

CAMP LIFE OF THE SOLDIERS IN THE FAR WEST

MANEUVER CAMP, UNITED STATES ARMY, ISLAY, WYO.

To the Editor of the Statesman:

Please allow space in your paper for an article on the position, life and action of the brave boys in blue who for three months will be subjected to exposure, strenuous duty and risk of life.

I arrived in this place July 31st, making the journey overland of about thirty-five miles. The area of the government's land in this locality is nine by eleven miles, and the maneuvers are being held on a flat or plateau entirely surrounded by pole and table mountains. There are about 8,000 men in camp. It presents a grand spectacle and the most vivid imagination of one who never witnessed this part of the government's service can not portray the interesting scenes and knowledge to be gained by the opportunity of enjoying. Every department has its location, viz: headquarters, which consists of a suite of tents occupied by Brig. Gen. C. Williams, commander, and directly back of this is a row of about twelve tents of staff officers. Adjoining these, and a little to the south, are individual departments of attaches, military secretary, telegraph and telephone office, paymaster and postoffice. To the left of these is an officers' mess, which consists of a well arranged dining room, kitchen and cafe. You will pardon what may seem a display of vanity, when I inform you that my position is distinctly official. I have and conduct a neatly arranged two-chair barber shop for exclusive officers' trade, and my tent adjoins that of the dining room. All of the above is located on a high ridge and has a commanding view of the whole situation. The Eleventh, Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth infantry are nearest to headquarters and are so well arranged that they present in appearance a beautiful city of tents. I might add here that the sanitary conditions of the camp are perfect and surpass that of our best kept cities. The cavalry quarters are from one to four miles away and consist of the Fifth, Sixth and Tenth. The chief quartermaster's department is about one mile from headquarters and five or six large tents compose this branch. The maneuvering actively began last week, formations of infantry, galloping troops of cavalry, charging the enemy, retreat, etc., all went to enlarge our imagination to the extent of being on the battlefield. An amusing incident connected herewith was the perceptible

difference between militia and regulars. The militia mentioned was a regiment from North Dakota, and while in their marching, evolution and drill they displayed the result of careful training, their awkwardness and mistakes was the cause of much merriment. There is plenty here to employ one's mind and attention, and everything is conducted in a very orderly and official manner. Band concerts are an agreeable diversion, and every evening about 7 o'clock we have a concert at headquarters. Of the several bands that have played the famed Tenth cavalry stands eminently in the lead. In the near future I will be glad to inform the readers of The Statesman of other interesting events that can only be seen on an occasion of this kind. I am enjoying good health and find that a diet of stewed beef, beef hash, boiled potatoes, bacon and beans three times daily, also coffee without sugar is just as palatable as a varied menu such as I sometimes enjoy when at home. The customs of camp life make it imperative upon me to maintain regularity in everything, hence I go to bed about 8 o'clock, rise at 5, breakfast at 5:35, dinner at 12, and supper at 6. The altitude at this point is something over 8,000 feet, yet I suffer no ill effects therefrom. The air here is pure and bracing and we have an abundance of cold spring water that seems to emit health and strength.

More anon. Very respectfully,
T. EDWARD GRAY.

GIVE SCHOOL CHILDREN MEALS

French Authorities Allow None of Them to Go Hungry.

In Paris the city government gives every school child one full meal a day. This does not tend to pauperize the children or to lessen the responsibility of the parents; for all those who can afford to pay for the meal are expected to do so. On the other hand, no jealousy or contempt can be felt by the richer children for their starved comrades; for all are supplied with the same metal token, which has to be given up in exchange for the meal. The "cantine scolaire," as this municipal soup kitchen is called, is not confined to Paris. In the provinces, the "soupe scolaire," its equivalent, has sent up the school attendance by leaps and bounds. Here, however, instead of paying for their midday meal, all those who can possibly do so are encouraged to bring to school their handful of vegetables and the like and the contributions are all put into the common soup.

Almost Too Big to Fry.

The capture of a monster sea perch has been just recorded on the Hooghly river, in India. It measured nearly seven and one-half feet in length, and a girth behind the shoulder a little more than five feet nine inches, its weight being 460 pounds.

It was old and worn looking, from 500 to 600 circles, arranged mostly in groups of eight, being visible on the scales, which suggested an age of 60 years or more.

Fact Worthy of Day.

April 1, 1712, Lord Bolingbroke stated in parliament that in the great contest called the "glorious wars of Queen Anne," the duke of Marlborough had not lost a single battle, and yet the French had carried their point, the succession to the Spanish monarchy, the pretended cause for so great an enterprise. Dean Swift called this statement "a due donation 'or all fools' day."

Excellent Rule for Living.

Consider this maxim of a Roman Emperor: "Take care always to remember that you are a man and a Roman; and let every action be done with perfect and unaffected gravity, humanity, freedom and justice." That is the type of the true man, who is always able to confront life, in any and all of its aspects, with a cheerful countenance and an undaunted spirit.

The Plain-Spoken Man.

From all time the man who boasts of his plain-speaking has been voted a bore and a nuisance, not because he hurts susceptible feelings or because he calls a spade a spade, but because at heart he is a victim of his own overwhelming conceit and too fond of hearing his own voice and his own opinion.—Exchange.

Choristers Who Pay.

The choir in the parish church of Walker-on-Tyne, England, is probably the only one in the country where the members pay for the privilege of leading the singing. It consists of males only, and their fees sometimes amount to more than the contributions of the rest of the congregation.

A Minor Trouble.

"Did yo' heah 'bout our bad luck? No? De ol' man was smokin' in bed an' he set things afiah an' burnt de haidboard an' de pillars, an' de flasmen dey frowed water all ovah de feathah bed! I nevah did see no such a run s' bad luck!"

"An' what 'bout de ol' man?"

"De ol' man? Oh, he was dafid!"

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