

WILL MARSHALL FIELD III. ENLIST?

By Carl Sandburg

If the report proves true that Mr. Marshall Field III. is coming on to Chicago this week and enlist in the First Illinois cavalry his action is expected to stimulate recruiting among other young men who up to date in their pale lavender lives have existed only in the rose glow of a granddad's fame and glory.

At the present time Marshall Field III. is physically and mentally a sort of nobody who travels on his grandfather's name and money. The general theory is that if he hadn't picked the world's greatest merchant's loins to spring from he would on natural form and ability be selling Sox at the well-known wages paid by Marshall Field & Co. and without bonus payment at New Year's in war time with record-breaking profits.

I am writing the truth about this kid because I hope he enlists and carries his own horse and handles a shovel like any honest-to-Pete cavalryman fighting as a private soldier in the American army.

If this Field boy goes in and the officers of the First cavalry play no favorites, it will be a good thing for Chicago. This is so because the Field boy is just about the most powerful single individual in this city—If he chooses to exercise the power he holds as titular and economic head of the biggest retail and wholesale stores in Chicago, with control in Commonwealth Edison, Surface Lines, Illinois Central, Illinois Steel.

Let this boy learn how to stand on his own legs, knock around among rough men, eating pork and beans and listening to smutty stories and rellicking hi-yi songs, thrown into the guardhouse if he gets drunk or shoots off his mouth, scrubbing his accoutrements, making his bed on the ground or on stone and wooden floors of barracks, washing his own

shirt, battling against vermin that lay eggs under the armpits of all who get into active service—let this young Marshall Field III. go up against this game without special favors from commissioned officers and non-coms—and then he may come back to State street, take things in his own hands and run the vast Marshall Field shebang all by himself. I'm not afraid of the results. I haven't a doubt but Chauncey Keep, Arthur D. Jones, John G. Shedd and the trustees and caretakers of this young commercial prince have a deep affection for him because of their veneration for his granddad.

If the lad goes into the First Illinois cavalry and learns to work and fight, it is a sure thing the trustees and caretakers will be glad of it. They would like to see him travel on the prowess of his own loins instead of his grandfather's.

When Marshall Field III. sings "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" with the accent on "MY," he is singing true to form, because he is chief designated heir to an estate of \$350,000,000 at 60 years of age, and a big share of the country will be his. The American flag is the flag of HIS country in a real sense. Furthermore, inasmuch as Marshall Field III. & Co., manufacturing wholesalers, have textile mills in France and England—and Marshall Field III. was educated from boyhood to young manhood in England—he is the one young man in all Chicago whom the forces of destiny ought to shove into the First Illinois cavalry. And right after him should come his younger brother, Henry Field.

If they should perish as cannon fodder they would have consolation not known to the millions and millions. Their wives and children would be safe against material want.