WHAT IT SHOULD BE.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Allow me, as a claimant for invalid pension, to express to you my entire satisfaction for the interest manifested by THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE in soldiers' rights. The delay in the determination of the same must be attributed solely to the press of business upon the Pension Office. Your valuable journal is all it should be, and I much admire its bold, yet not extreme, advocacy of the relative rights and duties of the soldier and the Government. "Long may it wave" is the wish of thousands. I regard it as the best paper of its kind published, and no soldier can afford to be without it. Enclosed I send you some more subscriptions. Yours in the good cause,

FRANCIS E. WHITMAN,

Co. B, 4th N. Y. Vols., H. A.

PRATTSVILLE, N. Y., June 25.

## A PLEA FOR EX-PRISONERS.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Please give me the privilege of saying a few words in regard to your valuable paper, which looks out for the interests of the ex-soldier and ex-prisoner of war. I wish that Senator Beck and some others had had the fate, as I had, to remain six months and upwards in rebel prison pens under the care of Witz and others like him; they would then think very differently. I was at Detroit on June 11 and 15, at the Prisoners' Reunion, and saw many suffering comrades, disabled in those prison pens by starvation and exposure. I wish every ex-soldier would subscribe for your paper, for I think it is the soldiers' friend and stands up for the soldiers. If Congress is going to do anything for the surviving prisoners, it had better do it before long, as they are dying off very fast.

PETER FISHER.

Yours respectfully,

RIZA, MICH., June 20.

## ESTEEMS THE PAPER HIGHLY.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Enclosed find \$1 to pay for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for one year. Your paper I esteem very highly for the mainly cause it is pursuing in behalf of the soldiers, their widows and orphans. Justice demands that every one entitled to pension should receive their dues at the earliest moment possible, for many of them are in want and destitute of the necessities of life. Our Congressmen and Senators ought to see that all obstruction to payment of our pensioners be removed before Congress adjourns. Although not a soldier myself, I had three sons in the army, and ten years' service they rendered to this Government. Two of them fell victims to disease, wounds, and imprisonment, and long since have departed to the other shore. I feel that all faithful and deserving soldiers, who are honestly entitled to pensions, should receive their pay as well as the bondholder, and perhaps with justice I might say they should be paid first, for the simple reason that they saved this Government from destruction; if they had not the bondholder would not have a Government to back up his claims.

Respectfully yours,

STEPHEN FULLER.

SANDWICH, ILL., June 24.

## SHOULD HAVE 250,000 READERS.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Your paper has the true ring, and if the soldiers could realize how important it is for them to have a paper to represent their interests at the National Capital, your circulation would soon be at least a quarter of a million. Our Post of the G. A. R. is one of the institutions of our little city, and among our comrades are men who served in every branch of the service, and in every grade from corporal to general, and we have not one of whom it cannot be said, "He did his duty." Our present number of Congress left a leg in North Carolina, and in our service we expect to elect ex-soldiers to the offices of U. S. Atty. Gen. and U. S. Sen., and we can't but be justly charged with leaving unfulfilled the pledges so freely given in the dark days of the war. Our commander is Captain Fred J. Marsh, who knows and is known to about every ex-soldier in this part of the State. He has always worked for the soldier, regardless of politics, and has been of great service to applicants for pensions in procuring evidence,

corresponding with the Department, &c., and although himself a poor man he has always refused any pay, or even to be reimbursed for necessary expenses, and has steadily refused to accept a nomination for office of any kind. When we see so many who entered the army hearing commissions only to become persistent seekers for office ever after, and who care nothing for the soldier except on election-day, it does one good to find a man who entered the service as a private and rose by degrees, filling every position from corporal to captain, who still is glad to help the "Boys" and ask no reward from them, and it is not strange that he can count his friends by the hundred. We think Mr. Dudley—a grand man—is a great improvement on his predecessors, but we think he could replace some able-bodied clerks with crippled veterans without detriment to the service, and we feel sure that he would if he could save his way in the matter, as he has shown by his works that he is a true friend of the soldier. Yours truly,

J. L. C. HOWE,

74th Ill. Inf.

OREGON, OGLE CO., ILL., June 25.

## GOD ALONE KNOWS WHO WAS RIGHT.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

I agree with Mr. Hampton that God knows who was right. I will give the following illustrations:

Korah and his companions, for aspiring to become priests without being lawfully called and sent, were punished, the earth opened and swallowed them down alive into hell, and fire came out from the Lord and destroyed fourteen thousand seven hundred of the people who had dared to complain that the punishment of Korah was too severe.

King Uzziah took upon himself the priestly office, and burnt incense in the temple, and for this wicked action he was struck with an incurable leprosy.

Jeroboam did but stretch out his hand against the prophet, and presently it withered.

Nicanor is slain for threatening to burn that holy temple, his head and right hand are cut off, and suspended over Jerusalem, and his army perished to a man.

Lastly, The Lord caused Abraham to raise great armies, and emigrate to Dixie, and free those in bondage, and they are now at liberty, and no more whipping-posts, for it was displeasing to the Lord. He alone knows all.

E. COEN.

CLAY COUNTY, NER., June 13.

## CAN'T WITHHOLD THEIR SUPPORT.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Enclosed find \$2, for which you will please send THE TRIBUNE to two of Sheridan's riders. We are so well pleased with the sample copies sent to us that we can't withhold our support. Continue to make the front cuts on all Congressmen who do not do their duty towards the old veterans. I will continue to send names as fast as I can get them.

DR. J. M. BRAZEE.

ACADEMIA, JUNIATA CO., July 8.

## SEVEN SOLD SHOT FOR THE ENEMY.

To the Editor NATIONAL TRIBUNE:

Please find enclosed \$7 for seven subscribers to your excellent paper—the soldiers' friend. Our Post net last Saturday evening, and I secured these seven subscribers; will send you another list of names at the next meeting. We are all greatly pleased with your paper. Our Post is increasing fast, and we have now eighty members. The name is Kile Post, No. 41, Department of Ohio. Yours, &c.,

GEORGE W. LUCE.

WAPAKONETA, O., July 6.

## SMALL SHOT FROM COMRADES.

"I appreciate your paper and have taken an interest in it ever since I received the first copy, and shall continue to do so as long as it is the soldiers' friend; will do all I can for it." C. H. Nichols, Turtle Point, Pa.—"It is just the paper every soldier should read; will do all in my power to increase your subscription; almost any one can spare a dollar for such a paper as THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. Whoop em up." A. T. McLean, Elkfield, Kan.—"Decorate Day passed off very successfully with us; a club is being formed here for THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE."

M. P. Kemp, Worcester, Va.—"I read your paper with great pleasure; say to our Congressmen 'by their fruits' we shall know them."

A. C. Babcock, Youngville, Pa.—"I regard THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE as a splendid paper, and think every soldier should subscribe for it. I shall always do so." Geo. Garley, Elmsburg, Pa.—"I intend to be a subscriber just as long as I can get the money to pay for it." Chas. Grigby, Hillsboro, Va.—"Could not content myself without THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE; it is the best and cheapest paper I ever saw; I have dropped all other papers, and intend to read it all the support in my power." Geo. W. Brown, Pointville, N. J.—"Shall take your paper as long as I live, and will work to send you subscribers." Thurston Jones, Catawba, O.—"I enclose my subscription; a big list of subscribers for you is being obtained here; I am an old printer and editor, and when I see a good paper I know it; accept congratulations on your success." E. F. Chittenden, York, Neb.—"It is the best friend the soldier has in this world." P. W. Crady, Hallowell, Ill.—"I will aid in swelling your list of readers; it is beyond all doubt the best soldiers' paper in existence." F. B. Morgan, Dryden, Mich.—"Keep on in your good work; you are the soldier's true friend; will do all I can for you."

S. B. Franklin, Lee's Cross Roads, Pa.—"Would not be without it for three times its cost; I consider it the best soldiers' paper ever published." Geo. W. McBride, Washington, Ind.—"Will aid you in extending your circulation with all my heart." W. C. Grubb, Big Spring, Tenn.—"Our Boys are taking your paper, and at a low price in their praise."

W. M. Williamson, Post Commander, Arnold Post, No. 161, Bradford, O.—"Your noble paper is always a welcome messenger. We are glad to see that there is one paper in Washington, at least, that has the manliness to stand up for the rights of the soldier." S. P. Larnoe, Hurricane Station, West Va.—"I am greatly pleased with your paper and the mainly course you are taking in trying to assist in getting Uncle Sam to help the old soldiers." Dr. J. Paul, Tucson, A. T.—"Three dollars enclosed; will send more names soon." Philander M. Burton, Irvine, N. Y.—"Two dollars enclosed; am pushing your paper among the 'Boys'; it takes like hot cakes; it is the soldiers' paper and advocate." Col. F. C. Deimling, Virginia City, Mon.—"It is the best paper I ever read; we cannot do without it."

James Spencer, Attica, Miss.—"One dollar enclosed for new subscriber. After harvest I will patrol this section in the interest of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE. You may put me down for a life subscriber." Geo. W. Kennedy, Niles, O.—"I cannot do without THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE; keep on throwing hot shot into the enemy's ranks until they do as Lee did, surrender, and retire from the field." Wm. Holliday, Bayou, O.—"Shall take the paper as long as I live, and will do all I can to get you subscribers." Sam'l Leshar, Pottsville, Mich.—"Every Grand Army man should take THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE; it has proved itself the soldier's friend in time of need." James Guthrie, Adjutant, Spiegel Post, 208, Shiloh, O.—"The Boys like the paper very much, and many are forwarding their subscriptions to you direct. With the aid of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE we have organized a Post of eighty members, and expect to increase the number to 200. Subscription enclosed." W. H. Shaw, Port Jarvis, N. Y.

## THE SOLDIER IN CONGRESS.

## INTERESTING DEBATE IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Able and Patriotic Speeches in the Interest of the Men who Saved the Union—Some Facts which Congressmen Should Not Forget—The Nation's Debt to the Boys in Blue.

As will be seen in our congressional report elsewhere, two amendments were adopted to the deficiency bill by the House of Representatives in reference to the support of soldiers' national homes and the regulations for admission to those institutions. The amendments, when under consideration, led to a protracted debate, some of the more interesting portions of which we reproduce.

Mr. MORLEY said: If there are soldiers and sailors of the army and navy of the United States who have become incapacitated from earning their support by reason of disease contracted or wounds received while in the service, and who are not yet provided for by this Government, it is the duty of the American people to take care of those wards of the Nation whenever they apply to it for those comforts which in battling for their country they have lost the power to win for themselves.

I submit that it is the duty of this Government not only to take care of those dependent men who have lost their limbs or their health in their country's service, but I submit that it is the duty of this Government to provide for their support out of the Treasury of the United States, and not at the expense of the bounty which the Government has extended to any wounded or maimed man. The spirit of the legislation which contemplated that relief should be extended to one class at the expense of another is a spirit which the Government is vicious and unjust.

If there is not room now in our national homes for those who are dependent upon the Government, and who have become dependent by reason of loss of health in service or wounds received in battle, it is time we should enlarge those homes and pay the just debt which we owe to these men. This committee has just said, on motion of my honored friend from Ohio (Mr. Shultz), that the national home is not a monument to the just regard which our Government has for its obligations to the disabled soldiers of the Republic.

This very bill contains an appropriation to cover the full estimate of the expense of supporting these homes and suitably caring for their inmates. It is not pretended that any money is needed for that purpose. The recommendations of General Franklin and McMahon are not put on that ground. It is said, sir, that many of the inmates, rather than less than portion of their pensions above \$5 per month, would leave their homes and leave the Government to make room for the disabled soldiers whose admission is provided for in the clause which the gentleman from New York proposes to strike out.

He says it must be struck out now, because the provision appropriating for the disabled soldiers' pension money to the Government of the home has been struck out; that there will not be room to care for the applicants who will come from the ranks of the disabled sailors unless the number of soldier beneficiaries is lessened by preventing them from the option of losing its benefits or losing their pensions.

Sir, I believe this is not just, or in the spirit of our legislation on this and kindred subjects. I do not believe either that these asylums would be overrun or crowded beyond their capacity. Their duties do not justify the contention. In the last annual report of the board of managers the following significant and suggestive statement is made:

"The increase in the number of inmates during the past year has been four hundred and eighty-three, or about 2 per cent. less than it has been in any previous year. This fact shows that the number of inmates on the existing basis of admission is not increasing as rapidly as the death-rate must increase in a greater ratio from year to year."

The following statement of ages also appears in the report:

Thirty to forty years..... 1,893  
Forty to fifty..... 2,728  
Fifty to sixty..... 2,675  
Sixty to seventy..... 1,241  
Eighty to one hundred..... 179

These figures, sir, are silent and pathetic witnesses to the statement of the board of managers that the death rate of our veteran heroes must increase in a greater ratio from year to year.

Let us not pass beyond the ripe old age of eighty years, and look back in near a century of their country's history. They have seen it grow from its early beginnings and expand into the grand proportions it has now assumed. In their prime, old age, while they have been in the army, they have been a grateful people, throwing around them all the comforts and joys that can come to age and decrepitude.

All are marching rapidly forward to that period in years when they must cross the line between life and death. In the nation's cemeteries lie buried more than three hundred thousand of the soldiers of the Republic, who gave their lives that their country might live. Nature has already repaired that loss. Surviving friends may mourn the absence of loved ones, but the nation's debt is not thereby increased. In the service, and annually throws over them the mantle of her beauty, while the swelling tide of our fifty millions of population sweeps on to the glorious possibilities of the future.

Let us not care of the living and redeem the pledges that were made to them. The Republic said to her sons, "Go forth and battle for your country. The Government will care for the maimed and wounded and those disabled by disease. We will care for them, and the Government will care for the dependent father and mother who lose the stay of their declining years in a loved and cherished son on the field of battle."

I know that our pension-roll is the largest in the world, and that our expenditures for the pensioners are enormous. In the nation's history, that our pension law is no parallel in history. That our pension law is a monstrous, as asserted by the late postmaster-general of the confederacy, [Mr. Reagan,] I deny. It is in perfect harmony with the spirit of our institutions.

Our Government pays pensions to its soldiers who endured the hardships of the march and were exposed to the dangers of battle, and it agreed to do. Other nations pay them to royalty and to rank.

Lord Nelson and his heirs \$130,000; to the Duke of Marlborough and his heirs \$230,000; to the Duke of Wellington and his successors more than \$3,000,000; while the heirs of the Duke of Selbourn, who fell at the battle of the Boyne, have drawn from the royal treasury the enormous sum of \$2,500,000. No such example can be found in the history of our country.

England's army numbers 121,000 men. The army of the United States numbers 25,000 men. Her army costs near \$100,000,000 per annum. Our army costs \$40,000,000 per annum.

England pays \$12,000,000 per year on the average for pensions. The United States pays an average sum since the war of the rebellion of \$50,000,000.

Our fellow-men, our army and our pensions cost us less than England's cost her. Our army is the patriotic and loyal citizens of the Republic. We take care of our veterans and of their little ones, and because we are just to them we can call to arms to-day, if needs be, an army that will die for us.

Our national cemeteries with their sacred dust, our national homes filled with the nation's wards, our pension-roll sending relief and comfort into thousands of homes where there are no wars and no wars are being waged, are the monuments of a grateful Republic who created, and the just recompense it pays to those who were its defense and succor in the hour of its extremity.

Mr. CANNON. I would like to ask the gentleman the position that if there is not now room enough in the soldiers' home to accommodate the soldiers and sailors who have lost their health in the service from wounds or from disease, is he in favor of building new homes to care for them outside of their pensions. Now I want to know if the gentleman is prepared to vote the multiplied millions of dollars necessary to take care of nearly 300,000 men, some to be 100,000?

Mr. MORLEY. I do not admit the premises of the gentleman. But I am willing and prepared to do what I asked the gentleman whether he is willing to do; that is, to pay the just debt which our Government owes to these people.

Mr. CANNON. Certainly.

Mr. MORLEY. And I am prepared to say that I will vote to enlarge these homes in order to provide for every man who is incapacitated from earning his support, whether by wounds or disease, whom we have not already provided for.

Mr. DAWES. Does the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Cannon) want to squeeze out these veterans in order to make room for others? Mr. CANNON. I have said nothing about that. I want to know if you want to vote appropriations to enlarge these homes.

Mr. DAWES. And I want to know that from [Here the hammer fell.]

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. JAYNE. I commend to the House the statement of the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations (Mr. Hiscok) in regard to the provisions that are being made for the destitute soldiers of the country. When some time ago a bill was brought before the House, mainly reported by the Committee on Military Affairs, in favor of establishing a soldiers' home at Erie, Pennsylvania, it was urged that adequate provision had not been made to take care of the indigent and disabled soldiers of the country.

Some reflection was cast at that time by some members upon the State of Pennsylvania. It was said that the bill contemplated merely a local institution. I disclaimed in the most positive and emphatic language that it had any local character whatever, and that the soldiers of this institution should be open to soldiers from all sections of the country. It was a place admirably adapted to make proper provision for these people. It is the high and solemn duty of the American people to provide for their indigent soldiers. I think no man expects one with a heart of stone can deny that proposition.

The question is not the one suggested by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Cannon), whether 300,000 soldiers should be provided with homes. The question is, how many indigent soldiers are there in this country who are unable to take care of themselves, who were honorably discharged from the service, and who rendered good service during the war? How many of that class of men are there in the nation to-day who need the protection, the aid, and the providence of this Government? That is the question. Whatever number there may be, whether it be one thousand or ten thousand or one hundred thousand, the pledge of this Government was made to those men when they went into the service, and that they should be provided for and cared for; and that obligation now rests upon Congress.

I am glad the suggestion was made by the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations that there be no provision made for the soldiers in destitute circumstances that have been discharged from the navy. I agree with the proposition in this bill that such provision should be made, and I must insist further that additional provisions should be made by establishing new homes until every honorable discharged soldier and sailor who is unable to earn a living shall have a comfortable home during the remainder of his life.

Whether you establish a home in Pennsylvania or not is not the important point. Pennsylvania offers to the Government a splendid site for a splendid site to carry out a purpose of this kind, but if you have any hostility to Pennsylvania, and desire that this home shall not be located in that State, locate it wherever else you choose, and I will vote for it. My object is not to establish a home in Pennsylvania, but to establish somewhere a home for the poor and destitute soldiers of the Republic. If any other State will show equal generosity put the home in that State. It is the duty of this nation to see that her defenders are well cared for, that not a single one of them shall be left a pauper, or when he dies shall be buried among paupers.

The CHAIRMAN. Debate is exhausted. If there be no objection, the *pro forma* amendment will be regarded as withdrawn.

Mr. CANNON. I know the *pro forma* amendment. Certainly no member of this House is going to refuse now or hereafter to vote proper appropriations to discharge the obligation which the people of the United States owe to the soldiers of the late war. But in my question a moment ago to the gentleman from Ohio, I asked, who laid down the proposition that all soldiers suffering from wounds or disease contracted during the late war should have provision made for them in some soldiers' home in addition to the pension provided by law, my object was to ascertain if I understood this position properly, because, without now expressing any opinion upon that proposition, if that is to be done, instead of six soldiers' homes we would have to provide several hundred.

There is another class of people not yet provided for, who are not a single one of them claimants of soldiers' homes, but who on account of inability to make the technical proof required have received nothing from the Government, although they served it faithfully and incurred injury in the service, and many of whom now throughout the country subsist upon charity.

IMPORTANT PENSION OFFICE ORDERS.

The following orders have been promulgated by the Commissioner of Pensions:

Hereafter all claims for pension arising under section 4745, Revised Statutes, will be settled by the Commissioner of Pensions from Ohio, who laid down the proposition that all soldiers suffering from wounds or disease contracted during the late war should have provision made for them in some soldiers' home in addition to the pension provided by law, my object was to ascertain if I understood this position properly, because, without now expressing any opinion upon that proposition, if that is to be done, instead of six soldiers' homes we would have to provide several hundred.

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## \$1 ONE \$1 DOLLAR

Until October 1.

The success which has thus far attended our reduction of rates to One Dollar leads us to extend the time to October 1, 1882.

One Dollar mailed us before Oct. 1 will secure THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE for One Year.

SEND ON YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS

AT ONCE!