

PROCEEDINGS

C.-IN-CHIEF

S. V., U. S. A.

1896-98



JAMES LEWIS RAKE.
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
1896-'97.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

... OF THE ...

SIXTEENTH

ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT

... OF THE ...

SONS OF VETERANS,

⇒ U. S. A. ⇐

HELD IN

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA,

SEPTEMBER 9TH, 10TH AND 11TH,

1897.

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JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9th, 1897.

The Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., convened in the hall of the House of Representatives, State House, at 10 o'clock A. M., with Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake in command.

ENCAMPMENT CALLED TO ORDER.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The officers and members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., will now come to order.

The Adjutant-General will call the roll of the officers of this Encampment.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of officers and the following officers of the Commandery-in-Chief answered to their names:

Commander-in-Chief, James Lewis Rake.
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Leo W. Kennedy.
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, R. M. Buckley.
Adjutant-General, Horace H. Hammer.
Quartermaster-General, R. Loebenstein.
Inspector-General, Arthur B. Spink.
Judge Advocate-General, John Redmond.
Surgeon-General, Dr. J. A. Mabbs.
Assistant Quartermaster-General, Fred E. Sanborn.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the roll of officers has been called. All the officers and staff are present with the exception of Chaplain-in-Chief Reverend Somerville Light.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I will appoint as acting Chaplain-in-Chief Past Commander W. J. Patton, of the Wisconsin Division.

Are there any honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors or marines of the War of 1861-65 present that have not been obligated? If so, they will rise and the Inspector-General will conduct them to the altar.

Comrade W. O. Pierce rose and was conducted to the altar by the Inspector-General and duly obligated by Past Commander-in-Chief George B. Abbott, of Illinois.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Inspector-General, you will examine those present and ascertain if all present are in possession of the semi-annual password and countersign, and if the Camp and Picket Guard are at their respective stations. The Surgeon General will assist on the left.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, on due inspection I find all the brothers present entitled to remain.

The Encampment was then opened in due form.

APPOINTMENTS BY THE C.-IN.-C.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: At this point I will announce the appointment of Officer of the Day, Major Harry White, of Maryland; Officer of the Guard, Lieutenant George E. Coggeshall, of Michigan. The Officer of the Day will detail his Camp and Picket Guard for each session of this Commandery.

Now, by virtue of the authority in me vested, I hereby declare the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., duly opened for the transaction of such business as may legally and properly come before it. The Camp Guard will admit all brothers qualified to enter.

LOCAL COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER, Chairman: Commander and brothers, on behalf of the Local Committee, I wish to make an announcement, and I will consume but little of your time. I cannot forbear saying that I have been acquainted with this State House since the time that the State took possession of it from the contractors; I have looked into the faces of every General Assembly that has gathered here, and without trying to "jolly" you in the least, I will say that I am willing to compare this gathering of men with any gathering of the Indiana Legislature that has met in this hall during the past twelve years. (Applause).

I say that without fear of being accused of introducing anything of a partisan character on this occasion, because in that twelve years we have had three Legislatures that were of the Democratic persuasion, and three that were of the Republican persuasion, and consequently I am non-partisan myself in making that remark.

Now, brothers, it is the expectation of the Local Committee that you shall have an enjoyable time while in the City of Indianapolis. We have the assurance of the Mayor that if you want anything and do not see it, it will be given you for the asking; and if you see anything you want and cannot get it, call on him and he will help you take it; and at no time during the day or night will the town require the use of a "jiminy" in order to open it. This evening we expect to give in the parlors of the State House and corridors a reception to the visiting Sons of Veterans by the Governor and the State officers. The Governor of Indiana is a comrade of your fathers—was a comrade of your fathers, and a number of our State officers were also Union soldiers. They will extend to you to-night, on behalf of grand old Hoosierdom, a welcome in the parlors of the State House. We expect to provide music and light refreshments, and we hope that those of you who are inclined to enjoy yourselves by dancing, will feel perfectly at liberty to go down the corridors to the north, and to the south, and to the west, and on the second floor, or anywhere that the music may urge you, and enjoy yourselves in that way.

On Friday afternoon there will be a parade, the line of march for which will be published in the papers, and a more particular announcement as to which will be made to-morrow by Mr. McGrew, the marshal of the parade.

We expect on Friday evening to have a Camp-Fire in Tomlinson Hall. I am pleased to say that at that time we will be addressed by that illustrious son and citizen of the State of Nebraska, Honorable John M. Thurston (applause); by that citizen of Indiana whom you all know, and whom, doubtless, you have learned to love through reading that immortal book—Ben Hur—General Lew Wallace (applause); by all the brothers who aspire to be Commander-in-Chief of this organization during this ensuing year (applause); by Past Commanders-in-Chief Charles F. Griffin, George B. Abbott, Walter S. Payne and William E. Bundy; and I believe when that is over you will be satisfied that we have here in Indianapolis a galaxy of spell-binders who will entertain you to your heart's content.

I have tried to outline to you the entertainment we have provided. In addition, there has been provided for Saturday afternoon and Saturday evening a trolley ride through this beautiful city, a trip to Broad Ripple Park, and a steamboat excursion on White River; and we want to say that any member of this Commandery is at liberty to approach any member of the committee and inquire for anything or ask for anything that you think would add to the pleasure of your stay with us, and the committee will secure it for you if they have to knock the man down that has it. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, I am perfectly sure that Brother Bookwalter's invitation is broad enough in every sense, excepting one. He has told us that we can inquire for and get with the assistance of his committee almost anything. He has told us that we can ring in the Mayor, who will help us take anything we want; but he has not said to us

that we are at liberty to help ourselves and take anything we want, regardless of the committee and the Mayor. I know there are some here, if they have not outlived their past reputation, who will come pretty near taking some of the marble columns of the State House unless a railing is put around them.

CHAIRMAN BOOKWALTER: I forgot, Commander, a part of the announcement which I was to make at the request of the illustrious brother from the State of New York. New York is always in evidence in conventions, especially of the political character, or character of this kind, and the illustrious brother from the State of New York asked me to say that this evening, on the Circle, immediately facing the Morton Monument, the members of the tribe of K. O. C. will gather, and they are going to have victims galore. (Applause and laughter).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Past Commanders-in-Chief and Constitutional Life Members.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of Past Commanders-in-Chief and Constitutional Life Members and the following brothers answered to their names:

Frank P. Merrill, Boston, Mass.
 A. P. Davis, Pittsburg, Pa.
 Walter S. Payne, Fostoria, Ohio.
 George B. Abbott, San Pedro Sula, Hond.
 Charles E. Griffin, Hammond, Indiana.
 William E. Bundy, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 W. H. Russell, La Crosse, Kansas.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair will now announce the Committee on Credentials as follows:

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant General, *ex officio*.
 H. E. Cowdin, of Michigan.
 F. E. Bolton, of Massachusetts.
 W. W. Bisby, of Iowa.
 William DeSteeze, of Wisconsin.

The Committee will meet at once with the Adjutant-General to prepare their report.

I desire to state at this time that we propose to present to you at this session the reports of the officers of the Commandery printed in pamphlet form. To-day is Thursday, and I am sure there is not present a single member who does not desire to get to his home or leave for his home this week. I believe the printing of these reports will greatly facilitate business. I shall endeavor in my rulings—I trust it may not be necessary to make any rulings—I trust that this Encampment will be so harmonious that its proceedings will redound to the credit of this organization, and that only the ordinary routine duties will be required of your presiding officer, but I promise to be absolutely fair, and to the utmost of my ability expedite the business that may come before us.

I would suggest that brothers, in addressing the Chair, announce their names and the Divisions to which they belong in order that the stenographer may duly accredit them.

COMRADE JOHN McELROY INTRODUCED.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander-in-Chief, I have the pleasure at this time of introducing Mr. John McElroy, editor of the *National Tribune*, of Washington, D. C. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers of the Encampment, I am sure that every one of you will agree with me when I say that you have this year made an ally that is a worthy ally of the Sons of Veterans. Mr. McElroy has been of valuable assistance to us, and we trust that in the future we may have the continued use of his columns. He will not charge you anything for the ad. either.

MR. JOHN McELROY: Commander-in-Chief, I have come here expressly to see my brothers. I desire to differ in one respect, sir, from what you have stated, and that is, that the Sons of Veterans have this year made me an ally. We have always been an ally of the Sons of Veterans. We were simply a little more active in well doing last year than in previous

years. Now, having started, I have a firm belief that the Sons of Veterans can be built up to a membership of one million strong. (Applause). I think it is very necessary, I think it is highly desirable, for the good of the country, that the Order of the Sons of Veterans should be built up to that strength, and for my part, and on the part of the *National Tribune*, of which I am a representative here, I say we are going to do all we can to aid you in your efforts to build it up to that strength. I thank you for your attention.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, I will entertain a motion at this time for recess for a quarter of an hour in order that the Committee on Credentials may meet and prepare their report; or if there is no objection, I will simply declare a recess for fifteen minutes for that purpose. Is there objection?

There appears to be none and the Commandery will be at ease until called to order by the Chair.

(Eleven o'clock.)

Eleven o'clock and twenty minutes.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, attention.

THE CAMP GUARD: Commander-in-Chief, the Assistant Adjutant-General of the State of Indiana and other Grand Army Comrades are waiting in the ante-room.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If the brothers will come to order we will use part of our recess by informally receiving the Assistant Adjutant-General and other members of the Grand Army Posts. The Camp Guard will admit them. I suggest that the Inspector-General escort them in.

The Assistant Adjutant-General of the G. A. R. and other comrades entered escorted by the Inspector-General.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, I have the pleasure of introducing to the Encampment the Assistant Adjutant-General of the State of Indiana and other Comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Comrades, I desire to say to you that there is no one more happy to meet the Veterans of War than the Sons of Veterans. I will ask you to be seated and enjoy our sessions with us. We have just been enjoying a recess and the Commandery may be at ease.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT INVITATION.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I have a communication here from Captain Armstrong of the Local Committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Captain Armstrong has just delivered a letter from the Board of Regents of the State Soldiers and Sailors Monument which I take pleasure in laying before the Commandery.

The Adjutant read the communication from the Board of Regents as follows:

BOARD OF REGENTS
STATE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT.
ROOM 93, STATE CAPITOL.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9, 1897.

SIR:—You are authorized to inform the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans and Daughters of Veterans, now in session in this city, that all duly accredited visitors and delegates of both organizations will be admitted to the Indiana State Soldiers and Sailors Monument under the same conditions and regulations provided for the admission of Veteran Soldiers. Very respectfully,

FRED KNEFLER,

Pres't and Sup't Board of Regents S. S. and S. M.

CAPT. WM. H. ARMSTRONG.

Addressed.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I understand that, ordinarily, there is a fare of twenty-five cents for the use of the elevator to the top of the monument. Under the State law the veterans are charged but ten cents. The regents of the monument have kindly extended the same rate to the Sons of Veterans and the members of the Ladies' Aid Society assembled. I am sure we are obliged to them.

Captain Armstrong corrects me and says that the charge is fifteen cents for the elevator and ten cents for the stairway.

The Chair is informed that the Committee on Credentials is not yet ready to report and the Commandery will continue at recess.

Twelve o'clock M.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. The Committee on Credentials is now prepared to report. Give attention to the report of the Committee on Credentials.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I suppose it will not be necessary to call again the names of Staff Officers, Past Commanders-in-Chief and Constitutional Life Members.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That will not be necessary. I would suggest that brothers answer as their names are read, off by the Adjutant-General.

TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9, 1897.

To the Commander-in-Chief, Officers and Brothers of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—Your Committee on Credentials herewith beg leave to present to your honorable body a list or report showing the following named brothers entitled to voice and vote in this the Sixteenth (16th) Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief as duly reported by the various Division Commanders and Adjutants, under seal of their respective Divisions, on Form No. 50, to the Adjutant-General, as required by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations. Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General (Chairman),
H. E. COWDIN, Michigan,
W. W. BISBY, Iowa,
FRED BOLTON, Massachusetts,
W. DRSTESE,

Committee on Credentials.

Commander-in-Chief—James Lewis Rake, Reading, Pa.
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief—Leo W. Kennedy, Denver, Col.
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief—R. M. Buckley, Louisville, Ky.
Adjutant-General—Horace H. Hammer, Reading, Pa.
Quartermaster-General—R. Loebenstein, Chicago, Ill.
Inspector-General—Arthur B. Spink, Providence, R. I.
Judge Advocate-General—John Redmond, Burlington, Kan.
Surgeon-General—Dr. J. A. Mabbs, Holland, Mich.
Chaplain-in-Chief—Rev. Somerville Light, Bluffton, Ind.
Assistant Adjutant-General—Charles E. Diefenderfer, Reading, Pa.
Assistant Quartermaster-General—Fred E. Sanborn, Chicago, Ill. (no vote).

PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.

FRANK P. MERRILL, Boston, Massachusetts.
A. P. DAVIS, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
GEORGE W. MARKS, Brooklyn, New York.
WALTER S. PAYNE, Fostoria, Ohio.
LOUIS M. WAGNER, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
GEORGE B. ABBOTT, San Pedro Sula, Honduras.
CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, Hammond, Indiana.
GEORGE T. BROWN, Brooklyn, New York.
EDWIN EARP, Lynn, Massachusetts.
BARTOW S. WEEKS, New York, New York.
MARVIN E. HALL, Hillsdale, Michigan.
JOSEPH B. MACCABE, East Boston, Massachusetts.
WILLIAM E. BUNDY, Cincinnati, Ohio.
W. H. RUSSELL, La Crosse, Kansas.

PAST GRAND DIVISION COMMANDERS.

FRANK H. CHALLIS, Manchester, New Hampshire.
 I. S. BANGS, Waterville, Maine.
 W. E. W. ROSS, Baltimore, Maryland.
 RAPHAEL TOBIAS, New York, New York.
 A. P. DAVIS, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
 WALTER S. PAYNE, Fostoria, Ohio.
 R. M. J. REED, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 CHARLES S. CRYSLER, Independence, Missouri.
 E. HOWARD GILKEY, Columbus, Ohio.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBERS.

W. E. W. ROSS, Baltimore, Maryland.
 I. S. BANGS, Waterville, Maine.
 J. A. RODRIGO, Newark, New Jersey.
 WILLIAM H. PIERPONT, New Haven, Connecticut.
 JOHN A. THOMPSON, Baltimore, Maryland.
 A. P. DAVIS, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania.
 W. S. ELDRIDGE, Portland, Maine.
 R. M. J. REED, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
 R. M. LINTON, Somerset, Pennsylvania.
 O. B. BROWN, Dayton, Ohio.
 JOHN E. MILLS, Bradford, Massachusetts.
 WILLIAM LUTHER DAVIS, Cincinnati, Ohio.

ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.

Commander—L. W. Friedman, Birmingham, Ala.
 Past Commanders—M. D. Friedman, Birmingham, Ala.; R. W. Biese, Chattanooga, Tenn.; W. R. Cooper, Knoxville, Tenn.; W. D. Good, Greenville, Tenn.; H. L. Veazey, Harriman, Tenn.; V. Gilb, Jr., Birmingham, Ala.; J. W. V. R. Plummer, Key West, Fla.; J. G. Crumbliss, Kington, Tenn.; E. R. Carter, Knoxville, Tenn.
 Delegate-at-Large—H. T. Cooper, Knoxville, Tenn.
 Alternate-at-Large—Frank G. Harrell, Greeneville, Tenn.
 Delegate—J. J. Straub, Nashville, Tenn.
 Alternate—H. L. Hanna, Sardis, Tenn.

CALIFORNIA.

Commander—Chas. L. Pierce, San Francisco, Cal.
 Past Commanders—L. DeP. Callahan, Los Angeles, Cal.; C. J. Callahan, Los Angeles, Cal.; E. C. Robinson, Oakland, Cal.; E. W. Conant, San Jose, Cal.; Fred W. Wood, Oakland, Cal.; S. L. Blodgett, Bakersfield, Cal.; F. W. Bunnell, Los Angeles, Cal.; F. C. Shipley, Oakland, Cal.; Chas. C. Houck, Santa Cruz, Cal.
 Delegate-at-Large—A. H. Johnson, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Alternate-at-Large—Harry E. Pratt, Lamanda, Cal.
 Delegate—G. S. Walker, Los Gatos, Cal.
 Alternate—H. E. Houck, Santa Cruz, Cal.

COLORADO.

Commander—Harlan Thomas, Denver, Col.
 Past Commanders—F. C. McArthur, Denver, Col.; H. D. Kendig, Denver, Col.; L. W. Kennedy, Denver, Col.; C. H. Anderson, Denver, Col.; Geo. H. Frye, New Windsor, Col.; Adam C. Patton, Greeley, Col.; Claude H. Clark, Greeley, Col.
 Delegate-at-Large—George L. Hodges, Denver, Col.
 Alternate-at-Large—E. R. Haff, Cripple Creek, Col.
 Delegate—Frank L. Hoadley, Denver, Col.
 Alternate—Paul H. Limbach, Denver, Col.

CONNECTICUT.

Commander—W. W. Wheeler, Derby, Conn.
 Past Commanders—W. H. Pierpont, New Haven, Conn.; G. B. Smith, Hartford, Conn.; H. W. Wessels, Litchfield, Conn.; A. E. Chandler, Norwich, Conn.; B. R. Singleton, Waterbury, Conn.; F. S. Valentine, Derby, Conn.; W. H. Barber, Meriden, Conn.; Geo. E. Cox, Hartford, Conn.; W. J. Bissells, Litchfield, Conn.
 Delegate-at-Large—Fred G. Pool, Mystic, Conn.
 Alternate-at-Large—E. C. Booth, Bridgeport, Conn.
 Delegates—W. G. Braley, New Haven, Conn.; E. J. San Souci, Hartford, Conn.
 Alternates—F. C. Bunten, Stanford, Conn.; C. M. Murphy, Manchester, Conn.

GULF.

Commander—H. W. Robinson, New Orleans, La.
 Past Commanders—Josiah Gross, New Orleans, La.; George H. Tinker, New Orleans, La.
 Delegate-at-Large—Henry R. Wilson, New Orleans, La.
 Alternate-at-Large—Charles L. Ford, New Orleans, La.
 Delegate—William C. Wright, New Orleans, La.
 Alternate—Eugene Vandegriff, New Orleans, La.
 Indebted for supplies and not entitled to representation until said indebtedness is paid.

ILLINOIS.

Commander—C. R. Clark, Rockford, Ill.
 Past Commanders—R. V. Mallory, Decatur, Ill.; F. McCrillis, New York, N. Y.; Geo. B. Stadden, St. Louis, Mo.; Geo. H. Hurlbut, Belvidere, Ill.; C. G. Marsh, Oak Park, Ill.; Jno. D. Hall, Peoria, Ill.; F. L. Shepard, Chicago, Ill.; Wm. G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.; E. A. Welis, Murphysboro, Ill.; John R. Neeley, Wilmette, Ill.; C. T. Orner, Bloomington, Ill.; S. E. Thomasson, Chicago, Ill.
 Delegate-at-Large—George B. Holmes, Fernwood, Ill.
 Alternate-at-Large—
 Delegates—M. N. Baldwin, Princeton, Ill.; W. T. Church, Chicago, Ill.; C. T. Spackman, Belvidere, Ill.
 Alternates—
 E. T. Roe, reported as Past Division Commander, is not found to be such.

INDIANA.

Commander—R. S. Thompson, Rising Sun, Ind.
 Past Commanders—J. W. Newton, Winchester, Ind.; George C. Harvey, Danville, Ind.; Newton J. McGuire, Indianapolis, Ind.; Frank Martin, Indianapolis, Ind.; R. B. Oglesbee, Plymouth, Ind.; Jno. E. Edmonson, Bloomington, Ind.; Wm. H. Armstrong, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Delegate-at-Large—Horace C. Stillwell, Anderson, Ind.
 Alternate-at-Large—Lee M. Kendall, Plymouth, Ind.
 Delegates—J. G. Lefler, Muncie, Ind.; W. H. Case, Marion, Ind.; Ira W. Christian, Noblesville, Ind.
 Substitutes—James W. Noel; Chas. A. Bookwalter, Indianapolis, Ind.; Geo. E. Retter, Farmland, Ind.; Frank Graham, Bloomington, Ind.
 Alternates—R. A. Brown, Kokomo, Ind.; H. H. Weaver, Pittsboro, Ind.; O. J. Chandler, Warsaw, Ind.

IOWA.

Commander—A. T. Wilson, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
 Past Commanders—J. D. Rowen, Des Moines, Iowa; L. A. Dille, Davenport, Iowa; A. L. Sorter, Jr., Mason City, Iowa; H. M. Hanson, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; E. E. Hawkes, Keokuk, Iowa; John H. Pickett, Oska-loosa, Iowa.
 Delegate-at-Large—James E. Whipple, Vinton, Iowa.
 Alternate-at-Large—J. E. Craig, Keokuk, Iowa.
 Delegates—W. W. Bisby, Des Moines, Iowa; R. Shaw Van, Denison, Iowa; H. C. Ring, Center Point, Iowa.

Substitutes—Henry Speelman, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; E. C. Weintgartner, Davenport, Iowa, substituted for Delegate-at-Large Whipple,
 Alternates—A. D. Bunger, Des Moines, Iowa; H. H. Canfield, Boone, Iowa;
 F. M. Sutton, Marshalltown, Iowa.

KANSAS.

Commander—W. P. Feder, Great Bend, Kan.
 Past Commanders—C. D. Jones, Norton, Kan.; E. H. Madison, Dodge City, Kan.; W. Y. Morgan, Hutchinson, Kan.; H. W. Huffman, Emporia, Kan.; Grant W. Harrington, Hiawatha, Kan.; C. S. Nation, Chanute, Kan.
 Delegate-at-Large—Tracy Larnard, Lawrence, Kan.
 Alternate-at-Large—W. P. Wilcox, Emporia, Kan.
 Delegates—C. S. Denison, Erie, Kan.; J. L. Papes, Wichita, Kan.; N. D. Saunders, Pittsburg, Kan.
 Alternates—L. A. Wiles, Erie, Kan.; E. E. Beard, Wichita, Kan.; M. M. Jones, Fort Scott, Kan.

KENTUCKY.

Commander—T. Z. Morrow, Jr., Somerset, Ken.
 Past Commanders—George H. Capito, Louisville, Ken.; W. R. Heflin, Maysville, Ken.; W. N. Evans, Augusta, Ken.; Will A. Field, Augusta, Ken.; B. F. McClelland, Louisville, Ken.
 Delegate-at-Large—Thomas T. Fogle, New Albany, Ind.
 Alternate-at-Large—A. T. Brown, Penicks Station, Ken.
 Delegate—J. Sherman Steeley, Williamsburg, Ken.
 Alternate—Joseph F. Biggs, Louisville, Ken.

MAINE.

Commander—Arthur L. Soule, Portland, Me.
 Past Commanders—A. S. Libby, Portland, Me.; Charles H. Rice, Bangor, Me.; E. K. Gould, Rockland, Me.; T. G. Libby, Vinalhaven, Me.; W. H. Perry, Portland, Me.; C. F. Hutchins, Bangor, Me.; A. C. Cloudman, Cumberland Mills, Me.; E. C. Moran, Rockland, Me.; C. E. Merrill, Auburn, Me.; R. L. Whitcomb, Portland, Me.; H. C. Chatto, Rockland, Me.; L. L. Cooper, Augusta, Me.
 Delegate-at-Large—William H. Looney, Portland, Me.
 Alternate-at-Large—H. M. Nickerson, Portland, Me.
 Delegates—George W. Gragg, Bath, Me.; R. A. Cony, Augusta, Me.; J. C. Colby, Waterville, Me.
 Alternates—J. W. Phinney, Westbrook, Me.; A. R. Newcomb, Old Town, Me.; H. M. Green, Yarmouth, Me.

MARYLAND.

Commander—Edward K. DePuy, Washington, D. C.
 Past Commanders—Miles W. Ross, Baltimore, Md.; Sherman J. Brown, Washington, D. C.; Robt. W. Wilson, Baltimore, Md.; E. R. Campbell, Washington, D. C.; Otto L. Suess, Washington, D. C.; Frank A. White, Easton, Md.; Frank O. Peterson, Baltimore, Md.
 Delegate-at-Large—W. Harry White, Easton, Md.
 Alternate-at-Large—Joseph T. White, Easton, Md.
 Delegate—Shelton T. Cameron, Washington, D. C.
 Substitute—Chas. S. Davis, Washington, D. C.
 Alternate—Howard Wilbur Ennis, Washington, D. C.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Commander—Orange H. Cook, Melrose, Mass.
 Past Commanders—F. J. Bradford, Lawrence, Mass.; J. B. Maccabe, East Boston, Mass.; C. F. Sargent, Lawrence, Mass.; H. S. Crossman, Springfield, Mass.; J. H. Hinkley, Beverly, Mass.; N. C. Upham, Fitchburg, Mass.; D. B. Purbeck, Salem, Mass.; C. K. Darling, Boston, Mass.; Wm. A. Stevens, Arlington, Mass.; W. H. Delano, Sharon, Mass.; A. C. Blaisdell, Lowell, Mass.; D. F. Goulding, Boston, Mass.; F. E. Bolton, Boston, Mass.; G. W. Knowlton, Arlington, Mass.; Harry D. Sisson, Pittsfield, Mass.

Delegate-at-Large—William R. Waterman, Hanover, Mass.
 Alternate-at-Large—Geo. B. McDavitt, Lynn, Mass.
 Delegates—O. S. Fish, Pittsfield, Mass.; A. A. Tilden, Arlington, Mass.;
 Thomas J. Hannon, Dedham, Mass.; C. F. O'Brein, Boston, Mass.; Walter
 H. Brown, Holyoke, Mass.; Henry E. Waugh, Whitman, Mass.; F.
 A. Filson, Waltham, Mass.; Edw. J. Green, Penbody, Mass.
 Alternates—C. D. Rooney, Winchester, Mass.; W. R. Davis, Cambridge,
 Mass.; L. C. Couch, Taunton, Mass.; H. E. Morse, Maplewood, Mass.;
 Benj. A. Harris, Arlington, Mass.; Edwin H. Lounsbury, Woburn, Mass.;
 Emery Coulter, Needham, Mass.; Howard G. Arnold, Pittsfield, Mass.

MICHIGAN.

Commander—H. E. Cowdin, Rockford, Mich.
 Past Commanders—Marvin E. Hall, Hillsdale, Mich.; F. M. Williams, Grand
 Rapids, Mich.; F. D. Eddy, Grand Rapids, Mich.; F. C. Stillson, Battle
 Creek, Mich.; Frank M. Gier, Hillsdale, Mich.; Fred M. Twiss, Hills-
 dale, Mich.; F. J. McMurtrie, Three Rivers, Mich.; E. R. Henderson,
 Hadley, Mich.
 Delegate-at-Large—Geo. E. Cogshall, Grand Rapids, Mich.
 Alternate-at-Large—
 Delegates—H. O. Herrick, Battle Creek, Mich.; Geo. W. Davis, Tekonsha,
 Mich.
 Alternate—C. J. Post.

MINNESOTA.

Commander—Henry Stadlock, Jr., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Past Commanders—E. M. VanCleve, Minneapolis, Minn.; E. H. Milhan, St.
 Paul, Minn.; A. S. Morgan, Casselton, Minn.; E. D. Morris, Red Wing,
 Minn.; George F. Kelley, Tracy, Minn.; George H. Sheire, Evansville,
 Minn.; Francis G. Drew, Minneapolis, Minn.; C. E. McColley, Lisbon,
 Me.; I. C. Patterson, Princeton, Minn.; W. A. Mullen, Madelia, Minn.
 Delegate-at-Large—D. W. Bevers, St. Paul, Minn.
 Alternate-at-Large—E. O. Merriman, Howard Lake, Minn.
 Delegate—J. E. Hayercraft, Madelia, Minn.
 Alternate—H. L. Mills, St. Paul, Minn.

MISSOURI.

Commander—E. E. Schoening, St. Louis, Mo.
 Past Commanders—J. J. Speaker, Kansas City, Mo.; A. H. Vandivert,
 Bethany, Mo.; E. R. Durham, Bethany, Mo.; R. Loebenstein, Chicago,
 Ill.; H. J. Kline, Chicago, Ill.; B. W. Frauenthal, St. Louis, Mo.; E. W.
 Raymond, St. Louis, Mo.; F. E. Ernst, St. Joseph, Mo.; E. L. Gott-
 schalk, St. Louis, Mo.; W. J. Zimmerschied, Sedalia, Mo.; W. K. West,
 Chicago, Ill.; Manly Wren, Bethany, Mo.
 Delegate-at-Large—Webster Davis, Washington, D. C.
 Alternate-at-Large—R. J. Ramer, Bethany, Mo.
 Substitute—Fred W. Miller, St. Louis, Mo.
 Delegates—E. J. Eakin, Cameron, Mo.; Samuel Loebenstein, Warrens-
 burg, Mo.
 Alternates—M. W. Bauer, Union, Mo.; George Eller, St. Louis, Mo.

NEBRASKA.

Commander—W. H. Davis, Wilber, Neb.
 Past Commanders—F. J. Coates, Washington, Neb.; F. P. Corrick, Cozad,
 Neb.; P. A. Barrows, St. Edward, Neb.; J. C. Elliott, West Point, Neb.;
 W. B. McArthur; F. E. Way, M. D., Wahoo, Neb.; Geo. F. Wolz,
 Fremont, Neb.
 Delegate-at-Large—J. M. Thurston, Omaha, Neb.
 Alternate-at-Large—A. H. Rawitzer, Omaha, Neb.
 Delegate—J. A. Collins, Fremont, Neb.
 Alternate—

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Commander—W. S. Willey, Somersworth, N. H.
 Past Commanders—F. H. Challis, Manchester, N. H.; F. E. Libby, Somersworth, N. H.; Michael Crowley, Charleston, Mass.; F. B. Perkins, Manchester, N. H.; Ben O. Robey, Nashua, N. H.; James H. Joyce, Somersworth, N. H.; Burt E. Fisher, Batavia, N. Y.; Frank C. Smith, Enfield, N. H.; C. H. Little, Manchester, N. H.; John H. Twombly, Dover, N. H.
 Delegate-at-Large—John W. Dufney, Somersworth, N. H.
 Alternate-at-Large—W. H. Bellows, Bennington, N. H.
 Delegate—Geo. B. Cook, Concord, N. H.
 Alternate—D. H. McLinn, Plymouth, N. H.

NEW JERSEY.

Commander—Jesse R. Dungan, Somerville, N. J.
 Past Commanders—Fred B. Morse, Elizabeth, N. J.; Andrew Derrom, New York, N. Y.; Geo. H. Perkins, Atlantic City, N. J.; T. H. Edmonds, Trenton, N. J.; A. L. Sparks, Camden, N. J.; Geo. W. Pollitt, Paterson, N. J.; Jas. E. Pierson, Hopewell, N. J.; James B. Adams, Atlantic City, N. J.; Lewis L. Drake, Elizabeth, N. J.
 Delegate-at-Large—James M. Mathews, Trenton, N. J.
 Alternate-at-Large—W. L. Vanderhoof, Somerville, N. J.
 Delegates—Howard B. Green, Penn. Grove, N. J.; W. L. Vanderhoof, Elizabeth, N. J.; E. W. McCann, Atlantic City, N. J.
 Alternates—Isaac Magill, Paterson, N. J.; Halsey R. Brant, Philipsburg, N. J.

NEW YORK.

Commander—John M. Diven, Elmira, N. Y.
 Past Commanders—M. J. Downing, Brooklyn, N. Y.; E. W. Hatch, Buffalo, N. Y.; J. C. Sawyer, Matteawan, N. Y.; J. E. Hedges, New York, N. Y.; George Addington, Albany, N. Y.; W. H. Wyker, Goshen, N. Y.; A. Hofesling, Brooklyn, N. Y.; C. Holmes, Mt. Vernon, N. Y.; W. S. Oberdorf, Danville, N. Y.; L. J. Macy, Pulaski, N. Y.; A. G. Courtney, Syracuse, N. Y.
 Delegate-at-Large—J. Frank Durston, Syracuse, N. Y.
 Alternate-at-Large—W. V. N. Stowell, Troy, N. Y.
 Delegates—J. W. Parkhurst, Pulaski, N. Y.; W. A. Personias, Waverly, N. Y.; W. D. Spear, Yonkers, N. Y.; E. C. Parkinson, Rochester, N. Y.; Charles E. Homan, Brooklyn, N. Y.; J. H. Murphy, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Substitute—Russell B. Harrison, Terre Haute, Ind.
 Alternates—B. G. Seamans, Pulaski, N. Y.; N. P. Fredericks, Rochester, N. Y.; W. T. Severance, Albany, N. Y.; John V. B. Clarkson, New York, N. Y.; T. F. Maxwell, Troy, N. Y.; H. R. Liddle, Brooklyn, N. Y.

OHIO.

Commander—A. W. Jones, Youngstown, O.
 Past Commanders—E. H. Gilkey, Columbus, O.; H. R. Bacon, Toledo, O.; E. W. Poe, Columbus, O.; W. C. Wyckoff, Columbus, O.; F. W. Myers, Parkersburg, W. V.; Henry Frazee, Cleveland, O.; William E. Bundy, Cincinnati, O.; C. J. Deckman, Malvern, O.; J. V. Hilliard, Newark, O.; Fillmore Musser, Portsmouth, O.; Dan S. Gardner, Massillon, O.; Don C. Cable, Nelsonville, O.; L. V. Williams, Ripley, O.; D. Q. Morrow, Hillsboro, O.; George A. Ensign, Defiance, O.; George W. Leonard, Urbana, O.
 Delegate-at-Large—Jacob Wise, Massillon, O.
 Substitute—R. J. Williams, Cincinnati, O.
 Alternate-at-Large—F. W. Timmons, East Liverpool, O.
 Delegates—H. V. Speelman, Columbus, O.; O. Esgate, Akron, O.; A. S. Bickham, Dayton, O.; W. G. Thompson, Lebanon, O.; E. H. Archer, Columbus, O.
 Alternates—Charles T. Scheid, Fort Recovery, O.; W. D. Kittinger, Akron, O.; George T. Crawford, Columbus, O.; W. W. Pease, Cincinnati, O.; A. E. B. Stephens, Cleves, O.

OREGON.

No returns received.

PENNSYLVANIA.

- Commander—Wildun Scott, Milton, Pa.
 Past Commanders—J. H. Closson, Philadelphia, Pa.; R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.; E. W. Alexander, Reading, Pa.; W. H. Smith, Allentown, Pa.; H. H. Hammer, Reading, Pa.; A. K. Howard, Oil City, Pa.; J. H. Seiferth, Pittsburg, Pa.; H. M. Russell, Philadelphia, Pa.; C. J. Miller, Philadelphia, Pa.; G. P. Brockway, Oil City, Pa.; J. L. Rake, Reading, Pa.; W. B. McNulty, Philadelphia, Pa.; G. W. Gerhard, Hamburg, Pa.; H. M. Rebele, Allegheny, Pa.; L. M. Wagner, Philadelphia, Pa.; A. P. Davis, Pittsburg, Pa.; Walter E. Smith, Allentown, Pa.; H. M. Lowry, Indiana, Pa.; Chas. L. John, Mt. Carmel, Pa.; C. E. Diefenderfer, Reading, Pa.; James H. Tawney, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Delegate-at-Large—J. Spaulding, Towanda, Pa.
 Alternate-at-Large—C. H. W. Schmidt, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Delegates—O. L. Pancoast, Philadelphia, Pa.; T. C. Harter, Bloomsburg, Pa.; J. Culbertson, Allentown, Pa.; J. Q. Davis, Allegheny, Pa.; R. E. DeGross, Athens, Pa.; Geo. L. Martin, Philadelphia, Pa.; R. F. Schwartz, Shamokin, Pa.; G. M. Bostwick, Montrose, Pa.; Harry Louderbach, Philadelphia, Pa.; Wm. E. Sturges, Phoenixville, Pa.; Hugh M. Irvin, Curwensville, Pa.; J. R. Stryker, Williamsport, Pa.; Walter R. Ross, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Alternates—W. J. Walton, Philadelphia, Pa.; W. O. Foster, Harrisburg, Pa.; Chester Lingle, M. Phillipsburg, Pa.; J. I. Salem, Hazleton, Pa.; E. P. Wolf, Berwick, Pa.; E. F. Allen, Altoona, Pa.; A. D. Roth, Lebanon, Pa.; Charles Hosmer, Athens, Pa.; D. P. Dinker, Pottstown, Pa.; George Forster, Philadelphia, Pa.; F. A. Godcharles, Milton, Pa.; Forrest W. Briggs, Shickshinny, Pa.; Paul Smyser, York, Pa.
 Substitutes—W. U. Hall, Slatington, Pa.; Walter E. Duncan, Philadelphia, Pa.; Geo. J. Blum, Philadelphia, Pa.; Emil Poerstel, Jr.; Pittsburg, Pa.

RHODE ISLAND.

- Commander—Chas. W. Abbot, Jr., Providence, R. I.
 Past Commanders—Chas. S. West, Newport, R. I.; T. A. Barton, Providence, R. I.; T. M. Sweetland, Pawtucket, R. I.; Wm. M. P. Bowen, Providence, R. I.; R. H. Dexter, Pawtucket, R. I.; A. B. Spink, Providence, R. I.; H. S. Thompson, Providence, R. I.
 Delegate-at-Large—Frederick B. Cole, Providence, R. I.
 Alternate-at-Large—Henry D. Gifford, Pawtucket, R. I.
 Delegate—Ernest L. Hackett, Providence, R. I.
 Alternate—Alton L. Pierce, Pawtucket, R. I.

SOUTH DAKOTA.

- Commander—R. J. Courtney, Okobojo, S. D.
 Past Commanders—L. D. Lyon, Watertown, S. D.; D. L. Printup, Britton, S. D.; Z. C. Green, White, S. D.; C. B. Cooke, Arlington, S. D.
 Delegate-at-Large—W. D. Nelson, Pierre, S. D.
 Alternate-at-Large—S. E. Tubbs, Henry, S. D.
 Delegate—Geo. Reed, Arlington, S. D.
 Alternate—C. M. Alexander, Watertown, S. D.

VERMONT.

- Commander—William W. Lapoint, Barre, Vt.
 Past Commanders—C. F. R. Jenne, Brattleboro, Vt.; G. E. Terrill, Underhill, Vt.; John E. Fox, Haverhill, Vt.; E. T. Griswold, Bennington, Vt.; H. O. Bixby, Chelsea, Vt.; George O. Webster, St. Albans, Vt.; William M. Sargent, South Royalton, Vt.; F. L. Green, St. Albans, Vt.; E. T. Monahan, Underhill, Vt.; Arthur I. Howe, Brattleboro, Vt.; H. S. Foster, Fort Leavenworth, Kan.
 Delegate-at-Large—Glenn A. Wilkins, Underhill, Vt.
 Alternate-at-Large—
 Delegates—F. M. Crossby, St. Johnsbury, Vt.; F. E. Carlisle, Chester, Vt.
 Alternates—

WASHINGTON.

Commander—Clark V. Savidge, Olympia, Wash.

Past Commanders—B. W. Coiner, Tacoma, Wash.; E. W. Young, Seattle, Wash.; Harry Rosenhaupt, Spokane, Wash.; W. H. Fletcher, Tacoma, Wash.; W. L. Jones, North Yakima, Wash.; W. W. Sparks, Vancouver, Wash.; W. F. Locks, New Whatcom, Wash.

Delegate-at-Large—W. E. Weigle, Vancouver, Wash.

Alternate-at-Large—

Delegate—

Alternate—

WEST VIRGINIA.

Commander—Harry W. Thurber, Wheeling, W. Va.

Past Commanders—H. B. Baguely, Wheeling, W. Va.; G. Ed. Sylvis, Wheeling, W. Va.; W. H. Brand, Canton, W. Va.; R. F. Adams, Huntington, W. Va.

Delegate-at-Large—H. S. McCune, Clarksburg, W. Va.

Alternate-at-Large—C. F. P. Smith, Wick, W. Va.

Delegate—J. R. Morris, Wheeling, W. Va.

Alternate—Joseph Smith, Clarksburg, W. Va.

WISCONSIN.

Commander—Charles C. Townsend, Benton, Wis.

Past Commanders—F. J. Walthers, Milwaukee, Wis.; J. P. Sheridan, East Saginaw, Mich.; C. H. Hudson, Madison, Wis.; H. S. Fuller, Milwaukee, Wis.; George W. Wing, Kewaunee, Wis.; R. L. McCormick, Hayward, Wis.; W. C. Winter, LaCrosse, Wis.; B. H. Wood, Hawthorne, Wis.; Thomas L. Jacobs, Neenah, Wis.; W. J. Patton, Green Bay, Wis.

Delegate-at-Large—William DeSteese, Fon du Lac, Wis.

Alternate-at-Large—J. W. T. Ames, New Richmond, Wis.

Delegate—F. H. B. McDowell, Racine, Wis.

Substitute—A. G. Braband, Milwaukee, Wis.

Alternate—J. M. Gooding, Fon du Lac, Wis.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the committee submit this as a preliminary report. We have several matters before us which we will present in a supplemental report. In case any of the Divisions here reported entitled to representation should subsequently prove to be delinquent with reports due in the several departments, which we have reason to expect may be the case in some instances, the committee will come in and recall certain portions of this report.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I move that the report of the committee as submitted be adopted as the roll of this Encampment, and that the reading of the roll just finished be the first roll call of this Encampment.

WALLACE L. VANDERHOOF, of New Jersey: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded that the report just read be accepted, and that the roll as reported by the committee be the first roll call of this Encampment.

With your permission, brothers, I will divide the motion in order to give opportunity to any members present who have not answered to their names to do so at this time. Is there any objection to the division of the motion? There appears to be none. You will then first take action upon this as the preliminary report of the Credentials Committee. Are you ready for the question?

OBJECTION TO THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to a point of information. I want to know how the members of this committee satisfied themselves as to the continued membership of Past Colonels of the various

Divisions. I have heard perhaps one or two names called that, according to common report, have been dropped members of their Divisions. Of course I understand the committee accepts the credentials as they are handed in, and as authenticated by the Division Commander; but here is an open chance for Division Commanders, through ignorance of what may have passed, to make mistakes. Commanders are elected year after year; here is a long list of Past Commanders; they have been certified to and certified to year after year; and the present Commander does not know perhaps that in the years gone by some whose names are on this list of Past Commanders have become dropped members of the Order. Subsequently a Past Colonel, after having ceased for several years to be a member of the Order, sees fit to become a member again, and naturally desires his past perquisites and rights. Now, it has been at considerable expense and trouble that I have maintained my membership in this organization, not being a resident of the United States, and it seems to me a proper thing that this Encampment should inquire most particularly as to its membership; and I wish to inquire by what process the members of this committee informed itself as to the standing of these Past Division Commanders. I want to know what returns the committee has had, and how it can satisfy itself of the standing of a Past Colonel beyond the credential that may have been presented, authenticated by the present Division Commander. I regard this question as a very vital one with this Encampment. I feel we are the proper body to determine who shall have seats in this Encampment and who shall not, and that we should not delegate it to a Division Commander who may not be informed on the subject.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I understand, if I am correctly informed, the Committee on Credentials have based their report upon the certificate of election that is forwarded on Form 50 by the Division Commander, attested by the Adjutant, and in addition thereto a comparison of the Encampment roll with the credentials that are offered. For instance, the question raised this morning as to the status of a Past Commander whose name appears upon the roll of the last Encampment of this Commandery-in-Chief, but whose name is omitted from the roll of the Fourteenth Encampment. The committee did not at that time feel themselves at liberty to report such name as a member of this body. I understand that they have, in making this report, held open such cases for further investigation. I do not know the particular case to which Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott may refer, but it is certainly the duty of the members of this Encampment, if they know anything bearing upon such cases, to appear before the Credential Committee and there and then object to the reporting of such brothers as members of this Encampment.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, that is the point I wish to make. There is at this time a name on that roll to which I object. If this Encampment seeks to give this Past Colonel a seat in this body, what is the recourse of the person who may desire to be satisfied, or who believes conscientiously that such past officer is not entitled to a seat here? What is the recourse in this matter?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say, logically, if this committee reports him entitled to a seat here, and this Encampment accepts that report, it consequently seats him; that the objection should be made before the committee, or here before the acceptance of this report.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Then, Commander, I object to the acceptance of the report of this committee so far as some Past Colonels are concerned.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I would suggest that if there are any specific objections they be made now specifically, and then the rest of the roll can be adopted and the names that are objected to can be referred back to the committee for reconsideration.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That is the force of my last suggestion. The intention is that we may have the preliminary report of the committee accepted, barring those names to which objection may be made; and

that the committee may take those cases up and thrash them out and make a report at some later time to this Encampment concerning them.

CASE OF PAST COL. G. P. BROCKWAY, OF PENNSYLVANIA.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, while I do not care to delay the convention—I presume the Commander knows that I do not—I simply wanted to know if I could go quietly to this committee and have a hearing, or if I should let it go by. I have no objection to stating specifically the name I object to in this report. I refer to Past Colonel Brockway, of Pennsylvania. I have been informed that he is a dropped member of the Order. That is the rumor. I am not responsible for the rumor. That is one name, and there was a name in another Division, I was informed, would be presented here that I am told is the name of a dropped member. I was spoken to at the time just as that was being read and I do not know whether it was read or not.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Do you desire to have that Division read again?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: I will call for a re-reading of the report as to the Division of Iowa.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The report of the Committee on Credentials covering the Division of Iowa will be read again.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: The name of G. P. Brockway appears upon the roll as a Past Colonel of the Division of Pennsylvania, certified to on the 26th day of June by ———— as Adjutant and Scott as Division Commander; received at headquarters on the 2d day of July.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Iowa.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, this Commandery-in-Chief has no further evidence than the certificate of the Division Commander. Now, who knows whether he has been a dropped member from the Order or not?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I think we understand that point. Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott calls for a re-reading of the names of Past Division Commanders reported by the Committee on Credentials as entitled to seats in this body from the Division of Iowa.

The Adjutant-General read the names of the Division Commanders reported from the Division of Iowa as follows:

Past Commander J. D. Rowen,
 Past Commander L. A. Dilly,
 Past Commander A. T. Wilson,
 Past Commander A. L. Sorter,
 Past Commander H. M. Hansen,
 Past Commander E. E. Hawks,
 Past Commander John H. Pickett.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I withdraw any objection to the report of the committee as to the Division of Iowa.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The objection to the report of the committee as to the Division of Iowa is withdrawn. The objection stands to the reporting of Colonel Brockway, of Pennsylvania. The committee will note that objection. The question before the Encampment is on the acceptance of this preliminary report of the Committee on Credentials, it being understood that the acceptance of the report is not to apply to the name of Colonel Brockway, of Pennsylvania.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, if there is no objection I will incorporate that in my motion, that the report of the Committee on Credentials be accepted with that exception.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The original motion now excepts Past Colonel Brockway's name in the Pennsylvania Division. The question is on the acceptance of the report of the committee, with the exceptions noted. Are you ready for the question?

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa: Commander, I rise to a point of privilege. I wish to ask Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott who on the list of the Iowa Division reported by the committee he objects to.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair will inform Brother Wilson that the objection to the roll of Iowa was withdrawn. Past Commander Abbott said he was perfectly satisfied with the report, so far as the Iowa Division was concerned. All in favor of the motion as stated by the Chair will give the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary the same sign. It is unanimously carried.

I will now put the second part of the motion, to adopt the report of the Committee on Credentials as the first roll call of this Encampment. Are you ready for the question? All in favor of the motion will give the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion is carried unanimously.

LEWIS A. DILLY, of Iowa: Commander, I move that the following members of the Indiana delegation be at this and subsequent roll calls accredited as present, they being members of the Local Committee, and necessarily absent in performance of their duties on that committee: Past Commanders Martin, McGuire and Armstrong. As I said, I make this motion because they are on duty as members of the Local Committee, and cannot always be here, and I think it is only just that they should be accredited to the delegation of Indiana.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is of the opinion that a motion is not required. Their presence has been noted already at this roll call and without objection. They will be accredited present.

LEWIS A. DILLY, of Iowa: Commander, will they be accredited present at each roll call?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands that it is customary to so accredit the Local Committee. It is always customary to grant them that courtesy, and if there is no objection it will be done during this Encampment. There appears to be no objection and the members of the Local Committee will be accredited present.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

The next business in order is the appointment of committees. The Chair will appoint the Standing Committees as follows:

ON CONSTITUTION, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

	John Redmond, of Kansas.	
J. E. Haycraft, of Minnesota.		E. R. Campbell, of Maryland.
Dan S. Gardner, of Ohio.		Geo. C. Cox, of Connecticut.

ON RITUALS AND CEREMONIES.

	Horace Stillwell, of Indiana.	
George F. Wolz, of Nebraska.		Harry D. Sisson, of Massachusetts.
W. S. Libby, of New Hampshire.		W. R. Heffron, of Kentucky.

ON RESOLUTIONS.

	R. M. J. Reed, of Pennsylvania.	
M. Crowley, of New Hampshire.		H. W. Jones, of New York.
Wallace L. Vanderhoof, of New Jersey.		F. L. Shepard, of Illinois.

ON OFFICERS' REPORTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF WORK.

	Frank P. Merrill, of Massachusetts.	
George B. Abbott, of Illinois.		William E. Bundy, of Ohio.
W. S. Payne, of Ohio.		W. H. Russell, of Kansas.

If there is no objection we will follow the precedent of other Encampments and appoint at this time a Press Committee. Do I hear any objection? Assuming that there is none I will name as the members of such committee for this Encampment the following brothers :

PRESS COMMITTEE.

Frank Martin, Chairman; of Indiana.
C. D. Roney, of Massachusetts. J. D. Noel, of Indiana.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS.

Next in the order of business is the reception and reference of communications from Divisions to be called alphabetically. The Adjutant-General will call the roll and Divisions will present their communications.

W. P. FEDER, of Kansas: Commander, it is getting along towards one o'clock and I move we take recess.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I suggest that Brother Feder be kind enough to withdraw his motion for the present, long enough to permit the reception of these communications and the reference of the officers' reports to the proper committees. They are all printed and can be disposed of very speedily. Unless we get them in the hands of the committees we cannot get started with our work; but after they are referred we can then take recess until to-morrow morning, thus giving the committees time to consider them and be ready to report when we meet again.

W. P. FEDER, of Kansas: Commander, I will withdraw the motion.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of California was called :

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is a communication here by mail from the Division of California. It will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work, Past Commander-in-Chief Merrill, Chairman.

The Adjutant-General proceeded with the calling of the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of New Jersey was called :

WALLACE L. VANDERHOOF, of New Jersey: Commander, New Jersey has a communication that it would like to present, but it is not ready yet.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Division may present it directly to the Committee on Distribution of Work at a later time.

The Adjutant-General concluded the calling of the roll of Divisions.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Are there any Divisions who have failed to present communications under Item 7 who desire to do so? If so, now is the accepted time.

WILDUN SCOTT, of Pennsylvania: Commander, the Pennsylvania Division presents a communication.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It will go to the committee. Any others?

NEWTON J. McGUIRE, of Indiana: Commander, Indiana presents a communication.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CAMPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It will go to the committee. Are there any others? There appears to be none. Reception and reference of communications from Camps and individuals are next in order. I have communications here from individuals in Minnesota and Ohio which will go to the Committee on Distribution of Work.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: I have several here also.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: They will go to the committee under the rule.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I wish to give notice that probably the Division of Illinois will ask later to present a resolution on a subject interesting to this body.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: They are at liberty to present it to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work, and it will go through the regular channels without coming before the Encampment. Are there any further communications?

CONGRATULATORY LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I am in receipt of the following letters and telegrams:

BARRE, VT., Sept. 8, 1897.

Gen. Jas. L. Rake, care Sons of Veterans Encampment, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Impossible to leave Vermont this week. The enemy are alarmed at growth of Order. Vermont boys coming. Best wishes to the brothers in '98. Our tremendous loss will be regained and more in the ranks.

WILLIAM W. LAPOINT,
Commander.

BALTIMORE, MD., Sept. 8, 1897.

National Encampment Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis, Ind.:

James A. Garfield Camp, No. 1, extends greetings. Give us old Ritual, pure and simple. Our punishment is complete.

MILES W. ROSS,)
ROBERT W. WILSON,) - Committee.
FRANK O. PETERSON,)

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Sept. 9, 1897.

Gen. Jas. L. Rake, Commander S. V., U. S. A., State House, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Past Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Barton, detained by ill health, extends greetings and distinguished considerations.

T. A. BARTON.

THREE RIVERS, MICH., Sept. 8, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in Encampment assembled:

Illness in my family makes my attendance this year an impossibility, a circumstance I do deeply regret. I trust the Encampment will prove a most enthusiastic and enjoyable one, and that the legislative outcome may be especially beneficial to our Order at large. Believe me, yours in heart and soul,

FRED J. McMURTRIE,
Past Commander Michigan Div.

NASHVILLE CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I have received also the following communications concerning the Tennessee Centennial Exposition.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
NASHVILLE, TENN., September 1, 1897.

Sons of Veterans' National Encampment:

GENTLEMEN:—The Chamber of Commerce, of Nashville, Tennessee, together with other official bodies of this city, beg very respectfully to tender

herewith a most cordial and pressing invitation for your association, upon the adjournment of its convention, to visit our Centennial Exposition in a body. Our Exposition opens May 1st and continues for six months.

We can assure you a most hearty and cordial welcome, and will use all possible means to make your stay among us pleasant, and we feel sure that the recollections of your visit to Tennessee will be a matter of pleasure both to yourselves and the people of our city.

The many attractions and inducements that our State and city have to offer for the meeting here of the different organizations of the country in this our Centennial year are set forth in part in the accompanying circular. Side trips to any and all points of interest, the many battlefields, Hermitage, Lookout Mountain, celebrated stock farms, etc., can be made in a few hours' ride at greatly reduced rates. Many of the principal points can be reached without charge.

The lowest possible tariff of rates will be established by the railroads. Full information can be had from your railroad agents. This will place it within the province of all to visit our Exposition.

Trusting to have the presence of your association and its many friends in our city, we remain,

Yours respectfully,

NASHVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

By A. J. HARRIS, Pres.

A. W. WILLS, Sec.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

GENTLEMEN:—The Mayor of Nashville and the City Council, through its president, take great pleasure in endorsing the invitation extended by the Chamber of Commerce and others to your honorable body to visit Nashville during our Centennial year. We will see that you receive a most cordial, hearty greeting, and that your stay shall not only be pleasant but profitable to each of you. We will receive you with open arms.

Yours respectfully,

WILLIAM M. McCARTHY, Mayor.

NASHVILLE CITY COUNCIL,

By H. S. WILLIAMS, President.

THE AMERICAN, NASHVILLE, TENN.

DEAR SIR:—As representatives of the daily press of Nashville, we join most cordially in inviting your association to visit our city. We will gladly publish all proceedings of your meetings, and will extend such other courtesies as are usually due from the press on such occasions.

The American,

By LELAND RANKIN, Pres.

The Banner,

By E. M. FOSTER, Bus. Mgr.

The Sun,

By S. C. CARMACK, Mgr.

STATE OF TENNESSEE.
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, NASHVILLE.

DEAR SIR:—It affords me unbounded pleasure to extend to your association and to the members of your convention a most cordial and pressing invitation to visit our Tennessee Centennial Exposition.

We feel proud of our beautiful white city--its unique, spacious and magnificent buildings, the beautiful grounds, its industrial features, the consummation of all that goes to make up a progressive city and State. It being State and interstate, national and international in its character, we feel as though a visit is not only due, but would prove of great interest and benefit to the members of your association. We assume that the United States as a whole, and particularly the South, will derive a great benefit from the wonderful achievement of our people, and we earnestly beg your presence and your co-operation. We invite you to attend and promise you true Southern hospitality.

Trusting you will accept this invitation, which comes from me as the representative of the entire people of the State of Tennessee, I remain, very respectfully yours,
 ROBERT L. TAYLOR, Governor.

TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL
 AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION, NASHVILLE.

GENTLEMEN:--The Tennessee Centennial joins most heartily in the accompanying invitations and will be greatly pleased to have you visit our beautiful city in this our Centennial year.

We propose to hold, for the purpose of celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the admission of the State of Tennessee into the Federal Union, a worthy industrial exposition.

On account of the many conventions to assemble in Nashville this year, we have been enabled to secure a very low transportation rate, as set forth in letter from Chamber of Commerce herewith, and we will have the necessary convention halls in which to hold any meetings you may desire furnished gratuitously.

We will also take pleasure in arranging excursions at greatly reduced rates, should you desire to visit Lookout Mountain, the many battlefields, Hermitage, Mammoth Cave and other noted places in this vicinity.

We deem it proper to state to you, however, that owing to the large number of associations which will visit us in the current year we cannot arrange for the entire management of entertainments, programs, etc., prepared for the different conventions, but will aid you all in our power, and have organized a special department for the purpose.

Trusting that you may decide to come to see us, we remain, yours very truly,

TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL.
 By E. C. LEWIS, Director General.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the reading of these communications. Are there any others?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, is there nothing before the Encampment?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is not, unless the Adjutant-General has something further to present.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: After that, Commander, I would like to be heard a moment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: You have the floor, General Abbott. The Adjutant-General has nothing further to offer. You may proceed.

RESTORATION OF PROPERTY.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, this is a little personal matter between the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General that I wish to refer to now. I have been absent from the United States for some time, but while I was Commander-in-Chief there occurred a great disturbance at the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Division. A certain article belonging to headquarters had disappeared and unfortunately it

disappeared a short time before or after or during the visit of the Commander-in-Chief. Very properly, in looking after the property of the Division of Pennsylvania, the Colonel and Adjutant were exercised over the matter, and as reflection had been cast upon the Commander-in-Chief, he immediately appointed himself a committee of one to straighten out affairs and obtain for the Division of Pennsylvania its lost property. I have traveled a great many thousands of miles in search of it and have at last succeeded, and that is one of the reasons I am present at this Encampment—to return to the Division of Pennsylvania its lost property. I take great pleasure in delivering to the Commander-in-Chief the long-lost property of the Division of Pennsylvania.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : I am sure I am voicing the sentiment of the Pennsylvania Division when I welcome back to the fold this long-lost article ; but we have very grave doubts about the distance traveled by Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott in search of it. We do not claim any particular detective skill, but he has always had a guilty look since he left Pennsylvania at that time, and we knew his conscience would trouble him and that he would make restoration at some day. We don't want to say that you took it, Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott, but without doing that we may say you were pretty close by when it was taken. We are much obliged to you, and this return at least indicates good intentions on your part.

I will now take occasion to make a suggestion to the Commandery-in-Chief, which I trust they will accept in the spirit with which it is offered. We have at very slight expense, that is, when we take into consideration the printing of the journal of the proceedings, had printed for the use of the Encampment the reports of the officers, and it is entirely unnecessary to hold the Encampment here for hours to hear the reading of the reports which the members of the Commandery can read so much better themselves at leisure. The committees have been appointed and are ready to go to work, and I ask permission of the Encampment to read the reports to the Commandery by title only, and then let them go direct to the committee in their printed form.

UNDER THE HEAD OF MEMBERSHIP.

In regard to the suggestions contained in my report I will explain that I do not claim them as original. They represent, rather, the concensus of opinion, the result of the replies to over three thousand letters and a number of conversations had with people eligible to our organization. The suggestions contained are offered to you merely as suggestions. I do not claim that they are going to solve the difficulty with this Order, but I place them before you for your consideration. This is the only place where we can cure any ill that exists in this organization, and I believe it is your duty to take up the question and solve it for yourselves. I have not attempted to go into detail in the question at all. I will request the Adjutant-General to read the several reports by title, in order that they may be properly referred.

The Adjutant-General read the reports by title, as follows :

REPORT OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

REPORT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

REPORT OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

REPORT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

REPORT OF SURGEON-GENERAL.

REPORT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

The several reports read by title as above being in the words and figures following, to wit :

REPORT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—We are again permitted to meet to review the events of the past year and legislate for the future. Let us hope that our deliberations may bring increased prosperity to our beloved Order. In accounting to you for the administration of your affairs during the term now rapidly drawing to a close, and mindful of the fact that much of that which may have been desired remains undone, it is with a sense of consciousness of having endeavored with fidelity and impartiality to fulfill the honorable position to which you elected me at Louisville last year that I now return to you this precious charge.

HEADQUARTERS AND RECORDS.

Headquarters were established in Rooms 31-32, Second National Bank Building, Reading, Pa., on September 15, 1896, although the furniture and many of the official records did not reach us until nearly a month thereafter through having encountered a railroad wreck en route.

My bond was duly executed, submitted to and accepted by the Council-in-Chief. The Adjutant General's bond was promptly executed and accepted by me. The system of records contemplated by the C., R. and R., and so ably maintained by my illustrious predecessors, has been continued. A new Commission Record has been provided, as well as a standard blank covering the financial transactions between the Commander-in-Chief and the Quartermaster-General.

DECISIONS.

During the year 23 decisions have been rendered, the full text of which will be found annexed. A number of replies to inquiries for official interpretations of portions of the C., R. and R. are not here recorded, as the questions were in some cases fully covered in plain language by the particular sections referred to, or in other instances were readily answered by accepted decisions of Past Commanders-in-Chief, to which reference only was necessary. Many questions submitted to these headquarters should properly have been referred directly to Judge Advocates, who ordinarily are competent to pass upon the major portion of the inquiries, especially those covered by decisions already contained in the printed proceedings.

C., R. AND R.

The Order as at present constituted seems to be amply and well governed by the existing C., R. and R. without making any changes, thereby causing that confusion and dissatisfaction which constantly harassed Camp, Division and Commandery-in-Chief officers during the earlier years of our organization.

I would suggest, however, that a condensed historical sketch of the Order be prepared and added to the next edition of the C., R. and R. It should be brief and cover those points which are invariably inquired for and of necessity require explanation by circular or correspondence whenever a new Camp is forming.

THE BLUE BOOK.

It is not only desirable but imperative that we should have a well indexed codification of the decisions which have been rendered and accepted by this body, but in view of the cost connected with the work if published in the form of the now obsolete Blue Book this publication could doubtless be kept within our financial limits and serve all purposes if prepared and issued as an appendix to and part of the present edition of the C., R. and R., whereby an electrotyped plate or plates covering any subsequent

changes or additions could be prepared at comparatively small cost. I am under the impression that a committee was appointed by the Fourteenth Annual Encampment to codify and index the decisions for a new Blue Book, and it is possible that the results of their labors, at but slight additional expense, might be made available for this purpose.

RITUAL.

There is a difference of opinion as to the desirability and effectiveness of the present three-degree ritual, and whilst there is quite a decided expression in favor of a return to a single degree work, I am strongly convinced that we will never satisfactorily overcome the objections to our ritualistic forms until we adopt the suggestion, so strongly advanced at our last sessions, to entrust the task of preparing our ritual to some competent author specially versed and gifted in the production of work of this character. We must recognize, without in the least underrating the literary ability of the author of the present work, that the production of a successful ritual, embodying at once dramatic action with an attractive motive, effective, yet brief and easy of execution, calls for peculiar ability which we can scarcely expect to find if we entrust the work to a committee selected at random from the members of this body.

COURTS-MARTIAL.

Only three courts-martial proceedings were submitted to me for review and approval during the past year, a truly remarkable and gratifying record, clearly demonstrating that serious infractions of our laws are the exception. The proceedings were in each case referred to the Judge Advocate-General, and upon his recommendation approved.

BONDS OF DIVISION COMMANDERS.

The form for bonds of Division Commanders, prepared under the supervision of my predecessor, has now been in use sufficiently long to demonstrate its value. It has, up to this time, met all of the requirements, but to increase its efficiency, and acting in accord with Decision 23, of Past Commander-in-Chief Russell, I have had prepared by the Judge Advocate-General a blank form for the release of such bonds.

The bonds of the recently-elected Division Commanders have been approved and filed with the Quartermaster-General for all of the Divisions, Oregon alone excepted. This bond was returned for correction and will doubtless be properly executed and filed within the next few days.

DIVISIONS.

Our Divisions generally are in satisfactory condition, well officered by enthusiastic brothers who strive for excellence. One serious fault, however, is common to most all—slowness in making quarterly returns—to which the Adjutant-General makes more extended reference in his report. The fault, of course, is primarily with the Camps, and the delinquency from this source simply keeps on magnifying itself until it reaches the Commandery-in-Chief headquarters, resulting in the necessity for extended correspondence, consuming time and attention that should be more profitably given to matters for the general good of the organization at large. A reference to General Orders issued during the year will show plainly to what extent members of the Order have suffered through being compelled to wait for months for the promulgation of reports containing information which they rightly may expect within a reasonable time after the close of the quarter.

The Oregon Division has not been in a healthy or prosperous condition, due to the indifference and neglect of the recent Commander, who, in addition to allowing the routine work of his office to take care of itself, deliberately removed from the Division without proper leave. The Washington Division suffered similarly, although the trouble in this case was due to reported illness in the family of the then Commander. There is little excuse, however, to be offered by a Division officer for the failure to at least acknowledge official communications. Both of these Divisions, I am pleased to say, have elected Commanders who seem to be interested in their work, and to possess the ability and energy necessary to restore confidence, and bring these Divisions to a prosperous condition.

The C., R. and R. provides no penalty or form of discipline for derelictions on the part of Division Officers, other than a loss of representation in the Annual Encampments or the revocation of charter after failure for three quarters to make returns, penalties which, in my judgment, are inadequate, in that the Division, through neglect on the part of its officers, may be hopelessly wrecked before the remedy may be applied, and just so long as we fail to attach a penalty for neglect, so long will we have to endure the evils complained of.

COMMITTEES.

At the last sessions of the Commandery-in-Chief the spirit of economy asserted itself to such a marked extent that one would be led to suppose that our treasury had been irredeemably bankrupted, or that this body was made up of a class recruited from the millionaires of our land. Either of these suggestions might be conveyed from a reading of the printed proceedings, which disclose the fact that every special committee therein authorized was to serve "without expense to the Commandery-in-Chief." While advocating the strictest economy, it is to be hoped that we will not fall into similar error during the present sessions. If the proposed labors of a committee are of sufficient importance to the Order to warrant its existence it is no more than right that a reasonable sum should be set apart for such natural expenses as may be incurred.

The several committees specially authorized by the last Encampment were duly appointed and will doubtless be ready to make formal reports during the present session. I feel particularly grateful to the brothers who have served on these committees and have given their time and money for the benefit of the Order.

BENEFICIAL FEATURES.

Every year we find the question of incorporating beneficial features covering sickness and death being more strongly urged, and there are at this time quite a number of Camps that have adopted one or the other of the many plans presented to them, and in some cases Division organizations are moving in this direction. The success attending the introduction of these features has been varied, and must of necessity continue to be so until we shall either adopt some feasible plan as part of our fundamental laws, or entirely abandon all connection with the same.

RELATIONS WITH THE G. A. R.

Nothing has occurred during this administration to mar the uniformly pleasant relations which have existed between ourselves and the Grand Army of the Republic. Commander-in-Chief Clarkson and his associates have been ever ready to render us valuable aid, and through their direct efforts many of our weaker Camps have been strengthened and new Camps organized. The several Department Commanders and the Woman's Relief Corps have likewise shown great interest in our work, and to these veterans and their auxiliary do our thanks go out.

L. A. S.

I have always been of the opinion that our interest in the Ladies' Aid Society has been a more or less superficial one; not that we do not appreciate their work and the purposes for which they are organized, but there has never been that close relationship existing which would tend to prove the sincerity of our oft repeated words of encouragement—words, without active co-operation—which, properly bestowed, would strengthen their organization and in turn benefit our own Camps.

FINANCES.

Notwithstanding the fact that the revenue of the Commandery-in-Chief is derived mainly from per capita tax, which has remained stationary for a number of years as a unit against a steadily decreasing membership, I believe it would be poor policy to attempt to increase the same at this time. The comprehensive report of the Quartermaster-General will give you a very clear idea of our financial transactions during the past year.

MEMBERSHIP.

The most important matter that comes before us to-day is the question of our membership. Year after year your Commanders-in-Chief have brought to your notice this highly important subject, but up to this time little or no attention seems to have been paid to the warning notes so oft repeated. We cannot afford longer to temporize with this question. It is a duty we owe to ourselves to try to realize the condition which confronts us, and to set about to discover and apply the remedy.

We have all doubtless realized in a carelessly general way that our numerical strength is by no means proportionate to our opportunities, and possibly, that we have been unable apparently to check the annual decrease in our numbers, but how many of us have taken the trouble to analyze the figures to see what they actually do represent? To demonstrate how fearfully we have lost in membership it is only necessary to review the statistics covering a comparatively recent period. The Adjutant-General's consolidated reports show that in the June quarter of 1891 we carried upon our rolls 54,728 members in good standing. During the remaining quarters of 1891 we mustered 9,376 recruits. During 1892 we added 17,913 recruits; in 1893, 10,730; in 1894, 9,800; in 1895, 11,069; in 1896, 10,118, and in the March quarter of 1897, 2,573 recruits, a total of 71,679 new members mustered exclusive of gains from reinstatements, and which, with the membership accredited in good standing in the June quarter 1891 of 54,728 members, should enable us to show at this date something like 125,000 members. With the natural increase added for gains from reinstatements we might reasonably expect to have reached the 150,000 mark. As against this the Adjutant-General's consolidated report for the quarter ending March 30, 1897, shows a total membership in good standing of just 32,075. In other words, we have during the past six years added annually an average of nearly 12,000 new recruits, and notwithstanding this steady and quite respectable addition, we have been unable to check the unusual loss in our aggregate membership, for, citing again from the records, we find the following: Starting in June, 1891, with 54,728 members, we have accredited as enrolled in the March quarter of each of the succeeding years—1892, 54,479 members; 1893, 47,216 members; 1894, 39,625 members; 1895, 36,605 members; 1896, 34,964 members, and 1897, 32,075 members, a condition that is to say the least appalling.

I have endeavored in the limited time allotted to me to discover a cause for this lamentable condition, and with this in view I have embraced every opportunity to consult with the membership of our Order representing the different sections of our country, prominent members of the G. A. R., and citizens who have taken an interest in our organization on account of its patriotic aims, and I am forced to the conclusion that the chief source of the trouble is an inherent weakness due to our present form of constitution and operation, which only a reconstruction on different lines can remedy. I cannot reasonably be expected to place before you in detail a method by which we may strive to overcome the trouble, but I do hope to show you the imperative necessity for a careful consideration of the suggestions I shall present, which are the outcome of my inquiries, and which, if systematically undertaken and pursued, will, I believe, lead us to the desired result.

The numerous interviews and communications which I have had on this subject tend to show conclusively that the general adoption of the military feature as at present obtains with us is objectionable to the average citizen who is eligible to membership in our organization. There are, of course, those to whom the military feature is attractive, but I am firmly convinced that such is not the case with the great majority of those whom we desire to enroll as members in our organization. As a consequence we limit our membership to the few, comparatively speaking, and too often thereby lower the general standing of our Camp membership. There are many arguments to be advanced *pro* and *con*, but I can see no good reason why the question intelligently and fully submitted for serious consideration should not practically solve itself. As an exception to the statement just made, the success of the G. A. R. has been quoted to illustrate the correctness of our position on the military feature, but as has been so aptly remarked by a prominent member of that organization, to whom much of

our earlier success is due, they occupy a totally different position, their uniform of the period of their actual service fittingly represents deeds of valor, to which we cannot, with but few exceptions, lay claim. We have continued to experiment for a number of years on precisely the same lines as those upon which the Order was organized, and with results as above shown. There is nothing theoretical about the figures presented to you; they are facts, and we must meet them with intelligent and positive action if we are to hope to survive and attain the numerical strength necessary to place us in a position to be of actual service to the surviving veterans as enunciated in the principles and objects of our organization.

It is not my purpose in bringing this matter before you to adduce argument for the adoption of hasty legislation. The matter is too serious and involves too many issues to be quickly determined. My investigations, however, lead me to the sincere belief that our future success will lie in a complete revision of our fundamental laws whereby the Order, without in any way affecting the essential part of our constitution embracing the Title, Principles, Objects, Organization and Eligibility Clause as they at present exist, will become a great patriotic, civic body of importance. This suggestion would contemplate the abolition of the military and uniform features as we know them to-day, depending upon the adoption of a single standard button-hole decoration of neat and attractive design for general use, and the badge for public occasions, certain well defined patriotic holidays, and general Camp room purposes. For that minority who are eligible to membership in our organization, who take deep interest in military matters, provision could be made, empowering a Division Commander to issue a dispensation permitting a Camp to establish an armed and equipped body as soon as a Camp expressed its willingness and ability to so arm, equip and maintain a minimum company, battery or troop after the strict standard of the present U. S. Army regulations in connection with and directly under the control of the Camp. Such a body, armed, equipped and drilled after a recognized and uniform standard would in time become of positive value and command respect. Moreover, it would certainly remove the just grounds for the adverse criticisms to which the utter lack of uniformity incident to the present system has subjected the Order on occasions of all public appearances.

If such changes as are herein outlined shall be found to be desirable it would permit of the revision of many of our present blank forms and the omission of others, with the result that we could readily simplify the clerical work of the Order to an extent that would enable us to obtain efficiency in this direction. Much of the present system entailing upon the officers of Camps and Divisions the preparation of useless statistics could be avoided; the general returns could be less frequently made, saving to these branches of our organization considerable sums of money, and having a general tendency to secure capable officers who would be interested in their work. Either a revision of the work to a reasonable basis or an increase in the terms of office for Division and Commandery-in-Chief officers must follow if we are to expect any improvement from this source, since with our present cumbersome system many officers are but fairly started in their work when they are compelled to give way to their successors, who, in turn, simply encounter similar discouraging experiences.

The prescribed badges of the Order, of artistic and appropriate design, would not of necessity need revision, other than that the wearing of a multiplicity of badges is never desirable, and a simple law could be enacted permitting of the wearing of but one badge on all public occasions, or during the meetings of either of our bodies, letting it optional with past officers to wear a single badge denoting their highest rank, or any intermediate rank as their preference might be.

In view of the vital importance of this question I have omitted to make the customary recommendations covering other minor changes that have suggested themselves, in the hope that the wisdom and experience of the brothers here assembled may be confined to the consideration of this one grave question of our numerical strength, firmly believing that responsive action on your part will be the effective means of bringing the Order, in personnel and numbers, to that proud position which we of right ought to occupy, and at the same time be the incentive for the permanent establishment of a military feature that will be creditable to the organization.

OFFICERS-AND STAFF.

The officers and staff have been unremitting in their attention to the duties of their respective stations. The cordial relations which have characterized our official intercourse, and their uniform willingness to perform every duty assigned to them, cannot but leave the most pleasant memory of my official tenure of office. Truly it has been an official family without even the semblance of a "family jar," always ready and anxious to counsel and advise with one another for the best interests of the Order. Through the very nature of the position I was brought more closely into contact with the Quartermaster and Adjutant-Generals, and my unbounded admiration for these two worthy brothers, formed through friendship of many years' standing, has in no degree been lessened. Brother Loebenstein, through long service in his position, has acquired that experience which at once makes him a most valuable officer and a safe adviser. Brother Hammer brought to the office of Adjutant-General a thorough knowledge of the duties of the station through service in his Division for an almost uninterrupted period dating back to the formation of our Order. With a training embodying promptness in the discharge of the duties he has been called upon to perform no detail has escaped his watchful care. A loyal friend and ardent worker who in the daily routine of headquarters' work has made labor a pleasure.

And now, retiring from the high office to which you were pleased to elect me last year, and returning to assume my share of labor in the ranks once more, I desire to return my sincere thanks for the uniform kindness with which the loyal brothers throughout the Order have come to my assistance in the discharge of my official duties. May our deliberations, ripened with the experience of the past, lead our great Order in the patriotic work in which we are engaged to teach the young and old of every nationality, that, under the guidance of a Divine Providence, there shall be but one people and one flag in this land of liberty.

J. L. RAKE.

Commander-in-Chief.

DECISIONS.

DECISION I. (J. A. Gen. Op. I.)

READING, PA., November 25, 1896.

Col. A. G. Courtney, Commander New York Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Syracuse, N. Y.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—The question which you submit on appeal taken by Camp No. 26, from your decision, "Can a member who has been dropped by a Camp which afterwards ceased to exist be elected a member of the Order and mustered into another Camp without a dispensation?" has been duly considered.

The Judge Advocate-General is of the opinion, in which I concur, that a dropped member of a Camp which has ceased to exist cannot be mustered into another Camp until he has paid \$2.00 to the Commander-in-Chief or to the Division Commander, and a dispensation has been granted. Section 4 of Article IX, page 62, of the C., R. and R. is very plain on this point.

Your decision is sustained and the appeal is dismissed.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION II.

READING, PA., December 19, 1896.

Capt. Charles T. Sedgwick, Henry S. Cohn Camp, No. 5, Louisville, Ky.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your favor of the 18th current, I am compelled to say that Article V of the C., R. and R. explicitly defines the eligibility to membership in our organization, and the axiomatic principle would follow, "That what is not specifically permitted is prohibited." The question of honorary membership has previously been raised and has always been disposed of negatively.

I am quite sorry that I cannot hold out to you any hope in the direction you cite, but inviting your serious consideration of the subject I believe you will agree with me that such a step would establish a precedent that would in a little time entirely undo just what we strive to attain in our eligibility clause.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION III.

READING, PA., January 16, 1897.

Col. L. L. Cooper, Commander Maine Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Augusta, Me.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your favor of the 14th current, I would respectfully direct your attention to the C. R. and R., Camp Constitution, Article IV, Sections 2, 3, 4, pages 10, 11, which clearly govern the cases cited. If the two brothers in question did not avail themselves of the benefits to be derived from the provisions of our laws, to which reference is made, there is no way in which they can regain their honors as Past Captains, except through service in the Camps to which they are now attached. This question has been similarly ruled upon by nearly every Commander-in-Chief during the past five years. Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION IV.

READING, PA., January 21, 1897.

Sherman Harvey, Captain-elect John Welton Camp, No. 96, Indiana Division, Monroe City, Ind.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—The Judge Advocate-General, Brother John Redmond, has referred to me your favor of 15th current, with request for an official decision on the question, "Can an honorably discharged Union soldier hold office in the Sons of Veterans when there are not enough members in the Camp to fill the offices?"

I can find no authority that will permit of an office in a Camp, Division or the Commandery-in-Chief being held by any other than a member of the Order. Any modification of our laws that would permit of an office being held by one not a member of the Order would at once nullify the eligibility clause—the very rock upon which we are founded, and I, therefore, hold it would be unconstitutional; further, that there is no authority by which even the Commander-in-Chief may grant a dispensation to permit of a violation of the Constitution. Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION V.

READING, PA., February 2, 1897.

Col. J. B. Adams, Commander New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Atlantic City, N. J.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Herewith I return to you Form 16, in the matter of service record of Emile Tietze, enlisted June 30th, 1863, in Capt. James M. Bell's unattached Cavalry, Penna., and discharged therefrom August 9, 1863. From the return attached thereto you will observe that the War Department records do not show that this organization was mustered into the service of the United States. The formal discharge returned to you with correspondence bearing upon this case, in reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, would seem to conclusively confirm the above return from the War Department.

Article V, Chapter 1, C., R. and R., in defining our eligibility clause, is explicit in that it bases proof of service upon a United States discharge. This particular portion of our law has never yet, to my knowledge, been questioned. On the contrary it is sustained by numerous decisions and opinions. See General Bundy's Decisions, VI, VII and X, proceedings Fourteenth Encampment, in which he cites prior decisions and opinions.

While I feel the deepest regret for the party concerned, until he can conclusively show that his father holds a discharge from the service of the United States, I must hold that he has been illegally mustered into our Order, and, as a natural consequence, the muster is null and void.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION VI. (J. A. Gen. Op. II.)

READING, PA., February 15, 1897.

Col. D. Q. Morrow, Commander Ohio Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Hillsboro, O.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—The proceedings in the court-martial of Brother George Crute, of J. C. Fremont Camp, No. 177, are hereby returned.

A few irregularities appear. 1. The proper charge should have been "conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order." 2. The accused was not present, but was arraigned and pleaded guilty. 3. The statement of Al. Siler, who is not shown to be a member of the Order, is not sworn to. However, as the Judge Advocate-General tersely puts it, the service was good and the evidence of guilt is clear, and the findings and sentence of dishonorable discharge are hereby concurred in and approved, and you are directed to see that the same is carried into effect.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION VII. (J. A. Gen. Op. III.)

READING, PA., March 15, 1897.

Col. William G. Dustin, Commander Illinois Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Dwight, Ill.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I return herewith proceedings in the court-martial of Brother John J. McCue, of Camp No. 87, together with his appeal from your decision.

The point as to whether he was legally removed from office does not enter into the charges, and the sentence being other than dishonorable discharge, the proceedings need not come to me for review. It would seem, however, that the proper remedy for Captain McCue after having been removed, would have been by an appeal from your order of removal, and not through the process of court-martial.

The evidence shows and the court found that he had disobeyed orders, and I am not inclined to disturb your order of removal.

The appeal from your order, irrespective of the court-martial proceedings, is dismissed and your decision will stand.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION VIII.

READING, PA., March 15, 1897.

Col. W. F. Locke, Commander Washington Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., New Whatcom, Wash.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Acknowledging your favor of the 9th current with enclosure, it has been decided that the holder of a transfer is not entitled to the privileges of visiting Camps. (See Decision of General Bundy, XI, page 27, Proceedings Fourteenth Encampment), which became a law by the acceptance of the decision by that body.

The ground is covered so fully by the decision just cited that no further comment is necessary. Fraternaly yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION IX.

READING, PA., March 17, 1897.

Col. R. B. Oglesbee, Commander Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind. :

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—To the general question which you submit, "A Past Captain of a Camp which was disbanded in June, 1894, and never reinstated, is given a transfer card by the Division Commander in February, 1897, he having been shown to be in good standing in his Camp at the time of its disbandment, and he immediately deposits his card in and becomes a member of another Camp. Is he now entitled to rank as a Past Captain?" I answer, no.

The life of a transfer card is clearly indicated by the C., R. and R., and if at the expiration of one year the holder has not availed himself of its privileges, and is, in consequence, considered as honorably discharged, it would seem to be only equitable that the power to grant a transfer after one year from the date of disbandment of a Camp should not be exercised.

It is true that Chapter II, Article IV, Section 4, distinctly says, "Members of disbanded Camps, who were in good standing at the time of such dissolution, shall receive from their Division Commander, etc., etc.," but certainly the intent of this language is that such transfers shall be issued at or about the time of the disbandment of the Camp. Should the Division Commander, through any neglect, fail to issue such transfers, members entitled to receive them would have their remedy. The very fact that a past officer had been content to rest without his rightful certificate of standing for a period of nearly three years would indicate that he had but little interest in his past rank. Fraternaly yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION X.

READING, PA., March 18, 1897.

R. J. Bosworth, Member Division Council, Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Answering your favor of the 17th instant, I must confess that the language of the C., R. and R., Chapter V, Article XII, Section 2, is somewhat ambiguous. There is an evident omission in that it does not specifically except the members of the respective Division Councils from the list of those to whom commissions shall be issued, and this omission has been recognized by the preceding administrations.

The C., R. and R. does not provide for any insignia of rank for a member of a Division Council, and it naturally follows that it was not the intention that these officers should be commissioned.

I do think, however, that some form of certificate, omitting rank, should be provided for these officers, and I will take occasion to so recommend to the next Encampment. Fraternaly yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XI.

READING, PA., March 19, 1897.

Col. R. B. Oglesbee, Commander Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your favor of the 15th instant, in which you ask for an official decision as to (1) the effectiveness, and (2) the legality of certain resolutions *presented and favorably passed upon after the election of all officers and delegates* by the Encampment of the Indiana Division, held at Frankfort in July, 1896, it is not necessary at this time to discuss the intent of such resolution as covered by your first question. It only remains for us to consider the point embodied in your second question, which really becomes the vital one, "Was the resolution legally adopted?" I hold that it was not, and that it consequently falls. Clause 15, Order of Business, Chapter III, page 34, specifically cites the only exception to any transposition in the Order of Business. It stands as the

clearly expressed intention of the framers of this clause that the election and installation of officers shall be the final business of an Encampment.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XII.

READING, PA., March 31, 1897.

Col. Jesse R. Dungan, Commander New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Somerville, N. J.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your favor of the 30th current, in which you ask if a member can hold two commissions, I have to say that the contemporaneous holding of two commissioned offices has been repeatedly passed upon adversely.

See Decision XXXIX, page 39, Proceedings Fourteenth Annual Encampment, by General Bundy.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XIII. (J. A. Gen. Op. IV.)

READING, PA., April 8, 1897.

Colonel James H. Tawney, Commander Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Philadelphia :

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—In the court-martial of Abraham L. Erdman, of Camp No. 13, convicted of conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order, and sentenced to dishonorable discharge, the record in the case is herewith returned to you.

The finding of the court is concurred in and approved, and you will at once proceed to carry the same into effect. Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XIV.

READING, PA., May 18, 1897.

O. H. Graves, Quartermaster Kansas Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Emporia, Kan.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your favor of 15th instant, wherein you ask the question, "Can an applicant be mustered the record of whose father's service is not to be obtained, excepting on the bare affidavit of his foster father, who is willing to certify to the fact that the applicant's father was in the army and was honorably discharged?"

I am compelled to answer in the negative. Chapter II, Article II, Section 1 of the C. R. and R., specifically covers the requirements, which cannot be dispensed.

It has always been held that an applicant must produce satisfactory evidence that his father was actually mustered into the service of the United States and was honorably discharged therefrom. (See Decision X, by General Bundy, proceedings Fourteenth Annual Encampment).

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XV.

READING, PA., May 27, 1897.

S. S. Mullen, Adjutant Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your inquiry of the 24th current for opinions on certain questions, I hold :

1. It is not necessary that the Picket Guard should approach the altar to make the salute each time he retires or re-enters for the purpose of admitting late comers; the salute given from his station should answer every purpose.

2. When the Sergeant of the Guard retires to execute an order, and upon re-entering the Camp room, he should salute at the altar.

3. While it is true that certain of the charges to the recruit plainly inform him that he can be admitted to another Camp only when the Captain or Lieutenants of his own Camp are present to vouch for him, it must be evident that the intention of the framers of this language was other than it appears to us in type, since to comply with the same would practically prevent those visitations to other Camps, which become necessary and desirable.

4. I can find nothing in our C., R. and R. which would lead me to believe that a member can be compelled to wear a uniform in Camp. Nor can I understand how a Division Officer could be compelled to wear the uniform, although compulsion should not be necessary in the latter case. If the wearing of the uniform is obnoxious, the officer should resign if he cannot overcome his objections. It occurs to me, however, that the wearing of the uniform should have received consideration prior to the acceptance of office.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XVI. (J. A. Gen. Op. V.)

READING, PA., May 31, 1897.

Col. Arthur I. Howe, Commander Vermont Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Brattleboro, Vt.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—In response to your favor of 11th current, in which you raise the question, "Can a member of Division Council while off duty participate in the business of the Division?" I enclose to you herewith a copy of the Judge Advocate-General's Opinion V, in which he holds that a member of Division Council is not entitled to participate in the business of the Division while off duty on leave of absence, in which I concur.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XVII.

READING, PA., June 14th, 1897.

Col. Edward E. DePuy, Commander Maryland Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Washington, D. C.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—In reply to your favor of the 10th inst., wherein you ask for official opinions on certain points, I have to say:

1. The dropped member is required to pay a sum equal to one year's dues, which is in addition to such fee for re-muster as the Camp which he joins by its By-Laws stipulates.

2. If a former member of a disbanded Camp (as contemplated by Decision XIII, by General Russell, which you cite) deposits his transfer within the period of its life, and before it lapses into an honorable discharge, he retains all past honors.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XVIII.

READING, PA., July 6th, 1897.

Col. S. S. Schoening, Commander Missouri Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., St. Louis, Mo.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Replying to your favor of 1st current, covering resolution passed by the Thirteenth Annual Encampment of your Division, requesting ruling defining the proper Salute of the Flag for Camps, it is clear that the form of salute prescribed for the Commandery-in-Chief and Division Encampments on page 93 of the Ritual, is intentionally different from that intended for Camps as contained in the Ritual on last line, page 8, which is clearly intended to cover the Cap Salute only, and which should be used by Camps. There is nothing, however, to prevent the representatives of your Division from formally bringing this question before the Commandery-in-Chief for consideration, through the proper committee, at its next Encampment.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XIX. (J. A. Gen. Op. VI.)

READING, PA., August 3, 1897.

John Vogt, Past Captain Hays Camp, No. 4, Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Pittsburg, Pa.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I am in receipt of your appeal, through Division Commander Scott, from the decision of the Division Commander and the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, held at Towanda, June 8-9, 1897.

Your appeal is based on the paragraph in the articles of agreement entered into between the then Eastern and Western Divisions of Pennsylvania, and ratified by the Commandery-in-Chief at Buffalo in 1886 (proceedings Fifth Annual Encampment, page 60), reading as follows: "That the Colonel of the proposed Pennsylvania Division be not elected for more than two consecutive terms from the same section east or west of the meridian upon which Bellefonte is located, and that this resolution be in effect until repealed by a two-thirds vote of the proposed Pennsylvania Division Encampment." Your appeal also petitions that I shall declare the election of the Division Commander, Wildun Scott, in view of the above cited agreement, as void, and substitute in lieu thereof the name of Brother Emil Poerstel.

After having received the Judge Advocate-General's opinion, in which I concur, there does not seem to be any good reason for sustaining your appeal. On the contrary:

1. The C., R. and R. clearly empowers Divisions to elect their officers, and I can find no exception made in the case of the Pennsylvania Division, whereby the selection of a Division Commander shall be confined to any particular locality, and were the agreement upon which your appeal is based found to be of force and effect in other directions, it would be subject to grave doubt since it could not readily be held to supersede the provisions of the C., R. and R.

2. In 1888, or nearly two years after the ratification by the Commandery-in-Chief of the agreement upon which you base your appeal, the Pennsylvania Division assumed a provisional condition in consequence of Special Order No. 13 of Commander-in-Chief Abbott. The Division was reorganized on August 1, 1888, by the Encampment convened at Williamsport, Pa., under authority given by Special Order No. 14 of Commander-in-Chief Abbott, and has since had existence and is continuing to work under charter granted August 3, 1888. By this charter it is doubtless true that all agreements made prior to that time not specially excepted by the C., R. and R. were abrogated, and are no longer of force and effect.

3. The fact that the last four Division Commanders of the Pennsylvania Division were selected from territory originally in the old Eastern Division of Pennsylvania clearly indicates that the Division has considered the agreement in question null.

4. In case we should have found that Brother Scott was not the legally elected Division Commander, Brother Poerstel, not having received a majority of the votes cast, would still have no claim to the office, and a new election would of necessity follow.

The appeal is, therefore, dismissed.

Yours fraternally,
J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XX. (J. A. Gen. Op. VII.)

READING, PA., August 5, 1897.

Col. A. T. Wilson, Commander Iowa Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I return to you herewith proceedings in the court-martial of Brother George E. Marsh, Camp No. 211, your Division, convicted of conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order, and sentenced to dishonorable discharge.

The proceedings appear to be regular, and upon the recommendation of the Judge Advocate-General I have approved of the findings and sen-

tence, and you are hereby directed to have the same carried into effect at once.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XXI. (J. A. Gen. Op. VIII.)

READING, PA., August 5, 1897.

Fred. E. Ernst, Past Commander Missouri Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., St. Joseph, Mo.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Delay in replying to your favor of the 14th ultimo is due through the postal department in consequence of the change of address of the Judge Advocate-General, to whom the question had been submitted for an opinion.

You inquire on behalf of Camp No. 17: "When does a recruit become a member, and when shall the Camp commence charging dues?"

The Judge Advocate-General is of the opinion, in which I concur, that a recruit becomes a member of the Order when he has received the three degrees, as provided in the Ritual. Dues cannot be charged or collected until the three degrees have been conferred.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISION XXII.

READING, PA., August 10, 1897.

Capt. F. V. Bonstein, Camp No. 233, Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Easton, Pa.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I am in receipt, through Division Commander Scott, of the resolution addressed to me by your Camp, under date of 23d ultimo, appealing from Commander Scott's action in the appointment of his Adjutant, owing to his residence, and protesting against the removal from the Quartermaster's department in Philadelphia, of any of the furniture, books, papers, blank forms, etc., basing your appeal on the action of the Pennsylvania Encampment, at Gettysburg, June 3, 1896, covered by the report of the committee on Officers' Reports (page 35 printed proceedings), as follows: "We suggest to the Encampment the advisability at this time of taking advantage of the constitutional privilege of electing a Quartermaster for a term of three years, and placing Division Headquarters at a point agreeable to such election. * * * Carried."

I must confess that I cannot find any valid ground upon which you base this appeal, inasmuch as Commander Scott has not in any way violated either the C., R. and R., or the will of the Pennsylvania Division as expressed in the above cited legislation. On the other hand, there are forcible reasons why the appeal should not stand, among which are:

1. The Division in enacting the afore cited legislation simply took advantage of the constitutional privilege accorded them to elect a Quartermaster for a term of years, and at the same time decided to locate headquarters at a point agreeable to said selection, which has been done, and I do not find that Commander Scott has in any way attempted to interfere with the rights of the elected Quartermaster, nor has he attempted to remove the headquarters of the Quartermaster from Philadelphia, where they have been located.

2. Article IV, Section 5, page 27, of the C., R. and R., clearly empowers the Division Commander to appoint certain officers, among others the Adjutant, without any restriction as to the place of residence of that officer, and any action by a Division Encampment in conflict with the C., R. and R. would be void and without effect.

3. That the Division Commander's power to appoint an Adjutant from any locality within the Division is unquestioned goes without saying, and if added strength were needed to this argument, I might cite his further right under certain circumstances to appoint acting Adjutants, clearly indicating the scope of his power in this direction.

4. The Division Commander has no right, under conditions now being considered, to remove from the headquarters of the Quartermaster any of the books, papers, blanks, etc., belonging to the department of that officer, at least so long as the officer in question is not under discipline; he has,

however, the undoubted right to establish his own headquarters, as well as those of his Adjutant, where best the business of the Division can be looked after, and likewise is he entitled to remove to such headquarters all of the books, papers, blanks and appurtenances belonging to the respective departments of the Division Commander and Adjutant.

5. The present condition of the Pennsylvania Division is in this respect analogous to that of the Commandery-in-Chief; the latter has elected a Quartermaster-General for a term of years, and located headquarters at Chicago, still the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General, with the books and blanks belonging to the same, is migratory.

The appeal is dismissed. Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

REPORT OF SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
DENVER, COLO., August 9th, 1897.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—Agreeable to a custom adopted by former Encampments, I desire to submit a report as Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief. At no time during the past year has it been necessary for me to assume command of this grand patriotic Order. Providence has blessed our Commander-in-Chief with health and strength to properly and efficiently perform the duties of his office, and by this Divine guidance and care, we, as an organization, have been conducted safely through these troublous times. The national presidential election of last year and the exceeding financial and commercial depression have been obstacles in the way of the advancement of our Order. Nevertheless out of it all we have been blessed with some increase to our membership and an increased zeal among our membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

I desire to recommend to this Encampment:

First. That a resolution be adopted by this Encampment authorizing the Commander-in-Chief to appoint a committee of five members of this Encampment for the purpose of investigating and reporting to the Seventeenth Annual Encampment for rejection or adoption by that body, a system of life insurance, with or without accident and sick benefit. Membership in such insurance association to be optional with members of the Order.

Second. Unless otherwise recommended by the Commander-in-Chief, I would recommend the adoption of a resolution by this Encampment expressing sympathy with and approval of the efforts of our brothers, fathers and others, now residents of Hawaii, looking to the annexation of that country to the United States of America.

Third. That it would be, in my judgment, for the advancement of our Order, if we would adopt a system by which we would have two branches or degrees—a civic and a military—the civic to include all members of the Order, and the military only those members who will devote the time and money necessary to make a presentable military body.

To our Commander-in-Chief and staff we owe a large debt of gratitude and thanks for their zealous and earnest work in behalf of our beloved institution. To guide and control a craft floating down stream when all is well is comparatively an easy matter; but to take the craft up stream, against the tide and other obstructions, is quite another thing. We all appreciate the good work accomplished, and gratefully acknowledge it.

As to the work in the western part of our jurisdiction, I would say: That the Camp-fires of the Sons of Veterans are burning brightly, and the sound of songs of friendship, charity and loyalty, with words of remembrance for our fathers and their noble deeds, are heard on every hand. So much is this true that we are of the opinion that the principles advanced and taught by our Order have taken such a firm hold upon the citizens of this nation that there will never be again, in the history of our beloved land,

a time when it will be drenched with the blood of our own citizenship, but it will ever remain one united country, under one flag, and ever be one people, having no king but God, and ever vigilant for personal and national liberty. Fraternaly submitted,

LEO W. KENNEDY,
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

REPORT OF JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
LOUISVILLE, KY., August 12th, 1897.

Gen. J. L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I beg leave to submit the following as my report as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. At the time of my election to this honorable position, last September, I had promised myself to do great things for the cause of our grand Order; but, unfortunately for myself, on the 1st of November, 1896, I was stricken down with a severe sickness, and have not recovered as yet. This must be my excuse for doing absolutely nothing in the good cause this year. In May, 1897, I attended the Encampment of the Division of Kentucky, held at Lexington, Kentucky, and beg to say that it was most prosperous and the best attended Encampment that the Division of Kentucky has ever had. Arguing from this, I think that the Sons of Veterans in this State are beginning to be awake and alive to the interests of the Order, and will do more than they have ever done before for it.

At the invitation of Speed S. Fry Camp, No. 8, Division of Kentucky, under whose auspices the decoration ceremonies were held at the National Cemetery, on the battlefield of Mills' Spring, I traveled from my home in Louisville, Kentucky, to Somerset, Kentucky, one hundred and fifty miles, and on the 31st day of May, 1897, endeavored, to the best of my ability, to deliver an address upon that occasion. That is all that I have been enabled to do for the good of the cause this year, but would have done more had I been physically able to do so. Fraternaly submitted,

R. M. BUCKLEY.

REPORT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.
DEPARTMENT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
READING, PA., Sept. 1, 1897.

To Gen. James Lewis Rake, Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

ESTEEMED SIR AND COMMANDER:—I have the honor to herewith, in compliance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, present my report as Adjutant-General for the term of 1896-1897.

The various statements or tabulated forms will show in detail what is unnecessary to consume in words and space to explain.

Your daily supervision of affairs at headquarters, and having been in constant touch with the details and work of this department, make you thoroughly familiar with all that has been done and the manner in which it has been executed.

RECORDS.

All the records of the office as required by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations were given the required attention. One new "Commission Book," or Volume No. 2, for recording commissions, was added during the past year, Volume No. 1 having been filled. In all other details the records have been carefully kept and all returns recorded and noted.

QUARTERLY REPORTS.

The returns and payment of per capita tax quarterly is a source of much trouble in this office. It is the fault of Division Commanders, Adjutants and Quartermasters. Some are too careless and give their reports

seemingly little if any attention. Some have no regard (apparently) for correctness, or little if any manifest interest or pride in their work or of making proper records for their Divisions, so that their reports are often forwarded in such a state as to make an officer with good S. V. training, with regard for correct and proper returns, blush for the extent of the knowledge such who present reports of that character seem to possess.

We are justified in expecting more from the officers and staff in Divisions than any other branch of the Order. Yet there are many First and Quartermaster-Sergeants who have more pride in having their reports correct and better than a number of Adjutants and Quartermasters.

I have frequently been obliged to get out or make up the reports of Adjutants that were merely submitted to headquarters in form. It is ordinary and quite usual for Adjutants to pay no regard whatever to the "number of members in good standing at date of last report," and instead of starting their quarterly reports with that actual number, simply start with what in their judgment may be right, depending upon the acceptance of such reports at headquarters, or "to be corrected there." Naturally there are exceptions, and to those this does not apply, for they were not responsible for the condition of affairs as left by their predecessors in certain Divisions.

The delay of Division Commanders in forwarding their reports and per capita tax is most exasperating, and in spite of all efforts to prevent the same it always occurs. Stringent methods seem to have no bearing to bring about the desired promptness in this respect.

Our advice in a number of instances to overcome delays has been to have Division Commanders detail their Division and Staff officers to visit delinquent and other Camps, to secure reports and tax and forward same to headquarters. This is an admirable plan and when carried out has been most beneficial and successful in preventing unnecessary delays in the receipt of tax and reports, as well as suspension of Camps and members.

PAYMENT OF TAX ON REINSTATEMENTS.

One of my predecessors in his report states that he did not note the suspensions of Camps as reported by the various Divisions in their quarterly consolidated reports, in the Record or Descriptive Books of Camps.

I regularly and carefully noted every Camp reported suspended in every Division for the non-payment of per capita tax, as well as the reinstatement, etc., of each Camp reported. I carefully noted suspended Camps, and marked the dates thereof in each instance, for the purpose of keeping the record correct as to the proper amount of per capita tax to secure from Divisions when they reported such Camps reinstated from suspended.

In a number of instances there was objection to the payment of per capita tax for all the quarters due on Camps reinstated. The Constitution, Rules and Regulations is clear on this and the result was that the Commandery-in-Chief secured the dues or per capita tax it was justly entitled to. It caused considerable trouble during the year, but as it was right it paid for the annoyance and labor imposed. If the period or date of suspension of such Camps had not been noted or recorded, we naturally would have been unable to obtain the dues or per capita tax on reinstated Camps that had been suspended for more than one quarter.

FORM No. 37.

A great improvement on the consolidated returns or quarterly report of Adjutants, Form 37, can be made, and one that will produce a most beneficial result financially as well as otherwise to the Commandery-in-Chief. It is in the matter of reporting Camps reinstated from suspension. I suggest that under the "Recapitulation" on the present Form 37, there be provided these headings, "Camps and number of members reinstated in each of said Camps" for one quarter, for two quarters, for three quarters and for four quarters (respectively) and "on which per capita tax is due for the quarters shown," in addition to the number in good standing and on which "tax is due for this quarter." There should be four columns for each quarter, under the heading of which the number of Camp and its *reinstated*

membership should be shown, as well as the amount of tax due the Commandery-in-Chief on said Camps and their membership as reinstated.

CHANGE IN FORM No. 49.

I urge the adoption of the recommendation of several of my predecessors relative to change in Form 49—"Certificate of Election of Division Officers," wherein they recommended that the form in question be so revised as to also include the roster or appointment of the Division Staff Officers. At present there is no form provided to obtain the official appointments of staff officers by Division Commanders. There should be such a form.

"OLD GLORY" AND OUR COLORS.

From the day that we took possession of the Commandery-in-Chief Headquarters "Old Glory" has been floating in the breeze day and night from a flag-staff from our rooms. It has caused favorable comment on the part of the public press and the community in our city of 85,000 population, and to our membership and the Grand Army Posts of Reading it has been a source of pride and given them much pleasure as a lesson in patriotism. The Order reaped the benefit of this feature.

The colors of the Commandery-in-Chief have had careful attention during the past year, and as a matter of protection and preservation tarlatan coverings were prepared, in which the flags or colors were encased. In this manner they were exposed and suspended in the rooms on the walls as a means of caring for them against the ravages of moths or other causes which they were liable to be damaged by in being rolled up or kept in their coverings.

MEMBERSHIP.

Our actual membership no one will dispute is larger than the number in good standing as reported in my quarterly report for quarter ending June. The great number recorded as suspended is due to the promptness we required Divisions to forward their reports for said quarter. It has been customary to allow Division Commanders more time to get in their reports, but for the quarter named we could not grant them greater limit. Many of their Camps failed to report in required time and were naturally marked suspended. Consequently our membership in good standing is shown (I believe) to be at least 2,000 less than it really is. Promptness, if always carried out in future, will bring better results.

APPLICATIONS, CHARTERS, ETC.

There have been approved 183 applications for charters and there have been mustered 174 new Camps, necessitating the issuing of that number of charters. Applications were approved on the date of receipt and at once returned to Division Commanders and charters were always issued upon the day of receipt of Form 23.

ORDERS AND CIRCULARS.

There have been issued seven General Orders, five Special Orders, three Official Circulars and a Circular and Address to the G. A. R., all of which are included in this report.

Commissions have also been issued as required by the C., R. and R.

DISPENSATIONS.

There were 23 dispensations issued during the past year. I am of the opinion that the sum of \$1.00 at least should be charged for each dispensation and respectfully urge that the Encampment authorize such charge to be made from this time on for each and every dispensation issued.

CONCLUSION.

We are about to sever our official relations, but as a matter of record it is my pleasure to testify to your personal worth and executive capabilities. As your Adjutant two terms I learned to know your eminent qualifications. My best efforts fail to frame the sentences that I would like to use to acquaint the membership with a more thorough knowledge of the ability of their Commander-in-Chief. The best tribute I can pay you is the wish that every member could know you as I do.

In taking leave officially of those whom I have learned to know and worked with in the various Divisions, I desire to take this means of thanking them for the courtesies and kindness they have always shown me. Not one unpleasant experience have I had. On the contrary the most pleasant and really cordial relations existed with all.

Again thanking you and all, I have the honor to submit my report as

Your obedient servant in F., C. and L.,

H. H. HAMMER,
Adjutant-General.

TABLE No. 1.
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1896.

DIVISION.	NO. IN GOOD STAND'G LAST REPORT.		GAIN.						AGGREGATE.		LOSSES.						NO. IN GOOD STANDING.		No. of Members Dropped.	No. Mustered during Quarter on which no Per Capita Tax is paid.		Amount of Per Capita Tax Received.	Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.	Cash on hand in Camps.	Expended in Charity as per Quartermaster Sergeants' Reports.	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.	No. of Veterans or their Families Relieved.					
	Camps.	Members.	BY MUSTER-IN.		By Transfer.	BY REIN-STATEM'T.		TOTAL GAIN.	Camps.	Members.	BY DISBANDED.		By Death.	By Honorable Discharge.	By Transfer.	BY SUSPENDED.		By Dishonorable Discharge.		TOTAL LOSS.								Camps.	Members.			
			Camps.	Members.		Camps.	Members.				Camps.	Members.				Camps.	Members.			Camps.	Members.											
Alabama and Tennessee...	14	327	3	108	1	2	28	5	137	19	461									19	451	3	101	\$ 16 32	\$ 105 16	\$ 212 67	\$					
California and H. I.	11	271		13			2		15	11	256			1	1					14	19	11	267	10 68	56 87	120 76						
Colorado.....	12	292		7					7	12	299									17	19	11	267	7 26	15 46	49 53						
Connecticut.....	29	874		14	1				15	29	889				4					115	8	29	851	34 04	129 00	633 40		7 95				
Gulf.....	11	200							15	11	200			14	1					23	29	11	200	8 00								
Illinois.....	63	1467	1	85	3	4	72	5	160	68	1627									7	217	61	1410	57 60	38 41	700 84		30 81	11			
Indiana.....	55	1421	1	32	1	7	150	8	183	63	1604									25	701	85	903	41 44								
Iowa.....	63	1333	3	125	1	1	11	4	137	67	1470									9	268	58	1202	4 3	55	46 32						
Kansas.....	91	1925	4	132	2	2	23	6	157	97	2032									20	544	77	1538	18 44	18 44	512 61		2 00	1			
Kentucky.....	9	218	4	85	2		9	4	95	13	313	1	16	1						19	523	10	234	58 92	27 71	556 08		13 74	1			
Maine.....	23	1499		23	2	1	33	1	58	54	1557									3	79	10	234	6 96	11 58							
Maryland.....	53	450	1	37	2	1	14	2	53	25	503	1	16							231	5	233	46	1324	5	54 28	146 32	1307 04	28 83	2		
Massachusetts.....	135	4230	1	105	3	3	141	4	249	139	4479									3	63	22	440	11 1	27	17 40	32 49	176 27	21 00	4		
Michigan.....	44	591		9					13	44	604										227	25	139	4221	63	1	22	173 60	1143 45	7024 31	214 56	14
Minnesota.....	59	964	3	83	1	3	38	6	122	45	1080									11	221	33	679	27 32								
Missouri.....	58	1963	3	62	1		5	3	68	61	1931	1	19	2						5	135	40	951	37 00	60 98	402 17		10 00	1			
Nebraska.....	33	512	1	55		3	50	4	85	37	597									10	181	27	413	15 1	21	16 52	54 34	184 56				
New Hampshire.....	26	648		16	1				19	20	667									32	1	23	19	634	25 44	78 93	323 18		36 00			
New Jersey.....	29	825		19	1	1	15	1	35	30	860	1	9	1						46	58	29	802	32 68								
New York.....	108	3059	4	185	5	4	122	8	312	116	3371									10	264	106	2993	32 4	81	121 56	71 20	1100 44	40 50	10		
Ohio.....	99	2269	1	93		11	225	12	318	110	2587	1								21	573	88	2200	19 1	34	96 00	409 36	7356 14	181 98	3		
Oregon.....	5	87			5		61	5	64	10	151									22	378	10	135	7 96								
Pennsylvania.....	155	5531	8	359	5		68	8	432	163	5933	2	23	5						16	16	10	135	7 96								
Rhode Island.....	16	427		3	1				11	13	438									2	333	161	3630	112	8	175	220 92	505 21	10798 81	14.3 50	80	
South Dakota.....	7	369		4					4	22	403									3	57	3	58	17 00								
Vermont.....	54	1218		15	3		20		54	54	1256	1	8	2						12	256	13	232	41	1004	13 80	7 74	145 57				
Washington.....	31	689		32	1	15	1		47	32	736									1	55	1	58	31	678	40 95	23 40	548 85		2 75		
West Virginia.....	20	376		6					6	20	382									8	136	8	137	12	245	27 20	163 00	27 20				
Wisconsin.....	20	590	3	68			1	3	69	32	639									4	101	4	103	28	556	9 50	4 38	174 81	20 00			
Totals.....	1329	34255	41	1755	35	49	1119	90	2909	1419	37164	10	109	34	78	30	171	4867	181	5118	1238	32046	285	41	905	\$1282 99	\$3360 18	\$34176 80	\$2143 74	143	32	

RECAPITULATION.

	Camps.	Members.
Number in good standing at last report.....	1,329	34,255
GAIN:		
By muster-in.....	41	1,755
By transfer.....		35
By reinstatement.....	49	1,119
Total gain.....	90	2,909
Aggregate.....	1,419	37,164
LOSS:		
By disbanded.....	10	109
By death.....		34
By honorable discharge.....		78
By transfer.....		30
By suspension.....	171	4,867
By dishonorable discharge.....		
Total loss.....	181	5,118
Total number in good standing.....	1,238	32,046

	Camps.	Members.
Dropped, previously reported as suspended.....		283
Number mustered during quarter on which no per capita tax is due.....	41	905
Amount received for per capita tax.....		\$ 1,282.99
Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.....		3,360.18
Cash on hand in Camps.....		34,176.80
Expended in charity, as per Q. M. Sergeants' reports.....		2,143.64
Number of members or their families relieved..		143
Number of veterans or their families relieved..		32

TABLE No. 2.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1896.

DIVISION.	NO. IN GOOD STANDING LAST REPORT.		GAIN.					AGGREGATE.		LOSSES.							NO. IN GOOD STANDING.		No. Mustered during Quarter on which no Per Capita Tax is payable.	Amount Received Per Capita Tax.	Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.	Cash on hand in Camps.	Expended in Charity, as per Quartermaster Sergeants' Reports.	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.	No. of Veterans or their Families Relieved.								
	Camps.	Members.	BY MUSTER IN.		By Transfer.	BY REINSTATEMENT.		TOTAL GAIN.	Camps.	Members.	BY DISBANDED.	By Death.	By Honorable Discharge.	By Transfer.	BY SUSPENSION.		By Dishonorable Discharge.	TOTAL LOSS.								Camps.	Members.	No. Members Dropped.					
			Camps.	Members.		Camps.	Members.								Camps.	Members.		Camps.											Members.	Camps.	Members.		
Alabama and Tennessee..	19	451	1	2	3	6	19	457						1	32	1	32	18	425			\$ 17 12	\$ 138 06	\$ 270 03									
California and H. I.....	11	267	1	1	20	22	12	295										4	291			12 44	64 78	110 82									
Colorado.....	8	184	1	2	31	34	10	273										6	409			11 60	16 10	83 06		1 85							
Connecticut.....	29	851	1	2	4	7	30	855										1	29	2	1	31 56	163 45	801 12		2 75							
Gulf.....	11	200					16	200											16	200			8 00										
Illinois.....	61	1410	1	109	151	262	72	1672										6	66	1	42	65 64	66 39	724 72		42 45							
Indiana.....	35	903		26	531	557	26	1472										3	68														
Iowa.....	58	1202	1	86	120	206	65	1408										5	192			60	1216	9	1	17	55 44	15 68	674 77				
Kansas.....	77	1558	1	131	21	164	80	1702										8	142			71	1538	1	23	61 44	21 81	574 05					
Kentucky.....	10	234		28		30	10	261											7	237			10 36	35 58	16 14								
Maine.....	46	1324	1	55	85	144	69	1469										2	135			24	459	12	1	15	54 64	181 07	1321 37		10 00		
Maryland.....	22	440		11	32	45	24	483										1	248			4	326	136	84	1	15	20 83	51 07	245 02		27 26	
Massachusetts.....	189	4221	1	113	112	237	140	4458										1	243			4	326	136	84	1	15	169 16	114 32	7525 94		378 81	
Michigan.....	33	679		11	69	80	37	759										4	93			33	666										
Minnesota.....	40	951		35	4	95	44	1046										2	83			4	127	40	919			59 01	66 24	232 19			
Missouri.....	53	1129	4	126	19	152	67	1281										8	265			43	959	1	4	60	37 62	35 98	807 85		38 10		
Nebraska.....	27	413		10	117	128	34	541										1	61			31	433										
New Hampshire.....	19	634		11	22	33	20	667										1	49			19	600										
New Jersey.....	29	802	1	55	2	59	30	861										1	19			1	67										
New York.....	100	2993	2	173	14	344	16	534										5	21			8	298	114	3198	50	2	72	138 80	397 07	5367 86		223 80
Ohio.....	88	2209	1	50	16	240	17	291										5	327			7	352	93	2148			97 41	61 28	1669 74		50 43	
Oregon.....	10	135	1	16		16	11	151										2	19			9	112										
Pennsylvania.....	161	5670		269	66	349	161	6079										7	405			12	488	149	5481	147		221 83	274 34	9117 56		1831 36	
Rhode Island.....	15	418		7	6	14	15	432										1	7			1	22	14	410			16 72	152 06	209 11		2 00	
South Dakota.....	19	345		12	30	42	22	387										4	99			4	101	18	286			12 64	40 03	130 31		2 60	
Vermont.....	41	1004		18	46	64	43	1063										1	10			3	4	5	181			36 61	91 76	691 03		10 60	
Washington.....	31	678		13	9	22	31	700										1	1			1	29	30	31	670			27 16	130 68	101 75		
West Virginia.....	12	245		14	46	60	14	304										1	75			1	76	13	228			10 92	35 41	139 60		10 00	
Wisconsin.....	28	656	1	42	30	72	20	628										1	67			1	62	23	566			23 12	38 10	190 04		10 86	
Totals.....	1238	32046	16	1469	91	111	2264	127	3524	1365	35570	20	241	53	101	85	78	3437	98	3917	1267	31953	358	16	369	\$1290 81	\$3354 03	\$32885 81	\$2720 97	168	24		

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report.....	Camps.	Members.	1,238	32,046
GAIN:				
By muster-in.....	Camps.	Members.	16	1,469
By transfer.....				91
By reinstatement.....			111	2,264
Total gain.....			127	3,824
Aggregate.....			1,365	35,870
LOSS:				
By disbanded.....	Camps.	Members.	20	241
By death.....				53
By honorable discharge.....				101
By transfer.....				85
By suspension.....			78	3,437
By dishonorable discharge.....				
Total loss.....			98	3,917
Number remaining in good standing, Dec. 31, 1896.....			1,267	31,953

Number members dropped.....	Camps.	Members.		358
Number mustered during quarter on which no per capita tax is payable.....			16	369
Amount received for per capita tax.....			\$ 1,290.81	
Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.....			3,354.03	
Cash on hand in Camps.....			82,885.81	
Expended in charity, as per Q. M. Sergeants' reports.....			2,726.97	
Number of members or their families relieved..			168	
Number of veterans or their families relieved...			24	

TABLE No. 3.
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING MARCH 31ST, 1897.

DIVISION.	No. IN GOOD STANDING AT DATE OF LAST REPORT.		GAIN.					AGGREGATE.		LOSSES.						No. IN GOOD STANDING.		No. Mustered during Quarter on which no Per Capita Tax is payable.	Amount Received Per Capita Tax.	Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.	Cash on hand in Camps.	Expended in Charity, as per Quartermaster Sergeants' Reports.	No. of Members or their Families Relieved.	No. of Veterans or their Families Relieved.							
	Camps.	Members.	BY MUSTER IN.		By Transfer.	BY REIN-STATEMENT.		TOTAL GAIN.	Camps.	Members.	BY DISBANDED.			BY SUSPENSION.		TOTAL LOSS.	Camps.								Members.						
			Camps.	Members.		Camps.	Members.				Camps.	Members.	By Death.	By Honorable Discharge.	By Transfer.											Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.		
Alabama and Tennessee..	18	425	13	1	16	1	29	19	454	1	2	32	35	19	419	18	60	\$ 18 60	\$ 180 79	\$ 216 97	\$ 5 50	2									
California and H. I.....	12	291	16				20	12	311			2	39	11	272		20	11 20	52 06	121 44	9 40										
Colorado.....	10	209	1	2	25	1	28	11	237			18	3	8	156		24	7 24	29 89	129 44											
Connecticut.....	29	802	21	3	8		29	29	831	1	11	1	9	4	764	11	27	80 76	145 20	911 67	27 12	4									
Gulf.....	16	200						16	200			5	70	11	180		5	5 20													
Illinois.....	66	1431	6	285	7	3	355	55	1786		6	5	3	3	163	70	6	61 20	0 77	754 88	14 80										
Indiana.....	58	1316	3	121	12	10	223	13	356	71	1672	25	13	318	56	1322	3	69 44													
Iowa.....	60	1216	5	191	7	142	12	333	72	1549	21	5	6	6	182	64	7	55 88	69 03	308 05	47 25	6	3								
Kansas.....	71	1658	2	105	8	5	71	187	78	1725	2	23	5	5	19	348	15	56 80	103 02	562 41	22 95	2									
Kentucky.....	10	257	2	56	1	18	3	74	18	311	1	1	1	60	18	97	2	10 92	69 88	45 79	1 95	2									
Maine.....	47	1301	2	70	4	1	36	3	110	60	1411	2	6	8	42	1327	2	52 80	272 02	1378 05	24 25	6									
Maryland.....	24	469	1	29	1	15	2	43	26	502		2	3	1	17	22	25	20 28	30 75	149 41	10 15	6	1								
Massachusetts.....	136	4132	2	177	11	114	2	502	158	4434	4	29	2	2	307	136	4	168 24	1107 30	7347 01	505 75	23	7								
Michigan.....	33	666	4	191	1	4	47	3	239	41	905		3	36	41	41	4	36 12	99 17	186 17											
Minnesota.....	40	919	1	75	2	28	3	165	43	1021		6	141	6	150	37	1	38 20	122 53	267 68											
Missouri.....	49	909	4	26	4	3	41	3	71	52	1070		1	133	4	48	4	48 59	48 59	882 46	50 00	5	3								
Nebraska.....	31	453	4	151	12	33	4	196	35	649		2	96	4	102	31	4	18 52	16 31	180 60	8 00										
New Hampshire.....	19	600	2	49	2	9	2	59	21	659	1	20	3	23	62	20	2	22 82	77 02	264 20	46 00										
New Jersey.....	26	770	1	51	2	9	3	80	29	830	1	18	4	63	26	751	1	30 12	83 67	1044 64	474 60	6									
New York.....	114	3198	3	276	10	6	124	6	410	122	3668	6	147	4	10	11	4	129 06	615 42	6155 80	192 88	16	1								
Ohio.....	98	2148	2	96	8	11	100	13	294	111	2442	4	56	3	4	7	9	84 44	1 43	1725 11	42 21										
Oregon.....	9	112	6				8		9	120								8 94	22 36												
Pennsylvania.....	140	6481	2	318	20	1	87	3	425	162	5906	1	21	8	8	8	204	226 12	282 24	10033 53	1641 66	74	5								
Rhode Island.....	14	410	10	2			13	14	423									16 48	1 03	247 11	1 25	1									
South Dakota.....	18	286	11	1	2	39	2	51	20	357				3	63	17		12 84	31 32	166 57	20 63										
Vermont.....	37	870	1	39	3	30	1	72	98	942	1	10	2	4	123	53	1	83 76	65 10	503 80	22 00										
Washington.....	31	670					6	13	234					3	84			6 20	14 71	71 04	89 95	4	3								
West Virginia.....	13	228	1		5		6	13	234					3	92			22 44	80 00	253 66											
Wisconsin.....	29	560	5	146	7	1	15	6	168	35	734																				
Totals.....	1267	31953	48	2530	120	61	1413	109	4063	1315	33346	23	306	42	109	128	95	3232	118	3007	1227	31439	9 0	51	1275	\$1280 70	\$3634 51	\$33997 69	\$3262 13	161	23

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report.....	Camps.	Members.		
	1,267	31,953		190
GAIN:				
By muster-in.....	Camps.	Members.		
By transfer.....	48	2,530		
By reinstatement.....	61	1,413		
Total gain.....	109	4,063		
Aggregate.....	1,365	35,346		
LOSS:				
By disbanded.....	Camps.	Members.		
By death.....	23	396		
By honorable discharge.....		42		
By transfer.....		109		
By suspension.....	95	3,232		
By dishonorable discharge.....				
Total loss.....	118	3,907		
Number remaining in good standing, March 31, 1897....	1,227	31,439		
*Washington Division not reporting.				

Number members dropped.....	Camps.	Members.	
	51	1,275	
Number muster during quarter, on which no per capita tax is payable.....	51	1,275	
Amount received for per capita tax.....		\$ 1,280 70	
Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.....		3,634 51	
Cash on hand in Camps.....		33,997 69	
Expended in charity, as per Q. M. Sergeants' reports.....		3,262 13	
Number of members or their families relieved..		161	
Number of veterans or their families relieved..		23	

TABLE No. 4.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S CONSOLIDATED REPORT FOR QUARTER ENDING JUNE 30TH, 1897.

DIVISION.	NO. IN GOOD STANDING AT DATE OF LAST REPORT.		GAIN.				AGGREGATE.		LOSSES.						NO. IN GOOD STANDING.		No. Mustered during Quarter on which no Per Capita Tax is due.	Amount Received Per Capita Tax.	Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.	Cash on hand in Camps.	Expended in Charity, as per Quartermaster Sergeants' Reports.	No. of Members of their Families Relieved.	No. of Veterans or their Families Relieved.									
	Camps.	Members.	BY MUSTER IN.		BY REIN-STATEM'T.		TOTAL GAIN.	Camps.	Members.	BY DISBANDED.		BY HONORABLE DISCHARGE.		BY SUSPENSION.		TOTAL LOSS.								Camps.	Members.	No. Members Dropped.						
			Camps.	Members.	By Transfer.	Camps.				Members.	Camps.	Members.	By Death.	By Transfer.	Camps.												Members.	Camps.	Members.			
Alabama and Tennessee..	19	419	1	24			2	1	26	20	445			1	1			37		20	406	1	20	15 52	\$ 80 81	\$ 200 00	\$.....					
California and H. I.....	11	272	1	39			1	1	40	12	312			2	1		1	27		11	282	2	18	10 60	61 05	125 71						
Colorado.....	8	150	3	39	1	2	19	5	109	13	295							23		13	242	3	85	7 44	16 48	153 24	6 00					
Connecticut.....	27	764		46	2	1	27	1	75	28	839			6	2		1	63		27	770	9		31 88	203 45	657 56	3 25					
Gulf.....	11	130		15					15	11	145							1		11	144			5 76	14 31							
Illinois.....	70	1623	6	335	9	2	36	8	380	78	2003			2	3	1	3	95		3	101	75	1902	3	225	63 32	57 75	705 47	8 70			
Indiana.....	56	1322	5	156	8	6	142	11	306	67	1628			3	3	12	282		12	283	55	1340	5	97	58 48	169 01	2267 12	62 20				
Iowa.....	64	1316	7	201			72	9	273	73	1659			2	5	1	5	168		5	176	68	1413	7	171	52 56	71 52	672 14	35 35			
Kansas.....	63	1346	3	121	5	2	98	10	227	73	1573	1	23	1	1	6	5	126		6	160	67	1413	3	49	59 36	54 93	739 23	23 68			
Kentucky.....	13	279	2	52			7	2	59	15	338			1	1		1	58		1	69	14	279	2	31	10 20	60 80	12 79	1 1			
Maine.....	48	1327	4	181	6		15	4	202	52	1529			1	3	7	4	90		4	101	48	1428	4	125	52 72	292 69	1319 90	3 25			
Maryland.....	25	480	2	53	1		32	2	86	27	566			1	2	1	3	51		3	55	24	611	2	31	20 48	28 65	236 67	2 30			
Massachusetts.....	136	4127	2	361	20	1	100	3	481	139	4098	3	33	5	23	9	154		3	224	196	4854	2	67	176 68	1378 73	7190 41	380 69	35 12			
Michigan.....	41	864	6	277	3	4	77	10	357	51	1221			3	2		1	83		1	68	50	1133	6	155	47 80	285 21	139 14				
Minnesota.....	37	874	2	98	1			2	99	89	973			5	1	10	209		10	214	29	739	2	52	28 28	104 21	133 23					
Missouri.....	48	929	2	78	1	1	24	3	113	51	1042	1	9	1	3	1	15	229		16	243	35	799	2	49	32 96	13 93	649 05	35 40			
Nebraska.....	31	547	2	83	1		28	4	112	35	659			1	3	8	105		8	112	27	547	2	66	20 36	72 58	152 45	21 43				
New Hampshire.....	20	597	1	42	1		8	1	51	21	648	1	20	4	3	2	20		1	49	20	599	4	21	23 44	133 30	210 74	19 00				
New Jersey.....	26	751	1	48	3		7	1	58	27	899			1	2	1		47		5	51	27	758	3	17	29 92	117 53	1045 07	42 35	9 4		
New York.....	112	3233	7	419	7		50	8	467	120	3700	1	15	7	4	8	16	439		19	474	101	3226	7	220	124 83	494 46	4938 70	57 20	1 3		
Ohio.....	98	2106		53	2		83	2	138	100	2244					2	33	661		33	666	67	1578			60 80	99 80					
Oregon.....	6	93	1	15	1		2	1	18	7	111					2	2	40		2	42	5	69	1	15	2 70	17 13					
Pennsylvania.....	151	5602	6	515	16		94	7	623	158	6227	7	90	6	5	6	6	486		13	545	145	5682	6	147	227 08	351 24	9323 47	1412 43	67 4		
Rhode Island.....	14	411		9	1				10	14	421						32				35	14	686			15 44	64 38	251 60				
South Dakota.....	17	282	3	55	1		49	6	105	23	387	1	10	1		13	220		14	231	9	156	3	62	6 12	75 09	29 12	8 00				
Vermont.....	33	797		16	1		5		22	38	519			2	12		3	92		3	106	30	713			29 68	35 76	478 31	5 00	1		
Washington.....	28	686		12	3		3		18	28	654			1			15	363		15	364	13	290			12 90	51 40					
West Virginia.....	10	150	1	46			53	3	99	13	249						2	46		2	46	11	203	1	16	8 40	16 18	111 55	9 60			
Wisconsin.....	32	642	4	126	1		6	4	133	36	775			2	1	1	8	164		8	168	28	607	4	95	20 72	47 61	232 05	4 75	1		
Totals.....	1255	32075	72	3556	98	37	1050	109	4704	1364	36779	15	200	37	80	72	169	4365	2	184	4760	1180	32019	31	72	1832	\$1250 03	\$4131 80	\$32394 63	\$3296 03	193	31

RECAPITULATION.

Number in good standing at date of last report.....	Camps.	Members.	
			1,255 32,075
GAIN:	Camps.	Members.	
By muster-in.....	72	3,550	
By transfer.....		98	
By reinstatement.....	37	1,050	
Total gain.....		109	4,704
Aggregate.....			1,364 36,779
LOSS:	Camps.	Members.	
By disbanded.....	15	200	
By death.....		37	
By honorable discharge.....		80	
By transfer.....		72	
By suspension.....	169	4,365	
By dishonorable discharge.....		2	
Total loss.....		184	4,760
Number remaining in good standing, June 30, 1897.....			1,180 32,019

Number members dropped.....	Camps.	Members.	
			31
Number mustered during quarter, on which no per capita tax is payable.....	72	1,859	
Amount received for per capita tax.....			\$ 1,250.63
Cash on hand at Division Headquarters.....			4,131.80
Cash on hand in Camps.....			32,394.63
Expended in charity, as per Q. M. Sergeants' reports.....			3,296.63
Number of members or their families relieved..			193
Number of veterans or their families relieved..			31

TABLE No. 5.

						Camps.	Mems.	
Number in good standing June 30, 1890.....						1,320	34,256	
GAIN.		By Muster in.	By Transfer.	By Reinstatement.				
	Camps.	Members.	Members.	Camps.	Members.			
Sept., 1896, Quarter...	41	1,755	35	49		1,119		
Dec., 1896, Quarter....	16	1,469	91	111		2,264		
Mar., 1897, Quarter....	48	2,673	121	62		1,434		
June, 1897, Quarter....	72	3,556	93	37		6,050		
Aggregate.....	177	9,353	346	259		5,867		
Total gain.....						496	15,565	
Aggregate.....						1,763	49,520	
Loss.		By Disbanded.	By Death.	By Honor-able Dis.	By Trans-fer.	By Suspension.	By Dishonor-able Dis.	
	Camps.	Mems.	Mems.	Mems.	Mems.	Camps.	Mems.	
Sept., 1896, Quarter..	10	109	34	78	30	171	4,867	
Dec., 1896, Quarter..	20	241	53	101	85	78	3,437	
Mar., 1897, Quarter..	23	396	43	113	134	99	3,324	
June, 1897, Quarter..	15	200	37	80	72	169	4,365	
Aggregate.....	68	946	167	372	321	517	15,993	
Total loss.....							593	17,501
Number in good standing June 30, 1897.....						1,180	32,010	
Number mustered since June 30, 1897.....						32	773	
Number in good standing September 1, 1897.....						1,212	32,782	

TABLE No. 6.

Roster of Division Commanders, 1897-1898.

DIVISION.	COMMANDER.
Alabama and Tennessee.....	L. W. Friedman.
California and H. I.....	Charles L. Pierce.
Colorado.....	Harlan Thomas.
Connecticut.....	W. W. Wheeler.
Gulf.....	H. W. Robinson.
Illinois.....	C. R. Clarke.
Indiana.....	R. S. Thompson.
Iowa.....	A. T. Wilson.
Kansas.....	W. P. Feder.
Kentucky.....	T. Z. Morrow, jr.
Maine.....	Arthur M. Soule.
Maryland.....	Edward K. DePuy.
Massachusetts.....	Orange H. Cook.
Michigan.....	H. E. Cowdin.
Minnesota.....	Henry Stodieck, jr.
Missouri.....	E. E. Schoening.
Nebraska.....	W. H. Davis.
New Hampshire.....	Walter S. Willey.
New Jersey.....	Jesse R. Dungan.
New York.....	John M. Diven.
Ohio.....	A. W. Jones.
Oregon.....	L. W. Oren.
Pennsylvania.....	Wildun Scott.
Rhode Island.....	Charles W. Abbot, jr.
South Dakota.....	R. J. Courtney.
Vermont.....	William W. Lapoint.
Washington.....	C. V. Savidge.
West Virginia.....	H. W. Thurber.
Wisconsin.....	Charles C. Townsend.

TABLE No. 7.

DIVISION.	Number of Camps or Charters.	Number of Recruits or Members Mus- tered.	Applications for Charters ap- proved.	
			Number of Camps.	Number of Appli- cants.
Alabama and Tennessee.....	3	93	1	16
California and H. I.....	1	18	1	18
Colorado.....	4	85	4	85
Connecticut.....	1	17	1	22
Gulf.....	1	15	1	15
Illinois.....	17	518	18	524
Indiana.....	10	211	10	288
Iowa.....	18	436	18	436
Kansas.....	7	135	9	190
Kentucky.....	5	111	9	164
Maine.....	9	216	9	238
Maryland.....	3	46	3	50
Massachusetts.....	5	109	5	109
Michigan.....	13	357	15	421
Minnesota.....	3	81	3	81
Missouri.....	7	148	7	151
Nebraska.....	5	131	5	136
New Hampshire.....	3	60	3	68
New Jersey.....	3	67	3	68
New York.....	15	401	14	379
Ohio.....	5	102	6	142
Oregon.....	1	15	2	37
Pennsylvania.....	16	365	13	389
South Dakota.....	2	46	6	115
Vermont.....	1	24	1	23
Washington.....	2	35	2	34
West Virginia.....	1	46	1	40
Wisconsin.....	13	296	8	327
Total.....	174	4175	183	4506

GENERAL ORDERS.



HEADQUARTERS

COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,

SONS OF VETERANS,

U. S. A.

General Orders No. 5, }
 Series of 1896. }

READING, PA., *September 30, 1896.*

I. Pursuant to action of the Fifteenth (15th) Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., held at Louisville, Kent., Sept. 8-11, command is hereby assumed and headquarters have been established in the Second National Bank Block, Penn Square, Reading, Pa.

II. Following officers were elected by the Commandery-in-Chief :

Commander-in-Chief, James Lewis Rake, Reading, Pa. ; Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Leo W. Kennedy, Denver, Col. ; Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, R. M. Buckley, Louisville, Ken. ; Council-in-Chief, C. Borin, Oberlin, Kan. ; F. W. Myers, Parkersburg, W. Va. (Ohio Div.) ; J. H. Heine, Hooper, Neb.

III. The place selected for the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief is Indianapolis, Ind., the date to be selected later by the Council-in-Chief.

IV. The following appointments are hereby promulgated :

Adjutant-General, H. H. Hammer, Reading, Pa. ; Inspector-General, Arthur B. Spink, Providence, R. I. They were duly installed by Past Grand Division Commander and Constitutional Life Member of Penna., R. M. J. Reed, assisted by Past Surgeon-General Dr. Dan. S. Gardner, Ohio.

The following appointments are hereby announced :

Ass't Adjutant-General, Past Division Commander C. E. Diefenderfer, Reading, Pa. ; Ass't Quartermaster-General, Fred. J. Sanford, Chicago, Ill. ; Personal Aide to the Commander-in-Chief, Past Division Commander E. W. Alexander, Reading, Pa.

V. All remittances for charter fees and per capita tax must be sent to Adjutant-General H. H. Hammer, Reading, Pa., and be made payable to his order. All remittances for supplies must be sent to Quartermaster-

General Rudolph Loebenstein, Room 7, No. 84 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill., and be made payable to his order. All remittances to either officer must be made in the shape of New York or Chicago Exchange, or Post Office or Express Money Orders. Personal checks, or drafts on other than New York or Chicago banks, cannot be accepted.

VI. In accordance with the action of the Commandery-in-Chief Encampment, at Louisville, the Quartermaster-General and all Division Quartermasters are hereby directed to destroy all forms pertaining to inspections heretofore existing. The Quartermaster General is hereby directed to prepare new forms for inspection, as submitted by Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General, which have been duly approved.

The Inspector-General's list of official assignments for the inspection of Divisions will be promulgated shortly. Meanwhile Division Commanders will make proper requisition on the Quartermaster-General for the requisite number of the new forms for inspection. The cost of same remains unchanged.

VII. Inasmuch as Division Commanders will be held to strict accountability, reports and per capita tax for last quarter must be forwarded in strict accordance with C., R. and R., as by adherence to our law only can we hope to succeed.

VIII. We must insist that correspondence be conducted through proper channels. Camps and individual members desiring information or decisions must communicate through their respective Division Headquarters. The business of the Commandery-in-Chief will be transacted directly with the several Divisions.

IX. Division Commander R. B. Oglesbee, of Indiana, has called attention to a flagrant and unwarranted use of the title of our organization in connection with the present political campaign in his Division, and he is to be commended for the prompt action he has taken in the premises. It appears that over-zealous persons, not connected with the Order, have been organizing political clubs under the title of the "Sons of Veterans," and enlisting into their cause persons without reference to their membership in our Order. The attention of all Division and Camp Commanders is specially directed to Article XXI, Rules and Regulations, which strictly prohibits our members from using the Order for either sectarian or political purposes.

There is no inclination at any time to in any way interfere with the political liberties of any of our members; they are entitled to the fullest freedom which American citizenship allows in the exercise of their political preferences, but no one has a right to connect the name of "Sons of Veterans" with any concerted political movement, and the respective officers of Divisions and Camps throughout the Order should carefully see that the C., R. and R. is not violated, under penalty to the offenders of a severance of their relations to this organization.

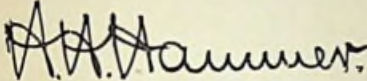
X. Notwithstanding the fact that the effects of the preceding administration were promptly forwarded Sept. 14, we are still without definite advices of the same, and are, therefore, laboring under a disadvantage. Any apparent delinquencies may be attributed to this cause, which we hope to have speedily remedied. We ask the hearty co-operation of all members of our organization during the current year.

XI. Division Commanders are directed to promulgate this order and all subsequent orders to all Past Division Commanders in good standing in their respective Divisions.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official :



Adjutant-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, }

84 La Salle St., Room 7, CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 18, 1896. }

J. L. RAKE, Commander-in-Chief, Reading, Pa.

Dear Sir and Brother :—I have the honor to submit the following report, supplemental to my report to the Fifteenth Annual Encampment, this report covering the business of this department up to the beginning of your administration :

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

DR.	CR.
Cash on hand, as per report.....\$1,427.32	Paid :
Received for furniture (stove sold)..... 10.00	For general expenses.....\$ 19.87
Received for charter fees.. 8.00	For salaries 250.00
Received for P. C. tax.... 173.91	For traveling expenses.... 12.85
Received balances due from Divisions..... 46.97	For expenses of 15th Annual Encampment..... 696.36
	Cash on hand..... 687.12
\$1,666.20	\$1,666.20

GENERAL ACCOUNT, SEPTEMBER 10, 1896.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.
Furniture.....\$ 587.69	Due to Divisions.....\$ 4.00
Supplies..... 1,525.39	Surplus 2,804.07
Cash..... 687.12	
Due from Divisions..... 8.47	
\$2,808.67	\$2,808.67

PROFIT AND LOSS, TO SEPTEMBER 10, 1896.

LOSSES.	GAINS.
Salaries.....\$ 250.00	Charter fees.....\$ 8.00
Traveling expenses..... 12.85	Per capita tax..... 173.91
General expenses..... 19.87	Balance (net loss)..... 797.17
15th Annual Encampment. 696.36	
\$ 979.08	\$ 979.08

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

General Orders No. 6, }
Series of 1896. }

READING, PA., October 27, 1896.

I. The following Staff officers have been appointed and will be respected and obeyed accordingly: Judge Advocate-General, John Redmond, Burlington, Kansas; Surgeon-General, J. A. Mabbs, M. D., Holland, Mich.; Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. Somerville Light, Wabash, Ind.

II. The official minutes of the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, recently held at Louisville, Ky., are in course of preparation and will be promulgated promptly upon receipt from the printer. It may be well to call attention to the fact that there was no legislation affecting the Constitution, Rules and Regulations or the Ritual.

III. Division Commanders will order Division Surgeons on duty and direct that Surgeons' reports must be made on the blanks provided for the purpose prior to January 1st, 1897. The Surgeon-General will note and act accordingly.

IV. Division Commanders are reminded of the urgency to forward promptly the quarterly reports of their Adjutants and Quartermasters, as by promptness alone can the business of the National Headquarters be satisfactorily dispatched. The per capita tax remains unchanged.

V. Numerous reports received at these Headquarters are next to unintelligible. Delays only result therefrom, as unless clear in every respect the same will be invariably returned to the source from which they emanate for correction. It should, however, be unnecessary to call attention to carelessness of this description.

VI. Division Commanders are reminded that the date set apart for Camp elections is near at hand, and it should be their aim to impress upon the members of Camps the necessity for carefully selecting the officers who are to serve in these all-important positions, for by raising the personnel of the same the Division in its turn is benefitted.

VII. A party claiming to be W. A. Crane, formerly of Richard Winans Camp, No. 74, Division of Michigan, dropped for non-payment of dues, has recently been soliciting aid from members of the Order in Philadelphia, Washington, D. C., and elsewhere. He is not entitled to fraternal recognition or assistance.

VIII. Upon recommendation of Division Commanders the charter of H. C. Clark Camp, No. 2, Spivey, Kan., and W. E. Cross Camp, No. 154, Amsterdam, N. Y., are hereby revoked and declared forfeited.

IX. By the time this order reaches the Camps the political excitement incident to the presidential election will have been passed. Every member in the Order should make it his aim to add at least one recruit to his Camp roll during the next quarter. In some instances a canvass of the locality in which a Camp is situated has disclosed the fact that there were more eligible recruits not members of the Order than actually contained on the Camp's muster roll. This is certainly wrong and the solution of the difficulty lies with the individual members, even more than with the officers of Camps, upon whom should devolve more particularly the actual work within the Camp room.

Official:

By command of J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

A. A. Hammer

Adjutant-General.

General Orders No. 7,
Series of 1896.)

READING, PA., December 10, 1896.

I. At the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, held in Louisville, the following resolution was unanimously adopted and is hereby promulgated :

"Resolved, That to the Grand Army of the Republic we once more extend our sincere love and respect. That we deplore the sorrowful fact that their ranks are becoming thinned by death, and we pledge ourselves with renewed energy to perform our highest duty to them, and make ourselves worthy to gradually take up the grand work they have so nobly performed."

It is with unbounded pleasure that we can announce the hearty promise of support for the advancement of our interests by Commander-in-Chief Thaddeus S. Clarkson.

II. Following corrections and revisions in the Ritual were adopted upon recommendation by the Committee at the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Louisville. They are hereby promulgated, with directions that all Rituals be so corrected :

That portion of instructions for the movement of the square contained in brackets on page 23, to read as follows :

"Sergeant of the Guard marches to front of Captain's station ; at his command the Advance Guard 'about face,' the escort and recruit 'left face.'"

On page 23, next to last line, substitute "escort" in lieu of "Sergeant of Guard."

On page 30, add to instruction of Sergeant of Guard in brackets at top of page, "and gives command 'Twos left.'"

III. The membership is congratulated on the fact that we have succeeded in enlisting the assistance of the "National Tribune," Washington, D. C., in the upbuilding of our Order. Since the Louisville Encampment timely and excellent references to our Order in the said publication have appeared in every issue. The "Tribune" is making strenuous efforts to build up the Sons of Veterans into commanding strength and influence. It is sanguine that this can be done and is devoting much time, energy and great ability to the work. With its great circulation and wide reaching influence it is a welcome and most powerful ally. We are glad to call the attention of the membership to it, and to urge upon them to give it the heartiest co-operation and assistance. Let each and every brother consider THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE his paper. Write freely to the editor on any subject connected with the good of our Order. Send him any items of interest concerning the Camps and brethren in his locality, and do whatever can be done to call the attention of other members, and those who should become members, to the paper. This will greatly help to bring the membership in all parts of the country into closer communication.

Division Commanders are requested to urge upon Camps the importance of sending complete rosters of their membership to the address of this journal immediately.

IV. The attention of Division Commanders is called to the fact that it is none too early to prepare for the proper observance by all Camps of Union Defenders' Day, February 12, 1897. Rev. Somerville Light, Chaplain-in-Chief, Wabash, Ind., will prepare a suitable form of service for the observance of the event, and Chaplains of Divisions should immediately be instructed to report to him upon promulgation of this order.

V. Surgeons of Divisions should be instructed by their respective Commanders to have reports in the hands of Dr. J. A. Mobbs, Surgeon-General, Holland, Mich., without delay.

VI. Assistant Inspectors-General should forward reports without further delay to Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General, Box 1310, Providence, R. I.

VII. The last quarterly returns from the Adjutants and Quartermasters of the several Divisions have been in a great many cases unusually delayed, and while recognizing the causes which have led up to these delinquencies, and having made due allowances therefor, the fact must not be overlooked that Divisions who have not made satisfactory returns prior to January 1st, will not be in possession of the new password and countersign, which will be promulgated on that date.

VIII. Division Commanders are reminded that they do not issue "General" orders. *General* orders are only issued by the Commander-in-Chief. Division Commanders issue *Division* orders.

IX. Division orders are greatly diversified. It is hoped all will in future be uniform, particularly as to size. See Art. IX, Section H, page 66, General Rules and Regulations. Attention is also called to the requirement of Article XI of Chapter VI, with relation to the issuance of "General" and "Division" orders. Division Commanders will hereafter be governed thereby.

It is also hereby ordered that Division orders contain the electro of the Regulation Badge in lieu of the Coat-of-Arms. This is desirable for uniformity and appearance. The title "Division Adjutant" and similar prefixes to denote rank are irregular and unnecessary. "Adjutant" is sufficient.

X. Attention is called to violations of the C., R. and R., in connection with applications for Camp charters. Division Commanders will observe that no applications will be approved unless the records of all applicants are complete. In the event that same cannot be obtained before forwarding application use Form 16 with which the record can be supplied. Neither will any application be approved unless accompanied by the charter fee—\$2.00.

In many instances delays occur owing to applications for Camps not containing the number of the Camp to be chartered. Applications always should contain the number assigned to the Camp for which charter is applied for.

In a number of Divisions a practice prevails of detailing officers such as "Chief of Staff," for which there is no constitutional authority, and such appointments cannot receive recognition.

XI. The charter of Francis C. Green Camp, No. 1, Division of Rhode Island, has been revoked and declared forfeited upon recommendation of the Division Commander.

XII. Advantage should be taken to have the installations in all Camps be the means of assembling every member with a view of arousing a new interest for the ensuing year in our entire membership.

XIII. The officers and staff of the Commandery-in-Chief extend to the membership throughout our great country Christmas greeting and best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

A. A. Hammer

Adjutant-General.

General Orders No. 1, }
 Series of 1897. }

READING, PA., February 9, 1897.

I. Owing to the delay on the part of Division Commanders to forward their consolidated reports within the required time this order, embodying the consolidated returns, has been reluctantly delayed. Some Division Commanders failed to forward their reports for quarter ending September, 1896, until February 1st, 1897. In nearly all instances it was pardonable. We feel that in presenting the returns for the quarter named, the results, although not as good as they should be, are readily explainable. The various Division Commanders have had most trying and difficult experiences to contend with. The election and political campaign which we have passed through has been entirely responsible, and to this we attribute directly the decreased showing in the number of Camps and members reported in good standing. By supplementary reports a better showing could have been made but the delay would have been too great. From the reports now being received from Division Commanders we are confidently led to believe that the future will be more assuring; there is more interest, renewed energy has taken the place of apathy, and under all the circumstances congratulations are warrantable from the fact that we have, as an Order, passed the crisis and surmounted the obstacles with but a trifling loss in numerical strength. Existing conditions have permitted the leniency we have shown. It cannot, however, be expected to again be extended. Division Commanders and Camps are hereby notified that unless their reports and per capita tax are forwarded promptly within the specified time, they will not be shielded. All must in future be prompt in transmitting the prescribed reports.

II. A circular letter addressed to the G. A. R. in behalf of our Order—urging the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic to organize Camps and requesting them to aid and nourish the Camps requiring the same and now in existence, has been promulgated from these Headquarters to all Posts, through the various Department Headquarters, upon the following endorsement and approval of Commander-in-Chief T. S. Clarkson and Adjutant-General Charles E. Burmester:

"General Orders No. 4.

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, }
OMAHA, NEB., January 7, 1897. }

Recognizing that our sons must take up the work we soon shall lay aside—and recognizing also the great importance of organization in their ranks as well as our own, the Commander-in-Chief most heartily commends to all Commanders and comrades the address issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, directs that it be read in every Post, and asks their hearty co-operation in sustaining Camps already organized, and in the organization of new ones."

We are greatly indebted to Comrades Clarkson and Burmester for their favor and kindness, and for the assurances of co-operation and moral support from the various Department Commanders and Assistant Adjutants-General we are deeply obligated.

These circulars, giving full instructions as to the organization of Camps of Sons of Veterans, have been (and are being) promulgated to all of the 8,000 Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in the country. The result cannot be but beneficial.

Brothers: The eyes of the veterans of the G. A. R. are upon you. Be true to your trust. Prove yourself worthy by your conduct and bearing of the confidence reposed in you when you were permitted to become a Son of a Veteran, and show "how excellent it is for veterans' sons to dwell together."

Division Commanders should communicate with the various G. A. R. Posts in their Divisions on the subject of organization and assistance, and supply all with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, a blank application for charter, and such information as may be of benefit and necessary for the organization of new Camps. Let all Division Commanders comply with this AT ONCE.

It is hoped the National Tribune, Washington, D. C., in its efforts to build up the membership of our Order will be assisted and appreciated by all.

Attention is also called to the services in behalf of our Order of "The Advocate," Des Moines, Iowa; "The Industrial School News," Scotland, Pa.; "Camp Messenger," 2539 Frankford Ave., Phila., Pa.; "The Patriot," 25 and 27 Third Ave., New York; "The Picket," Wichita, Kansas; "The Sentry," St. Paul, Minn.; "Grand Army Journal," 88 Nassau Street, New York, and "The Coffee Cooler," Sturgis, Mich.

Surely with these powerful allies, and especially the project of the National Tribune, and the assistance of the G. A. R., we cannot help but flourish and become "that instrument of great good" we are striving for, if we but half do what is expected of us.

III. By communication from Past Inspector-General Fred. C. Stillson, Chairman of the Committee on Ritual, at the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief of 1896, held at Louisville, Kentucky, "*Sergeant of the Guard*," was intended instead of "First Sergeant," under caption "Balloting on Candidates," page 135, proceedings Fifteenth Annual Encampment. The sentence as corrected should read: "That at the election of candidates the *Sergeant of the Guard* shall present the ballot box

to the 2d and 1st Lieutenant in order named, etc." This correction should be noted and observed.

IV. Following Camps have had their charters revoked on proper recommendation :

Nebraska Division : Camps 25, 68, 89, 90, 102, 118, 163.

V. Divisions will hold their Annual Encampments as follows :

Missouri :—Warrensburg, May 13-14.

Massachusetts :—Worcester, February 22.

New Jersey :—Trenton, February 18.

Illinois :—Galesburg, May 4-6.

Rhode Island :—Providence, February 12.

Adjutants will report date and place of Encampments not herein announced to the Adjutant-General at once.

VI. The Commander-in-Chief desires to commend to all Camps the excellence of the Ladies' Aid Societies of the Sons of Veterans, and earnestly urges that societies be organized in connection with Camp.

VII. Division Commanders are again directed to see that the reports of their respective Inspectors and Surgeons are forwarded without further delay to the proper staff officers of the Commander-in-Chief, who report delinquencies in a number of Divisions. Failure to comply with these constitutional requirements will be sufficient to deprive Divisions from representation in the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief. The C., R. and R. will be strictly enforced in this respect.

VIII. The observance of Union Defenders' Day, following the instructions promulgated by the Chaplain-in-Chief, it is hoped will be general and receive that attention, reverence and honor which the name of Abraham Lincoln inspires.

The celebration of Washington's Birthday also, in such suitable manner and form as may be agreeable, is recommended to all Camps.

IX. The semi-annual password and countersign was duly promulgated to all Divisions for the current term.

Information has been received at these Headquarters that in several instances Commandery-in-Chief orders are not promptly promulgated to Camps.

Division Commanders are hereby directed to issue *at once* all orders emanating from these Headquarters. No delay in this respect can be tolerated.

Past Division officers must also be supplied with Commandery-in-Chief orders from Division Headquarters.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official .

A. A. Hammer

Adjutant-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT, }
84 La Salle St., Room 7, CHICAGO, ILL., January 11, 1897. }

J. L. RAKE, Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A., Reading, Pa.

Dear Sir and Brother:—I have the honor to submit my report for the term beginning on the 14th day of September, 1896, and ending on the 31st day of December, 1896:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

DR.	CR.
Cash on hand, as per last report	Paid for :
Received for supplies	Supplies (including cost of shipping).....
Received for P. C. tax	Office expenses.....
Received for charter fees... ..	General expenses
Received for miscellaneous. . . .	General orders.....
	Salaries.....
	Fifteenth National Encampment.....
	Furniture (repairs).....
	Traveling expenses
	Miscellaneous.....
	Cash on hand.....
\$3032 96	\$3032 96
December 31st, 1896. Supplies on hand, as per inventory.....	\$1584 63

GENERAL ACCOUNT, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.
Various Divisions.....	Various Divisions.....
Furniture.....	A. P. Davis.....
Supplies	Surplus.....
Cash.....	
\$2476 48	\$2476 48

PROFIT AND LOSS, DECEMBER 31, 1896.

LOSSES.	GAINS.
Supplies (obsolete blanks destroyed).....	Charter fees.....
General orders.....	P. C. tax
Salaries.....	Supplies (profit).....
Traveling expenses	Balance (net loss).....
Office expenses.....	
General expenses	
Fifteenth National Encampment.....	
\$1919 46	\$1919 46

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

Since last announcement applications for charters for Camps have been approved as follows :

Date Approval.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Applicants.
Aug. 10, 1896....	50	Braymer.....	Missouri.....	21
" 10, 1896....	80	Haverstraw.....	New York.....	24
" 10, 1896....	100	Wooster.....	Ohio (Dis.).....	31
" 14, 1896....	43	Greenwood.....	Pennsylvania.....	16
" 14, 1896....	63	Grant.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
" 17, 1896....	223	Pottsville.....	Pennsylvania.....	35
" 24, 1896....	73	Ellwood City.....	Pennsylvania.....	20
" 27, 1896....	78	Sandy Lake.....	Pennsylvania.....	29
" 31, 1896....	62	Tamaqua.....	Pennsylvania.....	44
" 31, 1896....	11	Sardia.....	Alabama and Tenn....	20
" 31, 1896....	126	Mediapolis.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
Sept. 17, 1896....	57	Herndon.....	Pennsylvania.....	20
" 21, 1896....	2	Girard.....	Kansas.....	37
Oct. 2, 1896....	15	Princeville.....	Illinois.....	41
" 5, 1896....	85	Buffalo.....	New York (Dis.).....	33
" 12, 1896....	12	Lebanon.....	Kentucky (Dis.).....	17
" 27, 1896....	52	Stella.....	Missouri.....	25
Nov. 2, 1896....	83	Algona.....	Iowa.....	20
" 2, 1896....	157	Winfield.....	Iowa.....	23
" 3, 1896....	4	Albany.....	Kentucky.....	28
" 3, 1896....	7	Gap Creek.....	Kentucky.....	15
" 5, 1896....	16	Thibodeaux (La.).....	Gulf.....	15
" 13, 1896....	32	Orion.....	Wisconsin.....	17
" 17, 1896....	14	Glastonbury.....	Connecticut.....	22
" 23, 1896....	2	Elizabeth.....	New Jersey (Dis.).....	25
" 30, 1896....	8	Poughkeepsie.....	New York (Dis.).....	33
Dec. 7, 1896....	51	Rutledge.....	Missouri.....	31
" 8, 1896....	105	Belchertown.....	Massachusetts.....	19
" 9, 1896....	33	Spring Valley.....	Wisconsin.....	20
" 17, 1896....	139	Kirwin.....	Kansas.....	18
" 21, 1896....	19	Brooklyn.....	New York (Dis.).....	39
" 26, 1896....	112	Oxford.....	Massachusetts.....	15
" 28, 1896....	355	Burr Oak.....	Indiana.....	16
" 28, 1896....	3	Huntington.....	Oregon.....	15
" 31, 1896....	215	Duncan's Mills.....	Ohio (Dis.).....	34
" 31, 1896....	51	Biddeford.....	Maine (Dis.).....	17
Jan. 6, 1897....	16	Chebanse.....	Illinois.....	26
" 12, 1897....	183	Castana.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	12
" 16, 1897....	17	Cisne.....	Illinois.....	20
" 21, 1897....	18	Toulon.....	Illinois.....	20
" 21, 1897....	30	Jersey City.....	New Jersey.....	27
" 25, 1897....	20	Warrensburg.....	Missouri (Dis.).....	15
" 27, 1897....	43	Dallas (Texas).....	Missouri (Dis.).....	21
" 28, 1897....	.....	Ballston Spa.....	New York.....	21
" 28, 1897....	1	Fort Monroe (Va.).....	Maryland.....	19
" 29, 1897....	.....	Cuba.....	New York.....	35

Total number Camps, 46.

Total number applicants, 1,066.

Charters have been issued to the following Camps since last publication of same :

Date of Issue.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Mustered.
Aug. 10, 1896....	10	Minneapolis.....	Minnesota	21
" 10, 1896....	11	St. Francis.....	Minnesota	21
" 10, 1896....	50	Conemaugh.....	Pennsylvania	21
" 10, 1896....	100	Wooster.....	Ohio (Dis.).....	31
" 14, 1896....	63	Grant.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
" 14, 1896....	197	Alta Vista.....	Kansas.....	15
" 17, 1896....	169	North Platte.....	Nebraska.....	19
" 21, 1896....	11	Somerset.....	Kentucky.....	16
" 28, 1886....	5	Prairieton.....	Indiana.....	17
" 28, 1896....	6	Georgetown.....	Kentucky.....	19
" 28, 1896....	51	Williamstown.....	Pennsylvania	24
" 31, 1896....	126	Mediapolis.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
" 31, 1896....	5	Louisville.....	Kentucky.....	15
Oct. 15, 1896....	43	Greenwood.....	Pennsylvania	18
" 15, 1896....	57	Herndon.....	Pennsylvania	15
" 15, 1896....	62	Tamaqua.....	Pennsylvania	28
" 15, 1896....	73	Ellwood City.....	Pennsylvania	15
" 15, 1896....	223	Pottsville.....	Pennsylvania	27
" 15, 1896....	80	Haverstraw.....	New York.....	33
" 15, 1896....	85	Buffalo.....	New York (Dis.).....	33
" 15, 1896....	31	Racine.....	Wisconsin.....	31
" 20, 1896....	12	Lebanon.....	Kentucky.....	17
" 30, 1896....	2	Girard.....	Kansas.....	27
" 23, 1896....	70	Evans' Mills.....	New York.....	15
" 24, 1896....	15	Princeville.....	Illinois.....	39
Nov. 2, 1896....	6	Chanute.....	Kansas.....	30
" 2, 1896....	83	Algona.....	Iowa.....	20
" 2, 1896....	157	Winfield.....	Iowa.....	23
" 6, 1896....	11	Sardis.....	Alabama and Tenn....	33
" 16, 1896....	103	Big Rapids.....	Michigan.....	27
" 23, 1896....	2	Elizabeth.....	New Jersey.....	25
" 30, 1896....	8	Poughkeepsie.....	New York.....	33
" 30, 1896....	52	Stella.....	Missouri.....	20
Dec. 11, 1896....	14	Glastonbury.....	Connecticut.....	17
" 14, 1896....	50	Braymer.....	Missouri.....	21
" 26, 1896....	16	Thibodeaux (La.).....	Gulf.....	15
" 28, 1896....	3	Huntington.....	Oregon.....	15
" 31, 1896....	215	Duncan Falls.....	Ohio (Dis.).....	34
" 31, 1896....	51	Biddeford.....	Maine.....	17
Jan. 2, 1897....	105	Belchertown.....	Massachusetts.....	15
" 8, 1897....	64	Rutledge.....	Missouri.....	22
" 8, 1897....	32	Orion.....	Wisconsin.....	18
" 12, 1897....	183	Castana.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	17
" 15, 1897....	112	Oxford.....	Massachusetts.....	17
" 23, 1897....	139	Kirwin.....	Kansas.....	23
" 23, 1897....	33	Spring Valley.....	Wisconsin.....	15
" 25, 1897....	20	Warrensburg.....	Missouri (Dis.).....	15
" 27, 1897....	43	Dallas (Texas).....	Missouri (Dis.).....	21
" 27, 1897....	355	Burr Oak.....	Indiana.....	16
" 29, 1897....	19	Brooklyn.....	New York (Dis.).....	39
" 30, 1897....	30	Jersey City.....	New Jersey.....	25

Total number Camps chartered, 51.

Total number mustered, 1,120.

GENERAL ORDERS.

General Orders No. 2, }
Series of 1897. }

READING, PA., April 20, 1897.

I. The announcement is made that the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief will be held at Indianapolis, Ind., September 9th, 10th and 11th. This conclusion was reached by unanimous vote of the Council-in-Chief upon the presentation of the question, after a personal conference with the Commander of Indiana Division and other interested parties. The most flattering assurances are given that the citizens of Indianapolis will leave nothing undone to make our stay in that delightful city most pleasant. Upon the conclusion of preliminary negotiations now pending, a Transportation Committee for this event will be promptly announced.

II. Division Commanders have been elected as follows:

Connecticut Division—W. W. Wheeler, Derby.

Massachusetts Division—Orange H. Cook, Melrose.

Nebraska Division—W. H. Davis, Wilber.

New Jersey Division—Jesse R. Dungan, Somerville.

Rhode Island Division—Charles W. Abbot, jr., Providence, R. I.

The foregoing having filed their bonds, have been duly commissioned.

III. In addition to Division Encampments announced in last General Orders, the following are reported:

New Hampshire—Plymouth, April 23-24.

West Virginia—Wheeling, May 5-6.

Colorado—Colorado Springs, May 11-13.

Maryland—Annapolis, May 11-12.

Kentucky—Lexington, May ——

Minnesota—Princeton, June 8-10.

South Dakota—Redfield, June 9-10.

Pennsylvania—Towanda, June 8-10.

Michigan—Flint, June 15-18.

Oregon—Independence, June 15-18.

Washington—Vancouver, June 17-19.

Indiana—Marion, July 7-9.

IV. In accordance with the action of the Fifteenth Annual Encampment, held at Louisville, Ky., the following Committees are appointed:

Committee to Attend National Encampment of the G. A. R.:

Past Commander-in-Chief W. H. Russell, LaCrosse, Kan.

Commander William G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.

William DeSteele, Fond du Lac, Wis.

Past Division Commander E. W. Hatch, Buffalo, N. Y.

Past Captain Alfred Dart, Commander Department of Pennsylvania, G. A. R., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

The Committee to act with a similar Committee of the G. A. R. on monument to the women of the war of 1861-'65, it is deemed wise shall be appointed by mutual selection from the foregoing Committee of five, after having attended the coming Encampment of the G. A. R. This Committee to consist of three, and to be chosen from among their number. It is deemed desirable to adopt this method of appointing this Committee, giving it the opportunity of advising with the similar Committee of the G. A. R. during the Encampment in question.

Committee on Testimonial to Gen. I. N. Walker, Indianapolis, Past Commander-in-Chief, G. A. R. :

Commander R. B. Oglesbee, Indianapolis, Ind.

Quartermaster-General R. Lobenstein, Chicago, Ill.

Commander William G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.

By the action of the Fourteenth Annual Encampment, a memorial was ordered to be prepared for Past Commander-in-Chief Thomas G. Lawler, of the G. A. R., Rockford, Ill., which has thus far not been provided. The above Committee will, therefore, also assume charge of this matter at this time.

Committee on National Legislation Affecting the Order as a Reserve of the U. S. Army :

Past Commander-in-Chief W. H. Russell, LaCrosse, Kan.

Past Division Commander E. R. Campbell, Washington, D. C.

Charles D. Rooney, Winchester, Mass. (Washington, D. C.)

Commander W. J. Patton, Green Bay, Wis.

Past Division Commander E. H. Milham, St. Paul, Minn.

The Committee on Peace Monuments appointed by action of the Encampment at Knoxville, is reminded that it is continued, as per proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Encampment, page 126.

The attention of the members of the foregoing Committees is directed to the conditions prescribed by vote of the Encampment authorizing their appointment, by which service is to be without expense to the Commandery-in-Chief.

V. George Crute, Camp 177, New Carlisle, Ohio Division, was court-martialed on the charge of "conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order." Found guilty and the sentence of Dishonorable Discharge approved. Proper note will be made in Black Books.

Abraham L. Erdman, Camp 13, Phila., Penna. Division, was court-martialed on the charge of "conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order." Found guilty and the sentence of Dishonorable Discharge approved. Proper record will be made in Black Books.

VI. Charters of Camps have been revoked upon recommendation of Division Commanders as follows :

Kansas Division : Camp No. 7, Bluff City ; Camp No. 10, Parkersville ; Camp No. 8, Independence ; Camp No. 211, Liberty.

Maryland : Camp No. 11, Eastville, Va. ; Camp No. 26, Beaufort, S. C.

Indiana Division : Coffin Camp, No. 91, Russiaville.

South Dakota : Camps Nos. 1 (Howard), 3, 5 (Chamberlain), 12, 14, 22, 25, 27, 33, 34, 36, 41, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57.

A number of these Camps have been in arrears for several years, are no loss, having been previously suspended, and are now Constitutionally dropped, others having been organized with corresponding numbers.

VII. Surgeon-General Mabbs and Inspector-General Spink report that a number of Divisions are still delinquent with reports to those respective Departments. Unless such reports are received within reasonable time from the date of this Order, the delinquents will be named and Commanders will be asked to show cause why they should not be removed.

VIII. Major-General Grenville M. Dodge, Grand Marshal of the Grant Monument Inaugural Parade, honored this organization with an invitation to participate in the ceremonies incident to the dedication ceremonies on April 27th, in New York City. The Division of New York having already taken official cognizance of this important event, Commander A. G. Courtney perfected all arrangements for the occasion. It was his pleasure to place Senior Vice-Division Commander E. W. Estes in command, to whom the membership of the Divisions adjacent were directed to report.

The Commander-in-Chief accepted the tender of Camp No. 10, of Woonsocket, Rhode Island Division, as an escort.

IX. Complaint is made that Past Division Commanders in a number of instances do not receive General Orders. Division Commanders are again reminded that it is their duty to promulgate the same to all Past Division Commanders in good standing.

X. Division Commanders and Chaplains will note that Chaplain-in-Chief Rev. Somerville Light has changed his residence to Bluffton, Ind.

XI. It will be seen that for September quarter 32,046 members were reported as in good standing in the various Camps. For December quarter there were reported 31,933 in good standing, a loss of only 93 members. This we consider quite encouraging, for it must be remembered that the last report is for the period during which the greatest political campaign in the history of the Nation was waged, when interest in the Order was hard to maintain, and the organization of new Camps and mustering of recruits in the Camps in existence was greatly interfered with. We report a gain of 39 Camps for the last quarter, and we are firmly of the belief that our Order has reached the lowest mark, and from now on we will recover our lost ground and gain substantially. We earnestly appeal to the individual membership to assist us in the work of recruiting and placing the Order in the best possible condition.

XII. Once more our thoughts go out from the living to the noble dead who answered that call to arms when the life of the Nation was assailed. From the sadness of our recollections there is room for joy that to us, the descendants of the men who rallied to the call of the martyred Lincoln, comes the pleasant duty of aiding the surviving veterans in strewing fragrant blossoms over the mounds that mark the sacrifices of the dreadful days of 1861-'65.

While in the performance of this sacred duty, let no loyal Son be found so forgetful as to profane the day in worldly amusement. Let our ranks be represented by every Son now enrolled, and in the assistance which we owe to the Comrades of the G. A. R. let us not give grudgingly our services, but with a loyalty and frankness which should characterize the sons of soldiers. Let every Camp volunteer to the nearest Post to share in the labors incident to the observance of Memorial Day, and thus substantially prove our devotion to the principles upon which we are founded.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A. A. Hammer.

Adjutant-General.

Applications for Camp Charters have been approved since January 31, as follows :

Date.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Appli- cants.
Feb. 1.....	59	Greenfield.....	Iowa (Dis).....	31
" 5.....	17	Summit Hill.....	Pennsylvania.....	20
" 8.....	223	Gravity.....	Iowa (Dis).....	44
" 13.....	72	South Omaha.....	Nebraska (Dis).....	26
" 15.....	10	Arlington.....	(Okla) Kansas.....	15
" 15.....	7	Dunlap.....	Kansas.....	21
" 17.....	356	Indianapolis.....	Indiana.....	17
" 18.....	8	Harvard.....	Michigan.....	17
" 19.....	117	North Easton.....	Massachusetts.....	17
" 19.....	...	Bradford.....	Vermont.....	23
" 27.....	39	Patton.....	Pennsylvania.....	15
" 27.....	34	Boscobel.....	Wisconsin.....	50
Mar. 1.....	...	Hudson.....	Michigan.....	25
" 1.....	19	Harrisburg.....	Illinois.....	24
" 2.....	8	Contoocook.....	New Hampshire.....	18
" 2.....	20	Pana.....	Illinois.....	27
" 4.....	36	Kanhanna.....	Wisconsin.....	21
" 4.....	38	Diamond Bluff.....	Wisconsin.....	18
" 8.....	...	Lexington.....	Kentucky.....	21
" 12.....	...	Louisville.....	Kentucky.....	18
" 12.....	39	New Lisbon.....	Wisconsin.....	27
" 13.....	2	Hebron.....	Nebraska.....	20
" 12.....	3	Fairmont.....	Nebraska.....	48
" 13.....	135	Concord.....	Massachusetts.....	28
" 13.....	54	Fryeburg.....	Maine.....	17
" 22.....	10	Keene.....	New Hampshire.....	26
" 22.....	16	Maple Plain.....	Minnesota (Dis).....	29
" 23.....	54	New York.....	Iowa (Dis).....	26
" 22.....	60	Livermore.....	Iowa (Dis).....	19
" 25.....	85	Macomb.....	Illinois.....	87
" 25.....	6	Bangor.....	Michigan.....	40
" 25.....	55	Fairview.....	Pennsylvania.....	30
" 29.....	24	South Chicago.....	Illinois.....	33
" 29.....	...	Brooks.....	Maine.....	52
" 29.....	...	Canton.....	South Dakota.....	21
" 29.....	...	South Haven.....	Michigan.....	58
" 29.....	58	Friedens.....	Pennsylvania.....	23
" 29.....	...	Marietta.....	Ohio.....	21
" 29.....	...	New London.....	Ohio.....	20

Total number Camps, 39.

Total number applicants, 1093.

Charters have been issued as follows since January 30:

Date.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Mustered.
Feb. 1.....	59	Greenfield	Iowa (Dis).....	31
" 1.....	17	Cisne.....	Illinois.....	18
" 3.....	18	Toulon.....	Illinois.....	15
" 4.....	28	Richmond.....	Indiana.....	32
" 4.....	354	Indianapolis.....	Indiana.....	18
" 8.....	228	Gravity.....	Iowa (Dis).....	44
" 8.....	16	Chebanse.....	Illinois.....	23
" 13.....	72	South Omaha.....	Nebraska.....	26
" 13.....	41	Coer d'Alene, Ida.....	Washington.....	17
" 18.....	17	Summit Hill.....	Pennsylvania.....	18
" 18.....	49	Ballston Spa.....	New York.....	16
" 18.....	61	Cuba.....	New York.....	21
" 27.....	7	Squatatchie, Tenn.....	Alabama and Tenn.....	44
Mar. 8.....	356	Indianapolis.....	Indiana.....	32
" 15.....	7	Dunlap.....	Kansas.....	16
" 15.....	8	Contocook.....	New Hampshire.....	22
" 16.....	117	North Easton.....	Massachusetts.....	19
" 22.....	16	Maple Plain.....	Minnesota (Dis).....	29
" 22.....	54	New York.....	Iowa (Dis).....	26
" 22.....	60	Livermore.....	Iowa (Dis).....	19
" 24.....	8	Harvard.....	Michigan.....	17
" 25.....	34	Boscobel.....	Wisconsin.....	42
" 25.....	36	Kanhanna.....	Wisconsin.....	18
" 25.....	2	Hebron.....	Nebraska.....	20
" 25.....	3	Fairmont.....	Nebraska.....	43
" 29.....	54	Eryeburg.....	Maine.....	15
" 29.....	39	New Lisbon.....	Wisconsin.....	17
" 29.....	20	Pana.....	Illinois.....	43

Total number Camps mustered, 28.

Total number charter members mustered, 701.

General Orders No. 3, }
 Series of 1897. }

READING, PA., July 17, 1897.

I. Since the promulgation of the last General Orders, Division Commanders have been elected as follows :

Alabama and Tennessee.—L. W. Freidman, Birmingham, Alabama.
 California and H. I.—Charles L. Pierce, 13 Pine St., San Francisco, California.

Colorado.—Harlin Thomas, McPhee Building, Denver.

Gulf.—H. W. Robinson, 316 Hennen Building, New Orleans, La.

Illinois.—C. R. Clarke, Rockford.

Indiana.—R. S. Thompson, Rising Sun.

Iowa.—A. T. Wilson, Cedar Rapids.

Kansas.—W. P. Feder, Great Bend.

Kentucky.—T. Z. Morrow, Jr., Somerset.

Maine.—Arthur M. Soule, 453½ Congress Street, Portland.

Maryland.—Edw. K. DePuy, 626 13th St. N. E., Washington, D. C.

Michigan.—H. E. Cowdin, Rockford.

Minnesota.—Henry Stodieck, Jr., 312 First Ave., S. Minneapolis.

Missouri.—E. E. Schoening, 2341 Clark Ave., St. Louis.

New Hampshire.—Walter S. Willey, Somersworth.

New York.—John M. Diven, Elmira.

Ohio.—A. W. Jones, Youngstown.

Oregon.—L. W. Oren, Corvallis.

Pennsylvania.—Wildun Scott, Milton.

South Dakota.—R. A. Courtney, Okobojo.

Vermont.—William W. Lapoint, Barre.

West Virginia.—H. W. Thurber, 149 Market Street, Wheeling.

Wisconsin.—Charles C. Townsend, Benton.

II. The attention of new Division Commanders is called to paragraph IX of General Orders No. 7, series of 1896, relative to use of badge in preference to the Coat of Arms on Division orders and circulars. It is hoped reference will not be required to be again made to this subject. Attention is also directed to paragraph V of General Orders No. 5, same series, which contains explicit directions regarding the manner of making remittances and which must be adhered to.

III. Division Commanders are directed to see that certificates of elections are promptly forwarded to these headquarters on Forms 49 and 50. The bonds of Division Commanders must be on the regular blank prepared for that purpose, Form 19 special.

IV. The Password and Countersign for the term beginning with July 1st have been promulgated to all Divisions.

V. Division Commanders are particularly urged to have consolidated Adjutant's and Quartermaster's reports for the quarter ending June 30th forwarded promptly. The Adjutant-General must be in position to consolidate his returns not later than August 1st.

The Inspector-General reports several Divisions as still delinquent although they have been repeatedly urged to forward reports.

It should not be necessary to again remind Divisions that failure to forward these reports will deprive them of representation in the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

VI. D. W. Dwire, lately serving as Commander of the Oregon Division, having removed from that Division without having made application for or receiving leave of absence, and having remained absent, cannot be accredited as a Past Division Commander.

VII. The following Committee on Transportation for the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, at Indianapolis, September 9th to 11th, inclusive, is announced :

Past Grand Division Commander R. M. J. Reed, Chairman, 32 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia.

Quartermaster-General R. Loebenstein, 84 LaSalle Street, Chicago.

Past Division Commander George R. Cox, 48 State Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

Past Division Commander E. R. Carter, 956 Broad Street, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Division Commander Harlan Thomas, McPhee Building, Denver, Colorado.

This committee makes the preliminary announcement of the following rate arrangements : The Trunk Line Association (covering territory from Buffalo, Pittsburg and east thereof, not including New England,) and the New England Passenger Association, have made rates of one and one-third fare on the certificate plan. The Central Passenger Association has made a rate of one fare for the round trip, as have also the following roads in the territory of the Western Passenger Association :

A., T. & S. F. Railway.—From points in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas, including Superior, Nebraska. Sell for trains arriving in Chicago Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 17th.

B., C. R. & N. Railway.—From all points. Sell for trains arriving Peoria or Chicago Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 16th.

Chicago & Alton.—Illinois and Missouri points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 15th.

C., B. & N. Railway.—All points. Sell Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 16th.

C., B. & Q. Railway.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 16th.

C., M. & St. P. Railway.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 16th.

C., R. I. & Pac.—Missouri River and east thereof and Kansas and Nebraska points. Sell Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th ; return limit Sept. 15th and 16th.

C., St. P., M. & O. Railway.—All points. Sell for trains arriving in Chicago Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 18th.

"Burlington Lines" in Missouri.—All points. Sell for trains reaching St. Louis, Peoria or Chicago, Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 10th.

Illinois Central.—Points in Illinois north of Cairo and all points in Iowa. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

Iowa Central.—All points. Sell Sept. 7th, 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

Jacksonville & St. Louis.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 16th.

Mo. Pac. Railway.—All points except Colorado. Sell for trains arriving in St. Louis Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

St. L. & S. F. Railway.—All points. Sell for trains arriving in St. Louis Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

Sioux City & Pac. Railway.—Details later.

F., E. & M. V. R. R.—Details later.

Wabash R. R.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 16th.

Wisconsin Central.—All points. Sell Sept. 8th and 9th; return limit Sept. 16th.

B. & Mo. River in Nebraska.—Points in Kansas and Nebraska. Sell Sept. 7th and 8th; return limit Sept. 17th.

St. J. & G. I. Railway.—Points in Kansas and Nebraska. Sell Sept. 7th and 9th; return limit Sept. 17th.

Minneapolis & St. Louis R. R.—One fare, all points. Sell Sept. 7th and 8th; return limit Sept. 16th.

Union Pacific System.—One fare, Kansas and Nebraska points. Sell Sept. 7th and 8th.

Additional announcements will be made in subsequent General Orders.

VIII. Division Commanders are requested to forward at once to Hon. L. A. Thurston, care Hawaiian Legation, Washington, D. C., a copy of the Roster of Camps in their respective Divisions.

IX. Upon recommendation of Division Commanders the following Camp Charters have been revoked:

New York Division: Nos. 27, Dover Plains; 44, Canastota; 46, Marathon; 62, LeRoy; 73, New Bremen; 76, Oneida; 84, Dickinson Centre; 92, Hornelsville; 94, Ellenville; 145, Rockland; 165, Watertown; 181, Bolivar; 195, Wayland; 213 Binghamton.

Iowa Division: Nos. 23, Keswick; 24, Britt; 26, Bedford; 27, Sioux Rapids; 37, Washington; 80, Perry; 116, Rockwell City; 135, Humbolt; 200, Fruitland; 213, Shelby; 271, Hesper; 274, Moulton; 275, Ladora; 286, Muscative; 289, Milton.

This also applies to a number of dormant Camps in the Divisions of Kansas and Indiana, as reported March 31, 1897.

X. Division Commanders are reminded that all orders must be promulgated.

XI. Past Division Commanders will be furnished with General Orders from Division Headquarters.

By command of

J. I. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

A. A. Hammer

Adjutant-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,
84 La Salle St., Room 7,
CHICAGO, ILL., May 1st, 1897. }

J. L. RAKE, Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A., Reading, Pa.

Dear Sir and Brother:—I have the honor to submit my report for the quarter ending March 31st, 1897:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

DR.	CR.
Cash on hand, as per last report.....\$ 265 84	Paid for:
Received for supplies..... 1107 42	Supplies (including cost of shipping).....\$ 724 23
Received for P. C. tax.... 1375 26	General expenses..... 9 75
Received for charter fees.. 99 00	Office expenses..... 345 64
	General orders..... 89 86
	15th National Encampment 130 00
	Salaries..... 875 00
	Traveling expenses..... 137 05
	Miscellaneous..... 4 17
	Cash on hand..... 531 17
\$2847 52	\$2847 52

March 31st, 1897. Supplies on hand, as per inventory.....\$1432 66

GENERAL ACCOUNT, MARCH 31st, 1897.

ASSETS.	LIABILITIES.
Furniture.....\$ 594 99	A. P. Davis.....\$ 152 70
Supplies..... 1432 66	Cameron, Amberg & Co... 25 50
Cash..... 531 17	Various Divisions..... 1 62
Various Divisions..... 35 29	Surplus..... 2414 20
\$2594 11	\$2594 11

PROFIT AND LOSS, MARCH 31st, 1897.

LOSSES.	GAINS.
General orders.....\$ 89 86	Charter fees.....\$ 99 00
Salaries..... 875 00	P. C. tax..... 1374 53
Traveling expenses..... 137 05	Supplies..... 227 40
Office expenses..... 345 64	
General expenses..... 9 75	
15th National Encampment 130 00	
Balance (net gain)..... 113 03	
\$1700 93	\$1700 93

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

Since last publication applications for charters have been approved as follows :

Date Approval.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Applicants.
Apr. 3, 1897....	17	Hamilton.....	Michigan	20
" 5, 1897....	31	Iowa City.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	15
" 8, 1897....	2	Baptist Church, Va.	Maryland.....	15
" 8, 1897....	2	Elizabeth City, N. C.	Maryland.....	15
" 10, 1897....	59	Fairfield.....	Pennsylvania.....	35
" 12, 1897....	...	East Jordan.....	Michigan.....	35
" 12, 1897....	146	Allegan.....	Michigan.....	31
" 13, 1897....	141	Nantucket.....	Massachusetts.....	20
" 15, 1897....	...	Terre Haute.....	Illinois.....	20
" 17, 1897....	...	Dunkirk.....	New York.....	38
" 19, 1897....	357	Mier.....	Indiana.....	19
" 19, 1897....	...	Elgin.....	Illinois.....	45
" 19, 1897....	124	Polo.....	Illinois (Dis.).....	20
" 22, 1897....	358	Parragan.....	Indiana.....	25
" 24, 1897....	15	Henderson.....	Kentucky.....	19
" 24, 1897....	170	Lebanon.....	Nebraska (Dis.).....	25
" 26, 1897....	18	Newark.....	New Jersey.....	10
" 26, 1897....	8	Huntington.....	Indiana.....	19
" 28, 1897....	62	Ireton.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	18
" 28, 1897....	78	Cresco.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	22
" 30, 1897....	14	Palco.....	Kansas.....	16
May 4, 1897....	61	David.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	20
" 4, 1897....	69	Mitchell.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	19
" 4, 1897....	64	Big Run.....	Pennsylvania.....	48
" 6, 1897....	359	Avon.....	Indiana.....	21
" 7, 1897....	7	Pennville.....	Indiana.....	24
" 10, 1897....	16	Elizabethtown.....	Kentucky (Dis.).....	15
" 13, 1897....	...	Rochester.....	Michigan.....	17
" 14, 1897....	...	Millington.....	Michigan.....	15
" 14, 1897....	12	Green Bay.....	Wisconsin.....	20
" 14, 1897....	1	Pawnee Rock.....	Kansas.....	21
" 14, 1897....	4	Jennings (Okla.).....	Kansas.....	16
" 17, 1897....	11	Centre Sandwich.....	New Hampshire.....	24
" 19, 1897....	56	Yarmouth.....	Maine.....	23
" 20, 1897....	59	East Wilton.....	Maine.....	22
" 20, 1897....	173	Patchgue.....	New York.....	20
" 22, 1897....	40	Berlin.....	Wisconsin (Dis.).....	28
" 22, 1897....	41	East Troy.....	Wisconsin (Dis.).....	18
" 24, 1897....	44	Elizabethtown.....	New York.....	26
" 24, 1897....	88	Palestine.....	Illinois.....	17
" 24, 1897....	85	East Smithfield.....	Pennsylvania.....	29
" 26, 1897....	...	Au Sable.....	Michigan.....	22
" 26, 1897....	4	Cripple Creek.....	Colorado (Dis.).....	17
" 26, 1897....	13	Denver.....	Colorado (Dis.).....	37
" 27, 1897....	...	Pan-Pan.....	Michigan.....	40
" 28, 1897....	18	Batavia.....	New York.....	29
June 1, 1897....	...	Old Town.....	Maine.....	33
" 1, 1897....	17	Salinas City.....	California (Dis.).....	18
" 2, 1897....	9	Tallahpoosa (Ga.).....	Ala. and Penn. (Dis.).....	16
" 4, 1897....	70	Bloomfield.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	20
" 7, 1897....	191	Russell.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	25
" 7, 1897....	...	Isadora.....	Missouri.....	28
" 10, 1897....	9	Kalispell (Mon.).....	Washington (Dis.).....	15
" 10, 1897....	27	Cooperstown.....	New York (Dis.).....	24
" 11, 1897....	...	Wellsburg.....	West Virginia.....	40
" 11, 1897....	5	Kasota.....	Minnesota (Dis.).....	29

APPLICATIONS FOR CHARTERS—Continued.

June 11, 1897....	18	Fariboult.....	Minnesota (Dis.).....	23
" 14, 1897....	....	Alexandria.....	South Dakota.....	17
" 15, 1897....	124	Onawa.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	33
" 15, 1897....	194	Pittston.....	Pennsylvania.....	21
" 16, 1897....	27	Hildalgo.....	Illinois.....	19
" 21, 1897....	....	Cape Girardeau.....	Missouri.....	22
" 21, 1897....	46	Belmont.....	New York (Dis.).....	20
" 21, 1897....	47	Sloatsburg.....	New York.....	20
" 21, 1897....	....	Gardiner.....	Maine.....	33
" 22, 1897....	510	Pierpont.....	Ohio.....	24
" 25, 1897....	360	Windfall.....	Indiana.....	16
" 25, 1897....	8	Valley City, N. D.....	South Dakota (Dis.).....	23
" 28, 1897....	....	Wessington Springs.....	South Dakota.....	23
" 28, 1897....	....	Cornell.....	Illinois.....	15
" 30, 1897....	....	Mehama.....	Oregon.....	22
" 30, 1897....	33	Columbus.....	Indiana.....	55
July 3, 1897....	5	Moresano.....	Washington.....	19
" 3, 1897....	....	West Bend.....	Wisconsin.....	18
" 6, 1897....	....	Bancroft.....	Michigan.....	22
" 6, 1897....	....	Monroe.....	Maine.....	27
" 6, 1897....	....	Washburne.....	South Dakota.....	15
" 6, 1897....	....	Astland.....	Pennsylvania.....	29
" 12, 1897....	51	Mechanicsville.....	New York.....	29
" 12, 1897....	....	Howard City.....	Michigan.....	42
" 12, 1897....	....	Pueblo.....	Colorado.....	16

Total number applications for Camp charters, 82.

Total number applicants, 1,929.

The following Camps, showing number of members, have been mustered and chartered since last announcement :

Date of Issue.	Camp No.	Location.	Division.	No. Mustered.
April 3, 1897....	6	Bangor	Michigan	36.
" 5, 1897	10	Keene.....	New Hampshire.....	21
" 5, 1897....	31	Iowa City	Iowa	15
" 5, 1897....	185	Concord.....	Massachusetts.....	38
" 8, 1897....	1	Phœbus (Ft. Monroe, Va.)..	Maryland	15
" 9, 1897....	39	Patton.....	Pennsylvania	15
" 9, 1897....	19	Harrisburg.....	Illinois.....	20
" 9, 1897....	24	South Chicago.....	Illinois.....	30
" 19, 1897....	124	Polo.....	Illinois (Dis.).....	26
" 20, 1897....	55	Fairview.....	Pennsylvania.....	24
" 21, 1897....	85	Macomb.....	Illinois.....	58
" 22, 1897....	508	New London.....	Ohio.....	20
" 24, 1897....	170	Lebanon.....	Nebraska (Dis.).....	25
" 26, 1897....	38	Diamond Bluff	Wisconsin.....	17
" 28, 1897....	17	Hamilton	Michigan.....	20
" 28, 1897....	2	South Haven.....	Michigan.....	58
" 28, 1897....	62	Ireton.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	18
" 28, 1897....	78	Cresco.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	22
" 29, 1897....	10	Arlington (Okla.).....	Kansas.....	19
" 29, 1897....	30	Terre Haute.....	Illinois.....	20
" 29, 1897....	31	Elgin.....	Illinois.....	74
" 30, 1897....	58	Frieden's.....	Pennsylvania.....	20
" 30, 1897....	59	Fairfield.....	Pennsylvania.....	19
May 3, 1897....	3	Canton.....	South Dakota.....	20
" 4, 1897....	61	David.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	20
" 4, 1897....	69	Mitchell.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	19
" 5, 1897....	55	Brooks.....	Maine.....	25
" 5, 1897....	509	Marietta.....	Ohio.....	15
" 5, 1897....	141	Nantucket	Massachusetts.....	20
" 7, 1897....	146	Allegan.....	Michigan.....	32
" 10, 1897....	16	Elizabethtown	Kentucky (Dis.).....	15
" 11, 1897....	4	Lexington.....	Kentucky.....	24
" 11, 1897....	14	Louisville.....	Kentucky.....	20
" 12, 1897....	8	Huntington.....	Indiana.....	20
" 13, 1897....	357	Mier.....	Indiana.....	17
" 13, 1897....	358	Parragan.....	Indiana.....	24
" 14, 1897....	12	Green Bay.....	Wisconsin (Dis.).....	20
" 14, 1897....	24	Dunkirk.....	New York.....	40
" 17, 1897....	2	Baptist Rock (Va.).....	Maryland.....	15
" 17, 1897....	2	Elizabeth City (N. C.).....	Maryland.....	15
" 22, 1897....	40	Berlin.....	Wisconsin (Dis.).....	28
" 22, 1897....	41	East Troy.....	Wisconsin (Dis.).....	18
" 24, 1897....	64	Big Run.....	Pennsylvania.....	22
" 24, 1897....	14	Palco.....	Kansas.....	16
" 24, 1897....	18	Newark.....	New Jersey.....	17
" 26, 1897....	4	Cripple Creek.....	Colorado (Dis.).....	17
" 26, 1897....	13	Denver.....	Colorado (Dis.).....	37
" 31, 1897....	15	Henderson.....	Kentucky.....	15
June 1, 1897....	17	Salinas City.....	Cal. and H. I. (Dis.)..	18
" 2, 1897....	56	Yarmouth.....	Maine.....	35
" 2, 1897....	59	East Wilton.....	Maine.....	26
" 2, 1897....	9	Tallapoosa (Ga.).....	Ala. and Tenn. (Dis.)..	16
" 4, 1897....	70	Bloomfield.....	Iowa (Dis.).....	20
" 11, 1897....	1	Pawnee Rock.....	Kansas.....	18
" 11, 1897....	4	Jennings (Okla.).....	Kansas.....	16

CAMP'S MUSTERED—Continued.

June 11, 1897....	191	Russell	Iowa (Dis.).....	25
" 11, 1897....	9	Kalispell (Mon.).....	Washington (Dis.)....	15
" 11, 1897....	27	Cooperstown.....	New York (Dis.).....	24
" 11, 1897....	5	Kasata.....	Minnesota (Dis.).....	29
" 11, 1897....	18	Faribault	Minnesota (Dis.).....	23
" 12, 1897....	44	Elizabethtown.....	New York.....	37
" 12, 1897....	173	Patchogue	New York.....	15
" 14, 1897....	25	East Jordan.....	Michigan.....	38
" 14, 1897....	234	Rochester.....	Michigan.....	19
" 14, 1897....	235	Millington.....	Michigan.....	16
" 15, 1897....	124	Onawa	Iowa (Dis.).....	33
" 16, 1897....	88	Palestine	Illinois.....	20
" 16, 1897....	7	Pennville.....	Indiana.....	20
" 17, 1897....	11	Centre Sandwich.....	New Hampshire.....	17
" 18, 1897....	18	Batavia	New York.....	29
" 21, 1897....	46	Belmont	New York (Dis.).....	20
" 21, 1897....	359	Avon	Indiana.....	15
" 25, 1897....	194	Pittston	Pennsylvania.....	25
" 25, 1897....	8	Valley City (N. D.)....	South Dakota (Dis.)..	23
" 26, 1897....	24	Bradford.....	Vermont.....	24
" 28, 1897....	55	Isadora.....	Missouri.....	26
July 6, 1897....	14	Cape Girardeau.....	Missouri.....	23
" 6, 1897....	109	Au Sable	Michigan.....	16
" 12, 1897....	27	Hidalgo	Illinois.....	16

Total number Camps chartered, 79.

Total number of members mustered, 1,853.

General Orders No. 4, }
 Series of 1897. }

READING, PA., August 9, 1897.

I. The Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief is hereby ordered to convene at Indianapolis, at nine o'clock A. M., September 9th, 1897. Headquarters will be established at the Denison Hotel, where the members of the Council-in-Chief are directed to assemble at eight o'clock P. M., September 8th, 1897.

II. The Chairman of the Transportation Committee submits the following information :

Railroad rates, for round trip, as follows :

New England Passenger Association—Territory: New England States. Fare, one and a third on Certificate.

Trunk Line Association—Territory : Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Dunkirk and Salamanca, N. Y.; Erie and Pittsburg, Pa.; Bellaire, Ohio; Wheeling, Parkersburg and Huntingdon, W. Va., and points east thereof, except New England. Fare and a third on Certificate.

Central Passenger Association—Territory: Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and portions of Pennsylvania and New York. One first-class fare for round trip.

Western Passenger Association, one first-class fare for round trip.

Southern Passenger Association—Territory: South of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers and east of the Mississippi River. One fare and a third on Certificate.

The official train, with the Commander-in-Chief and Staff and the Past Officers and delegates of Pennsylvania, will leave over the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. from 24th and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, at 12.20 P. M., on Tuesday, September 7th, 1897. The Commander-in-Chief cordially invites and it is his wish to have the officers and delegates from New England, New York, New Jersey and Maryland accompany him on this train, and pleasant and comfortable arrangements will be provided for all who will notify the Chairman of the Committee not later than September 1st.

Delegates from New England and New York will leave New York City, over the Jersey Central and Reading R. R., at 10.00 A. M. on morning of September 7th, reaching Philadelphia in time for the official train.

The Chairman of the Transportation Committee will be very glad to look after the comfort of any of the brothers who will notify him of their coming, and to provide accommodations on the sleepers.

Delegates using the Certificate plan will pay full fare going and get a Certificate filled in on one side by the agent of whom the ticket is purchased. If, however, the ticket agent at a local station is not supplied with Certificates and through tickets to the place of meeting, he can inform the delegate of the nearest important station where they can be obtained. In such case the delegate should purchase a local ticket to such station and there take up his Certificate and through ticket to Indianapolis. Tickets for going passage will be sold only within three days (not including Sunday) prior to the date of the meeting. Have your Certificate signed by Quartermaster-General Loebenstein as soon as you reach Indianapolis so that they can be vised by special agent of the R. R. On presentation of the Certificate, duly filled on both sides, to the ticket agent at Indianapolis within three days after adjournment (Sunday excepted) the holder will be furnished return ticket for one-third regular fare. No refund fare will be made on account of any person failing to obtain a Certificate. All persons intending to go by the official train, whether from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, New England or Maryland, are requested to at once notify Major R. M. J. Reed, No. 32 North Fifth Street, Philadelphia, Pa., who will be glad to make arrangements for their accommodation and comfort.

The Chicago Great Western Railway makes a one fare rate from all points on its lines, selling September 7th and 8th; return limit, September 16th.

The Chicago and N. W. Railway makes a one fare rate from all points on its lines, selling September 7th, 8th and 9th; return limit, September 16th.

The General Passenger Agent of the Queen and Crescent Route (Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific Railway Co.) advises Brother Carter as follows:

"Your letter of 20th instant reached me this morning. I am advised that for ~~S~~ons of Veterans' meeting at Indianapolis the lines from Cincinnati have made rate of one far for round trip, tickets to be sold September 8th and 9th, good returning until 15th. We will make rate from Chattanooga for this occasion on same basis \$12.80 for round trip. From Harriman Junction we will make rate of \$10.40, selling tickets September 8th and 9th, good returning to include the 15th. I have advised Mr. Joseph Richardson, Chairman Southern Passenger Association, that we will take this action, requesting that similar rate be made from territory of Southeastern Passenger Association. Will you have the kindness to advise me from what points in the South there will be a movement of Sons of Veterans for Indianapolis, and will you give us your assistance in controlling business for our line? An early reply will be appreciated."

Information not covered by this and the preceding General Orders, can be obtained by addressing the members of the Transportation Committee, as announced in General Orders No. 3.

III. The Local Committee for the entertainment of the delegates and members of the Encampment, we are advised, are actively at work

perfecting their arrangements and bespeak for their guests a most enjoyable reception.

The hotel rates, we are advised, will be \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00 and \$3.50 per day, although the Committee have not submitted the list of names of the respective hotels.

Through the Quartermaster-General we learn that the rates at the Denison Hotel will be as follows: Two persons occupying room jointly, \$2.50 per day each; one person to room, \$3.00 per day; rooms with bath, \$3.50 per day each. Delegations of from 18 to 25 persons can get entire suites, two beds to a room, with three baths in the suite, at the \$2.50 rate.

Communications for hotel accommodations should be addressed to Brother S. S. Mullen, Adjutant Indiana Division, Lombard Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

IV. Since the promulgation of the last General Orders the Washington Division (then reported delinquent) has made report for the March quarter, with 636 members in good standing, as against 678 members the preceding quarter.

V. After the Grand Army of the Republic had been organized, about the same length of time or period of years that now marks the existence of the Sons of Veterans, a project was inaugurated, which with the individual efforts and labors of many of those active in the work of that Order, largely was the means of bringing about results that they now show for that splendid organization, especially in relation to its membership.

We have the same source and vital force enlisted in our behalf and at work for us that so very materially aided in bringing about the success of the Grand Army of the Republic from the period when it was at a standstill.

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C., whose excellent work in our behalf for some time past, in the organization of new Camps, as many Division Commanders can testify, has again come to our assistance in a most substantial and worthy manner, placing us under greater obligations for its excellent aid.

With the object of inciting a new interest in our Order, and arousing sentiment and opinion in our favor among those with whom its effect cannot but be most beneficial, we hope to consummate in the very near future an arrangement whereby THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will receive direct at their office applications for charters for Camps.

IV. In the-court martial of George E. Marsh, Camp 211, Nodaway, Iowa, who was found guilty of conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order, and sentenced to be dishonorably discharged, the proceedings, findings and sentence have been approved and the sentence ordered carried into effect.

VII. Upon recommendation of the Division Commander the charters of Camp No. 7, at Morristown, and Camp No. 3, at Newark, both of the New Jersey Division, have been revoked and are hereby declared forfeited.

VIII. In promulgating to the Order these concluding General Orders, the Commander-in-Chief embraces the opportunity to express his sincere thanks to all the loyal members of the Order for their active

co-operation and encouragement. Not a single discordant incident has arisen during the year to mar the pleasant official intercourse between the several Divisions and the Commander-in-Chief. The officers and staff have vied with each other in their endeavors to execute the work allotted to them.

With this satisfactory condition existing we may well thank Him above, who has watched over the destiny of our great country, and implore His blessings for the future.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official :

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. A. Hammer". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized hand.

Adjutant-General.

OFFICIAL CIRCULARS.

INSPECTOR GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

Circular No. 1.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., *October 24, 1896.*

The following are the assignments for Assistant Inspectors-General to inspect Headquarters of the several Divisions :

DIVISION.	ASST. INSPECTOR-GEN'L.	RANK.	ADDRESS.
Ala. and Tenn.	R. M. Buckley	Jr. Vice Com.-in-Chief..	641 Court Pl., Louisville, Ky.
California.....	Frank C. Shipley.....	Past Div. Commander...	Oakland, Cal.
Colorado.....	C. Borin.....	Council-in-Chief	Oberlin, Kan.
Connecticut....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Gulf.....	James Lewis, jr.....	Past Captain	New Orleans, La.
Illinois.....	F. C. Stillson.....	Past Inspector-General..	Battle Creek, Mich.
Indiana.....	Dan S. Gardner, M. D.	Past Surgeon-General...	Massillon, O.
Iowa.....	R. Lobenstein.....	Quartermaster-General.	Chicago, Ill.
Kansas.....	J. H. Helne.....	Council-in-Chief	Hooper, Neb.
Kentucky.....	D. Q. Morrow.....	Division Commander...	Hillsboro, Mich.
Maine.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Maryland.....	James Lewis Rake....	Commander-in-Chief....	Reading, Pa.
Massachusetts.	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Michigan.....	Rev. Somerville Light.	Chaplain-in-Chief.....	Wabash, Ind.
Minnesota.....	Leo W. Kennedy.....	Sr. Vice Com.-in-Chief..	City Hall, Denver, Col.
Missouri.....	John Redmond.....	Judge Advocate-Gen'l..	Burlington, Kan.
Nebraska.....	W. H. Russell.....	Past Com.-in-Chief.....	LaCrosse, Kan.
N. Hampshire.	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General.....	Providence, R. I.
New Jersey.....	E. W. Alexander.....	Personal Aide.....	Reading, Pa.
New York.....	Wm. B. McNulty.....	Past Div. Commander....	1025 Arch St., Phila., Pa.
Ohio.....	Maj. R. M. J. Reed....	Past Grand Div. Com....	1111 Arch St., Phila., Pa.
Oregon.....	E. Weldon Young.....	Past Surgeon-General....	Seattle, Wash.
Pennsylvania..	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Rhode Island..	George E. Cox.....	Division Commander....	Hartford, Conn.
South Dakota..	F. A. Burdick.....	Inspector	White, S. D.
Vermont.....	Arthur B. Spink.....	Inspector-General	Providence, R. I.
Washington....	D. M. Dwirc.....	Division Commander....	Salem, Ore.
West Virginia.	F. W. Myers.....	Council-in-Chief.....	Parkersburg.
Wisconsin.....	Dr. J. A. Mubbs.....	Surgeon-General	Holland, Mich.

Actual expenses incurred by Assistant Inspectors-General will be borne by the Divisions inspected.

Assistant-Inspectors General will practice rigid economy in the performance of their duties, and they will immediately upon receipt of this order arrange with the respective Division Commanders satisfactory dates, reporting the same immediately to Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General, Box 1310, Providence, R. I.

The Inspector-General, assisted by Past Commander-in-Chief Louis M. Wagner, will inspect Commandery-in-Chief Headquarters, comprising the Departments of the Commander-in-Chief and the Adjutant-General.

The Commander-in-Chief, assisted by the Adjutant-General, will inspect the Quartermaster-General's Department.

All inspections will have to be made prior to December 1st, as provided for in the C., R. and R.

ARTHUR B. SPINK,
Inspector-General.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,)
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.)
READING, PA., October 27, 1896.

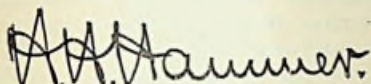
The foregoing is hereby approved and promulgated.

Any vacancies occurring will be supplied by the Inspector-General, who should be consulted upon all matters directly affecting inspections.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official :



Adjutant-General.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

Circular No. 2.

WABASH, IND., January 4, 1897..

Brothers of our Noble Order :

The Wheel of the Year has nearly completed another revolution and we are within finger tips of one of the charm days in the calendar of our Order, viz.: Lincoln, or Union Defenders' Day. This is a great day, because it is the anniversary of a great birth; a great day, because of what has come to us as a nation and people through that birth; a great day to all Young Americans, because it holds up before them, in that character, a striking illustration of the possibilities of American Manhood in this land of freedom and equality. Abraham Lincoln! His biography is written in blood and tears; uncounted millions arise and call him blessed; a redeemed and re-united republic is his monument. History embalms the name of Richard, the Lion-hearted; here too, our martyr finds royal sepulture, as Lincoln, the tender hearted. He was brave. While assassins swarmed in Washington, he went everywhere, without guard or arms. He was magnanimous. He harbored no grudge, nursed no grievance, was quick to forgive and was anxious for reconciliation. Hear him appealing to the South: "We are not enemies, but friends. Though passion may have strained it must not break the bond of our affection. The mystic chord of memory, stretching from every patriot grave to every heart and hearth-stone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when touched again, as it surely will be, by the better angels of our nature."

He was compassionate. With what joy he brought liberty to the enslaved. He was forgiving. In this respect he was strikingly suggestive of the Saviour.

He was great. Time will but augment the greatness of his name and fame. Perhaps a greater man never ruled in this or any other nation.

He was good and pure and incorruptible. He was a patriot; he loved his country; he poured out his soul unto death for it.

He was human, and thus touched the chord that makes the world akin.

"No Caesar he whom we lament,
A man without a precedent,
Sent, it would seem, to do
His work, and perish, too."

But the day is even nearer and dearer to us as Sons of Veterans, when we pause and think of the sacrifices of our worthy sires, living and dead, who were associated, in the dark days gone by, with this brave, magnanimous, compassionate, immortal man. In justice to these brave men, we should not overlook the fact that, without them, this man, whose history is written, whose praises are everywhere sung, and to whom monuments have been reared, could never have preserved the Union and maintained our glorious American Liberty. They saved to us, and for us, this lovely land, these benign institutions; they are ours; ours to enjoy, ours to preserve, ours to transmit. This gem of the government of the globe is in our care; the heroes placed it there. Ought we not perpetuate their memory? They suffered for us many days of weariness and pain; and shall not we spend at least one or two of the three hundred and sixty-five in respect to their memory? Can we be true to our manhood and withhold such service? It is only doing unto others as we would that they should do unto us; for there is an inherent desire in every soul to be remembered. What more cruel than to be forgotten by our friends and comrades; our names and deeds to find no mention?

The mariner flings the farewell kiss with a "Remember me." The soldier wrote in his blood, "Remember me." And we all say:

"Death shall not claim the immortal mind;
Let earth close o'er its sacred trust,
Yet goodness dies not in the dust."

Our Divine Lord silenced the murmuring throng at His anointing with words of commendation co-extensive with the gospel He preached. Rising higher, we find Him framing a memorial service to perpetuate His own memory throughout all time. "This do in remembrance of Me." In view of this law of desire, history has been and is being written. For this the halls and galleries are filled with familiar faces and forms. In obedience to this claim, and deeply sensible of the fact that we can never pay the debt which is upon us; let us assemble on Union Defenders' Day, and, by spirited, patriotic services, pay another tribute of respect to the memory of our Nation's Defenders, who were and are so noble and true. Chaplains! Captains! Division Officers! Brothers! let us all line up! Let every man do his duty on February 12th, 1897. I trust that the accompanying order of exercises may be suggestive and helpful on that day, and that an unusually large number of Camps may report having observed the day.

PROGRAM FOR UNION DEFENDERS' DAY.

General Topic.

OUR COUNTRY: HER DEFENDERS AND SAVIOURS.

Introductory.

1. Song, "Blest be the Tie That Binds."
2. Prayer.
3. A short address on "Union Defenders' Day."

Part First—"Our Country."

1. Song, "America."
2. "Our Country's Call."—Bryant. A Recitation.

3. The Response, "Three Hundred Thousand More." Recitation.
4. "Our Country's Flag." "The Stripes and the Stars." Recitation.
5. National Hymn of the S. of V., "The Banner of Beauty and Glory."

Part Second—"Our Country's Defenders."

1. Her Men.
 - a. The Principal Address of the Evening.
 - b. Song, "The Flag of Lincoln and Washington."
2. Her Women.
 - a. Mothers, "The Mothers of Our Volunteers." Recitation.
 - b. Wives, "The Brave at Home." Recitation.
 - c. Maidens, "A Woman of the War." Recitation.

Concluding Hymn—"The Patriot's Doxology."

The above program is so arranged that the Sons may call to their assistance the G. A. R., W. R. C. and the L. A. S. in carrying it out. All the literature needed is 1. A copy of the Popular Libretto prepared by Rev. W. O. Pierce, D. D., Winchester, Ind. As this Libretto contains the National Hymn of the S. of V., every Camp should have several copies on hand. Send to the above address for them. 2. A copy of the charming little book of poems entitled, "Bugle Echoes," by The Stokes Company, New York. The recitations suggested are all in this book.

Trusting that the program may be helpful,

I remain yours, in F., C. and L.,

S. LIGHT, *Chaplain-in-Chief.*

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, }
 SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A. }
 READING, PA., *January 7, 1897.*

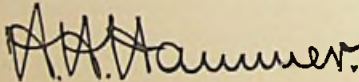
The foregoing is hereby approved and promulgated.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:



Adjutant-General.

Circular No. 3.

READING, PA., *January 20th, 1897.*

To the Grand Army of the Republic:

To whom, if not to those honored veterans of the Civil War, the members of the Grand Army of the Republic, should the Sons of Veterans turn for co-operation and assistance in the work of building up their organization? The same blood that coursed through the veins of the "boys of '61 to '65," and prompted them to the support of the cause that meant the preservation of the Union, flows through the veins of their sons, who are organized that those deeds of valor and patriotism shall not be forgotten; that the priceless lives, the empty sleeves, and the precious blood with which treason was suppressed shall stand as a constant reminder of the perpetuity of our country's institutions as founded by Washington and so firmly re-established by the martyred Lincoln.

The Sons of Veterans have not sought, nor do they aspire, to the position occupied by the Grand Army of the Republic. This, in the very nature of things, can never be. We come to you only as your sons, soliciting your earnest aid and support in the establishment of new Camps, and in the strengthening of existing ones, that our membership may be so increased and our work so advanced that when the time shall come—as come it must—that we may be called upon to assist in promoting the purposes for which the Grand Army of the Republic was founded, we may be found numerically organized for the successful prosecution of this labor of love and patriotism.

We invite your careful perusal of the principles and objects of our Order :

PRINCIPLES.

SECTION 1. A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, and a realization that under His beneficent guidance the free institutions of our land, consecrated by the services and blood of our fathers, have been preserved, and the integrity and life of the Nation maintained.

SEC. 2. True allegiance to the Government of the United States of America, based upon a respect for, and devotion and fidelity to, its Constitution and Laws, manifested by the discountenancing of anything that may tend to weaken Loyalty, incite to Insurrection, Treason or Rebellion, or in any manner impair the efficiency and permanency of our National Union.

OBJECTS.

SECTION 1. To keep green the memories of our fathers, and their sacrifices for the maintenance of the Union.

SEC. 2. To aid the members of the Grand Army of the Republic and all honorably discharged Union soldiers, sailors and marines in caring for their helpless and disabled veterans; to extend aid and protection to their widows and orphans; to perpetuate the memory and history of their heroic dead, and the proper observance of Memorial Day and Union Defenders' Day.

SEC. 3. To aid and assist worthy and needy members of our Order.

SEC. 4. To inculcate patriotism and love of country, not only among our membership, but among all the people of our land, and to spread and sustain the doctrine of equal rights, universal liberty and justice to all.

ELIGIBILITY TO MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. All male descendants not less than eighteen years of age, of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union army or navy during the Civil War of 1861-1865, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has, ever borne arms against the government of the United States of America.

We make an earnest appeal to the end that a Camp of Sons of Veterans may be found to flourish under the fostering care of every Post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Information and blanks necessary for the formation of Camps may be obtained from the Division Commander in your State, or will be cheerfully forwarded from these headquarters upon request.

Faithfully yours,

Official :

H. H. HAMMER,

Adjutant-General.

J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS
 GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
 OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
 OMAHA, NEB., Dec. 12th, 1896.

Recognizing that our sons must take up the work we soon shall lay aside; and recognizing also the great importance of organization in their ranks as well as our own, the Commander-in-Chief most heartily commends to all Commanders and comrades the address herewith issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, and asks their hearty co-operation in sustaining Camps already organized, and in the organization of new ones.

To J. L. RAKE,

Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans,

Reading, Pa.

T. S. CLARKSON,
Commander-in-Chief.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

Circular No. 4.

BLUFFTON, IND., April 28, 1897.

BROTHERS :—The day, America's glorious Memorial Day, the day when this nation is expected to be at the graves of her soldiers in commemoration of their faithfulness and self-sacrifice, even unto the death, is not far distant. We approach the day with feelings of mingled pain and pleasure. Pain, because of a keen sense of appreciation of the severe struggles, the intense sufferings and the black midnight darkness of the Valley of the Shadow of Death, through which our beloved heroes and saviours passed that we might enjoy such glorious liberty and be the possessors of such benign institutions. Pleasure, because the day affords all true, noble, loyal and patriotic American citizens the heaven-born privilege of leaving the busy walks of life for the quiet streets of the silent city of the heroic dead, and with appropriate music, eloquent eulogies, choice flowers and wreaths of beautiful leaves, lay upon Memory's Altar another token of love and reverence for those who were

"The pillar of a people's hope,

The centre of a world's desire"

and gratitude for the patriotic living concerning whom one has beautifully sung :

"Honor and love to the soldiers give,
 Their deeds of valor will ever live ;
 Cherished in memory bright and fair,
 Our national pride and safety they are."

While this day is recognized as G. A. R. Day let it not be forgotten that it is also Sons of Veteran's Day. On this day every heart of every son of a veteran in all this broad land ought to respond to the call of the Commander-in-Chief, the Commanders and Chaplains of the several Divisions, the Captains and Chaplains and enter into the exercises of the day with the zeal and enthusiasm that characterized the days of enlistment and the organization of the armies out of which our brave American soldiers have fallen. May we, as sons of veterans, feel deeply how much of what we are and what we possess, we owe to the liberty and institutions purchased for us by the blood of our fathers. Let us not forget that all that we with the hosts assembled in the myriads of congeries of this land can do to honor the heroes who gave us these blessings

will not be a fit tribute to their memory so dear. Could we cause a monument to ascend not only till it reached the skies, but till it pierced them, its broad surface could contain but part of that which shall outlive the duration of letters and knowledge among men. Let us, therefore, as members of this noble Order, put forth our best effort to show our loyalty to and love for the members of the G. A. R. Let us at all times, and especially on Memorial Day, assist the Grand Army in such manner as may seem most expedient to that organization. Every brother is expected to use his influence toward making May 30th more of a holy day and less of a holiday.

Let every Camp religiously observe Memorial Sunday as well as Memorial Day. By so doing and turning out in a body to the service, in due form, you will commend our Order to the attention of the thoughtful people of every community where a Camp is located.

Brothers, in a quiet, unobtrusive, but none the less effective manner, let us make ourselves felt and appreciated this year as never before. Let every Camp be on the alert and seize every opportunity to perform such services on May 23d and 30th as will enable it to, as nearly as possible, fill every blank in the Chaplain's report with that which will appear as a record of good work done for the Order. Wherever it can be done harmoniously let Camps secure speakers from the ranks of our Order.

Let me in conclusion urge upon Division Chaplains the importance of promptness in forwarding reports. The reports must be in my hands not later than July 1st.

Yours in F., C. and L.,

S. LIGHT,
Chaplain-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, }
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A. }

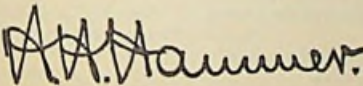
READING, PA., May 3, 1897.

The foregoing is hereby approved and promulgated, with the hope that every member in the Order will be found in line in regulation uniform.

By command of

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official :



Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 1.

READING, PA., November 2, 1896.

C. L. Henley, *Commander Camp No. 17, Division Indiana, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Wabash, Ind.:*

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—By virtue of the authority in us vested, you are hereby authorized and directed, in our name and in our behalf, to duly install Brother Somerville Light as Chaplain-in-Chief of the Order for this administration. This you will arrange for at the earliest possible date

convenient to you both. You will return this order, reporting to the Commander-in-Chief all your acts performed by virtue of the same.

This Special Order shall be your authority.

Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 2.

READING, PA., November 2, 1896.

W. A. Holley, Senior Vice-Commander Michigan Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Holland, Mich.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—By virtue of the authority in us vested, you are hereby authorized and directed, in our name and in our behalf, to duly install Brother J. A. Mabbs as Surgeon-General of the Order for this administration, and this Special Order shall be your authority. This you will arrange for at the earliest possible moment mutually convenient. You will return this order, reporting to the Commander-in-Chief all your acts performed by virtue of the same.

Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 3.

READING, PA., November 6, 1896.

C. D. Wharton, Commander Camp No. 229, Burlington, Kan.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—By virtue of the authority in us vested, you are hereby authorized and directed, in our name and in our behalf, to duly install Brother John Redmond as Judge Advocate-General of the Order for this administration, and this Special Order shall be your authority. This you will arrange for at the earliest possible moment mutually convenient. You will return this order, reporting to the Commander-in-Chief all your acts performed by virtue of the same.

Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 4.

READING, PA., April 19, 1897.

General C. Borin, Council-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Chanute, Kan.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—By virtue of the authority in us vested, you are hereby authorized and directed, in our name and in our behalf, to attend the sessions of the Kansas Division as the direct representative of the Commandery-in-Chief. Immediately upon the adjournment of the sessions at Chanute you will return this order, reporting to the Commander-in-Chief all your acts performed by virtue of the same.

This Special Order shall be your authority.

Fraternally yours, J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 5.

READING, PA., August 23, 1897.

To the Council-in-Chief, Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

GREETING:—The members of the Council-in-Chief are hereby directed to convene at the temporary headquarters of the Commandery-in-Chief, Denison Hotel, Indianapolis, Ind., at nine o'clock on the morning of September 8th, 1897, for the purpose of auditing the accounts of the Quartermaster and Adjutant-Generals.

It is to be hoped that the members will be prompt in their attendance, whereby they may be able to complete the auditing of the accounts to enable them to complete their report for presentation to the Commandery-in-Chief at the opening session. Fraternaly yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official: H. H. HAMMER, Adjutant-General.

REPORT OF THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
 SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
 DEPARTMENT OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
 84 La Salle St., CHICAGO, August 23, 1897.

To J. L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief:

SIR:—I have the honor to submit my report of the business of the Quartermaster-General's Department for the term ending August 23, 1897:

REPORT SUPPLEMENTAL TO REPORT TO 15TH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT.

Cash on hand, as shown by report.....	\$1,427 32	
Received from Divisions (balance due).....	46 97	
" for Per Capita Tax.....	173 91	
" Charter Fees.....	8 00	
" Stove sold.....	10 00	
	<hr/>	\$1,666 20
Paid for General Expenses.....	\$ 19 87	
" Salaries.....	250 00	
" Traveling Expenses.....	12 85	
" Expenses 15th Annual Encampment.....	696 96	979 08
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance cash on hand at beginning administration....		\$ 687 13

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FROM SEPT. 14TH, 1896, TO AUG. 23D, 1897.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand.....		\$ 687 12
" received for Supplies.....	\$4,660 93	
" " Per Capita Tax.....	4,909 07	
" " Charter Fees.....	357 26	
" " Miscellaneous.....	5 62	9,932 88
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash Receipts.....		\$10,620 00

EXPENDITURES.

Expenses of the 15th Annual Encampment, in addition to those paid by preceding administration:—

W. S. Garber, stenographer.....	\$ 29 50
Proceedings.....	530 00
Postage on proceedings.....	23 00
Boxes and drayage on proceedings.....	7 38
Reading proof, proceedings.....	1 00
Express on transcript of proceedings.....	2 50
Express on money.....	2 10
	<hr/>
	\$ 594 48

Traveling Expenses:—

Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General.....	\$ 191 03
Quartermaster-General.....	9 00
C. Borin (Council-in-Chief).....	28 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 228 03

Supplies:—

Badges and decorations.....	\$ 2,681 60
Camp and Division supplies.....	768 60
Cost of shipping.....	184 59
Wrapping paper, twine, &c.....	13 41
Insurance.....	23 80
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,622 00

Office Expenses :—

Rent, Commandery Headquarters.....	\$ 330 00
Rent, Quartermaster-General's Headquarters.....	360 00
Light and toilet supplies, Commandery.....	3 60
Light and toilet supplies, Quartermaster-General.....	22 78
Telegrams and express, Commandery.....	19 01
Telegrams and express, Quartermaster-General.....	19 11
Postage, Commandery Headquarters.....	211 59
Postage, Quartermaster-General's Headquarters.....	64 00
Stationery, all National Officers.....	104 41
Stationery, Commandery Headquarters..	69 96
Stationery, Quartermaster-General's Headquarters.....	15 85
Rubber stamps, Commandery Headquarters.....	16 91
Miscellaneous, Commandery Headquarters.....	23 16
Miscellaneous, Quartermaster-General's Headquarters.....	4 35
	<hr/>
	\$1,264 73

General Expenses :—

Moving Commandery Headquarters.....	\$ 114 11
Gold Star for Commander-in-Chief.....	150 00
Testimonials to Past Commanders-in-Chief Lawler and Walker.....	118 00
Commandery Ribbon.....	12 00
Blanks furnished free to Divisions.....	24 35
Password and countersign and secret work blanks.....	9 50
Rent safety deposit box (2 years).....	6 00
Record books.....	21 43
Inspection circulars.....	10 50
Inspection of Commandery Headquarters.....	11 50
Binding Proceedings.....	8 75
Furnishings for Commandery Headquarters.....	76 16
Miscellaneous.....	8 50
	<hr/>
	\$ 570 80
Salaries.....	2,875 00
General Orders.....	249 48
16th Annual Encampment.....	25 45
Furniture.....	7 30
Tax Refunded.....	1 88
Miscellaneous.....	20 94

Total Expenditures..... \$9,460 09

Balance Cash on hand..... \$1,159 91

Supplies on hand, inventoried at cost..... \$1,329 50

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief on September 14, 1896, was as follows :

GENERAL ACCOUNT, SEPT. 14TH, 1896.

Dr.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Cr.
Furniture.....	\$ 587 69	Due to Divisions.....	\$ 4 60
Supplies.....	1,525 39	Surplus.....	2,804 07
Cash.....	687 12		
Due from Divisions.....	8 47		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$2,808 67		\$2,808 67

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief, at the close of business, August 23, 1897, is as follows:

GENERAL ACCOUNT, AUG. 23, 1897.

Dr.	Assets.	Liabilities.	Cr.
Furniture	\$ 535 50	Alabama and Tennessee....	\$ 01
Supplies.....	1,329 50	Connecticut.....	32
Cash.....	1,159 91	Indiana.....	44
California.....	10	Iowa.....	17
Colorado.....	05	Massachusetts.....	09
Kentucky.....	05	New Jersey.....	13
Maine.....	05	New York.....	25
Missouri.....	2 22	Ohio.....	01
Nebraska.....	20	Rhode Island.....	34
Oregon.....	01	South Dakota.....	1 12
Washington.....	1 54	Vermont.....	11
Gulf.....	4 54	West Virginia.....	01
		Surplus.....	3,030 67
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$3,033 67		\$3,033 67

The account of Profit and Loss from September 1, 1896, to August 23, 1897, is as follows:

PROFIT AND LOSS, SEPT. 1st, 1896, TO AUG. 23d, 1897.

Dr.	Losses.	Gains.	Cr.
To Supplies (obsolete forms destroyed).....	\$ 36 58	By Charter Fees.....	\$ 365 50
“ Furniture (10 per cent. reduction).....	59 49	“ Per Capita Tax.....	5,080 50
“ Office Expenses.....	1,264 73	“ Supplies.....	862 12
“ General Expenses.....	586 24	“ Balance (net loss).....	570 57
“ Salaries.....	3,125 00		
“ Traveling Expenses.....	240 88		
“ 15th Nat'l Encampment.....	1,290 84		
“ General Orders.....	249 48		
“ 16th Nat'l Encampment.....	25 45		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$6,878 69		\$6,878 69

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF RECEIPTS.

	1894-'95.	1895-'96.	1896-'97.
Received from predecessor.....	\$ 1,494 66	\$ 211 95	\$ 687 12
“ for Supplies.....	6,615 52	5,509 45	4,660 98
“ “ Per Capita Tax.....	5,249 20	6,072 29	4,909 07
“ “ Charter Fees.....	464 00	475 00	357 26
“ “ Miscellaneous.....	405 80	507 20	5 62
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$14,259 18	\$12,775 89	\$10,620 00

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF EXPENDITURES.

	1894-'95.	1895-'96.	1896-'97.
Debts of preceding administration.....		\$ (A) 1,072 86	
Expenses of preceding annual meeting in addition to those paid by preceding administration.....	\$ 783 43	660 43	\$ 594 48
Traveling expenses of Commander-in-Chief and staff.....	193 07	146 40	228 03
Supplies:—			
Badges and decorations.....	3,453 40	2,695 60	2,681 60
Camp and Division supplies.....	1,751 10	1,313 24	768 60
Cost of shipment (B).....			
Wrapping paper, insurance, &c... ..	47 58	39 94	37 21

	1894-'95.	1895-'96.	1896-'97.
Furniture.....	\$ 173 50	\$ 23 75	\$ 7 30
General orders.....	291 93	281 90	249 48
Salaries.....	3,000 00	2,750 00	2,875 00
Office Expenses:—			
Rent.....	830 00	445 00	690 00
Telegrams, Postage and Stationery (C).....			
Miscellaneous.....	84 75	81 09	70 80
General Expenses:—			
Transfer Commandery Headquarters.....	34 40	185 34	114 11
Records.....		20 85	21 43
Miscellaneous.....	350 08	479 62	435 20
Stationery.....	174 89	118 38	190 22
Telegraphing.....	80 17	73 23	38 12
Postage.....	271 68	228 45	275 59
Cost of shipping supplies and other express charges.....	303 72	199 59	134 59
Other items.....	398 32	532 90	48 27
Totals.....	\$12,222 02	\$11,348 57	\$ 9,460 09

(A) Includes the amount paid on account of "Rowley Claim."

(B) Included in Express item.

(C) Included in Telegraph, Postage and Stationery items.

The amount of cash on hand at the beginning of the present administration was \$687.12. The surplus account had a credit of \$2,804.07. We had on hand at the close of business on August 23, 1897, \$1,159.91 in cash, and a surplus of \$3,030.67.

It requires but a casual glance at the following figures to show how carefully the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief have guarded the financial affairs of the Order. Our revenues from per capita tax have been reduced from \$6,072.29 last year to \$4,909.07 for the year just closed, a loss of \$1,163.22; revenue from Charter Fees from \$475.00 to \$357.26, a loss of \$117.74; our profits on supplies from \$89.31 to \$862.12, a loss of \$127.19; a loss from these three items of \$1,408.15. Notwithstanding this decrease in revenue of \$1,408.15, our surplus is but \$570.57 less than it was at the close of the preceding administration.

I feel it my duty to call to your attention what may prove a serious menace to the Order. No complaint has been made, or can be justly made, that the affairs of the Order have been otherwise than economically administered. But our revenues are being constantly reduced and our surplus is being rapidly extinguished. At the close of Commander-in-Chief Weeks' administration our surplus was \$5,685.00. This surplus was reduced to \$5,138.50 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Hall's term of office; increased to \$5,176.41 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Maccabo's term; reduced to \$4,190.21 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Bundy's term; further reduced to \$3,001.24 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Russell's term; and again reduced to \$3,030.67 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Rake's term. Emergencies may arise that will necessitate increasing our revenues, and if this Encampment shall again fix the quarterly per capita tax at 4 cents, I am of the opinion that the Council-in-Chief should be empowered to raise the amount of such quarterly per capita tax, should necessity require.

Divisions are indebted to the Commandery-in-Chief as follows: California, 10 cents; Colorado, 5 cents; Kentucky, 5 cents; Maine, 5 cents; Missouri, \$2.22; Nebraska, 20 cents; Oregon, 1 cent; Washington, \$1.54; Gulf, \$4.54; and the following Divisions have balance due them from the Commandery-in-Chief: Alabama and Tennessee, 1 cent; Connecticut, 32 cents; Indiana, 44 cents; Iowa, 17 cents; Massachusetts, 9 cents; New Jersey, 13 cents; New York, 25 cents; Ohio, 1 cent; Rhode Island, 34 cents; South Dakota, \$1.12; Vermont, 11 cents; West Virginia, 1 cent.

The following Divisions, at the date of this report, are in arrears for tax for the quarter ending June 30, 1897: Indiana, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

I have received the bonds, duly approved by the Commander-in-Chief, of all Division Commanders, with the exception of that of the Commander of the Division of Oregon.

Complaint has been made to these headquarters during the year that the pins on the membership badge have been of poor quality, making the fastening of the badge insecure. Major Davis, who furnishes the badges, was promptly notified and advised that more care must be exercised in the manufacture of the pins, and I have his assurance that there will be no further cause for complaint.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General I am most grateful for many kindly acts, and I am fully appreciative of the cordiality and friendship which has marked all of their relations with myself during the past year. It has been a pleasure to serve the Order under such genial and able brothers, and again I beg to offer them my sincere thanks.

Fraternally yours,

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Quartermaster-General.

REPORT OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL,
PROVIDENCE, R. I., Sept. 6th, 1897.

II. H. Hammer, Adjutant-General, Commander-in-Chief and Brothers of the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief:

I have the honor to submit for your consideration my report as Inspector-General:

The report as submitted shows our Order to be in excellent condition, considering the times. Each of the several headquarters of Divisions have been duly inspected with the following results, as reported to this office by the Assistant Inspector-General:

No. 1. Every Division has a charter.

No. 2. All Divisions have a regularly adopted set of By-Laws, except the Gulf, Iowa and New York, which are in accord with the C., R. and R., except Maryland.

No. 3 "A." Records of the Division Councils and Division Encampments are not complete in Maine, Vermont, New Jersey and West Virginia.

No. 3 "B." The Registers of Members is reported as complete in all Divisions, excepting Illinois.

No. 3 "C." Rosters of Officers are complete in all Divisions, except West Virginia and Wisconsin.

No. 3 "D." Records of Commissions issued are correctly kept in every Division.

No. 3 "E." Also of Dispensations issued, except in the Division of Wisconsin.

No. 3 "F." The Black Book is not receiving the necessary attention in Colorado, New Jersey, Vermont.

No. 3 "G." The Adjutant's Cash Book is properly kept in all Divisions.

No. 3 "H." The Quartermaster's Cash Book is reported as not properly kept in the Divisions of Washington and Wisconsin.

No. 3 "I." Oregon and Wisconsin do not keep a Ledger account.

No. 4. The Quartermaster of Wisconsin does not keep an account with each Camp as provided for.

No. 5.

No. 6. Illinois Division keeps no general account. Maryland, Massachusetts and Rhode Island's general accounts are in excellent shape.

No. 7. The Divisions reporting in debt are California, Gulf, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Ohio and West Virginia. The Division of Indiana owe the largest amount, \$448.96, and the Division of West Virginia the least, \$15.00. The total indebtedness of the several Divisions is \$1,503.90—\$260.85 more than last year.

No. 8. Every Division reported cash on hand excepting the Gulf and Indiana, the total amount being \$3,758.24. Massachusetts has the largest amount, \$1,063.68, while Indiana is reported as overdrawn, \$83.96, which amount I have included in answering question No. 7. Pennsylvania has during the past year paid several hundred dollars indebtedness, which has caused it to lose its standing financially and rank No. 2. The total shows that the Divisions have \$217.96 over last year on hand.

No. 9. There were no Divisions without supplies on hand, the total value being \$1,644.16.

No. 10. The supplies were of current issue except in the Divisions of the Gulf and West Virginia and they have been ordered to destroy the old and order new.

No. 11. Each Division Commander has filed bond as prescribed in the C., R. and R.

No. 12. The Quartermaster in the Divisions of the Gulf, Illinois, Iowa and West Virginia are reported as not having given bonds.

No. 13. Salaries are paid to the Adjutants and Quartermasters in all Divisions except the Gulf, New York, Oregon and West Virginia.

Nos. 14 and 15. There were reported 32,418 members in last reports in 1,272 Camps, an average of about 25 members to each Camp in the Order.

Nos. 16 and 17. The total number of Camps organized since organization is reported as 4,564, with 1,908 reported as disbanded (Nos. 18 and 19) and 1,052 suspended and not reinstated, and 321 suspended during the past year, that is 1895. This is as near as can be furnished, owing to several Divisions' books having been destroyed by fire and also misplaced.

No. 20. A general observance of Memorial Day and Memorial Sunday show that our members are earnest in the work which we are organized for.

No. 21. Maine, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island were the only Divisions which held a field day.

No. 22. In answer to the question every Division reported that correspondence is *promptly* and thoroughly attended to. "I beg to differ," and think that some of the officers must have misunderstood the Assistant Inspectors-General when they asked this question, as at this office it has been almost impossible to get answers to letters written which were of great importance.

No. 23. All orders of the Commander-in-Chief are promptly mailed.

No. 24. Camp requisitions are filed by every Quartermaster.

No. 25 (A). Every Division Commander is thoroughly familiar with the same work.

No. 25 (B). All but one Adjutant is thoroughly familiar with the same work.

No. 25 (C). Every Inspector is thoroughly familiar with the same work.

No. 25 (D). All but one Mustering Officer is thoroughly familiar with the same work.

By examining some of the reports you will doubt this and think that some of them had never been mustered into our Order.

No. 26. All Division Officers have correspondence with the Grand Army of the Republic officials regarding our Order as to the formation of new Camps, excepting New Jersey.

No. 27. It is pleasing to note that the G. A. R. are in hearty sympathy with our Order throughout the country.

Nos. 28 and 29. Twenty-one Divisions report the Ladies' Aid Society as established in their Division and that they are a great help and assistance to our Order.

No. 30. Sixteen Divisions report the social feature predominating, while the military feature is reported as receiving more attention and becoming more pronounced each year.

Nos. 31 and 32. The cost of charters range from \$12.00 to \$20.00, for which amount Camp charters and the Camp packets as prescribed in the C., R. and R. is furnished.

No. 33. The total cost of Division Inspections was \$278.97, an average of \$9.62 to each Division.

The following is the corrected list of Assistant Inspectors-General assigned to inspect Division Headquarters:

DIVISION.	ASST. INSPECTOR-GENL.	ADDRESS.
Alabama and Tennessee	W. R. Cooper	Knockville, Tenn.
California	Frauk C. Shipley	Oakland, Cal.
Colorado	George H. Frye	Providence, R. I.
Connecticut	Arthur B. Spink	New Orleans, La.
Gulf	James Lewis, Jr.	Battle Creek, Mich.
Illinois	F. C. Stillson	Massillon, Ohio.
Indiana	Dan S. Gardner	Chicago, Ill.
Iowa	R. Loebenstein	Hutchinson, Kan.
Kansas	W. Y. Morgan	Hillsboro, Ohio.
Kentucky	D. Q. Morrow	Providence, R. I.
Maine	Arthur B. Spink	Reading, Pa.
Maryland	J. Lewis Rake	Providence, R. I.
Massachusetts	Arthur B. Spink	Wabash, Ind.
Michigan	Rev. Somerville Light	St. Paul, Minn.
Minnesota	E. H. Milham	Burlington, Kan.
Missouri	John Redmond	Hiawatha, Kan.
Nebraska	Grant W. Harrington	Providence, R. I.
New Hampshire	Arthur B. Spink	Reading, Pa.
New Jersey	E. W. Alexander	Philadelphia, Pa.
New York	W. B. McNulty	Massillon, Ohio.
Ohio	Dan S. Gardner	Oregon.
Oregon	E. Hofer	Providence, R. I.
Pennsylvania	Arthur B. Spink	Hartford, Conn.
Rhode Island	George E. Cox	White, S. Dakota.
South Dakota	F. A. Burdick	Providence, R. I.
Vermont	Arthur B. Spink	Salem, Oregon.
Washington	D. M. Dwire	Parkersburg, W. Va.
West Virginia	F. W. Myers	Chicago, Ill.
Wisconsin	R. Loebenstein	

**REPORT OF OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF
HEADQUARTERS BY ASSISTANT INSPECTOR-GENERAL
R. M. J. REED, OF PENNSYLVANIA.**

Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General, Providence, R. I.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—In accordance with your orders I inspected the headquarters of the Commandery-in-Chief, located in the city of Reading, Penna., on the 12th day of November, 1896, and have the honor to submit the following report:

The headquarters are conveniently and pleasantly located in Second National Bank Building, Penn Square, and consist of a suite of two large, well-lighted and ventilated rooms, with all desirable modern conveniences of a first-class office building. Regular office hours are maintained. The Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General are at headquarters morning, afternoon and evening of each day (Sunday excepted), when not out of the city on official business.

All correspondence is disposed of on day of its receipt, the same being carefully filed for reference. Division Orders and circulars are promptly filed in separate files by Divisions. Methodical business prevails in the conduct of headquarters, all records being accurately kept and noted. "Old Glory" floats day and night from headquarters' window, attracting attention to our National Headquarters and reminding the public of the organization. The Commandery silk colors are neatly disposed of in the rooms occupied respectively by the Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General, adding greatly to the attractiveness of the offices and giving dignity to the surroundings. The officers are conversant with the C. R. and R. and thoroughly alive to the needs and requirements of the whole Order. The bond of the Commander-in-Chief was properly filed and approved by the Council-in-Chief. The bond of the Adjutant-General was also approved and is in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief. The furniture equipment consists of:

Two roll-top desks, one typewriter cabinet with Yost typewriter, one document filing cabinet with base, one bookcase, one national letter filing cabinet with base, one letter press and table.

The floors are neatly covered with rugs, while upon the walls are displayed the portraits of seven of our Past Commanders-in-Chief, and a frame containing the Commandery-in-Chief and Division marks.

The records are found to comprise all enumerated in the C., R. and R., and consist of charter application record, roster of elective and appointed Commandery-in-Chief and Division officers, commission record (new and after a revised and improved form prepared by present headquarters), record of dispensations issued, record of courts-martial, record of Camps, record of decisions, document index, Division charter record, cash book, records of Adjutants' consolidated reports, Encampment roll and Adjutant-General's receipt book.

Remittances from all sources are receipted for promptly and in turn transferred daily to the Commander-in-Chief, who receipts to the Adjutant-General for the same. All funds are deposited daily in bank and monthly returns are made of the same to the Quartermaster-General on a new form, accounting in detail for all receipts and expenditures, and showing balance due, which are paid invariably by draft. I have the honor to be,

Fraternally yours in F., C. and L.,

R. M. J. REED,

Assistant Inspector-General.

PHILADELPHIA, PENNA., January 5th, 1897.

"REPORT OF INSPECTION OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT."

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
READING, PA., March 5th, 1897.

Arthur B. Spink, Inspector-General Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Providence, R. I.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—It is my pleasure to report that on the 22d ultimo, assisted by the Adjutant-General, I embraced the opportunity to make an official inspection of the department of the Quartermaster-General. We found his headquarters located in a convenient and pleasant suite of two rooms at No. 84 La Salle Street, Chicago, and thoroughly equipped in a business-like way for the transaction of official business. It is a matter of the greatest satisfaction to assure the members of the Commandery-in-Chief that the methods which prevail in this department are beyond criticism. The supplies are well arranged for expeditious handling and give evidence in the matter of the quantity on hand of great care in the important matter of ordering the supplies. The records, from a careful examination, show a commendable promptness in the dispatch of official business, and the dates of entry show that the work of the department is given that attention which a careful conduct of any enterprise would demand.

The system of recording the work of the department, while on double entry lines, is original in its details, in that complicated methods have been avoided and a simple but commendable set of record books are the result.

The records in use in this department are:

Invoice book, in which is entered the quantity of each blank, book, badge, etc., purchased, and from which the party furnishing the supplies is credited, with their values shown. The proper form account is charged with the quantity in the stock ledger, and the general stock account charged with the value of the supplies furnished.

Stock ledger, containing accounts with each form in stock, in which is charged the number of each form received, and in which credit is given for the quantity of each form sent out upon requisition.

Cash book, in which is recorded all items of cash receipts and expenditures.

Journal, in which are journalized all cash and invoice book entries.

Ledger, containing accounts with each Division in the Order, parties furnishing supplies to the Order and the various accounts representing the expenditures of the Order.

Receipt book, covering consecutively numbered receipts for all monies received.

Requisition book, from which is issued consecutively numbered authorizations for all expenditures made.

Requisition file, in which is bound all requisitions for supplies after the same have been filled and properly charged.

The financial transactions between the departments of the Commander-in-Chief and Quartermaster-General are a matter of settlement on the last day of each month in detail, on a special form recently prepared for this purpose, and which has operated with entire satisfaction.

The entire system employed appears to be perfect, and proves the wisdom of locating this important department instead of causing constant confusion by too frequent changes.

It is but just to Quartermaster-General Loebenstein to say that he deserves the thanks of our members for the skill which he has displayed in perfecting the simple yet effective system which he employs, and for the unvarying promptness which he has exhibited in the discharge of the duties of his office.

Fraternally and respectfully yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

CONNECTICUT.

I desire to congratulate Commander Cox for the excellent work which he has accomplished throughout the Division of Connecticut during the past year. He has personally visited every Camp in the State during his term, assisted in mustering three new Camps, and attended his Camp at Hartford regularly. The military feature is receiving the closest attention from him, he being in active service in the state militia. He is desirous of pushing it ahead in our Order.

Adjutant Warner and Quartermaster Bogue have given great and valuable assistance to the Division Commander in making the year a successful one, both financially and socially. The books of these brothers are in excellent condition; they are A No. 1, and I commend them for their neatness and accuracy.

ILLINOIS.

The Division Commander has performed most of the office work personally, so as to avoid payment of salaries. Such sums so saved are used most effectively in recruiting. The Division is on the gain and in splendid hands.

IOWA.

Agreeable to instructions from your headquarters, I have the honor to enclose herewith my report of the inspection of Iowa Division Headquarters, made at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, on 12th inst.:

The headquarters of the Division are conveniently located in the business portion of the city, and are admirably adapted for the dispatch of Division business.

I find that two Camps in this Division are working under unforfeited charters of the same number (34), viz.: Mt. Pleasant and Decorah. Mt. Pleasant was mustered on July 22d, 1895, and chartered as No. 34. Decorah was mustered 11 days previous and assigned No. 34 and chartered accordingly. Subsequently Mt. Pleasant was ordered to report as No. 19, but their charter still reads "No. 34."

I also find that the records of Camps bearing numbers that were formerly borne by (now) disbanded Camps are incorporated under the same heading as the records of the old Camp.

I find that the cash book of the Division was not balanced at the close of the last Division Commander's term, nor is it now balanced for the period of Commander Sortor's incumbency. The balance he claimed to be correct was accepted by the present Division Commander and receipted for by him. The cash book fails to show approval by Division Council, though statement is made that cash book was audited by Division Council and approved.

The 11th Annual Encampment of the Iowa Division authorized the issue of bonds to pay Division indebtedness. The amount of such issue is unknown to the present Division officers—the record of such issue, stubs of bonds issued and blank bonds being yet in the possession of Commander Hanson's predecessor.

A copy of my report, including this sheet, has been filed with the Commander of the Iowa Division.

Fraternally yours,

R. LOEBENSTEIN,
Assistant Inspector-General.

MAINE.

The headquarters of the Maine Division are conducted in a thoroughly business way. The Division Commander has proved himself the right man in the right place.

Colonel Cooper has worked hard during the past year, and with the able assistance rendered him by his Adjutant, George H. Bangs, and Quartermaster, Thomas A. Cooper, the Division will be turned over to his successor in an excellent condition. The books of the Adjutant and Quartermaster call forth much commendation, as they are correct in every detail. Services thus rendered should be fully appreciated.

I can but speak of the members of our Order in the "Pine Tree State" as a band of loyal brothers.

MARYLAND.

I found the Division records in excellent shape and showing evidences of care and attention on the part of the Adjutant and Quartermaster, and a business-like supervision on the part of the Division Council.

Not the least enjoyable feature of this most pleasant and profitable visitation was the great pleasure we experienced in again meeting that sturdy and honored veteran, General William E. Ross, who so sacrificingly gave his time and means to the permanent establishment of our Order. Alive, as ever, to the needs of our organization, the Maryland Division can always with reliance turn to him for counsel and assistance.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

MASSACHUSETTS.

As Inspector of the Division of Massachusetts, I desire to commend the Division Commander as to his system of transacting the business of his office. The Quartermaster and the Adjutant are also entitled to great credit for the manner in which their books are kept.

The headquarters of the Division are pleasantly located in one of the finest blocks in the City of Pittsfield, and are equipped with all the necessary and modern office utensils.

This Division has done excellent charity work throughout the State of Massachusetts, and is now supporting a dormitory at the Soldiers' Home, Chelsea, Mass., which contains thirty-four beds. It is paying all the expenses of same. This year the expenses amounted to \$808. It has also contributed \$25 to the Andersonville Flag Fund, and has expended over \$600 during the past year for the relief of worthy veterans and their families.

I wish to thank Colonel Sisson and all members of this Division for the many courtesies extended to me, and trust that success will ever follow the Division of Massachusetts.

MINNESOTA.

The Adjutant and Quartermaster are veterans in the service. Having served as Adjutant five years, and as Colonel of the Minnesota Division one year, they are thoroughly competent and I congratulate the Minnesota Division on having such good officials.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Commander Willey is an earnest and hard worker for our Order. His experience as Division Commander last year has assisted him very much in transacting his duties this year.

The Adjutant and the Quartermaster I wish to congratulate for the neat and accurate manner in which their books are kept. The assistance

which such brothers render to a Division Commander is appreciated, and I trust that the members of the New Hampshire Division will promote such workers to higher positions.

NEW YORK.

I desire to commend the Commander, Adjutant and Quartermaster for the prompt and excellent manner in which they conduct the business of the Division. I found everything in excellent condition and was treated with every courtesy.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The headquarters of the Pennsylvania Division were inspected by the Inspector-General and they were found in excellent condition and well adapted to transact the business of the Division.

This Division has accomplished much good work during the past year. It is the largest Division in our Order, having 149 Camps with 5,481 members in good standing.

The Division Commander has visited personally every Camp in the Division during his term of office and has traveled over 5,000 miles to accomplish it. Col. Tawney has endeared himself to the rank and file.

The Soldiers' Home, in West Philadelphia, is assisted in its support by the Sons of Veterans.

This Division has expended for the relief of the veteran \$453.95 in the past year.

There is also connected with the Division a Death Benefit Association that has paid to its members over \$3,000. This is a feature which should be considered by every Division. The system adopted and the neatness of all books of the Adjutant and Quartermaster show Adjutant Orr and Quartermaster McNulty to be the right men in the right places. Free from debt, having \$274.34 in cash and \$200 in supplies. It pays to the Adjutant and Quartermaster \$800 per year for their services.

CAMP INSPECTIONS.

Every Division Inspector except the Gulf submitted reports of inspections of their respective Divisions.

The reports from the Divisions of Oregon and Washington arrived too late to be included in the consolidated report and tables.

The first Division to mail its report was the Division of California, which was mailed December 16, 1896. I desire at this time to compliment Division Inspectors Edwin F. Tuttle, of Massachusetts; Milton S. Mead, of Minnesota, and Charles A. Hammond, of Rhode Island, for the accuracy and complete reports received from them.

Every Camp in the Divisions of Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire and Rhode Island were inspected. I am pleased to mention where but 20 per cent. of the Camps in Indiana were inspected in 1895, every Camp in 1896 was inspected.

Out of 1,250 Camps reported in good standing, 1,065 have been inspected. Many of the Inspectors throughout the Order have but little idea as to what amount of work is required to submit the Inspector-General's report to the Commander-in-Chief. At least it seems so to me, as it has required many letters and the use of telegraph lines to bring this report before you. Many Inspectors, even after all Camps have been inspected, have held it in their hands for four or five months. This is but carelessness on their part and should be stopped. I hope every Division-Inspector next year will see that his report is forwarded to my successor promptly and with dispatch.

This report throughout in almost every instance shows our Order to be gaining in strength, financially and quality. Let us see that it continues to grow in this way, and our watchword in the future be quality and earnest workers for our cause of Friendship, Charity and Loyalty.

No. 1. There are but 479 Camp Captains that are deserving of the mark excellent, 223 good, 180 fair and 161 are marked poor. Massachusetts reports 61 per cent. excellent, and in the Division of West Virginia none are marked excellent, while 33 per cent. are marked poor in the Division of California.

No. 2. The Captain's part of the degree work is much neglected, as but 237 have committed the work to memory and are marked excellent, 216

good, 254 fair, and 349 are marked poor. Connecticut is marked 43 per cent. excellent, while Colorado, South Dakota and West Virginia had no mark of excellent. Maryland is marked 56 per cent. poor.

No. 3. But 316 First Lieutenants have committed the ritualistic work to memory and are marked excellent, 197 are marked good, 272 fair and 200 poor. Massachusetts leads in excellence, receiving 45 per cent., while West Virginia receives but 5 per cent. excellent. Maryland is marked 44 per cent. poor.

No. 4. 279 Second Lieutenants have committed their work to memory, 220 good, 257 fair and 289 poor. Connecticut and Kentucky receives the highest mark in excellence, 37 per cent. The poorest showing comes from Maryland, with 56 per cent. poor.

No. 5. 277 Chaplains have committed their work to memory and are marked excellent, while 204 are good, 278 fair and 292 poor. Massachusetts leads in excellence with 53 per cent., while South Dakota receives only 4 per cent. excellent. Maryland is marked 48 per cent. poor.

No. 6. 333 Sergeants of Guard have memorized their work and are marked excellent, 249 good, 219 fair and 237 poor. Kentucky receives the highest mark in excellence, receiving 50 per cent., while Rhode Island report none as excellent. Maryland is marked 48 per cent. poor.

No. 7. Out of 3,300 officers but 473 are reported as being regular in attendance and are marked excellent, while 283 are marked good, 208 fair and 77 poor. The officers in the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Divisions are the best attendants, as 60 per cent. of them are marked excellent, while West Virginia is marked but 5 per cent. excellent. Nebraska are the poorest in attendance and are marked 25 per cent. poor.

No. 8. 444 Camps show gain in membership since last inspection. California leads with 77 per cent. excellent. Maryland shows up the poorest on this question.

No. 9. 812 Camp records are correctly and well kept and are marked excellent, 148 are fair, 60 good and 33 are poor. Pennsylvania received 89 per cent. excellent. Rhode Island records are the poorest kept, as 14 per cent. are marked poor.

No. 10. 838 Quartermaster-Sergeants' bonds are filed. This shows that many Captains and members of the Camp Council are not attending to their duties, and Inspectors should at once report such Captains to their Division Commanders. In Nebraska and Pennsylvania 90 per cent. are marked excellent, while in Kentucky but 25 per cent. are marked excellent. The poorest showing is in New Jersey, as 17 per cent. are given the marking of poor.

No. 11. 539 Camps' officers are reported as uniformed, while 526 are uniformed to some extent. This is certainly a poor showing. Every Camp officer in the Rhode Island Division is reported as uniformed and she is the only Division marked 100 per cent. excellent. In Alabama and Tennessee Divisions 64 per cent. of the officers are poorly uniformed, and by the reports Iowa and West Virginia should give some attention to their uniforms.

No. 12. 488 officers in Camps are reported as wearing rank straps and side arms in accordance with R. and R. and received the mark excellent, 180 good, 155 fair and 15 poor. Massachusetts received 86 per cent. excellent and Alabama and Tennessee prove the poorest in this respect.

No. 13. 803 Camp rooms are properly equipped and are marked excellent, 149 good, 66 fair and 58 poor. Massachusetts leads in per cent. of excellent, receiving 94 per cent., showing 129 Camp rooms out of 137 properly equipped. The Division of South Dakota is the poorest equipped and is marked 41 per cent. poor.

No. 14. 1,014 staff officers are reported provided with proper chevrons. In Rhode Island every staff officer is properly equipped with chevrons and is marked 100 per cent., excellent, while in Iowa 81 per cent. are marked poor.

No. 15. According to reports 929 out of 1,065 Camps reporting are uniformed. Every member of the Division of California is reported as uniformed and the Division is marked 100 per cent., excellent. 67 per cent. of the members of the Iowa Division are reported as poorly uniformed.

No. 16. 978 Camps present a badge to the recruit when mustered. Every Camp in California, Massachusetts and Rhode Island present a badge when mustered.

No. 17. General Orders are read and filed in 96 per cent. of the Camps of our Order. Alabama and Tennessee and California are marked 100 in excellent on their question, while, according to report, South Dakota is disregarding R. and R., as 62 per cent. is marked poor.

No. 18. 1,050 Camps are reported as observing Memorial Day. Every Camp in Massachusetts observed the day and receive the highest mark in excellent, 100 per cent. The least attention was paid to the great day of all days in the Division of South Dakota.

No. 19. 1,062 Camps forwarded their reports and dues promptly to Division Headquarters. California, Illinois, Massachusetts, Missouri, New Hampshire and Rhode Island receive 100 per cent., excellent.

No. 20. 1,055 Camps report as forwarding their Chaplains' and Surgeons' reports promptly. California, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island—100 per cent. is given them in excellent—and South Dakota was the poorest in attending to this duty.

No. 21. The number of members in good standing, as reported to this office, was 31,953, an average of 25 members to each Camp. The Division of Pennsylvania is the largest, having 5,448, while Colorado has but 209.

No. 22. There have been dropped during the year 3,891 members. Pennsylvania has suffered the most, having lost 698, while Massachusetts has lost 391 and Indiana 345.

No. 23. 1,514 special meetings have been held since last inspection.

No. 24. Property valued at \$220,788.25 is owned by Camps, an average of \$207.00 to each Camp. Pennsylvania Camps own \$47,356.58; Massachusetts Camps own \$31,833, and New York Camps own \$24,847.95 of property.

No. 25. Over all indebtedness funds to the amount of \$58,175.42 are on hand in the several Camps. Pennsylvania Camps have the most ready money, \$24,672.31, while Colorado have but \$67.20 on hand.

No. 26. The average amount of annual dues is \$1.97.

No. 27. The average amount charged for muster is \$1.60.

No. 28. 723 members have been relieved in the several Divisions to the amount of \$9,270.88. Pennsylvania used for the good cause \$5,244.39, relieving 327 members. Nebraska used but \$5.00 for this object.

No. 29. \$1,788.28 have been expended for the relief of Veterans and their families during the past year. Massachusetts spent \$560.72 for this purpose.

No. 30. There are 671 Camps equipped. Out of this number 30 are equipped as cavalry, 18 are equipped as artillery, 623 are equipped as infantry.

No. 31. 10,092 members are equipped with arms and accoutrements.

No. 32. But 355 Camps engage regularly in drill, while 710 do not. There is a great opening for improvement. However, I am pleased to note that this is an improvement over last year.

No. 33. 551 Camps have assisted the Grand Army of the Republic and Women's Relief Corps during the past year. 490 report they have not. Do not forget, brothers, that this is a part of what we are organized for. Offer your services at all times. Do not wait to be asked by them.

No. 34. 328 Camps have the Ladies' Aid Society connected with their Camps, while 734 report they have none. This is an improvement over last report—a gain of 50—and shows that our eyes are being opened, and that we will in time have a L. A. S. connected with every Camp.

No. 35. 679 Camps report that the members of the G. A. R. attend our meetings and encourage us in our work, and 383 Camps report that the members of G. A. R. do not attend meeting or encourage us in our work.

No. 36. 703 Camps hold social gatherings, and 352 do not deem it necessary to do so.

No. 37. The total cost of Camp inspections was \$1,378.92. The general average of the Divisions range from 37 cents in Michigan to 85 cents in New Hampshire, an average of \$1.29 to each Camp. In the Division of New York it cost for inspection \$168.41, while in Alabama and Tennessee it cost but 2 cents to inspect eleven Camps. Of the 1,065 Camps reporting 675 are reported as first-class, 305 are reported as second class, and 85 are reported as third-class.

I attach the remarks of several Division-Inspectors, giving the condition of the Order in their sections, and which, I think, will be appreciated by all.

DIVISION OF COLORADO.

L. S. DAY, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—This report has been long delayed, hoping to get some of the suspended Camps reinstated. Our new Camp, known as "A Business Man's" Camp, was mustered in in Denver last month, which will undoubtedly be a hustling, live Camp. The Leadville strike seriously interfered with inspection. A number of our brothers, and officers, too, were taken to the "Cloud City" with the Colorado National Guard, and kept there three or four months.

Our Division Colonel is a prominent attorney and doing good work for the Division.

Other Division officers are hustlers and take a personal interest in the Division's welfare, but 'tis a hard fight for existence out here. Politics have killed several good Camps, but this has taught the Division a valuable lesson.

DIVISION OF KANSAS.

WILLIAM K. WARD, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—The Division of Kansas, possibly like others in the West, has suffered greatly from the disastrous financial depression existing throughout the nation. Also from the effects of the recent *vigorous* state and national campaign. But, although some of our best Camps have succumbed, and our total membership has greatly decreased, I find the survivors struggling bravely and earnestly, full of enthusiasm and loyalty to the grand principles of our Order. Considering the existing circumstances, I believe the showing made by the Sunflower State this year is much above the average, and we can note with pardonable pride the general high rating of the officers of *all rank* of this Division.

The principles of our our noble Order are still *very much alive* in Kansas, and with the return of the promised prosperity the membership of this Division will bound upward at once.

DIVISION OF KENTUCKY.

GEORGE S. WEIMER, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—All Camps in this Division are comparatively new, except No. 9, which is in first-class order.

Camp No. 1 is the largest in the state and bids fair to be one of the finest in the Order, gaining members rapidly, and most excellent members, who certainly have the good of the Order at heart. Camps No. 4 and No. 5 are in first-class condition and gaining steadily.

Camps Nos. 6, 10, 11 are colored Camps and are thriving as best they can under the circumstances. Camp No. 10 certainly deserves much credit. Their order of business, the efficiency of the officers is surprising. It is the only Camp that has retired members of the G. A. R. and Veterans, and the members are fairly educated and very enthusiastic.

The Kentucky Division is now in infancy, only a few years here, and we will be second to none. The membership is steadily increasing and there are no truer-hearted, no nobler set of young men, 'neath the grand old stars and stripes.

DIVISION OF MAINE.

WESLEY L. GRIBBIN, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—The Camps of the Maine Division, as a whole, I am sure will rank equally as high as the best Camp of the Order. During the past year the Division rank on inspection has been lowered about two per cent. from that of the previous year, so that we are now on what seems to me to be a rock bottom foundation; and that instead of decreasing in the coming year, we are in a position to at least maintain our present standing. But our efforts will be turned in the direction of increasing our efficiency. At the time of the Camps' inspection they are usually in their weakest condition, as so many of them are country Camps, and they can do better work in the Winter and Spring, which, of course, if inspected then, our Division rank would be much higher. The interest throughout the Division is good, and,

with the return of commercial prosperity, our several Camps will take new courage, and during the coming year will strive to attain the mark which they are capable of attaining.

DIVISION OF IOWA.

EDWIN F. TUTTLE, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS:—Division, as a whole, in excellent condition. All of the 137 Camps inspected, but as reports were lost by fire it was impossible to obtain duplicate reports for Camps Nos. 4, 118 and 132.

Ritual stimulates interest in many Camps, but is a hindrance to some of the smaller ones.

Ritualistic work well performed in majority of Camps, but in some cases non-committed and poorly executed. Slight loss in membership, but no backward step in any other way. Efficient officers and appearance of entire Division first class.

DIVISION OF MICHIGAN.

GEORGE W. DAVIS, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS:—In justice to the Division of Michigan it must be said that while my reports show 22 Camps not inspected, our last quarterly report shows only 32 Camps in good standing; thus 14 of these 22 Camps were dead at the time of inspection. Our low general average is due to this fact. The excellent work of Camp H. O. Herrick, No. 55, Battle Creek, deserves special mention.

DIVISION OF MINNESOTA.

M. S. MEAD, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS:—The Minnesota Division is in a critical condition. On July 1st, 1897, there were but 39 Camps in good standing. Very few of these are strong, either numerically or financially. Heroic measures must be instituted or it will be only a matter of a short time before the Division will be compelled to surrender its charter.

The causes leading up to this state of affairs are numerous. The storm of business depression and prevailing distress that has overshadowed the country for the past few years, the lack of sufficient funds in the Division treasury to properly carry on the work, and *the lack of enthusiasm in the Order* are some of the "numerous causes."

DIVISION OF NEW JERSEY.

HOWARD B. GREEN, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS:—This inspection has demonstrated beyond doubt the following facts:

First. That the Death Benefit Association has been a great help to many weak Camps.

Second. That when a Camp has efficient First and Quartermaster-Sergeants the prosperity and welfare of the Camp is almost assured.

Third. The three-degree ritual is a little too difficult for our younger and weaker Camps to handle. The amount to be committed to memory is beyond the average S. of V.

DIVISION OF RHODE ISLAND.

CHARLES A. HAMMOND, Inspector.

REMARKS:—The Division as a whole is in good condition, but, as in many cases, there is room for improvement.

I regret to say there is a loss from last year's average, but which I think is due more to the fact that Camps received a higher marking in some things than was really deserved, and as the inspections this year have been rather close it shows more correctly the actual standing. The three-degree ritual does not meet with favor, as a general rule, although it is studied some.

DIVISION OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

F. A. BURDICK, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS:—I regret that it is not possible to have complete Inspector's report in this Division, but the business circumstances of political excite-

ment, early closing in of the winter, snow blockades, delay of U. S. mail service, sparse population and impossibility of reaching some Camps, combined with the financial needs of this frontier settlement, have made the matter of inspections so difficult we have submitted our report as best we could.

DIVISION OF VERMONT.

W. O. BALDWIN, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—This Division is in about the same condition it has been for several years.

The officers are painstaking, alert and faithful to their duties, and their administration, I believe, will compare favorably from the standpoint of efficiency with any previous one, though results may not be so good owing to changed conditions. It is evident to me that general interest in Camp matters is waning. However, I am fully aware of the fact that the spirit of patriotism among our sons is as deep-rooted as ever, and only needs to be quickened. How this result is to be accomplished is a matter for thoughtful consideration.

DIVISION OF WISCONSIN.

CHAS. C. TOWNSEND, Division-Inspector.

REMARKS :—In almost all the Camps in Wisconsin the chief stumbling block is the matter of finances. Failure to collect dues invariably results in the loss of members, whose dues are allowed to accumulate until they allow themselves to become suspended rather than pay up. Strict regulations must be made to govern this fault if the Camps expect to prosper.

Discipline also seems to be slack in many Camps, resulting in lack of interest.

The ritual work I find to be fairly well committed, but not as well as it ought to be. Strict rules should be laid down governing this matter, as in other societies.

In submitting my report I wish to call your attention, brothers, to the military part of our Order. This certainly should receive very much more attention from us. We have improved during the past year, but we should do still better. Let us have more drill meetings from squads. If you cannot get a company join your state militia, and be prepared in case we should ever be called upon to defend "Old Glory."

I am proud to mention in "Little Rhody" we have a Camp, Company A. of the R. I. S. of V. Guards, of Woonsocket, who are thoroughly equipped and would be welcomed in the state militia would they accept a place. Escort has been accepted by several Governors from them, and during the past year in New York City, at the Grant parade, this company, 48 men and 3 officers, accompanied by the Division officers, tendered escort to Commander-in-Chief Rake and staff and received much praise for their soldiery appearance. I regret that more of the members of the Order were not permitted to be present on this occasion, for if ever there was a place for us to be present it was there. But 900 of our members took part in the day's ceremonies.

I cannot close this report without thanking the Division-Inspectors for the assistance which they have rendered me. I especially convey my thanks for their cheerful response to all calls made upon them and their faithful performance of the duty assigned them.

In conclusion I desire, Commander-in-Chief Rake, to thank you for the unexpected honor of appointment to the position of Inspector-General on your staff. I have tried to discharge the duties assigned to me faithfully. The assistance which has been so cheerfully given when asked for by Adjutant-General Hammer and Quartermaster-General Loebenstein has lightened my labors and made my official year one to be remembered.

Again thanking you for the honor conferred upon me one year ago in making me one of your official family,

I am respectfully yours, in F., C. and I.,

ARTHUR B. SPINK,
Inspector-General.

EXHIBIT "A."
Table showing Totals for First Ten Questions.

DIVISION.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.
Ala. and Tenn.....	2	3	1	4	4	0	3	4	4	1	1	1	5	3	2	2	6	0	1	1
California.....	5	4	0	2	4	1	2	2	2	3	2	1	2	3	1	1	0	0	1	0
Colorado.....	4	6	0	5	2	1	2	4	2	4	3	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	0
Connecticut.....	18	6	2	11	9	2	7	1	4	5	12	3	7	13	6	7	2	3	2	0
Gulf.....	13	14	16	3	13	10	25	6	17	11	13	10	10	16	12	14	12	14	14	14
Illinois.....	22	13	8	10	13	10	25	17	13	11	14	20	19	18	28	16	12	14	14	14
Indiana.....	22	13	8	10	13	10	25	17	13	11	14	20	19	18	28	16	12	14	14	14
Iowa.....	10	12	0	7	3	10	20	11	14	12	13	17	11	12	14	10	6	8	4	4
Kansas.....	20	12	0	7	3	10	20	11	14	12	13	17	11	12	14	10	6	8	4	4
Kentucky.....	3	3	4	7	10	5	1	2	4	0	4	3	10	4	3	1	1	6	1	1
Maine.....	28	4	7	10	5	1	2	4	0	4	3	10	4	3	1	1	6	1	1	1
Massachusetts.....	68	27	17	14	51	26	23	37	47	38	24	46	26	37	50	35	24	28	24	28
Maryland.....	13	7	1	5	0	10	11	5	6	12	12	7	12	7	12	7	12	7	12	7
Michigan.....	12	16	9	3	4	7	13	10	12	11	8	13	9	10	11	8	13	9	10	11
Minnesota.....	16	8	13	6	9	5	19	10	11	13	9	13	11	4	18	18	7	10	2	19
Missouri.....	7	5	3	5	5	6	3	5	2	6	5	6	4	5	6	5	6	4	5	6
Nebraska.....	9	4	3	1	5	3	4	5	6	4	7	5	8	7	6	7	5	8	7	6
New Hampshire.....	11	4	7	6	6	7	9	10	2	9	7	5	8	7	6	7	5	8	7	6
New Jersey.....	43	13	16	26	19	13	19	47	25	12	32	29	22	11	34	34	34	34	34	34
New York.....	29	23	10	7	25	15	18	20	30	14	12	13	31	14	12	12	28	14	13	34
Ohio.....	68	22	15	25	35	31	35	52	26	31	38	31	20	32	42	28	32	29	38	31
Pennsylvania.....	6	5	2	1	3	4	6	1	2	5	6	4	3	6	5	3	6	5	3	6
Rhode Island.....	2	8	5	1	0	9	4	0	9	5	2	1	8	5	2	1	8	5	2	1
South Dakota.....	15	0	12	10	0	7	9	8	0	9	5	13	0	10	2	10	0	11	5	23
Vermont.....	0	6	3	1	0	1	5	3	2	3	1	2	6	1	4	3	1	4	3	1
Washington.....	16	4	3	4	8	5	5	6	6	7	7	4	8	14	2	7	3	11	6	2
West Virginia.....	479	223	180	171	237	216	254	349	316	197	372	260	270	220	257	289	277	204	278	292
Wisconsin.....	479	223	180	171	237	216	254	349	316	197	372	260	270	220	257	289	277	204	278	292
Totals.....	479	223	180	171	237	216	254	349	316	197	372	260	270	220	257	289	277	204	278	292
	812	148	60	33	835	99	66	35	444	160	166	273	812	148	60	33	835	99	66	35

EXHIBIT "A" - Continued.
Table showing Totals for Second Ten Questions.

Division.	11		12		13		14		15		16		17		18		19		20	
	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.
Ala. and Tenn.....	3	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
California.....	3	1	2	3	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Colorado.....	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Connecticut.....	22	1	0	1	1	0	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Gulf.....	28	6	2	23	20	12	15	19	49	10	4	3	24	6	4	22	1	6	5	1
Illinois.....	16	7	5	19	18	10	17	46	10	5	0	18	2	1	10	24	3	22	3	2
Indiana.....	12	3	18	30	13	16	20	53	18	2	1	8	4	2	1	3	3	0	1	0
Iowa.....	15	11	11	22	19	17	5	18	41	9	3	2	3	2	3	20	5	3	0	0
Kansas.....	4	0	3	1	3	2	2	1	6	1	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Kentucky.....	29	4	6	8	19	8	5	15	35	8	1	0	25	2	0	23	1	4	1	0
Maine.....	122	6	3	4	131	4	5	123	1	0	3	1	12	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Maryland.....	7	3	2	13	10	4	0	11	21	10	5	1	18	0	3	16	10	2	2	0
Massachusetts.....	9	8	4	12	5	8	3	13	19	16	1	12	11	5	1	14	2	4	3	0
Michigan.....	13	3	6	15	13	7	6	15	19	16	1	12	11	5	1	14	2	4	3	0
Minnesota.....	5	3	2	10	4	4	4	8	15	6	0	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Missouri.....	11	2	3	1	10	5	1	10	3	3	0	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nebraska.....	21	2	2	3	19	18	16	28	22	11	3	4	48	4	5	6	9	1	2	0
New Hampshire.....	31	9	10	25	36	18	16	28	22	11	3	6	23	6	0	23	0	0	0	0
New Jersey.....	26	8	11	24	23	20	6	20	54	19	1	1	27	6	6	30	12	7	5	1
New York.....	67	12	11	87	15	21	4	116	2	1	0	1	99	7	11	10	22	15	17	1
Ohio.....	14	5	11	11	11	2	1	14	2	1	1	1	14	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Pennsylvania.....	5	2	0	4	3	1	1	5	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Rhode Island.....	21	0	4	3	18	0	4	6	27	0	2	0	16	0	3	18	0	0	0	0
South Dakota.....	1	1	3	4	0	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vermont.....	1	1	3	4	0	2	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Washington.....	11	1	3	4	0	2	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Virginia.....	11	1	3	11	8	5	5	19	5	1	1	6	5	2	15	0	4	6	10	2
Wisconsin.....	5	9	106	133	252	488	180	157	215	603	149	66	58	522	60	58	374	450	138	110
Totals.....	891	62	63	66	928	30	39	49	307	19	14	50	307	38	22	32	307	19	14	50

REPORT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
 SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
 DEPARTMENT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL,
 WICHITA, KAN., August 7, 1897.

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant-General, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Reading, Pa.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER :—Since receiving the appointment as Judge Advocate-General I have given eight official opinions and have written numerous letters of advice to members of the Order. There have been three courts-martial, and in each case the findings and sentence were approved. The remaining five opinions were on questions of general interest to the Order. Copies of all opinions are hereto attached and made a part of this report.

Thanking you, Commander-in-Chief, for the honor conferred and for the courteous treatment extended by yourself and the members of your staff, I remain, Fraternally yours in F., C. and L.,
 JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION I.

BURLINGTON, KAN., November 21, 1896.

The following question has been submitted by the Commander of the New York Division and referred to me for my opinion :

"Can a member who has been dropped by a Camp which afterwards ceased to exist be elected a member of the Order and mustered into another Camp without a dispensation?"

A dropped member of a Camp which has ceased to exist cannot be mustered into another Camp until he has paid \$2.00 to the Commander-in-Chief, or to the Division Commander, and a dispensation has been granted. Section 4, of Article 9, on page 62, of the C., R. and R., is very plain on this point.

JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION II.

BURLINGTON, KAN., February 11, 1897.

Court-martial proceedings in the case of Brother George Crute, of J. C. Fremont Camp, No. 177, Division of Ohio, are respectfully returned.

The following irregularities appear :

1. Improper charge, being "misappropriating funds," and should be "conduct unbecoming a member in his relation to the Order."
2. The accused was not present, but was arraigned and pleaded not guilty.
3. The statement of Al. Siler, who is not shown to be a member of the Order, is not sworn to.

However, as the service was good and the evidence clear, I would recommend that the finding and sentence be approved.

Fraternally yours in F., C. and L.,
 JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION III.

BURLINGTON, KAN., March 11, 1897.

Court-martial proceedings in the case of John J. McCue, of Col. Ellsworth Camp, No. 87, Division of Illinois, are respectfully returned, with the recommendation that the action of the Division Commander be sustained.

Fraternally yours in F., C. and L.,
 JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION IV.

BURLINGTON, KAN., April 5, 1897.

Court-martial proceedings in the case of Brother A. L. Erdman, of Camp No. 13, Division of Pennsylvania, are respectfully returned with the recommendation that the finding and sentence be approved.

Fraternally in F., C. and L.,
 JOHN REDMOND,
 Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION V.

BURLINGTON, KAN., May 25, 1897.

In this case the Division Commander had a question to be submitted to the Division Council for its decision. One member of the Council was

away on leave of absence. The Commander, therefore, did not submit the question to him, taking the ground that the brother cannot perform his duties while taking advantage of the leave of absence.

The question is, has the brother a right to vote on a question submitted, and at the same time enjoy the privileges of a leave of absence?

This is a new point and has, so far as I can learn, no precedent in our Order or in the G. A. R. It is my opinion, however, that a member of the Division Council is not entitled to participate in the business of his Division while off duty on leave of absence. Fraternaly yours,

JOHN REDMOND,
Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION VI.

WICHITA, KAN., July 30, 1897.

In the matter of the appeal of Past Captain John Vogt from the decision of the Commander of the Pennsylvania Division and the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, which you have submitted for my opinion, I would say:

The appeal is not well taken. When a new charter was granted the Pennsylvania Division in 1888 all the agreements made prior to that time, not mentioned in the C., R. and R. or Division By-Laws, were done away with and are of no force and effect. The fact that the last four Division Commanders elected have been from the Eastern Division indicates that the Division considered null the agreement that the Division-Commander should be elected from the Eastern and Western Divisions alternately.

In case it should be found that Brother Scott was not legally elected, Brother Poerstel, not having received a majority of the votes cast, would still have no claim to the office and a new election would be necessary.

Fraternaly yours,

JOHN REDMOND,
Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION VII.

WICHITA, KAN., August 2, 1897.

Proceedings in the court-martial of Brother George E. Marsh, of Camp No. 211, Division of Iowa, are herewith returned with the recommendation that the finding and sentence be approved. Fraternaly yours,

JOHN REDMOND,
Judge Advocate-General.

OPINION VIII.

WICHITA, KAN., August 2, 1897.

You ask my opinion on the following question:

When does a recruit become a member of the Order and when shall the Camp commence charging dues?

A recruit becomes a member of the Order when he has received the three degrees as provided in the ritual. Dues cannot be charged or collected until the three degrees have been given.

Yours in F., C. and I.,

JOHN REDMOND,
Judge Advocate-General.

REPORT OF SURGEON-GENERAL.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
DEPARTMENT OF SURGEON-GENERAL,
HOLLAND, MICH.

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant-General, Reading, Pa.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—It has been said that "there is nothing so dry as saw-dust, statistics or political speech." I do not propose to give you much of the former, and none of the latter. What's the use of all this trouble of compiling this record? is a question I have asked myself, and ask you now to answer for me, unless you use it along the line I shall suggest later.

The Order has to soon look for some more live and up-to-date reasons for an existence, for working in the graveyard will be our principal employment soon, and while commendable, it will not be attractive to our boys. You

ask what to do? I should say, first, push the military feature of our Order, and strict discipline in Camp drill of all members, so we can be of some use in case of our country's needing us; in fact, if possible, secure some recognition from Congress in securing equipments. Secondly, I should say, organize an Insurance of Death Benefit for the Order. As to the how, when and where of this matter, it can all be determined later when you have said that you want it. Remember, brethren, our Order, we must do something or die of inanitation.

I could repeat all that my predecessor, General Daniel S. Gardner, M. D., has said respecting the Benefit Department and its value to the Order, and also the unnecessary amount of labor entailed upon us to secure our reports, all because of the neglecting to do their duty, and no amount of threatening does any good, for it is too well known the laws probably will not be enforced.

Below you will find a compiled record of all the Divisions.

Number of members mustered.....	61,231
Number of members in good standing.....	29,352
Number of members mustered since last report.....	5,078
Number in State Militia.....	1,041
Number in U. S. Army.....	51
Number in U. S. Navy.....	39
Number of G. A. R. members.....	1,001
Total number of drilled men.....	10,562
Number of members able to bear arms.....	27,653
Number of members over 45 years of age.....	1,011
Age of oldest member (Mass.), years.....	82
Average age of all members, years.....	23
Number of widowers.....	432
Number of married members.....	12,299
Number of unmarried members.....	14,489
Number of deaths within one year.....	149
Number of cases of sickness during the year.....	1,376
Number of injuries during year.....	329
Total number weeks disability (sickness).....	5,159
Total number weeks disability (injury).....	1,034
Number of Camps paying funeral benefits, average benefit, \$41.30.....	179
Number of Camps paying sick benefits, average weekly benefit, \$3.35.....	179
Number of Camps engaged in regular drill.....	332
Number of members foreign born.....	180
Number of clergymen.....	124
Number of physicians.....	219
Number of dentists.....	87
Number of attorneys.....	443
Number of teachers.....	571
Number of students.....	847
Number of artists and draughtsmen.....	189
Number of musicians.....	589
Number of merchants.....	1,796
Number of salesmen.....	2,400
Number of clerks and bookkeepers.....	2,857
Number of electricians.....	447
Number of telegraph operators.....	424
Number of mechanics.....	3,846
Number of engineers.....	402
Number of railroad conductors.....	144
Number of printers.....	695
Number of sailors.....	78
Number of farmers.....	5,813
Number of miners.....	334
Number of skilled laborers.....	2,279
Number of laborers.....	5,398
Miscellaneous.....	1,787
Number of Camps in Divisions.....	1,146
Number of Camps reporting.....	1,111
Number of Divisions.....	29
Number of Divisions reporting.....	29

The totals of Nos. 12, 13 and 14 should agree with No. 1, but in this they are 2,137 less, and I infer, they being neither widowers, married or single, that they seriously contemplate matrimony, and would suggest a revision of the forms to give them a place.

Michigan Division has secured the use of the cast-off uniforms of the state militia, and is looking very neat, all through our hustling Col. H. E. Cowdin.

The sick and death benefits are now participated in by a limited number of Divisions, through the Death Benefit Association, of Philadelphia, but its usefulness could be enlarged by a national association.

We notice from this report that Ohio has one member in the Cuban army. Massachusetts still holds the oldest member, 82. Who is he? Vermont, according to report received, has been paying death benefits on the installment plan, \$3.00 per week. I wonder if that's the way they die there?

Department of the Gulf is reported by Col. G. H. Tinker. Their membership is composed of seven colored to one white, and inability to get reports from them was the cause of not making a better report from that Division. We assure Brother Tinker that we think he has done well. The average age is below that of 1896. I cannot account for it. 1896 it was 27½ years and now 22 9-10 years.

Nebraska, Iowa and Michigan, and I think Wisconsin, have adopted a form similar to the Philadelphia Association, known as the "Nebraska Plan." Michigan is voting by Camps to determine whether we shall organize or not, with favorable returns thus far.

I am not going to give particular mention of Surgeons or Divisions, for they all have done their best, and some under adverse circumstances, and are deserving of praise. Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

J. A. MABBS,
Surgeon-General.

REPORT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

HEADQUARTERS COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

DEPARTMENT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF,
BLUFFTON, IND., September 1, 1897.

H. H. Hammer, Adjutant-General, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Reading, Pa.:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I have the honor to submit for your consideration the report, up to date, from the Department of Chaplain-in-Chief. I assure you it has been very annoying to me to be conscious of the fact for days that I was tardy with this report. No doubt you have been inconvenienced not a little. However, I trust that you with me may feel somewhat compensated for this annoyance, but the fact that the delay in waiting for reports from Division Chaplains has greatly added to the completeness and strength of the report herewith forwarded to your office. Hoping that this may meet your approval, and I may soon have the pleasure of meeting you at Indianapolis, I remain,

Loyally yours,

S. LIGHT,
Chaplain-in-Chief.

TABLE No. 1.

Showing percentage of Camps reporting from each Division.

DIVISION.	Per Cent.	DIVISION.	Per Cent.
Alabama and Tennessee..	80	Missouri.....	70
California.....	91½	Nebraska.....	70
Colorado.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	100
Connecticut.....	100	New Jersey.....	100
Gulf.....	.....	New York.....	80 10-11
Illinois.....	64 23-100	Ohio.....	.....
Indiana.....	65	Oregon.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	76
Kansas.....	83	Rhode Island.....	100
Kentucky.....	85 5-7	South Dakota.....	.....
Maine.....	98	Vermont.....	.....
Maryland.....	89	Washington.....	50
Massachusetts.....	98	West Virginia.....	.....
Michigan.....	78 7-10	Wisconsin.....	75
Minnesota.....	.....	

TABLE No. 2.
Showing Camp with largest Membership in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	3	49	Missouri	51	73
California	5	48	Nebraska	5	54
Colorado			New Hampshire	14	71
Connecticut	6	78	New Jersey	8	133
Gulf			New York	28	144
Illinois	26	100	Ohio		
Indiana	169	81	Oregon		
Iowa			Pennsylvania	16	229
Kansas	9	79	Rhode Island	10	64
Kentucky	1	40	South Dakota	13	33
Maine	4	89	Vermont	5	45
Maryland	1	53	Washington	4	56
Massachusetts	9	80	West Virginia		
Michigan	2	60	Wisconsin	43	65
Minnesota					

TABLE No. 3.
Showing Camp with Greatest Number of Brothers in Line Memorial Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	11	30	Missouri	65	30
California	5	30	Nebraska	3	40
Colorado			New Hampshire	14	50
Connecticut	6	43	New Jersey	8	53
Gulf			New York	60	60
Illinois	26	71	Ohio		
Indiana	169	76	Oregon		
Iowa			Pennsylvania	16	195
Kansas	57	61	Rhode Island	10	35
Kentucky	10	30	South Dakota	13	25
Maine	4	50	Vermont	77	27
Maryland	1 and 2	23 ea.	Washington	4	47
Massachusetts	2	55	West Virginia		
Michigan			Wisconsin	43	43
Minnesota					

TABLE No. 4.
Showing Camp with Greatest Number of Brothers in Line and Armed on Memorial Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.			Missouri	15	12
California	33	13	Nebraska	47	18
Colorado			New Hampshire	9	22
Connecticut	6	42	New Jersey	8	45
Gulf			New York	26	44
Illinois	26	53	Ohio		
Indiana	336	25	Oregon		
Iowa			Pennsylvania	2	65
Kansas	16	30	Rhode Island	10	35
Kentucky	10	26	South Dakota		
Maine	4	50	Vermont	77	20
Maryland	2	20	Washington	4	23
Massachusetts	5	41	West Virginia		
Michigan	227	20	Wisconsin	96	16
Minnesota					

TABLE No. 5.

Showing Camp with Greatest Number of Brothers in Uniform and in Line on Memorial Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	3	10	Missouri	65	30
California	5	11	Nebraska	72	20
Colorado			New Hampshire	74	50
Connecticut	6	42	New Jersey	8	45
Gulf			New York	168	58
Illinois	26	60	Ohio		
Indiana	336	25	Oregon		
Iowa			Pennsylvania	16	195
Kansas	57	58	Rhode Island	10	35
Kentucky	10	28	South Dakota	13	24
Maine	4	50	Vermont	60	23
Maryland	1 and 2	20 ea.	Washington	4 and 42	28 ea.
Massachusetts	2	55	West Virginia		
Michigan	2	58	Wisconsin	43	23
Minnesota					

TABLE No. 6.

Showing Camp having Greatest Attendance at Memorial Sunday Services in each Division.

DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.	DIVISION.	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee.	1	23	Missouri	65	30
California	19	31	Nebraska	28	37
Colorado			New Hampshire	18	51
Connecticut	6	39	New Jersey	5 and 8	32
Gulf			New York	50	80
Illinois	26	69	Ohio		
Indiana	169	70	Oregon		
Iowa			Pennsylvania	16	175
Kansas	57	42	Rhode Island	10	31
Kentucky	10	28	South Dakota	13	25
Maine	4	45	Vermont	17	31
Maryland	2	25	Washington	4	40
Massachusetts	25	60	West Virginia		
Michigan	2	52	Wisconsin	43	38
Minnesota					

TABLE No. 7.

Showing number of Camps furnishing Firing Squads in each Division.

DIVISION.	No.	DIVISION.	No.
Alabama and Tennessee	3	Missouri	4
California	4	Nebraska	11
Colorado		New Hampshire	3
Connecticut	2	New Jersey	15
Gulf		New York	31
Illinois	14	Ohio	
Indiana	14	Oregon	
Iowa		Pennsylvania	70
Kansas	30	Rhode Island	4
Kentucky	1	South Dakota	2
Maine	8	Vermont	2
Maryland	5	Washington	10
Massachusetts	17	West Virginia	
Michigan	18	Wisconsin	10
Minnesota			

TABLE No. 8.

Showing number of Addresses delivered by Members of the Order on Memorial Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	No.	DIVISION.	No.
Alabama and Tennessee..	11	Missouri	21
California.....	9	Nebraska	9
Colorado.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	5
Connecticut.....	11	New Jersey.....	9
Gulf.....	.....	New York.....	41
Illinois.....	39	Ohio.....	.....
Indiana	20	Oregon.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	54
Kansas.....	38	Rhode Island.....	4
Kentucky	9	South Dakota.....	6
Maine.....	17	Vermont.....	6
Maryland.....	11	Washington.....	8
Massachusetts.....	30	West Virginia.....	.....
Michigan.....	7	Wisconsin.....	12
Minnesota.....	.....	

TABLE No. 9.

Showing number of Camps Observing Union Defenders' Day in each Division.

DIVISION.	No.	DIVISION.	No.
Alabama and Tennessee..	7	Missouri.....	17
California.....	2	Nebraska	5
Colorado.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	7
Connecticut.....	5	New Jersey.....	18
Gulf.....	.....	New York.....	40
Illinois.....	14	Ohio.....	.....
Indiana.....	20	Oregon.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	Pennsylvania	56
Kansas.....	16	Rhode Island.....	4
Kentucky.....	2	South Dakota.....	2
Maine.....	8	Vermont.....	5
Maryland.....	11	Washington.....	10
Massachusetts.....	63	West Virginia .....	.....
Michigan.....	19	Wisconsin.....	8
Minnesota.....	.....	

TABLE No. 10.

Showing number of Deaths during year past in each Division.

DIVISION.	No.	DIVISION.	No.
Alabama and Tennessee..	2	Missouri.....	6
California.....	2	Nebraska	5
Colorado.....	.....	New Hampshire.....	5
Connecticut.....	5	New Jersey.....	6
Gulf.....	.....	New York.....	13
Illinois.....	9	Ohio.....	.....
Indiana.....	7	Oregon.....	.....
Iowa.....	.....	Pennsylvania.....	36
Kansas.....	9	Rhode Island.....	3
Kentucky	4	South Dakota.....	1
Maine.....	4	Vermont	5
Maryland	5	Washington.....	3
Massachusetts.....	18	West Virginia.....	.....
Michigan.....	2	Wisconsin.....	3
Minnesota.....	.....	

TABLE No. 11.

Showing number of Funerals attended by Camps in a Body in each Division.

DIVISION.	G. A. R.	S. V.	DIVISION.	G. A. R.	S. V.
Alabama and Tennessee.....			Missouri.....	8	6
California.....	3	1	Nebraska.....	5	5
Colorado.....			New Hampshire.....		4
Connecticut.....	3	1	New Jersey.....	44	6
Gulf.....			New York.....	34	13
Illinois.....	43	8	Ohio.....		
Indiana.....	20	7	Oregon.....		
Iowa.....			Pennsylvania.....	145	34
Kansas.....	36	3	Rhode Island.....	2	3
Kentucky.....	5	3	South Dakota.....		
Maine.....	5	2	Vermont.....	4	5
Maryland.....	12	3	Washington.....	8	3
Massachusetts.....	43	16	West Virginia.....		
Michigan.....	5		Wisconsin.....	7	2
Minnesota.....					

TABLE No. 12.

Showing number of Burial Services Conducted by Camps in each Division.

DIVISION.	G. A. R.	S. V.	DIVISION.	G. A. R.	S. V.
Alabama and Tennessee.....			Missouri.....	2	5
California.....	1	1	Nebraska.....		5
Colorado.....			New Hampshire.....		2
Connecticut.....	1	4	New Jersey.....	2	6
Gulf.....			New York.....	6	8
Illinois.....		3	Ohio.....		
Indiana.....	3	4	Oregon.....		
Iowa.....			Pennsylvania.....	24	24
Kansas.....	3	5	Rhode Island.....		2
Kentucky.....	4	2	South Dakota.....		
Maine.....		1	Vermont.....		
Maryland.....	4	3	Washington.....		1
Massachusetts.....	4	12	West Virginia.....		
Michigan.....			Wisconsin.....		
Minnesota.....					

TABLE No. 13.

Showing number of Camps using Memorial Services, and which, in each Division.

DIVISION.	A.	B.	DIVISION.	A.	B.
Alabama and Tennessee.....			Missouri.....	4	7
California.....		1	Nebraska.....	2	4
Colorado.....			New Hampshire.....	1	1
Connecticut.....	4	1	New Jersey.....	2	5
Gulf.....			New York.....	9	22
Illinois.....	3	7	Ohio.....		
Indiana.....	7	7	Oregon.....		
Iowa.....			Pennsylvania.....	32	14
Kansas.....	11	14	Rhode Island.....		3
Kentucky.....	2	8	South Dakota.....		
Maine.....	5	8	Vermont.....	1	4
Maryland.....	3	3	Washington.....	2	8
Massachusetts.....	9	17	West Virginia.....		
Michigan.....	5	11	Wisconsin.....	2	2
Minnesota.....					

DIVISION.	No. Camps Reporting	No. Camps Not Reporting	Total No. Camps.	Percentage Camps Reporting	Total Membership of Camps.	No. Brothers in line Memorial Day.	No. Brothers in line Armed.	No. Brothers in line Uniformed.	No. Camps Furnishing Firing Squads.	No. Addresses by Members of Order.	No. Brothers at Memorial Sunday Services.	No. Camps Observed Union Defenders' Day.	No. Deaths in Divisions.	Funerals Attended.		Burial Services Conducted.		Memorial Service Used.		Report Received at Headquarters.	ROSTER OF DIVISION CHAPLAINS.	
														G. A. R.	S. of V.	G. A. R.	S. of V.	"A."	"B."			NAME.
Ala. and Tenn...	19	0	19	100	365	173	....	20	3	11	131	7	2	....	....	....	....	....	....	Aug. 18.	Harry L. Veazey.
California.....	11	1	12	91%	302	207	35	41	4	9	159	2	2	3	1	1	1	....	1	Aug. 3.	W. F. Mason.
Colorado.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Connecticut.....	28	0	28	100	820	481	172	406	2	11	342	5	5	3	1	1	4	4	1	June 23.	Harry A. Carrigan.	
Gulf.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Illinois.....	53	29	82	64 23-100	1463	1049	955	425	14	39	885	14	9	43	8	....	3	3	7	Aug. 23.	George W. Estover.
Indiana.....	37	19	56	65	1072	875	132	212	14	20	609	20	7	20	7	3	4	7	7	July 8.	Rev. H. G. Ogden.	
Iowa.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Kansas.....	64	13	77	83	1472	1056	302	380	30	38	981	16	9	36	3	3	5	11	14	June 30.	Rev. T. B. Lawrence.	
Kentucky.....	12	2	14	85 5-7	281	173	64	118	1	9	122	2	4	5	3	4	2	2	3	Aug. 3.	John J. Daisy.	
Maine.....	49	1	50	98	1433	814	249	607	8	17	736	8	4	5	2	....	1	5	8	June 17.	Rev. Geo. E. Leighton.
Maryland.....	24	3	27	89	500	245	89	193	5	11	243	11	5	12	3	4	3	3	3	July 13.	H. S. Shermerhorn.	
Massachusetts...	134	3	137	98	4377	3205	389	2921	17	30	2589	63	18	43	16	4	12	9	17	June 27.	T. Elehoppell.	
Michigan.....	37	10	47	78 7-10	932	728	350	657	18	7	573	19	2	5	....	....	5	11	11	Aug. 2.	Julius W. Cogarn.
Minnesota.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Missouri.....	33	14	47	70	735	392	70	271	4	21	301	17	6	8	6	2	5	4	7	July 24.	John C. Bertbold.	
Nebraska.....	35	14	49	70	636	338	107	89	11	9	335	5	5	5	5	....	5	2	4	July 2.	J. A. Beck.
New Hampshire...	20	0	20	100	597	445	61	367	3	5	346	7	5	4	4	2	1	1	Aug. 11.	Rev. E. W. Dow.
New Jersey.....	27	0	27	100	787	412	248	351	16	9	358	18	6	44	6	2	6	2	5	Aug. 2.	John L. Reg-r.	
New York.....	93	22	115	80 10-11	1169	944	522	310	31	41	621	40	13	34	13	6	8	9	22	July 8.	W. C. Gray.	
Ohio.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Oregon.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Pennsylvania.....	120	38	158	76	5088	3269	1683	2611	70	54	2486	56	36	145	34	24	24	32	14	July 9.	Eden N. Bellandine.	
Rhode Island.....	14	0	14	100	398	213	120	183	4	4	177	4	3	2	3	....	2	....	3	June 16.	Rev. F. B. Cole.
South Dakota.....	15	0	15	100	271	172	....	79	2	6	135	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Vermont.....	23	0	23	100	580	266	54	229	2	6	275	5	5	4	5	....	....	1	4	Aug. 3.	Arthur I. Howe.
Washington.....	16	16	32	50	391	352	134	183	10	8	253	10	9	8	3	....	1	2	8	July 2.	Amos O. Baker.
West Virginia.....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
Wisconsin.....	24	8	32	75	642	388	95	153	10	12	338	8	3	7	2	....	....	2	2	Aug. 15.	T. J. Snodgrass.
Totals.....	690	193	1083	82	24279	16197	5581	10666	278	377	12791	339	153	432	125	54	88	104	142	....	....

RECAPITULATION.

No. Divisions reporting to date..... 29
 No. Divisions not reporting to date..... 7
 Percentage..... 75 25-29
 Divisions not reporting Gulf, Colorado, Minnesota, Oregon, Ohio, West Virginia, Iowa.

66 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of members in line Memorial Day.
 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. of these armed.
 66 per cent. of these uniformed.
 52 $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of members at Sunday Services.
 33 per cent. of Camps observed Union Defenders' Day.

TABLE No. 14.
Comparative Statement.

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1897
1 Number of Divisions reporting.....	17	19	22	22	21	29	29	28	22
2 Number of Divisions not reporting.....	10	11	11	0	11	1	.....	.....	7
3 Number of Camps reporting.....	751	1030	976	1055	1028	1011	1049	1142	890
4 Number of Camps not reporting.....	.....	.....	.....	760	780	515	288	386	193
5 Percentage of Camps reporting.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	78	75	82
6 No. of Brothers belonging to Camps.....	.....	.....	29841	32285	32559	39012	31793	31556	24279
7 No. of Brothers in line Memorial Day.....	16589	16437	19957	20432	20281	18619	16916	20621	16197
8 No. of Brothers armed and in line Memorial Day.....	3648	3658	4863	5673	.....	.....	.....	5662	6381
9 No. of Brothers uniformed and in line Memorial Day.....	9244	9328	11619	13259	13447	13014	14182	13675	10666
10 No. of Firing Squads furnished.....	.....	.....	193	212	264	277	333	347	278
11 No. of Addresses made by Sons of Veterans.....	.....	.....	182	163	212	221	256	432	377
12 No. of Brothers attending Memorial Sunday Services.....	11370	12504	13830	14115	15935	14166	15903	16934	12701
13 No. of Camps observing Union Defenders' Day.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	370	311	357	350	339
14 No. of Deaths in Division during last twelve months.....	89	119	123	165	180	185	207	163	163
15 No. of Funerals attended by Camps in a body.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	{ G.A.R. 419	{ 432
16 No. of Burial Services conducted by Camps.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	{ S.V. 128	{ 125
17 Number of Camps using Memorial Services.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	{ G.A.R. 63	{ 54
								{ S.V. 79	{ 88
								{ A. 99	{ 104
								{ B. 178	{ 142

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF: The several reports will go to the Committee on Officers' Reports under the rule, if the Encampment is willing that they shall be referred in this way. Is there objection?

The Chair hears none and the reports will be so referred. The Chair is now prepared to entertain a motion to take recess, in order to permit the committees to go ahead with their work.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I move we now take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

FRANK J. COATES, of Nebraska: Commander, I move that this Encampment do now resolve itself into a committee of the whole and retire to the Nebraska Headquarters at the Denison Hotel for the purpose of sampling some cigars furnished by the Commercial Club of Omaha.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is of opinion that no motion is necessary on that subject. The Chair has no doubt that the Nebraska delegation will be able to dispose of those cigars without one.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Commander, in view of the fact that there has been no second to General Abbott's motion, I move that the Commandery do now take recess until two o'clock this afternoon.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Will the brother from Iowa permit the Chair to ask the intention of the motion to take recess until two o'clock?

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Commander, the intention is to proceed with our work. We place our time for convening so far ahead that we do not succeed in doing the business which we have come here from great distance to attend to. We neglect matters of great importance by taking these long recesses now, and then crowd the business all into the later sessions of the Commandery. There is certainly a great many matters that can legally come before this Commandery-in-Chief this afternoon and be disposed of after due consideration.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to a point of order. I believe my motion was seconded. I insist upon it.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is under the impression that Past Commander Abbott's motion was seconded.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, there is no business that can be attended to this afternoon. There is nothing that the Commandery can do until we have the reports of the various committees.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no business that can come before this convention in precedence of the report of the committees. I understand the purpose of the motion of Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott is that the business of the Encampment may be expedited by giving the committees time to consider the matters that are to come before them and to prepare reports to be submitted to us to-morrow. I can say on behalf of the Council-in-Chief that they will be ready to report with the other committees just appointed, and that we will be enabled to have a continuous business session to-morrow and will be able to dispose of all matters that are to come before us. I believe that is the reason for your motion, General Abbott?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Chicago: It is, Commander.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is of the opinion that the adjournment until nine o'clock to-morrow morning does not give the committees too much time, if we are to accept the hospitality of the City of Indianapolis to-night.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I am of the opinion that if we adjourn until four o'clock this afternoon some of the committees will be prepared to report at that time. I am certain the Committee on Resolutions can have at least a partial report ready by that time and we can get to work and do something. I think it is better not to leave everything until to-morrow. I think the adjournment had better be until four o'clock this afternoon.

RECESS UNTIL FOUR O'CLOCK P. M.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I move to amend General Abbott's motion, that the Commandery take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning, by substituting four o'clock p. m. of to-day.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Commander, I second that motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is the amendment accepted by the original mover?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I do not wish to delay this Encampment, but as a member of a committee that has a great deal to do I desire and hope that we will be ready to present a report to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, but I have just as great desire to participate in the consideration of matters that may come up at four o'clock as any other brother here. I feel that in justice to my Division I should be here representing my Division at four o'clock, but if I must come here at four o'clock I cannot do my share of the committee work. I feel that we can come here just as well to-morrow morning and do our work well and push it through, and we should have this afternoon to attend to the work in committee. The brothers want to see this beautiful city. To-morrow afternoon there will be a parade and there will be plenty to do, and the recess this afternoon will furnish the only opportunity brothers will have for seeing the beautiful sights of this city. The rest of the time is all mortgaged. I do not see what the Encampment could do this afternoon if we were to meet.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is a motion to substitute four o'clock this afternoon for nine o'clock to-morrow morning in the motion submitted by General Abbott. The original mover does not accept the amendment. The question is on the amendment. Any remarks?

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I desire to state just a few words. My object in moving to amend the motion of General Abbott to adjourn till nine o'clock to-morrow morning is this: It is barely possible that some one of these committees may be ready to report at four o'clock. I think there is very little doubt but that the report of the Council-in-Chief can be ready by four o'clock; but even in the event that none of these reports are ready I believe this report of the Committee on Credentials will be ready for consideration at that time. It is barely possible that this supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials will create some discussion. We will have more time to consider it this afternoon than to-morrow. We can dispose of that to-day, and to-morrow morning

we will be ready to take up the reports of the standing committees and have ample time to give them full consideration. In the event we meet here at four o'clock and there is no business ready to come before us it is a simple matter to adjourn until to-morrow. It seems to be wise to take that precaution. At least come here, and if there be no business then adjourn until nine o'clock. I believe that is to the best interest of the Encampment. I believe it will tend to serve the convenience of the majority here. As to the presence of the members of the committees they cannot be present at all sessions of the Encampment. It never has been so at any of the past sessions of the Commandery-in-Chief. Members of the committees always have to do a considerable part of their work while the Commandery is in session, and members of the important committees cannot be present both at the committee meetings and the Commandery meetings. They would not be able to do so to-morrow any more than to-day.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: The question is on the amendment to take recess until four o'clock this afternoon. Are you ready for the question? All those in favor of the amendment will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, the same sign. The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it and the amendment is carried. Before I put the question on the motion as amended I desire to say on behalf of Brother Bookwalter, chairman of the Local Committee, that they have badges for the members of the Encampment, which the Quartermaster-General will distribute. The brothers will present themselves at the Quartermaster-General's desk as their names are called by the Adjutant-General and receive their delegate badges. Brother Bookwalter informs me that if there is not sufficient now there is more coming on the noon train. Every delegate, every member of the Encampment, is to be supplied with a souvenir badge.

The question now recurs on the motion as amended to take recess until four o'clock this afternoon. All in favor of the motion will give the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, the same sign. The ayes seem to have it. The ayes have it and the Encampment takes recess until four o'clock this afternoon.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Four o'clock P. M.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. Inspector-General, are you satisfied that all present are entitled to remain?

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander-in-Chief, I find on inspection that all present are entitled to remain.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If the delegates entitled to vote in this Encampment will be good enough to move forward and allow those that are not entitled to vote to remain in the rear seats it will greatly facilitate the business of the Encampment; the stenographer can then more readily recognize the makers of the motions and there will be less probability of question arising as to the validity of a vote. The Adjutant-General will proceed with the calling of the roll.

The Adjutant-General called the roll. (Roll call No. 2).

T. Z. MORROW, of Kentucky: Commander, the Division of Kentucky was omitted in the calling of the roll.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the Division of Kentucky was omitted because the Committee on Credentials has not yet taken up the credentials of that Division. They are in, however, and will be acted upon.

LEWIS A. DILLY, of Iowa: Commander, my name was not called. I was present.

THE COMMANDER-IN CHIEF: If there are any whose names have been omitted in the calling of the roll they will just report to the Adjutant-General's desk and be marked present. The Committee on Credentials will meet in the ante-room to the right of the Chair immediately. If any of the delegates have not received their delegate badges they can have them by calling on the Quartermaster-General. The Chair is informed that the Council-in-Chief is ready to report.

REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

C. A. Borin, secretary of the Council-in-Chief, submitted the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9, 1897.

To the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in Sixteenth Annual Encampment:

COMMANDER AND BROTHERS:—The Council-in-Chief met at Louisville, Ky., September 10, 1896, and organized by the election of F. W. Myers chairman and C. Borin secretary.

During the year no matter of importance was presented to the Council-in-Chief for their action.

Pursuant to the order of the Commander-in-Chief the Council-in-Chief met at Indianapolis, Ind., September 8, 1897, and examined all books and accounts of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, recording receipts and disbursements for the term ending August 23, 1897. The books and accounts of these officers were found to be accurate and complete and most creditable to the especial fitness shown by the brothers holding these most responsible positions. The cash on hand August 23, 1897, as shown by the cash balance and cash counted, was \$1,159.91.

We recommend:

1. That the Quartermaster-General contract for 3,000 copies of the proceedings of this Encampment, to be ready for distribution within ninety days, and to be edited under the direction of the outgoing administration.
2. The per capita tax be fixed at 20 cents for the current Commandery year.

The Council-in-Chief desires to warmly commend the Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General for the neatness, accuracy and systematic methods shown in their records and accounts and for the efficient and economic administration of the business of the Commandery as transacted by the Quartermaster-General.

F. W. MYERS,
R. M. BUCKLEY,
J. HOWARD HEINE,
LEO W. KENNEDY,
C. BORIN,

Council-in-Chief.

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire: Commander, I move that we accept the report of the Council-in-Chief.

WALTER E. DUNCAN, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I would like to inquire of the mover of that motion whether his motion contemplates the adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the Council-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion would certainly have that effect. Without any qualification the acceptance of this report would accept the recommendations contained therein.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Then, Commander, I move to amend the motion that the report of the Council-in-Chief be received.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I move as a substitute motion that the reception of the report of the Council-in-Chief be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

C. T. SPACKMAN, of Illinois: Commander, I will second Brother Orner's substitute motion.

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire : Commander, it was my intention in moving to accept the report that we should accept the report and act on the recommendations later.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : If you accept the report of the committee you must necessarily accept their recommendations.

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire : Commander, I did not intend my motion to conclude action on the recommendations.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Then I understand your motion means exactly the same as Brother Orner's, that the report of the committee be received and the recommendations therein contained be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports. Brother Crowley then accepts Brother Orner's substitute motion ?

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire : Yes, Commander.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brothers, you have heard the motion, that the report of the Council-in-Chief be accepted, and the recommendations therein contained be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

A. W. JONES, of Ohio : Commander, what would be the effect of that motion ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The effect of the motion will be that the matter will simply come before this body again through the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports.

A. W. JONES, of Ohio : Then the effect of it would be simply to lay it upon the table.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The effect of it is to send it to that committee.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN : Commander, it has been the custom in the past for the Council-in-Chief to make its report direct to the Encampment. The matters contained therein, so far as the recommendations are concerned, must necessarily be acted upon by this Encampment. We are in just as good position now to act upon these recommendations and can act upon them just as intelligently now as we will be when they have gone through the hands of another committee. The Council-in-Chief is better qualified, in view of the close examination which they have made of the financial affairs of the Order, to make recommendations to this Encampment than any other committee. No other committee has had its opportunity to know of the financial affairs of the Order, and it occurs to me that we are simply consuming time if we place these matters in the hands of another committee. They can be just as well acted upon at the present time as hereafter. I, therefore, move as a substitute for the motion pending, that the report of the Council-in-Chief be received and the recommendations therein contained be adopted.

J. V. B. CLARKSON, of New York : Commander, I second the motion. Having myself been Quartermaster-General, and knowing the responsibilities of the Council-in-Chief, knowing the capabilities of the individual members, knowing the opportunities they have of examining the books and acquainting themselves thoroughly with the needs of the Order, I feel that their recommendations should be concurred in. I, therefore, heartily second the substitute of Brother Loebenstein.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The substitute motion, then, if it prevails, will not only receive the report, but will adopt the recommendations contained therein. You so understand, brothers. Do you care to discuss the question ?

JESSE R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey : Commander, if this motion prevails it changes our Constitution. The present per capita tax is sixteen cents and this recommends a change to twenty cents. That is a change in the Constitution of the Order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Is the brother sure it is? Will the brother kindly point out the section of the Constitution wherein it is provided that the per capita tax shall be sixteen cents? (Cries of "question," "question.")

THE CAMP GUARD: Commander, Colonel Hogland, (?) of Louisville, the Kentucky newsboys' friend, is without and would like to be received.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Inspector-General will receive Colonel Hogland. The brother is in error in regard to the Constitution specifying a per capita tax of sixteen cents, and as the Encampment is likely to be misled by his remarks, the Chair will read Section I of Article 3, page 52, of the C., R. and R., which says:

"The Commandery-in-Chief shall, at its stated yearly meeting, assess a per capita tax on each Division of not exceeding twenty cents on each and every member in good standing."

That is the only provision in the Constitution in reference to the per capita tax. Is there any further discussion on the motion? (Cries of "question," "question.")

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I ask for a re-reading of those recommendations.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will read the recommendations of the Council-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General read the recommendations as follows:

"We recommend:

1. That the Quartermaster-General contract for three thousand copies of the proceedings of this Encampment, to be ready for distribution within ninety days, and to be edited under the direction of the outgoing administration.

2. The per capita tax be fixed at twenty cents for the current Commandery year."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Now, brothers, the question is on the adoption of the report and concurrence in the recommendations therein contained. You understand the question? All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion appears to be carried. (Calls for a division). Who calls for a division? (No response). The motion is carried. Are there any further committees ready to report?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I would like to say for the Committee on Resolutions that we would be very glad if the brothers having any resolutions to be submitted to us would get them in our hands just as quickly as possible. We do not want to have all the work to do just in the last hours of the convention.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Committee on Resolutions requests any individuals, Camps and Divisions having resolutions to submit to pass them over to the committee as quickly as possible. Is the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations ready to report? Is the Committee on Rituals and Ceremonies ready to report? Is the Committee on Resolutions ready to report?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, the Committee on Resolutions is not ready to report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work ready to report?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, it seems to me a very important matter that the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work make a report as quickly as possible. The dispatch of the business of this Encampment depends largely upon that committee. The other committees can do nothing until the work is distributed, and that should be done at the earliest practical moment. It seems to me that this is the most urgent matter just at the present time.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Reed is unquestionably right. Is there any member of that committee present? There seems to be none and we are unable to proceed further until we have the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials. If there is no objection the Encampment will be at rest until the Credential Committee is ready to report.

The Chair will declare a recess. (4.40 P. M.)

5.25 P. M.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. We will now hear the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials.

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the Committee on Credentials beg leave to report the following brothers entitled to a seat and vote in the Encampment from the Indiana Division in addition to those already reported :

Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong.

Past Division Commander John E. Edmunson.

Substitute Delegate James W. Noel.

I would like that the brothers would kindly answer to their names as called, if they are present.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brothers apparently did not understand ; this is a supplemental report of the Credentials Committee. As the names are called the brothers will answer and be accredited upon the roll.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I will call the names again.

Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN : Commander, do I understand that these brothers are going to be seated without any action of the Encampment accepting this report ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Committee on Credentials are just presenting their report.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL : These brothers will not be accredited unless the action of the Committee on Credentials is approved by the Encampment. I will now call the names of the brothers recommended as entitled to seats by the committee :

IN THE INDIANA DIVISION.

Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong.

Past Division Commander John E. Edmunson.

Substitute Delegate James W. Noel.

IN THE NEW YORK DIVISION.

John V. B. Clarkson.

IN THE ILLINOIS DIVISION.

Past Division Commander S. E. Thomasson.

IN THE PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION.

Substitute Delegate W. N. Hall.

Substitute Delegate Walter E. Duncan.

IN THE MARYLAND DIVISION.

Substitute Delegate Charles Davis.

DIVISION OF ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.

Past Division Commander H. L. Veazey.

Delegate-at-Large H. T. Cooper.

Delegate J. J. Straub.

DIVISION OF IOWA.

Past Division Commander John H. Pickett.

DIVISION OF OHIO.

E. H. Archer, Delegate.

Charles T. Scheid, (?) Substitute.

DIVISION OF KENTUCKY.

Division Commander T. Z. Morrow, Jr.
 Past Commander George H. Capito.
 Past Commander W. R. Heflin.
 Past Commander W. N. Evans.
 Past Commander Will A. Field.
 Past Commander B. F. McClellan.
 Delegate-at-Large Thomas T. Fogle.
 Delegate J. Sherman Steeley.

That is the entire report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials. What is your pleasure?

LEWIS A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, I would like to ask if the name of F. C. Raymond (?) has not been presented.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Yes, sir; he is on the roll. We accredited him by the withdrawal of the substitute.

JESSE R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey: Commander, was Brother Matthews' name entered as delegate-at-large?

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: It is, because the substitute has been withdrawn.

T. Z. MORROW, JR., of Kentucky: Commander, the alternate of the delegate-at-large of Kentucky that is present, Joseph F. Baggs, was not called.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: His name is on the roll all right.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, what is your pleasure as to the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials?

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Commander, I move that the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials be adopted and the committee continued.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials be received and the committee continued. Any remarks?

BROTHER J. E. EDMUNSON'S CASE.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, in the report of the committee they recommend the seating of Brother Edmunson as a Past Commander from the Division of Indiana. Upon an examination of the roll-calls of the Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth National Encampments we find that Brother Edmunson was never reported and never accredited as a Past Commander of the Indiana Division. It is claimed—and I know nothing to the contrary—that Brother Edmunson did serve as a provisional Commander of the Indiana Division in the early days of the Division. Subsequent to that time, or prior to the Eighth National Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Brother Edmunson dropped out of the Order, his Camp was disbanded, or he was dropped by his Camp. Subsequent to the Anderson Encampment of the Indiana Division, a little more than two years, the Camp at Bloomington, Indiana, sought to re-muster Brother Edmunson and at the same time restore his past rank. It was found that his past rank could not be restored by a re-muster, but it was thought that by the issuance of a Transfer Card from Division Headquarters, after the lapse of five or six years in which the gentleman had been out of the Order, that he could be again received into this Camp and regain his past rank. That was the course that was pursued. Mr. Edmunson was received into the Camp at Bloomington, Indiana, and reported by the then Commander of the Indiana Division. That action was simply the conclusion of the Division officers of Indiana as to Mr. Edmunson's standing in the Order, and has no effect and no force upon this Encampment as to whether or not Mr. Edmunson is a Past Commander of the Order and entitled as such to a seat in this Encampment. In this connection I desire to read a decision of the Com-

mander-in-Chief, which is exactly in line, as he would undoubtedly rule in the case of Mr. Edmunson as he has in the case of this brother. I do not know whether this was a case sent up for a decision upon the case here shown, or whether it was a hypothetical case sent to the Commander-in-Chief for a decision in Mr. Edmunson's case. The decision is No. 9, by Commander-in-Chief Rake, dated the 17th day of March, 1897:

DECISION IX.

READING, PA., March 17, 1897.

Col. R. B. Oglesbec, Commander Indiana Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—To the general question which you submit, "A Past Captain of a Camp which was disbanded in June, 1894, and never reinstated, is given a transfer card by the Division Commander in February, 1897, he having been shown to be in good standing in his Camp at the time of its disbandment, and he immediately deposits his card in and becomes a member of another Camp. Is he now entitled to rank as a Past Captain?" I answer, no.

The life of a transfer card is clearly indicated by the C., R. and R., and if at the expiration of one year the holder has not availed himself of its privileges, and is, in consequence, considered as honorably discharged, it would seem to be only equitable that the power to grant a transfer after one year from the date of disbandment of a Camp should not be exercised.

It is true that Chapter II, Article IV, Section 4, distinctly says, "Members of disbanded Camps, who were in good standing at the time of such dissolution, shall receive from their Division Commander, etc., etc.," but certainly the intent of this language is that such transfers shall be issued at or about the time of the disbandment of the Camp. Should the Division Commander, through any neglect, fail to issue such transfers, members entitled to receive them would have their remedy. The very fact that a past officer had been content to rest without his rightful certificate of standing for a period of nearly three years would indicate that he had but little interest in his past rank.

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

With this decision before you, and the explanation, which I believe cannot be questioned, I leave the matter for your decision. It is not my purpose to try to reduce the representation of the Indiana Division. If I felt that Mr. Edmunson was entitled to his past rank, there is no man in this Encampment that would be more glad to see him receive it; but I am opposed to the creation of Past Division Officers by such methods, which are simply the conclusion of Division Officers as to the standing of a Division Officer in the Order.

WILLIAM DESTEESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, in exoneration of the action of the Committee on Credentials, which held this Indiana matter open on two brothers, Colonel William H. Armstrong and John E. Edmunson, I will state that when the Committee on Credentials reported that they were entitled to a seat it was upon this certificate:

"To H. H. Hammer, Adjutant General, and the Credential Committee of the Sixteenth National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS: This is to certify that Colonel William H. Armstrong and John E. Edmunson are Past Colonels of the Indiana Division in good standing and have not been dropped nor suspended from the Order.

(Signed) R. S. THOMPSON,
Division Commander.

HORACE S. STILLWELL,
Assistant Adjutant Indiana Division."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I do not understand that anyone is criticizing the Committee on Credentials who have given their source of authority; but objection is made to the case of Brother Edmunson. Are there any further remarks?

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander-in-Chief, I am not prepared to question the statement of facts that Quartermaster-General Loebenstein has given. I do not know whether he has given the facts as facts

from the record, of which he has personal knowledge, or whether he is giving us his inferences. Neither do I know myself of the facts before the Knoxville Encampment. I have no personal knowledge of them. I do know this, that the Indiana Division for sometime, perhaps from the time of its organization and for the last three or four years to my personal knowledge, has regarded Brother Edmunson as a Past Colonel of the Indiana Division. I do know this, that the record shows that the Fourteenth Annual Encampment, held at Knoxville, Tennessee, ratified the conclusion of the Indiana Division. The question was then passed upon by the Credential Committee of that Encampment. That committee reported in favor of Brother Edmunson, and the report of that committee was accepted and adopted by the National Encampment, and we now cannot get behind the action of that Encampment. The certificate of R. S. Thompson, the Commander of the Indiana Division, shows that Brother Edmunson is a Past Colonel, that he has not been suspended or dropped, and I know of my own personal knowledge that he has not been suspended or dropped since the Knoxville Encampment, where the conclusion, if it was no more than the conclusion of the Commander of the Indiana Division, was ratified by the National body. I hold that the matter since that time is settled.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Will Brother Noel permit me to interrupt him? I would like to inquire whether Brother Noel is willing to state that Mr. Edmunson has never been suspended or dropped since the date of his certificate as Commander of the Indiana Division.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, in answer to that question permit me to say that, as I said in the beginning, I have no personal knowledge of the history of Colonel Edmunson from the time he was Commander up to the time of the Knoxville Encampment; but I say, from a legal standpoint, whatever the conclusion was at that time, it was ratified by that Encampment and this Encampment cannot go behind the certificate of the Colonel of the Indiana Division that he is a Past Colonel and that he has not been dropped or suspended. I think the Judge Advocate-General will bear me out in that statement.

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Commander, I was Commander of the Indiana Division at the time this question came up, and was the Commander who issued the transfer card to Brother Edmunson. The question was presented to me by the Bloomington Camp, which Brother Edmunson afterwards joined, or transferred to, and was fully investigated at that time. The fact was laid before Commander-in-Chief William F. Bundy, of Ohio, and he passed upon it. I was a member of the Committee on Credentials at the Encampment at Knoxville and the question was there fully discussed. Adjutant-General Speelman, who had investigated the matter with General Bundy, was there at the time and made his statement of facts to the Committee on Credentials; and the report was made that Brother Edmunson was entitled to admission into the Encampment as a Past Commander of the Indiana Division, and that report was adopted and ratified by the Encampment. I maintain that, having investigated the facts fully and completely, the Division Commander acted honestly and according to the Constitution; and that upon the mere statement of a brother upon this floor that the Commander-in-Chief did not do his duty, we cannot go behind the returns of that Encampment and the return of the Commander-in-Chief at that time. I know that Brother Loebenstein has made this statement. He has made the statement upon the authority of information that he received from the Bloomington Camp prior to the muster of Brother Edmunson into the Camp. The facts that he states are disputed, at least inferentially, by the fact that the Commander of the Division at the time issued a transfer card to Brother Edmunson. It ought to be supposed that the Division Commander acted according to the Constitution of the Order when his action was ratified by the Commandery-in-Chief at its subsequent session. I do not believe that after Brother Edmunson has been allowed to vote in this Encampment—and he would have been had he been present—after the Committee on Credentials has adopted the conclusions of the Division Commander and the Commander-in-Chief, that upon the mere statement of one brother upon the authority of a letter received from another brother, this Encampment should say that Brother Edmunson is not entitled to membership in the Indiana Division.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: May I ask the brother a question?

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Certainly.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I desire to ask Brother Martin, who was Division Commander at that time, if it is not a fact that Mr. Edmunson had been out of the Order for a number of years; if it was not sought first to re-muster him into the Bloomington Camp, and when they found that would not restore his past rank, if a transfer card was not then issued; if he was not out of the Order four or five years?

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Commander, the question was never presented to me whether they should re-muster him as a new member or not. The committee wrote to me and asked me for a transfer card for Brother Edmunson. I investigated the record and found he was in good standing at the time of the disbandment of the Camp, and a transfer card was issued to him in accordance therewith.

F. L. SHEPARD, of Illinois: Commander, it seems to me that the brother has not answered the Quartermaster-General's question, and for my own information I should like to have that question answered. Brother Loebenstein has stated that the brother was out of the Order for a number of years and the Indiana brothers have not specifically answered that. I would like to know if they know whether or not Brother Edmunson was out of the Order for a number of years?

FRANK MARTIN, of Indiana: Commander, I will say that I do not think he was.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: The record shows that he was.

F. L. SHEPARD, of Illinois: Commander, it seems to me then that it is not quite fair for them to challenge the statement of the Quartermaster-General when he states positively that he was out of the Order for a number of years, for five or six years, and that he was not accredited as a delegate to the National Encampments.

WILLIAM DE'STRESSE, of Wisconsin: Commander, what is the motion?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion is to accept the report of the Committee on Credentials and continue the committee.

NEWTON J. MCGUIRE, of Indiana: Commander, I just want to say a word in verification of what has been said on the part of the Indiana delegation, that Past Commander J. E. Edmunson was accredited as a Past Commander at the Knoxville Encampment. I have the proceedings here—I guess it is not denied, however—which shows that the Indiana delegation consisted of Past Commanders William H. Armstrong, J. E. Edmunson, George C. Harvey, John W. Newton, Newton J. McGuire and Frank Martin. Now, of course, we have all understood the statement made by Quartermaster-General Loebenstein. The facts in this case seem to be in dispute, but I think from my past investigation of the matter that J. E. Edmunson is entitled to his past rank. Now, if it is true that the Credentials Committee have acted upon the certificate of the Division Commander, certified by his Adjutant under seal, we know that J. E. Edmunson is entitled to a vote. We know also that it has been recommended by the Committee on Credentials that he be seated. I believe that the delegates to this Encampment will agree with me when I say that you cannot go back on those returns and base your opinion upon a statement of any member of the Encampment. We all have great respect for General Loebenstein, but he speaks without an investigation, without the facts being presented. We must have the evidence as to those facts. I do not think that General Loebenstein will state to the Encampment that he knows of his personal knowledge that J. E. Edmunson was dropped from the Order for any length of time. I do not believe that the Encampment has any evidence of that fact. I believe that the evidence points otherwise, but certainly if the Encampment has no evidence to that effect it cannot go back of the regular returns. (Cries of "question," "question.")

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: The question is called for upon the adoption of the supplemental report of the Credential Committee and the continuance of the same. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The ayes appear to have it. The ayes have it. The motion is carried. Are there any other committees ready to report? Is the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work ready to report? The Committee on Resolutions? The Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations? We appear to be in the same condition that we were before.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE PER CAPITA TAX.

ED. K. DEPUY, of Maryland: Mr. President, I move you, sir, that the Encampment reconsider its action in reference to increasing the *per capita* tax from sixteen to twenty cents. In this connection I want to say that the Maryland Division would feel this extra expense greatly. We are struggling along with a membership barely sufficient to pay the actual expenses of the Division, and I sincerely hope that the Encampment will reconsider its action with the view of placing the *per capita* tax at sixteen cents as before. That is all I want to say on the subject.

R. J. BOSWORTH, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that the action of this Encampment adopting the second recommendation of the Council-in-Chief increasing the per capita tax from sixteen to twenty cents be reconsidered. Are you ready for the question? All in favor will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried. The original motion to adopt the report and the recommendations of the Council-in-Chief is now before you.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I felt when we had voted for that recommendation that we did it relying on the wisdom of the Council-in-Chief and their knowledge of the financial condition of the Order. I did it in good faith, believing that the Council-in-Chief had looked over the ground and were familiar with the wants and the requirements of the Order; and before we vote again I would like the Council in Chief to tell us what information they have and why they believe it is necessary to increase the per capita tax. I believe they will be sustained, as they were in the first place; that if it is necessary to make the per capita tax twenty cents the Commandery-in-Chief will do it; but I think it would be well for the Council-in-Chief to state the facts on which they based their recommendation.

R. M. BUCKLEY, of Kentucky: Commander, as a member of the Council-in-Chief, that question was before us this morning. First yesterday, by the reading of the report of the Quartermaster-General—a report that will be later read before this body—that report shows, my brothers, that in the last three or four years of the Commandery-in-Chief our surplus has grown smaller and smaller each year. After the expenses of this Commandery-in-Chief are paid, the printing of the proceedings, etc., we will not have a dollar left here for the incoming administration to take charge of. While some of us thought twenty cents might be a little large we could think of no other way that we could get for the Commandery-in-Chief revenue sufficient to run the organization. The recommendation of the Council-in-Chief was not one that we liked to make, but we made it in good faith, and we want every brother in this house to express his opinion on the subject and say how it will affect his division or his Camp. Now, if you will hear an explanation from General Loebenstein I think the members of this body will vote for that recommendation. It may seem a little high in these hard times, but, my brothers, we felt compelled to do it.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF: Has Brother Loebenstein any explanation to make?

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander-in-Chief, the best explanation that I can make is to read that section of my report to this body, which was considered by the Council-in-Chief, and then submit some figures. In my report I say:

I feel it my duty to call to your attention what may prove a serious menace to the Order. No complaint has been made, or can be justly made, that the affairs of the Order have been otherwise than economically administered. But our revenues are being constantly reduced and our surplus is being rapidly extinguished. At the close of Commander-in-Chief Weeks' administration our surplus was \$5,685.00. This surplus was reduced to \$5,133.50 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Hall's term of office; increased to \$5,176.41 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Maccabe's term; reduced to \$4,190.21 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Bundy's term; further reduced to \$3,601.21 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Russell's term; and again reduced to \$3,030.67 at the close of Commander-in-Chief Rake's term. Emergencies may arise that will necessitate increasing our revenues, and if this Encampment shall again fix the quarterly per capita tax at 4 cents, I am of the opinion that the Council-in-Chief should be empowered to raise the amount of such quarterly per capita tax, should necessity require.

At the date of the closing of my report on the 23d of August last, the cash balance was \$1,160. There has since been added to that amount moneys received by the Adjutant-General from per capita tax and charter fees amounting to \$340, making a total in round numbers of \$1,500. Subsequent to the date of that report there has been paid out at my headquarters amounts aggregating \$100. There was due the Adjutant-General for salary up to the close of this Encampment \$125; due for printing the reports of the officers, \$225. The expenses of this National Encampment will be in the neighborhood of \$650. The printing of the proceedings of this Encampment will become a liability virtually as soon as this Encampment closes, making in addition to the money we have already paid for the printing of these reports, \$325, making a total of \$1,424; which will leave a cash balance at the disposal of the next administration of about \$75 or \$100. No revenue is now due the Commandery-in-Chief until the end of the current term, the September term. Divisions have, under the law, thirty days from that date in which to make reports. In addition to this thirty days they usually take from thirty to sixty days grace, which will bring the matter up to about the first of the year. In the meantime, it will be necessary to contract for certain supplies, the stock of supplies at the close of an administration is usually and necessarily low. It will be necessary to meet the expenditure for rent, for salaries and other incidental expenses, and the revenues of the Commandery-in-Chief will not be of sufficient magnitude to meet these expenditures. Now, my brothers, it is simply a question of choice. Certain revenues must be provided to meet the expenses of the Commandery-in-Chief. We can anticipate this matter now by raising the per capita tax and providing sufficient means, or we can wait until the next Encampment and have your Quartermaster-General and your Adjutant-General report a large amount of liabilities to the Commandery-in-Chief to be paid. I believe it is to the best interest of the organization to anticipate this matter and raise means and have a sufficient amount on hand to meet our bills promptly in the future as in the past. The expenses of the current term have been kept down; had they not been, instead of having a small surplus in cash, we would have had nothing on hand but a number of bills remaining unpaid. Our revenues during the current term have been decreased in round figures \$1,400, and yet the surplus has been reduced less than \$600. We have been trying to run the Order with a membership of about two-thirds of what it was, with the revenues curtailed in the same proportion. We have been running the Order with a per capita tax of four cents a quarter on a membership of thirty-two thousand as against a membership of fifty-four or fifty-five thousand. Now, with a membership of a little over thirty thousand we are trying to run the Order on a per capita tax of four cents a quarter, or sixteen cents a year. This increase in the per capita tax is in my opinion absolutely necessary. It is bound to come sooner or later. We can meet it now, or pay our bills at the next Encampment. It is simply a question of choice. I think the Encampment will coincide with the recommendation of the Council-in-Chief, and fix the per capita tax for the ensuing year at twenty cents.

LEWIS A. DILLELY, of Iowa: Commander, I would ask if Past Adjutant-General Borin is in the room. If he is we would like to hear

from him his opinion regarding the administration of the finances of the Order.

C. A. BORIN, of Kansas: Commander and brothers, I endorsed this recommendation as a member of the Council-in-Chief. In the meeting of the Council-in-Chief I opposed it. I opposed it in order to get the views and the figures and the statements of those who were in favor of it; in order to get down to the absolute facts in the matter. I opposed it just as this Commandery is opposing it now, until I found out what I believed to be the truth in the matter. I opposed it in order to get the truth, in order to get the facts, and as the facts are presented to me I can see no other way, with the present authorized expenses, of doing the business of the Commandery. I know of no other way of raising the amount necessary to be raised as revenue. In addition to what General Loebenstein has told you you must remember that there is another expenditure that in all probability will be necessarily incurred in the near future, and that is the expense involved in the removal of the Commandery-in-Chief headquarters. Of course that is a contingency that must be considered. If the Commandery-in-Chief headquarters is removed the expenses will be quite considerable. When the Commandery-in-Chief headquarters was removed to its present location the expense was something more than one hundred dollars for freight charges. The Blue Book was ordered to be printed in General Bundy's administration. As a matter of fact there has never been enough funds on hand to pay for the publication of the Blue Book, as the Quartermaster-General will bear me out in saying. Time after time we considered the propriety of going in debt for the publication of the Blue Book, but we could not see our way out; and as cautious business men do not contract debts unless they see some way of paying them, we did not follow out the orders of the Commandery-in-Chief and have the Blue Book published, because we did not have the money to pay for it. So you see, brothers, it seems to be a painful necessity that is upon us. There is no desire to be extravagant upon the part of this Council-in-Chief. There is not anything personal in it. It is not anything that we want. It is a thing that we, as your servants, feel to be a necessity, and for that reason we made the recommendation.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, this is the first Sons of Veterans' Encampment I have attended for some years. I admire very much the close scrutiny of my brothers upon the financial affairs of the Commandery-in-Chief. It was my pleasure to have business of another character with the Quartermaster-General, and it was while the Council was going over his accounts. I am somewhat familiar with Grand Army matters, far more so than I am with the Sons of Veterans, but I have never seen such system, such order and correctness as I witnessed in the accounts of the Quartermaster-General of this grand Encampment of the Sons of Veterans (applause). And then I hear him say, and the Council-in-Chief endorsing his statement, that the financial resources of the Commandery are too small, that the receipts are not sufficient to defray the expenses, though he has been, by the exercise of good judgment and economy, able to reduce and curtail them. I for one have confidence enough in him, and confidence enough in the Council-in-Chief to vote for this recommendation. I trust that this Encampment will vote it because they would not ask for it if it was not necessary. We do not want our officers, in my judgment, to look forward to a deficiency for some other set of officers to provide for. We want to provide for the necessary and current expenses as they shall come in, and I trust that this Encampment will adopt the recommendation that has been made by the Council-in-Chief. (Applause and cries of "question," "question.")

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, I know one thing in connection with the Sons of Veterans, and I think I know that well, and I think it applies to every Division in the United States, as well as to the Division of Indiana; and I want to say a word now in behalf of every Division in the United States. They have already fixed their rates of taxation. I call it taxation, my brothers, because that is what it is, nothing more nor less; and I am a man that is in favor of taxation. It is the fundamental principle upon which this government rests; but, gentlemen, I am opposed

to taxation to the death. I know this much, Commander, that never in the history of the four or five National Encampments that I have attended have I known a depleted treasury in the Commandery-in-Chief. And I know another thing, my brothers, that I have been face to face in this Division and in other Divisions in the United States with a great many depleted Division treasuries. In Indiana we have a twelve and a-half per cent. tax upon the brothers with which to pay for the Division headquarters and Division expenses, and upon that theory—

W. W. WHEELER, of Connecticut: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

W. W. WHEELER, of Connecticut: Commander, I rise to inquire whether the brother who is speaking has on the proper regalia of the Order, the badge of the Order?

(Colonel Harvey threw back his coat exhibiting the badge of the Order worn on his vest).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The badge should be worn on the coat, but the brother will proceed.

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, I know that the rate of taxation in the Indiana Division was fixed upon the basis that the Division would have to pay four cents per quarter per capita tax to the Commandery-in-Chief. It was put at a sum that would enable us to do that, and, we hoped, get out of debt. Now several Divisions that I could name have had depleted treasuries for years. I am not making any apology for the Indiana Division. I am proud of it. I commanded it myself for thirteen months. I know it is a good Division, an average Division, but I know that every Commander from the time of good old Colonel Walker up to the present time has had to fight to the death to keep its head above water with the tax that is already levied. Members have spoken here of what may be done, what expenditures may be voted by this Encampment; but let us levy this at four cents per quarter and order our expenditures upon the basis of the income that will be thus derived. At least defeat this recommendation this time, my brothers. If this thing must come, if these Divisions must go down in their pockets for this additional per capita tax, let them prepare for it in their Division Encampments. Do not put the burden upon them after the Division Encampments have been held and all their financial arrangements made upon the basis that the per capita tax to the Commandery-in-Chief was to be four cents per quarter. Do not put the burden of raising this tax upon the Division Commanders, one cent a quarter on each member more than any of them anticipated, more than the Division anticipated. I say to you that it looks like ruin to more than one Division. Let us vote and talk in this Commandery upon the theory that if the treasury is in danger of being exhausted it must economize the same as individuals have to do, the same as the Divisions have to do (applause). Do not make appropriations here that we cannot meet. We have to meet this thing in our Divisions. We did it at one time in the Indiana Division by adopting a resolution that each delegate to the National Encampment should pay his own expenses. That action was taken, my friends, because the Division could not afford to pay them. Put some tax of that kind upon some of these Commandery-in-Chief officers, and let them get their reward in the honors that they have been reaping throughout the United States, and let them not be drawing upon the treasury day after day, and dollar after dollar (applause); I am not making any personal attack upon any brother, but I say that there is room for economy in our National treasury. Economy has been forced upon our Division and upon other Divisions, both at National Encampments and at home; let the Commandery-in-Chief officers exercise more economy and I pledge my word that it will be found at the next National Encampment at Cincinnati (laughter) that four cents is sufficient.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF: Do I understand the brother to say that we have already selected the place of meeting for the next Encampment?

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Wherever the Encampment meets, four cents will be found sufficient.

W. R. DAVIS, of Massachusetts: Commander, Brother Harvey has well said that it looks like death to some of these Divisions to increase this tax at this time. I am with him when he says that. I say that it is highly proper that the Commandery-in-Chief should cut corners in some places as well as the Divisions. I know that in my own Division we have been unable to pay expenses that ought to have been paid. We have been unable to send our representatives to the National Encampment unless they could afford to pay their own way. Now it is not the right thing to further decrease the revenues of our Divisions. To do so would make it impossible almost to meet the necessary expenses of the Division within itself. We do not plead any special poverty. We are, as Brother Harvey has said, a fair average Division, and the men in it are fair average men; we do not want to plead poverty, but we do not want to be taxed out of existence, and we do not feel that at this time it is proper to put an additional tax of this kind upon us. We hope that the sense of this Encampment will not be to increase the per capita tax at this time.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, the remarks of Past Commander Harvey were not statements of facts in all particulars. The appropriations which Brother Harvey referred to are not appropriations which it is optional with this Commandery-in-Chief to make or not to make. These liabilities that now stand against us are liabilities which have been incurred and must be paid whether it pleases this Commandery-in-Chief to pay them or not.

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, will the gentleman allow me one question? I suppose that the incoming Quartermaster-General will expect a few dollars in on the basis of the four per cent. per capita tax.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: I tried to explain that, Commander, that the revenue would not be available until after the first of the year.

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, my point was that the Commandery-in-Chief should economize on what you get in from now on.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, these amounts must be paid. There are bills in now, and there are bills for expenses that will occur between now and the first of the year. We will have current expenses during this time. Our per capita tax for the quarter ending September 30th will not be due until October 30th, and before those funds are available it will be the first of December. We will have received part before, but not much before. These other expenses must be met. The Council-in-Chief at all times in the past in their reports upon the conduct of the affairs of the Commandery-in-Chief have differed widely with the conclusions of Brother Harvey. Brother Harvey comes to the National Encampment and forms his own conclusions hastily and without investigation. The members of the Council-in-Chief audit the books of the organization and examine its affairs closely. There is not the expenditure of one cent by any officer of the Commandery-in-Chief for which a receipt is not taken. Every one of these receipts is submitted to the members of the Council-in-Chief; and I cite the gentleman to the reports of the various Councils-in-Chief, in the records of the proceedings of the National Encampments for six or seven or eight years past, and defy him to find one word of criticism; but on the other hand he will find the Commandery-in-Chief officers commended each year for their economical administration of the affairs of the Commandery. No word of criticism upon them has ever been heard within the halls of the Encampment until the criticism made to-day by Colonel Harvey.

GEORGE C. HARVEY, of Indiana: Commander, I hope the Quartermaster-General did not understand that I am charging dishonesty on the part of any officer of the National Commandery.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: I do not understand that there is any question of honesty or dishonesty in it; that it is

simply a question of economy. That was it exactly. And I maintain that the members of the Council-in-Chief, who have before them in detail the expenditures of the Commandery-in-Chief, are far better qualified to judge of the economy or extravagance of the administration of Commandery-in-Chief affairs than is the gentleman from Indiana, who simply glances at the report and has not had the facilities for examination that are afforded the Council-in-Chief. I have no interest in this matter. I presume that the bills of the Commandery-in-Chief will be paid some time. I will say one thing, that any bills contracted by me as an officer of this organization will be paid in the future as they have been paid in the past, promptly; whether the Commandery-in-Chief had the money to pay for them or not, they were paid promptly and they will be in the future (applause). But it is not policy, it is not right, to ask any officer of this organization to defray its expenses and wait until the revenues come in to remunerate himself. These expenditures must be met. The incoming administration will begin business virtually without a dollar at their disposal until the revenues from the per capita tax for the quarter ending September 30th are at their disposal. The Council-in-Chief make the recommendation that the proceedings shall be put out within ninety days. When they are gotten out they must be paid for. It seems to me that this is purely a business proposition and that the brother from New York placed the matter in the strongest light possible when he said it was not well for this organization to look forward to a deficit. That is most assuredly what we will have to face. Consider the reduction in the surplus in the last five years. You can see that the result is inevitable. The surplus is just about what it was at the close of Commander-in-Chief Weeks' administration. We have had able Commanders in this Order. They have tried to administer the affairs of the Order as economically as they could. I do not know of any brother who is getting rich off the Commandery. I do not believe that the services of any officer of the Commandery-in-Chief are overpaid. The men who fill these positions—and I say this without any personal reference, and if it has any I beg the pardon of the Encampment—but the men who filled these positions in the past have been men who could earn larger salaries in any other walk of life. They are not men whose services have been overpaid. They are not men who have sought to drag dollars from the organization. The Commander-in-Chief and staff have a year's hard labor, and they obtain from the Commandery-in-Chief what? Magnificent salaries? No. Simply their expenses to the Annual Encampment where duty calls them. Take the members of the Council-in-Chief, take all the members of the staff with the exception of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, not a cent do they receive for their services, but simply their bare expenses to the Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Loebenstein is making an error that the Chair cannot permit to pass without notice. The Commander-in-Chief has been for a number of years getting a cent a day. You want to be accurate.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: That is true, but the Commander-in-Chief has never insisted upon collecting it. The revenues would be further reduced if he had done so. But in all seriousness this is a matter of importance, and in which oratory should have no place. We have heard about the poor farmer boy. We have heard about the depleted condition of the nation, but on the other hand I can cite you to a number of Divisions, Divisions that have made the greatest progress, and call your attention to the fact that those Divisions to day will vote as a unit for the increased per capita tax; and with this fact before them it might be well for the brothers who are complaining to look within the bounds of their own Division for the cause, if their Division treasuries are in such sadly depleted condition.

J. V. B. CLARKSON, of New York: Commander, I would like to call the attention of the Commandery-in-Chief to the profit and loss account in the printed reports which you all have, and you will see there where our income comes from and where our money goes to. I believe in economy. I appreciate everything that the Quartermaster-General has said because I was at one time in the same office and I appreciate the difficulties of it.

You will notice that on the supply account there is a profit. That is as far as the initiative of the Quartermaster-General goes. All of the other income comes from the efforts of the Division Commanders in securing new Camps and in securing the per capita tax from the old Camps. The expenses are very largely fixed by the Commandery-in-Chief, and if a question of economy comes in the gentlemen who are talking against the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General must bring before this meeting some means by which that economy can be secured. Shall we cut down the expenses of the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief? Pay them half? Or pay them nothing? Shall we cut down the salary of the Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General? Shall we cut down the rent of the Quartermaster-General's headquarters and the Adjutant-General's office? If you are going to talk about economy we must get upon some definite plan of economy, inasmuch as we gentlemen here fix the expenses which must be paid by the Quartermaster-General. If we desire to have the Commandery officers work an entire year, and insist upon their attendance at our meetings at great expense, well and good. Pay them nothing. Let them come. Let the honor be sufficient. Let them work day in and day out as we all expect them to do and pay them nothing, and then find fault with them because they do not come here, when perhaps they cannot afford it. The life of this Order is right in this meeting here, right in this Commandery-in-Chief. It must be maintained if we are going to have a National Order. Next to that comes the Divisions. For myself I cannot see where the economy is going to come in. I believe we have been as economical as we can consistently with good government. I know what the office of the Adjutant-General is and the duties involved in it. They are very laborious. I know what the duties of the Quartermaster-General are. They are very laborious, and the salary is no adequate compensation. If the gentlemen present will examine the books of the Quartermaster-General they will be delighted. They are model books, model accounts, and they are good enough for any bank in this country. I trust that if the economy, or rather the cutting down of expenses, is to be insisted upon the opponents of the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General and the Council-in-Chief will bring forward some consistent plan by which these economies, which they desire so much, can be brought into perfection. I do not see how they can be. I think they are pretty well down to rock bed, and I favor most earnestly the recommendation of the Quartermaster-General and the Council-in-Chief.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander and brothers, this is not a question of sentiment. It is a question of practical business. I think this Encampment has been enlightened by General Loebenstein's report, his verbal report, at this time. I think we know more of the situation than we did when we opened this discussion, but, gentlemen, there are two sides to the question still. Shall the Commandery-in-Chief tax Divisions out of existence, tax Divisions which are not able to bear it? I can say that the Division of Indiana has had a hard struggle. I know that at the last Division Encampment the condition of affairs was very serious. Colonel Harvey is not speaking because he thinks his Camp does not want to pay this. It is too heavy considering the resources of the Division. At the last Encampment we made up a deficiency, and we raised four hundred dollars on the floor of the Encampment, and Colonel Harvey contributed a large share of that; and the Indiana Encampment fixed their per capita tax in contemplation of the four cent per quarter tax from the Commandery-in-Chief. The resources of the Division are fixed, and the expenditures must be with reference to their resources. They have to economize, and it would be well if a lesson in economy should emanate from the Commandery-in-Chief. I will not say that many of these appropriations are not necessary. They are highly necessary and cannot be dispensed with, but I do believe that the Commandery-in-Chief, that the National body, can retrench in expenditure if necessary; and if it comes to a question whether at the next National Encampment we shall be confronted with a small deficiency in the treasury of the National body, or whether there shall be a deficiency to that amount in the treasury of a half dozen or a dozen Divisions of the Order, I do not know but it had better be found in the National treasury, because here on his floor we can immediately raise the money to meet it. I believe economy should be practiced by the National body, and there should be a desire

to stimulate and help and keep in running order the Divisions ; there should be a feeling that no Division should be discouraged by a forced deficiency which it had no opportunity to anticipate at its State Encampment. I am against the adoption of the recommendation.

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire : Commander, we have had considerable of a discussion on this important subject. I have perfect confidence, and every man that has assembled here to-day has, in the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief. If we had not we would let them go. I have confidence that when they ask for what they do ask, an increase of four cents per annum in the per capita tax, that it is to the interest of each one of us individually and to the best interest of the Order. I do not believe Brother Loebenstein has asked for anything except what is right and just, and it should be voted without any more talking.

A. W. JONES, of Ohio : Commander, feeling the interest that I do in this Order, believing that it must be maintained, looking forward to its future, I see that something must be done. In my judgment here is a crisis, and unless we act wisely we do not know what will become of the Order. We must not kill the goose that lays the golden egg at this period, and I want to stop to inquire seriously of the different Divisions of this Order and see what they are going to do with this increased expenditure. To-day in Ohio we have a tax of fifty cents upon each member. Sixteen cents of that has been going to the Commandery-in-Chief. Shall the Commandery-in-Chief say that they shall have forty per cent. of the revenues of each State, and each State must be kept up on sixty per cent. of its own revenues ? I think, Commander-in-Chief, if you undertake to increase this per capita tax you will absolutely decrease the receipts of the Commandery-in-Chief (applause) ; you will destroy the goose that lays the golden egg (applause) ; I know how it is in Ohio. They are mostly young men. They are not millionaires. I think it would be better, for one I would rather, that we would go down in our pockets and pay this possible deficiency than say to the different Divisions you shall yield up forty per cent. of your entire revenue and hand it over to the Commandery-in-Chief ; that is what you are going to ask them to do. You know, and the different Division Commanders know, how hard it is to keep up the Order in the different States and pay the per capita tax to-day of sixteen cents. Mark my words—I make the prediction now—if you increase the per capita tax suspensions will increase in the Camps, and you will have less revenue at twenty cents than you are now having at sixteen cents. Another thing, I have no fault to find with any officer of this Encampment ; I have not the slightest doubt but that every one has done his duty and his whole duty. But while that is true, it is also true they would like more resources. There must some way be found for the Commandery-in-Chief to get along until the Order can be recruited upon its present basis. It seems to me, Commander-in-Chief, if you do not do it you are ringing the death knell of this Order. I am speaking not as a prophet, but as a friend of the Order. There must be some reduction. We must bring our expenses within our revenues or the Order is a failure. Now, over in Ohio, we are using every effort in the world. Every Past Commander, every officer, everybody, is putting his shoulder to the wheel, and we are trying to put Ohio back where it was a few years ago. We cannot do it, we will not be able to do it, if you insist upon taxing us more at this time. Some way, by some means, either by a Committee upon Retrenchment and Reform, or in some other way, we have got to do it. The way can be found, Commander-in-Chief, without any doubt whatever. A way can be found to bring expenses within our revenue. I do insist, for the good of this Order, that we allow the per capita tax to stand as it is at the present time, and it occurs to me that there is no question now before this Encampment, in a parliamentary way, and for that reason I move that this report be referred back to the committee with instructions to amend their report by inserting sixteen in place of twenty. Let us try it the same way for another year. (Applause).

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : Commander, I second the motion.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania : Commander, with the experience of fifteen years in this organization, in all my experience I have never known a charter to be surrendered because of an increase of the per capita

tax. I have never known that to occur. I can remember when in the Pennsylvania Division we were two thousand dollars in debt, and we increased our per capita tax and in one year we gained fifty-two Camps with the increased per capita tax. The delegates from Pennsylvania have been sitting here waiting to hear something definite in regard to the suggested retrenchment that has been talked about. We are ready to vote for a reduction of the per capita tax when you point out the way. You have talked retrenchment, but you have failed to point out where it is to come in. I believe the Council-in-Chief are fully cognizant of all the points on this question, and the Quartermaster-General has given us a very plain explanation of what he wants and of the money that will be required. On the other hand the brothers opposed to this recommendation have talked of retrenchment, but they have failed to tell us where we are going to retrench. Now if the brother can tell us of Pennsylvania where we can retrench and how we can get along with sixteen cents we are willing to vote with him, but not without.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, the brother from Pennsylvania accuses us of not telling him how we may retrench. I will ask him a harder question. If we make the assessment of this extra four cents, will he please tell us where the four cents will come from? (Applause).

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Yes, sir, Commander; I believe there is a sufficient amount of patriotism and enthusiasm and American spunk in this organization to pay the other four cents. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, I desire to call attention to the fact that we are rapidly approaching seven o'clock and it has been announced that the Governor and others will hold a reception here at eight o'clock. We simply want to bear that in mind. I am quite as much interested as you are in the discussion proceeding at the present time.

RECOMMENDATION LAID ON THE TABLE.

E. R. CAMPBELL, of Maryland: Commander, it seems to me this is a most important question. No one is charging the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief with extravagance. No one presumes for a moment that they have expended money that they ought not have expended, or contracted bills that were not proper and right, or that we should not meet those expenses in due time. It has been stated on this floor that if we increase the per capita tax it will tax certain Divisions or certain Camps out of the Order. We cannot afford to do that; and it occurs to me that there is something radically wrong in this organization when this state of facts presents itself, and with the view of having an investigation of the matter to its very core, and understanding what the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations will bring before this body, I move you, sir, that this whole question be deferred, or laid on the table, until after the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations have reported.

SURGEON-GENERAL MABBS: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It occurs to the Chair that the suggestion is a very good one because we may untangle the whole question by considering the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations first. Is it your motion, Col. Campbell, to lay on the table indefinitely?

E. R. CAMPBELL, of Maryland: Yes, Commander, to lay on the table.

A. W. JONES, of Ohio: Commander, the motion to lay upon the table will carry with it all the motions, and lay them there until we take them up.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Yes, naturally; and it will give the other committee an opportunity to report first.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, will not we then have this discussion all over again?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is of the opinion that the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations will help us out of the difficulty. Are you ready for the question? The question is

to lay the whole matter on the table. As many as are in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried, and the matter is laid upon the table.

RECESS UNTIL NINE A. M., FRIDAY.

R. M. BUCKLEY, of Kentucky: Commander, I move the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion is carried. Before declaring recess I will say that the committee of the Indiana Division have indeed been fortunate in getting for us this beautiful hall in which to hold our sessions. The Governor of this great State has gone out of his way to assist them in many respects; and there will be, beginning at eight o'clock this evening, a reception here; and it is requested and hoped that every Son of a Veteran in this city will be upon this floor this evening. The Encampment now takes recess until to-morrow morning at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, September 10th, 1897.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. Inspector-General, are you satisfied that all present are entitled to remain?

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, I am.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will call the roll.

(Roll call No. 3).

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WALKER, OF THE G. A. R.,
INTRODUCED.

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER, of Indiana: Commander and brothers, I have the pleasure of introducing to this Commandery-in-Chief, Hon. I. N. Walker, Past Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: General Walker, I do not need to say to you that you are welcome here, for the Commandery-in-Chief have anticipated my remarks. You are at liberty to occupy any part of the hall you desire, sir.

REAR ADMIRAL BROWN INTRODUCED.

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER, of Indiana: Commander, Indiana at one time produced a Secretary of the Navy who, it is said, remarked, when he was first shown a war vessel in the Navy Yard, that "the blamed old thing is hollow." Indiana has produced another man who is well known all over the country, and who knew all the time that the blamed old thing was hollow. I have the pleasure of introducing Rear Admiral George Brown, of the United States Navy.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Admiral Brown, it gives this Encampment great pleasure to welcome within its walls one who has risen to the highest rank of the American Navy through meritorious conduct and actual service extending over a half century. We trust to be able to meet you at many more Encampments. (Applause).

I understand the Adjutant-General has some communications he desires to read at this time.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I have received the following communications:

UNION STATION, ST. JOSEPH, MO., September 9, 1897.

General James L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief S. V., U. S. A., Indianapolis, Ind.:

Lincoln Camp extends fraternal greeting to the Commandery.

FRED E. ERNST, Capt. Comdy.

DES MOINES, IOWA, September 9, 1897.

Gen. Jas. L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief S. V., U. S. A., Indianapolis:

Convey to the brothers my kindest wishes and best regards.

GUY R. CARSON.

PATERSON, N. J., August 30, 1897.

Officers and Delegates of the Sixteenth National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

You are cordially invited to participate in the exercises attending the laying of the corner-stone of the new headquarters building of Hugh C. Irish Camp, No. 8, New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., at 145 Broadway, this city, on Saturday afternoon, September 18th, 1897, at two o'clock. The exercises at the building will be preceded by a parade, which will assemble at the Camp room, No. 90 Washington Street, at one p. m., and move at half-past one o'clock p. m., sharp. Your acceptance of this invitation will be appreciated by the committee.

GEORGE W. POLLITT,
ABRAM M. DECKER,
WILLIAM G. DUNKERLEY,
ARTHUR I. VESCELIUS,
JOHN D. HOPPER.

ARTHUR I. VESCELIUS, Secretary,
89 Broadway, Paterson, N. J.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The communications read by the Adjutant-General will be spread upon the minutes. The first business in order this morning is the report of the committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. I understand that committee is ready to report, but if there is no objection we will first hear the report of the committee appointed at the Knoxville Encampment to consider the expediency of erecting peace monuments on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga. The committee was continued from the last Encampment. The report will probably not cause any discussion and can be disposed of shortly. Brother Campbell is chairman of the committee.

E. R. CAMPBELL, of Maryland, chairman of the committee, submitted and read the following report:

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 8, 1897.

To the Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

SIR:—The committee appointed by the Knoxville Encampment, in the year 1895, to consider the expediency of erecting monuments on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga, and to consider the subject of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., uniting with the Sons of Confederate Veterans in erecting peace monuments upon said battlefields, composed of the following named brothers, viz.: Hon. Webster Davis, Mo.;

Colonels W. S. Oberdorf, N. Y. ; Josiah Gross, La. ; George F. Wolz, Neb., and myself as chairman, were, on the fourth of December of that year, organized, and Brother Oberdorf was appointed secretary and Brother Davis treasurer.

The members of the committee were invited to correspond with such persons and organizations as they deemed proper, with a view to obtaining information upon which recommendations could be based, of course without expense to the Order. Up to this time nothing of importance has been received by the chairman from any source whatsoever.

It may be proper to report that R. E. Lee Camp, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Richmond, Va., with whom correspondence was had, questioned our sincerity and the authority of the committee, and requested a duly certified copy of the record showing the appointment of the same. They also informed me, through their secretary, that after the legality of our committee should be established they would consider the matter, but were in doubt as to the merit of the project, and other things.

A communication has been received from Headquarters Grand Camp, Confederate Veterans, written upon an official letter head, on which was displayed, in colors, the Virginia State flag, together with the rebel flag of 1861 to 1865—stars and bars. The envelope in which the same was transmitted was also ornamented with rebel emblems in colors.

Illness prevented me from attending the Encampment in 1896, and a note addressed to a brother of the Maryland Division, with the request that he offer my excuse, was turned over to a member of the committee, who submitted it as a partial report of the committee. (See proceedings 1896, page 123).

General Orders No. 2, Series 1897, gives information of the continuance of the committee.

This report is made with a view to definite action, or specific instructions by the Commandery-in-Chief, and is without expense to the Order, even to the amount of a postage stamp.

Possibly it may be well to suggest that this committee erect the desired monuments at their own expense, or that an association be formed which may be continued until the Order shall have reached a sufficient number of members to warrant the expense of doing the work favorable to the true principles underlying this organization, and teaching patriotism, of commemorating the honorable deeds of our fathers and of preserving the memory of the fallen heroes who died for our flag. Then we shall deserve the patronage of the Union soldier whose magnanimity accepted the enemies of our country as citizens and preserved that peace established through the sacrifices of our people, that brought and maintained happiness to an undivided nation and which emulates the example of Him who preached charity to the world and taught us that it was more blessed to give than to receive.

With a view to carrying this work to completion I have the honor to recommend that the following be adopted by this Encampment :

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY : That we, whose names are hereunto signed, citizens of the United States, a part of whom are residents of the District of Columbia, are desirous of forming an organization under Section No. 345 of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the District of Columbia, as follows :

First. The name of this society shall be THE NATIONAL SONS OF VETERANS BATTLEFIELD PARK MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

Second. This association to continue as an incorporate body for the period of twenty years.

Third. Its objects are: First, the erection on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga suitable monuments to the private soldiers who lost their lives thereon in defense of the Nation's honor during the War of Secession. Second, to erect peace monuments on said battlefield parks as fitting remembrances of a reunited country.

Fourth. The number of directors of this association shall consist of members selected from the incorporators or from members of the First Class.

Fifth. The membership of the association shall be of five classes, as follows, viz.:

Class 1. The members of the committee appointed by the Knoxville Encampment and all Past Commanders-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Class 2. Past Division Commanders of the Order, who shall be eligible to office, and upon their being elected thereto shall become members of the First Class.

Class 3. Any son of a Union soldier.

Class 4. Any son of a Confederate soldier.

Class 5. Any person.

Fees and dues, By-Laws and regulations to be adopted by the Board of Directors. Fraternally.

E. R. CAMPBELL,
Chairman Battlefield Park Monument Committee.

VISIT FROM THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: Before proceeding to action on the report just submitted, the Chair will inform the Encampment that the Inspector-General announces that a committee of the Ladies' Aid Society are without and desire to pay us a visit. What is the wish of the Encampment—that they be received at this time? If there is no objection the Chair will appoint a committee to receive them. Is there objection? The Chair hears none. The Inspector-General: Brother Borin, of Kansas; Brother Darling, of Massachusetts; Brother Patton, of Wisconsin; and Brother Dilley, of Iowa, will constitute such committee. The Commandery-in-Chief is now ready to receive the ladies.

The representatives of the Ladies' Aid Society entered, escorted by the committee.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander-in-Chief and brothers, I have the pleasure of introducing to you Mrs. Anna Simms, Mrs. R. M. Bolton, Mrs. Howey, Miss Buckley, and Mrs. Laura Martin, committee on greetings from the Ladies' Aid Society.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Ladies, sisters of our Auxiliary Association, you are always heartily welcome within our portals; especially so in Indianapolis, for, apart from any work that you do in assisting our Camps, you have graced the many occasions when we have been in review with your presence. We appreciate your services doubly, and I assure you you are welcome. (Applause).

MRS. SIMMS: Brother Commander and brothers of the Sons of Veterans:

To us has been accorded the pleasure of extending greetings from your sister organization to your grand and noble Order. We come bringing with us greetings from our sisters whose hearts and souls are with you in the grand work you are doing. We stand loyal, not only to the Sons of Veterans, but also to our parent organizations, the Grand Army of the Republic and the Woman's Relief Corps, and are glad and proud that we belong to the grandest family on earth, the G. A. R. family.

May you ever stand loyal to the principles of your Order, to the G. A. R. and to the glorious flag for which your fathers fought; and for which some of them gave their lives. We hope this Sixteenth Annual Encampment may be one of the most successful, harmonious and profitable ones you have ever held. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Sisters, I know that General Abbott is particularly anxious to respond to your greeting, and I will call on him on behalf of our organization. (Applause).

GEORGE W. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander; ladies, of course our Commander-in-Chief is not an outright and pronounced enemy of mine, but he is aware of the fact that there are peculiar circumstances attending my appearance this morning, and that I am in no condition to star on this occasion; and I do not think he should have called on me. We have been wrestling with the photographer and trying to get a photograph of the Past Commanders-in-Chief and the man who will soon be a Past Commander-in-Chief, and he gave us a great deal of trouble. The old Past Commanders-

in-Chief of course were used to that sort of thing, but he has not been thoroughly broken into the harness, and of course, like the youngest member of a family, requires a great deal of attention and discipline. I was one of the brothers selected to get him properly in line, and the exertion has been such that I am not in any physical condition to reply this morning to the very pleasant greetings that have come to us from our sister organization. However, I have never neglected any duty in the Order, nor have I failed to respond to the commands of my superior officer at any time, so I will do the best I can to extend to you, sisters, the friendly greeting and fraternal love, and the deep consideration which I know bides in the heart of every brother and Son of a Veteran for our sisters of the Ladies' Aid Society. It is particularly pleasant for me to welcome you as I see, as a member of your committee, one of your earliest members, Sister Laura Martin. I had the pleasure and distinction of attending the First National Encampment of the Ladies' Aid Society. I remember it well. I was then new in the work as Commander in Chief of the Sons of Veterans and we were both of us ambitious and full of hope for our separate organizations. We joined in the bonds of friendship and effort and worked for and with each other to help our organizations along. We worked hand in hand in those old days, in the early days of each Order, and I must say that we accomplished as much as could be expected, against what we had to contend with. The Orders at that time were a little different from what they are now. Everyone has heard of the great organization of the Sons of Veterans, and all of the Sons of Veterans have heard of the organization of the Ladies' Aid Society, and they are very anxious to hear more of it—on special and private occasions. I discovered last evening that the brothers are still continuing their friendship for that organization. Their feeling for it is very loyal and very strong. But we had things to contend with in those days that we do not have now. I am proud to know and feel that while we have had our troubles and vicissitudes in our Order, and that while some things have not gone as pleasantly and successfully as we could have wished for, I am proud to say that our sister society has never become disheartened or discouraged, but has kept along step by step with us in this great work of loyalty. It is a great, unselfish work, brothers and sisters, that we are doing, a grand and unselfish work; and the brother or sister who goes into either of these organizations and works for it with the expectation that it will personally benefit him does not deserve the honor or distinction of wearing the badge of either organization. (Applause).

I tell you, my brothers and sisters, I have been beyond the lines that limit the boundaries of the United States, and never till that moment did I appreciate the true feeling of what it was to be a citizen of this grand Republic (applause). And our sisters, who are to become the mothers, and who are to become the makers of our homes, are entitled to just as much honor in the American commonwealth as the man who goes out to serve his country, or follows the plough. I tell you that our work for loyalty is not for us, but it is for this grand old Republic of ours (applause); and we should go into it with the same unselfish devotion as our fathers went forward from 1861 to 1865, when it was attacked by those terrible foes, the most threatening that can attack a nation, disruption and civil war. I tell you, my brothers, that is our work. It is a work of loyalty. It is a work for the perpetuity of this country, for the perpetuity of our beloved old flag; and while we are in glorious times of peace and enjoying the fruits of prosperity—I do not mean that in a political sense—perhaps many of the boys do not remember the days of '61-'65. I do; and so long as I live I intend to do all I can to maintain this peace, to stand up for and protect the government; for I know the dire results that might follow, the disruption that might follow, if the American people should become unmindful of their homes. I have got to bring this thing to a close. We are too busy, we have got too much to do. I will come down and simply say to these, our sisters, we are glad to have you with us; we are glad not only because of the honor of your presence here as individuals, but we are glad to know that you are in this work. There is where we feel that you are welcome; there is where we feel that you will not only be serviceable to us in our work, but serviceable to the cause of loyalty to your country and to your flag, which of course implies loyalty to the old soldier. There is where you come in. There is

where we are glad to see you. I say God speed you in your work, and we will ever be ready to do what we can to assist you. We trust that we feel our responsibility for the rising generation in this great Republic, and we want you to feel your responsibility, and we want you to inculcate the lesson of loyalty and patriotism in order that there may be a sufficient number of patriotic Americans to hold level the mass of foreigners that are coming over to this country and make out of them peaceful and industrious citizens, who will contribute to its prosperity, as well as enjoy its many advantages. We thank you for your presence here to-day. (Applause).

MRS. HOWEY, of Illinois: Commander, we assure you that we appreciate General Abbott's remarks, and we also assure you that this committee is happy to have had the pleasure of visiting you, but before replying to General Abbott I wish to introduce to you our National President, one who led in the early days of the Order, Sister Laura M. Martin.

MRS. LAURA M. MARTIN: Commander, I must say a few words. The Sons of Veterans are a grand, a patriotic Order, and the Sons of Veterans and Ladies' Aid Society must work together with strength more effective, with a fraternity broader, with charity purer and loyalty more devoted. May God bless and cherish all that come within your fraternal, charitable and patriotic influence. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Patton will take occasion to make a few remarks.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, among the earliest mottoes I remember in my early home was one, "What is home without a mother?" It made an impression on my young mind which has never been erased, and it seems to me that there is a motto that ought to be hung in every Camp of Sons of Veterans throughout the Union, and that is, "What is a Camp without a Ladies' Aid Society?" If we in our individual capacities, as members of the Camps, would look into this matter and see the advantages that would be derived there would be a decided advance all along the line in this most helpful organization.

It is with peculiar feelings I accept the invitation and rise to address the ladies and express to them the feelings of fraternity that exist in the hearts of the members of our Order. The speaker of the Ladies' Aid Society who preceded me referred to that tie which binds our two organizations together as one organization, the friendship we feel for each other, the fraternity which exists, and the charity which obliterates the lines of sectionalism and binds us together as one. Now, of course, I understand that it is natural that our Commander-in-Chief should call upon one who ratifies and finishes this tie which binds, namely, a preacher. Of course it is natural, I say, that our Commander-in-Chief should call upon the preacher who binds this tie, or ties this bind, whichever way you wish to put it, and especially when that brother happens to come from Milwaukee, the Mecca of marriageable couples. However, sisters, not wishing to take the time of the Commandery, appreciating heartily your expressions of friendship and charity, and knowing that it grows deeper than words can express, I wish to add to the eloquent words of Past Commander Abbott and say that we welcome you heartily and cordially. We are with you most sincerely in your work. We recognize in you a mighty help and aid to us in our efforts, in the community and in the local Camps, and we want to say to you not only Godspeed, but, brothers, shall we not go forth from this Encampment resolved that not only shall we say sweet words to the ladies here when they bring us their fraternal greetings, not only will we give them our hands, and, of course, more, if they ask it—our hearts also—but we will go to our several Camps resolved to push this matter, practically, of building up the Ladies' Aid Society throughout the United States. (Applause). We recognize the fact that this Auxiliary organization is necessary. It is a necessity. If it is not, then we can dispense with it, but we believe that is the fact. I believe there is a place for this organization. Now, brothers, let not our efforts end with this reception and these fraternal greetings and responses, but let us go away resolved that we will go to our several homes and say what we will do in the coming year: resolved, if there is not one, that a Ladies' Auxiliary shall be added to our Camp. We greet and welcome you, ladies, with all the feelings of fraternal love. (Applause).

MRS. ANNA SIMS: Commander and brothers, we thank you very much for your kind words, but will take up no more of your time. Thanking you again for your hearty welcome, we will retire.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: We thank you heartily for your call, and on behalf of the Commandery we assure you that we appreciate your visit.

The ladies retired escorted by the committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BATTLEFIELD MONUMENTS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you had just heard the report of the special committee on peace monuments, to be erected on the battlefield parks, at the time the presence of the committee from the Ladies' Aid Society was announced. What is the desire of the Encampment in reference to the same? What shall be done with the report just read?

EDWARD K. DEPUY, of Washington, D. C.: Commander, I move you, sir, that the report of the committee be adopted.

A. L. SORTER, of Iowa: Commander, I wish to say on behalf of delegates in the rear of the room that much of the important matter read in that report was lost to us on account of the confusion and conversation that was going on around us. We do not wish to delay the proceedings of the Encampment, at the same time it would be a great favor to us to have the essential section of that report re-read to the convention.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will re-read the latter portion of the report.

The Adjutant-General read the latter portion of the report as follows:

"With a view to carrying this work to completion, we have the honor to recommend the following to be adopted by this Encampment:

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY: That we, whose names are hereunto signed, citizens of the United States, a part of whom are residents of the District of Columbia, are desirous of forming an organization under Section No. 345 of the Revised Statutes of the United States for the District of Columbia, as follows:

First. The name of this society shall be THE NATIONAL SONS OF VETERANS BATTLEFIELD PARK MONUMENT ASSOCIATION.

Second. This association to continue as an incorporate body for the period of twenty years.

Third. Its objects are: First, the erection on the battlefield parks of Gettysburg, Shiloh and Chickamauga, suitable monuments to the private soldiers who lost their lives thereon in defense of the Nation's honor during the War of Secession. Second, to erect peace monuments on said battlefield parks as fitting remembrances of a reunited country.

Fourth. The number of directors of this association shall consist of members selected from the incorporators or from members of the First Class.

Fifth. The membership of this association shall be of five classes, as follows, viz.:

Class 1. The members of the committee appointed by the Knoxville Encampment and all Past Commanders-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Class 2. Past Division Commanders of the Order, who shall be eligible to office, and upon their being elected thereto shall become members of the First Class.

Class 3. Any son of a Union soldier.

Class 4. Any son of a Confederate soldier.

Class 5. Any person.

Fees and dues, By-Laws and regulations to be adopted by the Board of Directors. Fraternaly,

E. R. CAMPBELL,
Chairman Battlefield Park Monument Committee.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, if I understand the reading of the report, the committee recommends that an incorporation be formed, the members of which shall be composed of different classes, five in all, the first class will consist of the committee having this matter in charge and the Past Commanders-in-Chief of the Order, and the other classes follow. Just as to how that is arranged I do not understand, but this association is to be incorporated and its object is to be the erection of these peace monuments on the battlefields of the late war. It seems to me that it incurs no liability, as I understand it, upon this Order. It is to be a separate corporation. The recommendation, so far as we are concerned, is simply to give it our countenance, that is all; then of course the matter must be taken up by those persons who are to be incorporated and a charter obtained from some state, under the authority of some state. Am I right?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I understand Past Commander-in-Chief Russell has stated the essential features of this organization. I understand from the report of the committee that the object of this incorporation is merely to secure the endorsement of this Encampment, to enable this incorporation to obtain popular subscriptions, and with that end in view the various classes are designated; the management of the incorporation, of course, rests with the First Class.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move you that the incoming administration be instructed to print this report and distribute it to the various Divisions for action that they may instruct their delegates and representatives to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief in reference thereto.

LOUIS A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded—the former motion was not seconded—that the incoming administration refer this question to the Divisions, they in turn to the Camps, for instructions to the delegates to the next annual Encampment, there to be acted upon. If the motion prevails it will practically place the question back with the Divisions for action at our next meeting. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried. We will now hear from the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, if they are ready to report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON C., R. AND R.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio, Chairman of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, read the first section of the report of the committee as follows:

"To the Officers and Brothers of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

"Believing the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations impracticable to the present requirements of our Order, containing as it does much obsolete matter and much that is inadequate to its successful government, your Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations beg leave to report the following recommendations:

"*Recommendation No. 1.* That after carefully considering the suggestions contained in the report of the Commander-in-Chief, and with a view of remedying the ills pointed out, it is hereby recommended that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee, consisting of twenty-five (25) members, of which the Commander-in-Chief and all Past Commanders-in-Chief in good standing shall be members; of which the Commander-in-Chief shall be chairman *ex-officio*, and of which seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The committee shall designate a time and place for meeting, at which time and place the committee is hereby empowered to make such changes and additions to the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations as in their judgment the needs and requirements of the Order demand; the same to become operative immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is it the pleasure of the Encampment to act upon the report section by section?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move that the report be taken up *seriatim*, and where no objection is raised the Commander-in-Chief declare the recommendation of the committee adopted.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It appears to the Chair that from the reading of the report as far as it has gone it relates to a very important subject, and it would be fairer to the committee to hear the whole report first rather than adopt a section and then probably have to turn back and reconsider it. The Chair would suggest, if there is no objection, that the committee be permitted to read its entire report before action is taken adopting any part of the same.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, in view of the suggestion of the Chair, I withdraw my motion.

Brother Gardner continued and concluded the reading of the report as follows:

"*Recommendation No. 2.* The expenses of the members of the committee to be borne by themselves.

"*Recommendation No. 3.* That all recommendations and petitions to the present committee be referred to the above named committee for action.

"*Recommendation No. 4.* Inasmuch as there are no commissions issued, nor rank conferred upon the members of the Camp, Division and Council-in-Chief, we hereby recommend that a commission be issued to the members of said Council that they may bear rank as follows: That the members of the Camp Council shall rank as First Lieutenants, that the members of Division Council shall rank as Majors, and the members of the Council-in-Chief as Brigadier Generals."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations? How shall the report be considered?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I now renew my motion, that the report be read by sections and where there is no objection the Commander-in-Chief declare that section of the report of the committee adopted.

JAMES H. TAWNEY, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded that the report now be read by sections and where there is no objection urged the Commander-in-Chief declare the section adopted. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion prevails and the chairman of the committee will kindly read the first recommendation.

Brother Gardner read the first section of the report of the committee, as follows:

"Believing the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations impracticable to the present requirements of our Order, containing as it does much obsolete matter and much that is inadequate to its successful government, your Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations beg leave to report the following recommendations."

ADJUTANT-GENERAL HAMMER: Commander, I move this section of the report of the committee be adopted as read.

JAMES H. TAWNEY, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the motion. The question is on the adoption of this section of the report of the committee. We are ready for discussion. I trust you will be expeditious and orderly that we may have the benefit of the discussion.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I want to ask the chairman of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations to explain, so far as he can, just precisely what this legislation means. He will not accuse me of flattering him when I say that he has an excellent voice, a

very penetrating voice, which will reach all parts of this hall, and if he will explain just exactly the meaning of this suggestion I think he will confer a favor on all of us. At the first glance, I confess, it looks to me as though it might mean the total abolition of everything, uniform, uniformity of uniform and everything else. If that is so I think we had better hesitate, and more especially because we have just ratified a certain recommendation to appoint a committee of twenty-five to revise the Constitution, Rules and Regulations. In view of that fact it seems doubtful to me whether it would be advisable to refer this matter to a committee of twenty-five.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say to Past Commander-in-Chief Maccabe that the committee of twenty-five is a further suggestion of this same report, that it is contingent upon the acceptance of the first suggestion, the suggestion now under consideration. If it is accepted I believe it is the intention of this committee that the appointment of the committee of twenty-five shall follow. I would ask the chairman of the committee if I state the matter correctly?

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, I so understand it.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I understood that there was a motion passed here providing for a committee of twenty-five.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: No, that was the first reading of that section of the report of the committee. The Chair suggested that there be no action by the Commandery on the report of the committee until the whole report was heard and there was no legislation whatever on the subject. We are now considering the first section of the report of the committee, and if this recommendation pass, the recommendation for the appointment of the committee of twenty-five will naturally follow and be before you.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Thank you, Commander, you have cleared the atmosphere considerably; but I do want to ask again that committee explain, as clearly as you have, precisely what this section means, or what this recommendation means. I think that it should be explained, and I certainly hope an explanation will be forthcoming as to what this section of the report of the Committee on C., R. and R. means.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, on behalf of the committee I desire to say in explanation of this recommendation in the form in which it is presented here, that the committee has received a voluminous amount of material looking to changes of all kinds and descriptions in the Constitution, Rules and Regulations as they now exist. Upon conversation with many members of the Commandery here present it seemed to the committee that there was a majority, if not a very large majority of this Commandery, of the opinion that our organization has reached a period requiring radical changes. The committee was of the opinion and is of the opinion that it would be far from practicable to have this Commandery undertake the changes that might be required within the period of twenty-four or forty-eight hours, all the time that could possibly be allotted to it during the session of this Commandery. The committee had in mind that upon the adoption of this recommendation, the committee of twenty-five gentlemen appointed by the Commander-in-Chief would be, and doubtless will be, if this motion prevails, composed of men who have devoted the greater part of the best ten or fifteen years of their lives to studying the needs and requirements of this organization. The Committee on Constitution had in mind in placing upon this proposed committee the Past Commanders-in-Chief, that that committee would have the benefit of the year or two of service that they devoted to its affairs as the head of the organization. This committee had not in mind any specific labors for that committee. It had in mind simply, as I have said, that it is apparent to many of us—and I speak for those in Ohio now—that our organization needs changes. Those changes, I am of the opinion, are embodied to some degree in the report of the Commander-in-Chief. I understand that that committee would be empowered to take up and pass upon any other recommendation, or enact any other legislation that in their wisdom was thought to be for the best interest of the organization. However, the committee was also of the opinion that it had not any other material that was

in concise and readable form, containing a reasonable number of facts for their guidance, as did the report of the Commander-in-Chief. Therefore, this first recommendation was upon the adoption of the report of the Commander-in-Chief, as found on page seven. Now the committee are perfectly willing to answer any questions that brothers may see fit to ask, that it is able to answer.

R. S. THOMPSON, of Michigan : Commander, if we adopt the recommendation of the committee do we not practically abolish everything ?

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio : Commander, the committee does not so understand it. The committee does not understand that it is calling upon the Encampment to abolish everything. It does, however, understand that this proposed committee will be in a position, will have such authority that it can, if it considers it necessary, wipe out the present existing Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin : Commander, does not the recommendation contemplate the very thing suggested by the brother from Michigan ? It would contemplate the abolition of the military uniform, and all the features of the Order as we have them to-day.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The Chair would say in reply to the remark of Brother Patton that if you will read farther along in Commander-in-Chief's report, the Commander-in-Chief does not attempt to say that his recommendation is a cure for the evil that exists. It is simply a suggestion that has come to him, nothing more nor less than the consensus of opinion obtained by him from numerous conversations had during the year with different members of the Order. It is not the purpose of the Commander-in-Chief to suggest to this Encampment that any radical legislation should be adopted. All that that part of his report says is that it should be considered. I have understood from the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations that if the recommendation carried and the committee in question is appointed it will be their duty to see whether this suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief has merit or not. There is unquestionably a demand for some sort of change in our organization, when during the last six years we have had upon our rolls one hundred and twenty-five thousand members ; when in the entire sixteen years we have been in existence we have mustered in between two hundred thousand and three hundred thousand Sons of Veterans, and can show to-day only about thirty-two thousand. It certainly tells us there is something wrong. I do not pretend to say that I have discovered what the trouble is, but I do believe that such a committee as is contemplated by this recommendation in this report would be able to solve the difficulty for us.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin : Commander, is not the suggestion in your report, in the main, practically a suggestion of the revival of the military feature which was abolished only a few years ago ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : I do not so understand it.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin : Commander, your report says, "For that minority who are eligible to membership in our organization, who take deep interest in military matters, provision could be made empowering the Division Commander to issue a dispensation permitting a Camp to establish an armed and equipped body," etc.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : I would say to Brother Patton that that is merely in answer to one of the points that was raised against the military feature. The provision in the Constitution for the military rank placed them under separate commands, but still they retained their membership in the Camps, and it caused a conflict of authority. My suggestion needs not necessarily be accepted by the Division. It does not follow that it will be the recommendation of this committee. But if it were, in the judgment of that committee, to be adopted, it follows very clearly here that their allegiance would be with the Camp and not with the separate organization as it existed before.

W. D. SPEAR, of New York : Commander, if I correctly understand the matter, notwithstanding what the Commander has just told us, the Committee on C., R. and R. recommend the adoption by this Encampment of the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The committee recommend the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief that the matter be further investigated.

R. S. THOMPSON, of Michigan: I submit, Commander, the committee does not make any such report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That is what the chairman of the committee has informed the Encampment.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, it is in order that the recommendations of the Commander-in-Chief may be better considered than the committee recommend, etc.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I heretofore have had an idea that I understood matters as well as the average man, but I do not understand this. As I understand it, the committee make a recommendation here; they make a suggestion in regard to adopting a suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief. Now, if I know anything about parliamentary law, when this body votes to adopt that committee's report it adopts that recommendation and it becomes the law of our Order. I would like to have that portion of the report read again so that we may clearly understand it.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The chairman of the committee will read that portion of the report.

Brother Gardner read the first recommendation of the report as follows:

"*Recommendation No. 1.* That after carefully considering the suggestions contained in the report of the Commander-in-Chief, and with a view of remedying the ills pointed out, it is hereby recommended that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee, consisting of twenty-five members, of which the Commander-in-Chief and all Past Commanders-in-Chief in good standing shall be members; of which the Commander-in-Chief shall be chairman *ex-officio*, and of which seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This committee shall designate a time and place for meeting, at which time and place the committee is hereby empowered to make such changes and additions to the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations as in their judgment the needs and requirements of the Order demand; the same to become operative immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief."

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: "The same to become operative immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief." Commander, that is the point exactly.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I do not know as I understand this matter, but as I understand it is this way: The Commander-in-Chief makes a recommendation. He does not make it definitely, under the head of a recommendation, as I understand this; but his suggestions cover two pages of his report, and his conclusion is that a revision of the general law of the organization is necessary. He takes that matter up and argues it. He makes the suggestion, which, if the report of this committee is adopted, becomes only a suggestion to that committee. The general recommendation contained in this section of the Commander-in-Chief's report is a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of this Order; in other words, a revision of the plan of organization, and then he gives his reasons which lead him to make this recommendation; and by the adoption of the recommendation as the committee reports it, it follows from the next section, and the committee so understand it, that a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations will follow. Then these suggestions that the Commander-in-Chief makes are simply for the use of that committee. They are really, the way his report reads, simply his reasons for making this recommendation. By the adoption of the first section of this report, in other words, the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, we do not change the fundamental laws of this organization in any respect. We simply provide for a committee to consider the advisability of changing it, and if that committee decides so to do, after due consideration of the needs of the Order at this time, the changes will then be made.

REPORT RE-COMMITTED.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I understand very clearly what Past Commander-in-Chief Russell puts forth to this Encamp-

ment. I think it would have been just as easy for the committee to have so expressed the resolution, so that there would be no possible doubt about its meaning. It stands independently now. What follows cannot necessarily be connected with it. And it means just what it says, that the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief shall be adopted. If there is anything more that can be done to make that the law of the Order I would like to know what it is; because it comes in the form of a positive resolution; it has a solid basis upon which it is built, and if this vote is taken and carried the committee that would take up this work would have no right to reconsider that vote. It would simply have to frame articles of the Constitution and articles of the By-Laws along that line. It could not consider the matter in any other way. I, therefore, move that this portion of the committee's report be referred back to the committee for revision in order that it may express what the committee has explained it desires to express.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that this portion of the report be referred back to the committee for revision. Are you ready for the question? All in favor will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried and this section is re-committed to the committee. The Chair will request the committee to report as expeditiously as possible; in the meanwhile I will ask if the Committee on Resolutions is ready to report?

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I have here a telegram from Fred C. Stillson, Battle Creek, Michigan.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will read the telegram.

The Adjutant-General read the telegram, as follows:

BATTLE CREEK, MICH., September 10th, 1897.

R. Loebenstein, Quartermaster-General S. V., Indianapolis, Ind.:

Please convey to Encampment assembled a continuance of my distinguished consideration and regrets that illness prevents my attendance.

FRED C. STILLSON.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is the Committee on Resolutions ready to report?

LOUIS A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, did we not decide to lay on the table the consideration of the per capita tax until after the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations has not reported yet, their report being re-committed. So that that matter is not in order at this time.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, there is the committee appointed to attend the G. A. R. Encampment and the committee appointed to look after legislation making the Sons of Veterans a military reserve of the United States Army which are yet to report.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: The Committee on Resolutions are prepared to make a partial report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: We will hear it. What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to acting upon the report of the Committee on Resolutions? Is it the desire of the Encampment to act upon each resolution as read? They are all complete in themselves and it might be that that course would expedite matters.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I move that we consider each resolution as reported by the committee separately, and that after the reading of each resolution, if there be no objection, it stand as adopted by this Encampment.

G. J. BOSWORTH, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Encampment act upon each resolution as read, and that each resolution, as read, be considered adopted unless objection is offered. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is adopted and the report will be considered in that way. The chairman of the committee will proceed.

R. M. J. Reed, chairman of the committee, proceeded to read the report as follows:

"INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 10, 1897.

Commander-in-Chief, Officers and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, S. V., U. S. A.:

BRETHREN:—Your Committee on Resolutions, after careful consideration of the subjects embraced in the several papers submitted to us, respectfully submit the following:

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE DIVISION OF IOWA.

The first is requesting the reinstatement to the rank of Past Captain of a number of brothers who had been reinstated in membership, and is as follows:

Resolved, That the following named brothers, who are now in good standing of their respective Camps, and who have lost the honors of Past Captain, be recommended to the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Sons of Veterans as deserving of the reinstatement of said past honors and respectfully request their reinstatement, viz.:

Marshall Anderson, Camp No. 80, Perry, Ia.

John S. Ely, Camp No. 3, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

James H. York, Camp No. 3, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

W. R. Wickham, Camp No. 3, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

A. L. Schneider, Denison Camp, No. 106, Center Point, Ia.

I. W. Kerl, W. W. Allen Camp, No. 114, Mason City, Ia.

I. W. Smith, W. W. Allen Camp, No. 114, Mason City, Ia.

H. H. Canfield, Camp No. 236, Boone, Ia.

C. T. Babitt, Geo. B. McLellan Camp No. 46, Webster City.

W. R. Innman, Geo. B. McLellan Camp No. 46, Webster City.

No reasons for such action having been furnished your committee we report negatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There does not appear to be any objection. The resolution is adopted.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

Second, a resolution favoring the establishment of a military college by the Commandery-in-Chief as a memorial to the volunteers of the late Civil War, which reads as follows:

Resolved, That the Iowa Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., favor the establishment of a military college by the National organization as a memorial to the volunteers of the late Civil War."

Your committee would most heartily approve, but we are unable to understand how such a desirable object is possible at this time, and are reluctantly compelled to negative the resolution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection to that resolution? There does not seem to be any and the resolution is adopted.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

Third, requesting the recognition of "The Saber" as the official organ of the Order.

The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That The Saber be recognized and endorsed as the official organ of the Division, and that the delegates and representatives of the Division be instructed to use all honorable means to secure the endorsement of the National Encampment at Indianapolis for The Saber."

Your committee are reminded that there are other equally deserving journals published in the interest of the Order, and that this recognition of "The Saber" would work injury to them; we can only recommend each of them as deserving the support of the membership, and for reasons stated report the resolution negatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? The Chair hears none. The resolution is adopted.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE NEW JERSEY DIVISION.

First, requesting restoration of rank of Past Division Commander upon E. C. White, of that Division, which is as follows:

WHEREAS, Past Commander E. C. White, of the New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., was dropped from Camp No. 5, of said Division, for non-payment of dues; and

WHEREAS, By reason of misfortune in business said E. C. White became unable to pay his dues in Camp No. 5, of said New Jersey Division, of which he was a member; therefore be it

Resolved, By this Encampment that upon his reinstatement by said Camp No. 5 that all past rank be restored to him.

"Your committee knowing the circumstances under which E. C. White lost his membership and rank, misfortune beyond his control, report affirmatively."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there any objection to this resolution?

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, I might just say for the information of the brothers that Brother White did meet with serious misfortunes and lost his membership by absence in Florida, and his Camp is willing to reinstate him and give him back his past rank as Division Commander. He was one of the first and one of the most earnest workers that the Division of New Jersey, or any other Division, ever had.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I perfectly agree with what Major Reed has said. Those of us who were early in the ranks remember with a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure the work of Brother White, but the question involved in this matter is one that seriously affects myself. As a matter of principle I am opposed to it. As a matter concerning this individual brother I shall vote for it. At the Cincinnati Encampment I plead with this body to make a provision in the Constitution that would cover just such cases. It so happened I was personally interested in it. The very thing that happened to Brother White would have happened to me had it not been for the careful guardianship of another brother of my Division. If it had not been for him I would have been in the same position that Brother White is, and my case was very much more beyond my control than his. I simply reserve the right as a matter of principle to vote against this thing, but as an individual matter I approve of it in this particular case.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection. The report of the committee in this particular is approved and the chairman of the committee will proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

Second, asking that the rank held by those who had been members of the Post System, but are now members of our Order, be given them in the Camps of which they are now members. The resolution is as follows:

"WHEREAS, During the official year now terminating, Custer Post, No. 6, Sons of Veterans, Post System, of Bayonne, N. J., was mustered into the New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., as Custer Camp, No. 6; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Sixteenth Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., does hereby grant all past honors to such former officers of the Post System, Sons of Veterans, and all past officers of former Custer Post as are now members in good standing of Custer Camp, No. 6."

"We report with favorable recommendation."

Commander, this is in reference to the Post System in New Jersey. They are now being brought into the Order through the Division of New Jersey; it has always been done, I believe. The movement was inaugurated under Commander-in-Chief Abbott.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I want to know what that means? Are we to have another batch of Past Colonels coming in

here? I want to know if this thing is going to occur in other Divisions, that a few gentlemen who cannot be elected Colonels in a Division go off and organize a Post and elect themselves Colonels, and then come into the Sons of Veterans as a part of the Post System, retaining their past rank. Illinois wants to know if we can do that? We are just as anxious for a large representation on this floor as any other Division.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the report embraces no Division Commanders, only Captains.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I would like to have that specified.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Will the chairman of the committee read the resolution once more?

CHAIRMAN REED: We might correct the phraseology by mentioning the rank of Captain. The section reads as follows with that amendment:

WHEREAS, During the official year now terminating, Custer Post, No. 6, Sons of Veterans, Post System, of Bayonne, N. J., was mustered into the New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., as Custer Camp, No. 6; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Sixteenth Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., does hereby grant the rank of Past Captain to Past Captains of the Post System, Sons of Veterans, and past honors under the rank of Captain to all officers of former Custer Post who are now members in good standing of Custer Camp, No. 6."

J. V. B. CLARKSON, of New York: Commander, I would like to ask the chairman of the committee if this will affect men who have acquired a rank in a Post—and there are Posts of Sons of Veterans in New Jersey—I would like to ask him if this resolution will affect those who have acquired the rank of Commander in the various Posts in New Jersey, who, having acquired that rank, leave their Posts and join a Camp and want to retain their title and past rank. Is that the intent of the resolution?

JAMES B. ADAMS, of New Jersey: Commander, during my term of office as Commander of the Division of New Jersey I received a communication from Custer Post, No. 6, of New Jersey, asking if they could become a Camp and on what conditions. I corresponded with them and at last succeeded in turning over the whole of Custer Post as Custer Camp, No. 6, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. They are in the Order now. There was one Past Department Commander in the Post System in that Camp, and if the members of this Encampment object to giving that man his past rank we will waive that, if you will grant to the Past Commanders of the Post System the rank of Past Captains in the Sons of Veterans. We want that for this one Camp that came over. They were a Post and they came over entirely as a Camp. It is not for any individual member, but the whole organization.

J. V. B. CLARKSON, of New York: Commander, some years ago we were engaged in bringing into this Order what was commonly called the Post System. That Post System existed at that time in New Jersey, in New York and in Pennsylvania. All the Posts in Pennsylvania became Camps and all past officers received their past rank. In New York all of the Posts came in with the exception of one, and all the past officers received their past rank. In New Jersey we did not have the same success. At that time there were four or five Posts, flourishing organizations, which for various reasons, principally political, on the part of the leaders, declined to come in. They have increased in numbers slightly. I believe, from the representations made to me by the representatives of the New Jersey Division, that the time is now ripe for those Posts to come in, and when they come in there will then be throughout these United States but one Order of the Sons of Veterans. I heartily agree with the recommendation of the committee and hope that the resolution will pass and those men will receive their past rank. They have done good work, perhaps in a different organization, but still with the same motive. I believe the history of this organization has been a history of consolidations, and I hope it will continue until it brings all the young men, sons of Union soldiers, into one grand organi-

zation through these United States. I believe in standing by New Jersey at the present time and helping her make New Jersey a solid Division. (Applause and cries of "agreed," "agreed.")

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander—(Cries of "question," "question.")

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is the apparent intention of the organization that the resolution shall pass. Have you anything to say, General Abbott?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I rise for information. I want to ask first if this will bring in all the Posts in the Post System in New Jersey? Will they come?

JAMES B. ADAMS, of New Jersey: Commander, I will say that we have not positive assurance from all the Posts in New Jersey that they will come in. They are yet so strong there that they hold a Division Encampment in the northern part of the State; and I venture the assertion they are just as strong as the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in that State. They hold an encampment in the northern part of the State and have not given any positive assurance that they will come in, but I think this is the way to get them.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: I want to ask Brother Clarkson if at the Encampment at Paterson we did not make a combination with the Post System, and give past rank to all officers including Commanders-in-Chief, and if on two subsequent occasions, or at least one other, we did not have to do it again and give past rank to two other Commanders-in-Chief and I cannot say how many Division Colonels. There is a little nest that just keeps hatching out Commanders-in-Chief and Colonels. They know we are anxious to get them in and they hatch them out and graduate them into our organization. We encourage them to stand out against us by letting them in on these terms. They are lost to the Grand Army of the Republic. The Grand Army of the Republic would never give them any recognition. We are strong now and they have nothing, and we encourage them to hold out by making these concessions. They know that for each year they hold on they can hatch out another Colonel and another Commander-in-Chief, and it encourages these little fellows to keep that thing up forever and eternally.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands that this resolution affects Camp officers alone and does not affect Past Division Commanders, or Past Commanders-in-Chief.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, if the committee will make their resolution so state, I am not opposed to it.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I understand the chairman of the committee has so modified the resolution.

JESSE R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey: Commander, it is not the intention to give the past rank to any Past Commander of the Post System. Our idea is to give the past rank to Past Captains. If this Commandery-in-Chief will grant us the right to offer this inducement to the Posts in the New Jersey Division to-day, we can in the next year get in many Camps that are to-day working under the Post System, and we can get them as Sons of Veterans, if we are permitted to offer this inducement. The Past Commander-in-Chief made one assertion, that these men could not become Division Commanders and Commanders-in-Chief in the Order. I say that there are men to-day in the Post System in New Jersey just as capable of being Commanders-in-Chief as any men in this Order.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the committee has altered the phraseology of the resolution, so that it embraces only Past Captains.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Then is there any objection to the resolution? There seems to be none, and the resolution is adopted. The chairman will proceed with the report of the committee.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY THE MARYLAND DIVISION.

First, requesting the restoration of the old ritual, or a modification of the present one. The resolution is as follows :

"WHEREAS, The present three-degree ritual of the Sons of Veterans has not proven satisfactory, through lack of proper facilities; and

"WHEREAS, The present ritual is not as satisfactory as the one it superseded and does not, in the opinion of the Maryland Division, present a proper muster ceremony; therefore be it

"Resolved, That this Division's representatives be instructed to use their influence to have the ritual abolished and the former one substituted, with such other improvements as the Commandery-in-Chief see fit."

We report affirmatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection to this section of the report?

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I rise for information. I want the Committee on Resolutions to explain that farther. Perhaps I do not understand it, and if I do not I wish to be corrected. If it means a return to the old ritual and the abolition of the present three-degree ritual, that is one thing. If the committee recommend an optional clause, that might be popular and help the Order materially, and I rather think it would be better than to go back to the old ritual. If you will strike out certain words and insert certain words, and then let it be optional with all the Camps in the United States to use the ritual or not, it strikes me you will then be taking a long step forward. (Applause). I submit here and now, inasmuch as we are face with this issue, that if the committee will agree to retire and report in favor of an optional use of the ritual, then we will have taken a long step towards establishing this organization and putting it where it belongs. (Applause).

HARRY D. SISSON, of Massachusetts: Commander, I rise to a point of order. I think that matter is in the hands of the Ritual Committee at the present time and they have a report to make on that subject.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I was about to suggest that the resolution itself should have gone to the Ritual Committee.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the committee was aware of that. We only reported it in accordance with the expression of the Commandery-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would suggest that the resolution as reported by the Committee on Resolution be referred to the Ritual Committee. (Cries of "consent," "consent.") If there is no objection it will be so ordered. The chairman of the committee will proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

Second, favoring the appeal to the G. A. R. to admit Sons of Veterans into their meetings. The resolutions are as follows:

"We, the Committee on Resolutions, respectfully report that

"WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of Mansfield Camp, No. 2, of this Division, it was

"Resolved, That Mansfield Camp endorse the action of the Department of Maryland, Grand Army of the Republic, in their endorsement of the resolution providing for the admittance of Sons of Veterans into their meetings during the transaction of active business, initiation, etc., to be referred to the National Encampment, G. A. R., to be held at Buffalo, N. Y.; therefore be it

"Resolved, That this Encampment instruct its representative and representative-at-large to the National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, to be held at Indianapolis, Ind., to use all honorable means to secure the favorable approval of the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans to the above resolution of Mansfield Camp; and be it further

"Resolved, That the representative and representative-at-large use their best endeavors to secure favorable action of the National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., to a resolution to secure the endorsement by the National Encampment, G. A. R., to the resolution adopted by the Department of Maryland, G. A. R., admitting Sons of Veterans to their meetings." (Cries of "no," "no," "no.")

The committee think that the time for such request has not yet arrived and report negatively. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There seems to be a great deal of opposition to the resolution, but none to the report of the committee. The chairman will proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

Third, asking the repeal of Section 4, Article IV, Chapter 5 of the C., R. and R.

Your committee, knowing that this matter is being considered by another committee, report it back without action.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection and it is so ordered.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY WISCONSIN DIVISION.

Asking that the present three-degree ritual be retained, which is as follows :

"Be it resolved that it is the sense of the Wisconsin Division that we retain the present three-degree ritual with errata to conform to latest U. S. military tactics. This resolution to be presented to Commandery-in-Chief."

"The committee already having reported affirmatively a resolution from the Division of Maryland asking for a return to the old ritual now enthusiastically negative the resolution from Wisconsin."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection it will be treated the same as the previous resolution and referred to the Committee on Ritual.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE DIVISION OF NEBRASKA.

Praying for the appointment of a committee by the Commander-in-Chief to report a plan of insurance. The resolution is as follows :

"Resolved, That a committee be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief to report a plan of insurance."

Your committee are unanimously and unqualifiedly of the opinion that this is a patriotic and not an endowment organization; we, therefore, report negatively. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment seems to have decided that. Proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE CONNECTICUT DIVISION.

A resolution relative to changes in the Ritual, requiring the printing of the degrees in separate books. The resolution is as follows :

Resolved, That the long and short forms of the present "three-degree ritual" be printed in separate books, and that all minute details relating to the Sergeant of Guard's position be printed in full as in the old ritual.

This matter having been covered by the resolution from the Division of Maryland, and will no doubt be considered by the Ritual Committee, your committee report negatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It will go to the Committee on Ritual if there is no objection. Proceed.

Chairman Reed continued reading the report as follows :

SCHOOL HISTORIES OF THE WAR.

"Resolutions recognizing the necessity for reform of a radical nature in the matter of history taught in our public schools, to the end that the true story of the suppression of an ungodly rebellion be taught the children of the whole country, and one endorsing the action of the National Encampment of the G. A. R. in this matter, and pledging our earnest support and providing for the appointment of a committee of five by the Commander-in-Chief, to be known as the Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the G. A. R."

These are the resolutions handed in by members representing the Grand Army of the Republic, who are also members of this Encampment, from Indiana. They desire their consideration at this time, as they must leave the hall shortly. For that reason they are taken out of their order in the report of the committee. The resolutions as handed in are as follows :

"*Resolved*, That this Encampment fully recognizes the necessity of a reform in the matter of the histories now in use in the public schools of our country, to the end that they may furnish a more correct and patriotic account of that important period covering the war for the suppression of the Rebellion, and we fully endorse the action of the last National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, in this matter and pledge them our earnest co-operation ; and be it further

"*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief, to be known as the Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, and to report their action at the next Commandery-in-Chief."

The Committee on Resolutions realize that this is a question of most vital importance to the future of our American Republic and warmly recommend its adoption and enthusiastically report it affirmatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN CHIEF: Comrade Judge Marsh is present and would like to say a few words to the Encampment on this subject. What is the pleasure of the Encampment? (Cries of "hear him," "hear him.")

Brothers, I have the pleasure of introducing Judge Marsh.

REMARKS OF JUDGE MARSH.

JUDGE MARSH: Commander and gentlemen, I have served during the past year as chairman of a committee of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic on School Histories. I need not present any argument to you gentlemen as to the importance of making, in our public schools, patriotic citizens of the Republic; but I may possibly present a fact to you that may have escaped your observation, as it had escaped ours previous to our investigation of this subject; that is, that as the school histories now in common use in the schools all over the country stand to-day, there is no history within my knowledge, or within the range of the investigation of the committee, that presents the subject of the War for the Preservation of the Union, as a war between a government and those in revolt against its authority, but on the contrary, every history in ordinary use in the public schools of the land report and deal with the war period as a contest simply between two sections of our country, as an athletic contest, if you please, to determine the question whether the north or the south was the biggest or which had the best men. So the National Committee of the Grand Army of the Republic have taken this view of the question, that no history is fit to be taught in the public schools of this peerless Republic that does not recognize the fact that the War for the Preservation of the Union was a war between the Government of the United States upon the one hand and the states in revolt upon the other. (Applause). We have discovered further that within the last twelve months there has been published by an eminent educator of the State of Virginia, a school history which bears upon its title page the announcement by its author that this history is published in order that it may be acceptable to the south, and fit to be taught in its schools. I want to say to you gentlemen, sons of the men who kept this flag in the sky, that it is written in that history that the Emancipation Proclamation was the consummation of the greatest crime and the greatest piece of robbery ever practiced by a conquering people against the conquered; that this history speaks of Sherman's march to the sea in the same way, and says of the men who sing "Marching through Georgia" that they forget that this march was characterized by outrages upon defenseless women and children and old men, and was a blot upon the American name and a blot upon the civilization of the nineteenth century.

I say this is the kind of history issued within the last twelve months to go into the hands of children of this Republic, of those who are to become its defenders and the custodians of its honor and integrity. But I find another thing. Not alone may it be said of the histories in general use in

the public schools in the land that they do not make any distinction, that they do not distinguish, that they do not make it plain and clear to the youth of the land that this was a war for the preservation of the Government, but they have so framed their histories as to make them acceptable to the people who were in favor of the destruction of the government, believing that it will be looked over and passed over by those who fought for its preservation.

One item or two and I have done. The history in use to-day in the State of Indiana, required to be used by law, the history in most common use in the entire United States, when first examined by this committee contained this initial statement, "The State of South Carolina seceded from the Union." This as a statement of fact! The Union was now broken up! The State of South Carolina had become a free and independent nation! In the next chapter followed an account of the withdrawal of seven states from the nation. Thus, as was said by one seceding senator, "They had left the National Government a corpse lying in state at Washington." The author of this book, the advocates of this book, say that it is of necessity brief. The name of Hancock, of Reynolds, of Sedgwick, of McPherson, of Howard, do not appear in this history at all. The children read it in vain to find anything of these magnificent characters. Grant is mentioned in the account of the Vicksburg campaign three times—barely mentioned. The war eagle of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment is given more space in this book, which the author says must of necessity be brief—he gives that as an excuse for these omissions—the war eagle of the 8th Wisconsin Regiment is given more space in that book than is given to the description of the battles of Stone River, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge altogether. As we found it in the first place there was more space given to an account of a good old New England mother accompanying her son to a railroad station and starting him off to the war—an account given for the purpose of ridiculing this good old mother—than was given to all these battles that I have named combined. This mother, it says, thrust into the hands of her boy the well worn family umbrella. She did not understand the art of war as well, perhaps, as General Scott, but she was determined that if her son had to go to battle, he should have shelter in wet weather if he had to fight in that kind. An insult to every mother who sent her boy to the front with tears and prayers; an insult to every son of a good mother who went out and marched to death on the red field of war under that flag. Space is given to that, while to Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain, those heights on which men climbed to glory, two lines and a half! Eleven lines given to this ridicule; two lines and a half to Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain.

I speak of this merely to show the necessity for the action of this committee. The Grand Army of the Republic, in session at Buffalo, adopted the report made by the committee, of which I had the honor to be chairman, a few days ago, in which they requested your organization, the Women's Relief Corps and every kindred organization to stand up beside us, to join hands with us, to stand shoulder to shoulder with us, until in every school in the land there shall be a decent patriotic history in the hands of your children and our children, to teach them the truth in regard to the great events of that time (applause); this is the reason this resolution is before you. I hope this magnificent body of men will appoint a committee that will do most of the work on this patriotic subject in the future.

I thank you, Commander-in-Chief, and you, gentlemen, for the courtesy extended to me.

IRA W. CHRISTIAN, of Indiana: Commander, I would like to add a few words to what Judge Marsh has said on this occasion. History should tell the truth. The history that tells the truth on this mighty subject will picture to the American people a lesson that time cannot efface. That lesson is that treason is odious (applause). I want to say that to put into the hands of the young people of this country histories that put a premium upon treason and secession is political suicide. If we permit this thing to go on it is only a question of time until patriotism shall be dead; and I say to the Sons of Veterans in this Encampment that I want to stand up shoulder to shoulder with the Grand Army on this question; I want you to face the flag, the one flag, the only flag (applause and cheers), and cheer the Grand

Army of the Republic onward in this great battle. More than that, Sons of Veterans, I am a son of a man who died in Andersonville prison; he was a native of Georgia, but when his native State went out of the Union—I say to you they did not any of them get out; they got a devil of a good licking trying to get out (applause)—I say to you that I am representing that father here on this floor, and in his name I demand that the history of this great war shall be a truthful history, and every Son of a Veteran shall join in the efforts of the Grand Army and insist that those who write that history shall write it truthfully. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment has been asked to say whether they are in favor of the resolution. I take it for granted that that is the case and that it is not necessary to put the question. The demonstration that has greeted the sentiments that have been uttered by the speakers shows the feeling of this organization on that subject. I understand the Committee on Resolutions have nothing further to offer at this time.

CHAIRMAN REED: Nothing, Commander, except a request that brothers who have resolutions they desire considered will let us have them at the earliest possible moment in order that we may get through with our work.

PRESENTATION TO PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WALKER.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers of the Encampment, I again introduce to you General Walker, Past Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. I desire to remind you that a year ago it was your pleasure to express your great satisfaction at the very kindly feeling that existed between the officers of your Commandery-in-Chief and the then head of the Grand Army of the Republic. I desire to-day to reiterate to you, General Walker, that there is nothing gives us so much pleasure as to meet with the veterans of the war, and particularly we value the interchange of courtesies that lead both of these organizations up to the one desired end. It is not now, it has not been, and it never will be, the purpose of this organization to ask for assistance from the Grand Army of the Republic. On the contrary, it is our aim to establish an organization, to bring it numerically and otherwise to the point where we shall some day, we hope, be able, as your ranks are decimated, to be of assistance to the veterans of the war. We recognize, however, that all new organizations have their troublous times. We have passed through that stage. We have had trials and we have passed through them by the help of such persons as yourself.

In testimony of the many kindnesses that we have been the recipient of at your hands, and the very fraternal feelings that exist between us, this Commandery-in-Chief has authorized its officers to present to you this testimony of their regard. In presenting it I desire to say that it is our wish that you may live many years, and that whenever you shall have occasion to bring into use this loving cup you may think of the boys who gave it to you, and not value it for its intrinsic worth, but think of the sentiment that prompted the gift. (Applause).

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF WALKER'S REMARKS.

GENERAL WALKER: Commander-in-Chief and brothers of the Sons of Veterans, I did not expect anything of this kind when I came here this morning, but thought merely to bid you God speed in your work of patriotism and loyalty. As I look into your faces this morning I think I can discover the antidote for Debsism and other anarchy-teachings in this country. (Applause).

While we hold open, my young friends, the doors of this country for the entrance of all worthy people of Europe, and while we invite every man and woman to come here who comes to this country for the purpose of bettering their condition and to become good citizens, we have no room for those who come here or those who are driven here, to teach and practice anarchy. (Applause). The red flag is a menace to this government and should go, and the men who teach the principles of the red flag of anarchy should get out of this country. (Applause). If they do not like its institutions and laws, they should get out of it. (Applause). Storage passage is very cheap. (Applause).

You should congratulate yourselves that you are residents, that you are citizens, of this great Republic of these United States of America. But do we stop to think what those words mean—the United States of America? A wilderness of lakes, rivers and forests, changed by the magic wand of free labor into a land of victorious freeman, populous cities and great states: a nation where no man doffs his hat to another except in the courtesy of equals; where no slave's presence dishonors labor; where education is free; where manhood is respected; where scholars and statesmen have made the nineteenth century blaze with the splendor of the gems that have set in the starry diadem of progress! We should all congratulate ourselves upon living in such a blessed land. In the performance of my duties of Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army I could feel a wave of patriotism sweeping over the land such as I had not felt since the war. Patriotism is being revived, and I want to say to you young gentlemen here that you are a large factor in the work of teaching patriotism and loyalty. I was sitting sometime ago with a friend of mine opposite a school house in a distant state; it was shortly after breakfast and I saw the children trooping into that school house; I saw a flag sent up and then I heard them singing that sweetest song of all the world, when sung by children's voices, led by the sweet soprano of the daughter of my friend, "My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing." I thought if that were going on all over this land this country would be ever safe and free.

My young friends, you can congratulate yourselves also that you are sons of the men who saved this glorious Republic. How many men in the days to come will reckon their nobility back to Shiloh, Vicksburg or Appomattox! You, the sons, grandsons and great-grandsons will say, my father stood with Thomas at Nashville, or Sherman at Atlanta, or with Grant in the Wilderness, and that is my patent of nobility. As I look into your faces this morning I cannot help in some respect to envy you. You will be actors on a stage of government on which my mortal vision can never rest. In my opinion, the coming years will be the greatest in the history of advancing civilization—in the domain of discovery, art, science, the growth of knowledge and the glory of the Republic; but, crowd your maturer years with all these advantages, there is one experience you can never know—the fierce delight pervading those fateful years when patriotism flashed through this land like an electric thrill, when men forgot party and marched cheerfully to wounds and death that their country might live. How those days continue to rise before us with their memories of tenderness and glory. Many of our comrades fell in that time. They found on the red field of battle a fame that shall endure forever. That which the valor and patriotism of your fathers gained, oh, let their sons preserve: freedom, prosperity, equal rights, the dignity of labor, the supremacy of the laws. These are your heritage; see that you lose it not. Keep the standard of this nation full high and in the advance. (Applause).

I thank you, my friends, from the bottom of my heart for this kind remembrance. As you separate from this gathering may you be constantly under the guardian care of Him who sheltered your fathers in the fierce flame of battle, and finally may you hear from the lips of the Supreme Great Commander, "well done, good and faithful servant." (Applause). I thank you.

RECESS UNTIL FOUR O'CLOCK P. M.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, in view of the arrangements made by the Executive Committee for the parade at two o'clock, and the promise made to the Veterans who will be in line to-day not to keep them waiting, exposed to the intense heat of the sun this afternoon, I now move that this body take recess until four o'clock this afternoon. We have promised the Veterans that the line of march will be short and that they will only be kept on their feet for a short time, and it is very desirable that the parade move promptly.

IRA W. CHRISTIAN, of Indiana: Commander, I propose three cheers for Colonel Walker.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Three cheers for Colonel Walker. Now, altogether.
(Cheers).

COLONEL WALKER: Commander, I beg to thank you all again. I failed to state when I was on the platform that a sudden business call takes me out of the city this afternoon, which I very greatly regret, because it will prevent my being with you at the camp-fire. I wanted to say this so you will understand my absence.

GEORGE W. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I second Brother Noel's motion to take recess until four o'clock.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations have revised the report that was re-committed to them. The Chair would suggest that it be read now so that the brothers may have it in mind and keep it under consideration until we meet this afternoon. If there is no objection the Chair will direct the reading of the report. There seems to be no objection and Brother Gardner will proceed.

Dan S. Gardner, chairman of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, read the revised recommendations of the committee as follows:

REVISED RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEE ON C., R. AND R.

Recommendation No. 1. That after carefully considering the suggestions contained in the report of the Commander-in-Chief, and with a view of remedying the ills pointed out, it is hereby recommended that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee, consisting of twenty five (25) members, of which the present Commander-in-Chief and all Past Commanders-in-Chief in good standing shall be members; of which the Commander-in-Chief shall be chairman *ex-officio*, and of which seven members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This committee shall designate a time and place for meeting, at which time and place the committee is hereby empowered to make such changes and additions to the present Constitution, Rules and Regulations as in their judgment the needs and requirements of the Order demand; the same to become operative immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief.

Recommendation No. 2. The expenses of the members of the committee to be borne by themselves.

Recommendation No. 3. That all recommendations and petitions to the present committee be referred to the above named committee for action.

Recommendation No. 4. Inasmuch as there are no commissions issued, nor rank conferred upon the members of the Camp, Division and Council-in-Chief, we hereby recommend that a commission be issued to the members of said Council and that they bear rank as follows: That the members of the Camp Council shall rank as First Lieutenants, that the members of Division Council shall rank as Majors and the members of the Council-in-Chief as Brigadier-Generals.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I now insist on the motion to take recess.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until four o'clock p. m. Those in favor of the motion will give their assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried and the Encampment takes recess until four o'clock p. m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

Four o'clock p. m.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brothers will come to order. Inspector-General, are all present entitled to remain?

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, they are.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Adjutant-General, have you any communications?

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I am in receipt of the following communications:

KNOXVILLE, TENN., September 10th, 1897.

H. H. Hammer, care of S. of V. Headquarters, Indianapolis, Ind.:

Greetings and best wishes to the Commandery-in-Chief.

E. R. CARTER.

CLEVELAND, O., September 9th, 1897.

To Sons of Veterans' Assembly, Indianapolis, Ind.:

The National Alliance, Daughters of Veterans, wish to extend greetings to their brothers who are in assembly this beautiful day. "May the sons and daughters live long, may all their efforts be crowned with success and may this convention be one of the most successful ones on record" is the wishes of the Daughters of Veterans. With best wishes, in F., C. and L.,

JULIA A. CROFT,
Nat'l Prest. D. of V.

CONSIDERATION OF REVISED REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON C.,
R. AND R.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: The question before the Encampment is the consideration of the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations, read by the chairman of that committee prior to taking recess. I think it would be well to have them read again.

Chairman Gardner read the recommendations of the committee.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, it seems to me from the reading of the recommendation that it is the intention of the committee to make this revised Constitution operative upon the promulgation of the same by the Commander-in-Chief. I think that would be unconstitutional and I desire to make the point of order that the method suggested for the revision of the Constitution is unconstitutional.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Will Brother Orner state his reason for that opinion?

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, the Constitution provides ways and means by which it shall be changed or amended, and the method which is proposed is not the way that is prescribed by the Constitution.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF: Brother Orner is correct in that the Constitution does state how it shall be altered and amended, but, however, if you will refer to the minutes of the Commandery-in-Chief at Wheeling, you will find that it was there decided that this Commandery is a law unto itself, and it is the supreme source of power.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I admit we are a law unto ourselves: that we are the supreme law of the Order, and any action of the Commandery-in-Chief here is constitutional, provided it is not in direct violation of the laws we have already established in this Order. The method proposed to be adopted in altering and amending the present Constitution is first out of order on account of the unconstitutional method by which you propose to adopt it, and in the second place it is out of order because this is an incorporated body. It was incorporated years ago under General Abbott, about the time of the Paterson Encampment, or before that time, in the State of Illinois. Now, if we adopt this recommendation of the committee, the proposed committee of twenty-five may so alter and amend our Constitution as to completely change the character of this organization, and

bring it into direct conflict with our articles of incorporation. As I was one of the incorporators of this Order I would call a halt on that right here.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Do I understand the brother to say that this is an incorporated organization to-day?

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: I so understand it, Commander.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair begs leave to differ with the brother.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, if the several Commanders-in-Chief and Councils-in-Chief have done their duty and reported themselves to the State House after each election, we still remain an incorporated body. I am ignorant of any action taken by which we cease to be an incorporated body.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would remind Brother Orner that the Commandery-in-Chief is a migratory body, having its headquarters first in one state and then in another. How could it keep up its incorporation in the State of Illinois?

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, it seems to me the only power in this land that could incorporate this organization would be the Congress of the United States.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother is absolutely correct. Articles of incorporation such as Brother Orner cites would not hold. The point of order made by Brother Orner I would decide not well taken in that regard. The Chair overrules the point of order.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander—

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, may I ask for the floor for a few moments? I imagine the intention of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations is to secure the first step towards what might be called the optional feature. This would apply practically in this case to the matter of uniforms. Now, without arguing in favor or against, I simply propose to tell you what my opinion is, and what my diagnosis of the report submitted by Brother Gardner is. Anyone who has had any experience with this organization, whether it be as picket guard or Commander-in-Chief, knows that there is a restless element—and I say it kindly, too—a number of long-lost Moseses who believe that their advent in this Order is going to lead it out of all its difficulties; each one of whom, perhaps, is in favor of a reform of some kind that will be for the best interest of the organization. You and I have seen these brothers come in here, and, meteor-like, shoot across the firmament of the Order, and then die out, and the bullrushes fade and dry up.

Whether or not this is an inspiration from some long-lost Moses I am not prepared to say at this time, but certain it is that this Encampment must take definite action in this matter of option, and as I said this forenoon, especially in so far as it relates to the exemplification of the ritual in the several Camps. I think we are agreed upon that; many of us appreciate that. But it is another matter to say whether or not the time has arrived when we should abolish absolutely everything pertaining to uniformity. That is the question at issue before us as I understand it. Now, without attempting to argue as to the constitutionality of this matter—and I have my own opinion as a layman upon it—I want to call the attention of this supreme body to the proposition submitted to it, and that is, that you and I are to waive our rights and delegate the same to a committee of twenty-five. In short, the proposition is to delegate to that committee certain powers that might possibly work to the detriment of the organization later on. That is the one point I desire to call your particular attention to—whether or not it is the part of wisdom to delegate our powers to a committee of twenty-five and let them charter a new constitution which shall become the law of this organization upon its promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief. I submit here, and I say it again in all candor and in all kindness, that it is a dangerous thing to do, a very dangerous thing to do. You and I, my brothers, who have attended many of these Encampments, know that there has been a controversy as to the matter of uniformity; and this question of military organization or semi-military organization will continually jump across our vision and we cannot down it; it is

an absolute impossibility to prevent discussion upon that matter. The great majority of the members of this organization have inherited the blood of a soldier, and they feel that in the uniform of a soldier they look best, act best, and possibly live up to the requirements of the Order best. (Applause). I am not saying that is my individual opinion but I give it simply as a fact, having been an eye witness for a number of years of the workings of this organization. The Commander-in-Chief and the committee, no doubt, would like to see maintained its splendid military spirit. If we could keep up a semi-military organization, and also a civic organization in the Order; afford opportunity to drill or to meet as a historical society without uniform; if, for instance, a body of gentlemen in Chicago desired to meet as a dining organization, they could do so in the evening dress of gentlemen or men who are in the habit of assembling around the mahogany. That would be one thing. But at the same time we have had evidence before us—and I trust the representatives from that Camp will pardon me for referring to it—in the case of the Lafayette Camp, of New York City, a body of very respectable young gentlemen, young men who stood and do stand as high as any body of men in the Republic, and yet those young men are not only willing to wear a uniform, but are apparently proud of it (applause); that is Lafayette Camp and one of the best organizations in this country, no matter what it might be. Again I ask pardon for referring to it.

Now then, my friends, the question has arrived, an interesting question for you and me to decide, what are the ills of this organization as set forth briefly by the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations? Is it the same old question? Is it the ghost of the military question again trading noiselessly across the Encampment floor? If it is we can decide it now. We have decided it once, and I think we have got the courage to meet it again. And so I say I hesitate before I leave this matter to this committee of twenty-five, rather a cumbersome affair, I think, to say the least of it. I hesitate before I leave this matter to a committee of twenty-five. It is a large committee. It is to serve without compensation, and here let me commend the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations for its wisdom in embellishing its report with that latter clause. But, Commander, for one, at least, I am not prepared to vote for a committee of twenty-five at this time. I am prepared, however, to vote to make it optional with the Camps in this country whether they use the ritual or do not use the ritual as they see fit; but I would insist, I want to say, absolutely upon the use of an obligation in every Camp. I do not think any Camp would desire to organize without an obligation. That would, in my opinion, give all these young gentlemen who desire to come into the organization as a historical society, or as a dining club, or as any other kind of an organization, an opportunity to work along the lines of charity, and even greater, the lines of patriotism, and enable them to march with us under the banner of Sons of Veterans.

I did not intend to say this much, but I could not permit the opportunity to go by, for I regard it as a momentous question; I regard it as a proposition of the gravest import that all the powers of the Commandery-in-Chief should be delegated to a committee of twenty-five, which is what the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations proposes. I say this kindly to my brothers of the committee, that as an individual member of this Encampment I am not prepared to endorse their report.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I have the right to appeal from the decision of the Chair in overruling my point of order. I rose for that purpose, but the Chair recognized Past Commander-in-Chief Maccabe, and I was willing to hear him. I now move an appeal from the decision of the Chair in overruling my point of order upon the constitutionality of this report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair recognizes Brother Orner's right to appeal. The question then arises, shall the decision of the Chair stand as the decision of the house? Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kennedy may put the question on the appeal.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, I rise to a question of information. I am not fully advised as to the subject matter of this appeal ; that is to say, as to the language of the Constitution and the manner in which Brother Orner claims that the report of this committee would be a violation of it. I should like information myself on that point.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The question comes up on the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. They have made a report. Brother Orner raises the point of order that the report of the committee is unconstitutional, forgetting that it is not an amendment to the Constitution that we are acting upon at the present time, but the report of the committee. The Chair decides that his point of order is not well taken. He takes an appeal from the decision of the Chair that his point is not well taken, and we are about to place before the Encampment the question whether the decision of the Chair shall stand as the decision of the Encampment.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois : Commander, allow me to state that as I understood it in taking the appeal. The committee came in here with a report recommending the appointment of a committee of twenty-five members, consisting of Past Commanders-in-Chief and others, a quorum of seven being sufficient for the transaction of business, and providing further that that committee shall have power to amend the Constitution in any way it may see fit, and that such Constitution as amended and revised by the committee shall be in force immediately upon promulgation by the Commander-in-Chief, without any action of the Commandery-in-Chief ratifying or adopting the amendments made by the committee.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF : I believe, however, the report of the committee, as it is before this body at present, is subject to any amount of amendment that you may desire to make to it.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois : Yes, Commander, it is, but the report of this committee of twenty-five will not be before us for amendment or ratification.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF : Until the question comes upon conferring upon the committee the right to amend the Constitution I have to contend that the question is not one of altering our Constitution.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois : Commander, the question is whether we have the constitutional right to allow the committee to perform those acts. The question is purely a constitutional question, and on that I take an appeal.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Commander, I think this matter may be cleared up in a moment if Brother Gardner will read the report again. Then we will understand exactly what the report contemplates.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : We will call upon Brother Gardner to again read that report.

The chairman of the committee read Recommendation No. 1 of the report.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana : Commander, perhaps an appeal is not debatable, but I rise to a question of privilege and desire to call the attention of this national body to one very important proposition, and that is this : This is the supreme body of the Order. The sovereignty rests here. It is a proposition of law that where the sovereignty rests in the supreme legislative body that sovereignty cannot be delegated to another body, even by the sovereign body itself. That sovereignty cannot be delegated. I believe it would be constitutional for this body to appoint a committee of twenty-five which might devise a scheme for reorganizing this Order upon a different plan and submit that to the Commandery at the next session, and if the Commandery ratified its action it would be legal and valid, because there the sovereign body makes it its own act ; but under the law a committee of twenty-five could not accept a delegation of sovereignty so far as to make the supreme organic law of the Order itself.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I do not know what the views of the committee are on this subject of extending the committee's powers and having it report back to this Encampment. The chairman of the committee can likely tell us.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I understand now that Brother Orner has appealed from the decision of the Chair and that the appeal is open for debate.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection to it.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, upon that question, the pure legal question, I wish to be heard. Article VIII of the Constitution of the Commandery-in-Chief reads as follows:

"The Constitution, Rules and Regulations and the ritual of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., shall only be altered or amended by the Commandery-in-Chief by a majority vote of the members reported present and entitled to vote at the stated annual meeting thereof; but any section herein may be suspended for the time being at an annual meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief by such majority vote."

Commander, until that section has been repealed and suspended it is the law of our Order. In direct violation of the law it is proposed to amend the Constitution, Rules and Regulations through a committee of twenty-five without your Commandery-in-Chief ever setting eyes upon a single amendment or alteration. I claim that it is unconstitutional and illegal, and this body should not countenance such a proposition for a moment. (Cries of "question," "question.")

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, an appeal has been taken from the decision of the Commander-in-Chief. Those in favor of the appeal will make it known—those in favor of sustaining the Chair will make it known by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The decision of the Chair seems to be not sustained.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The chairman of the committee will proceed with the report.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, I move you, sir, that this section of the report of the committee, this recommendation, or whatever it may be designated, be laid upon the table indefinitely.

IRA CHRISTIAN, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I rise to a question of privilege. I believe that this Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief has now a serious matter before it, but instead of moving to lay it on the table, which would shut off all general debate or amendment, I think we should allow the consideration of it for a few moments. I believe there are one or two matters that might be discussed right now for the good of the Order.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, my purpose in making this motion was, if possible, to get at the merits of this question—not to dispose of it upon technical grounds—so that it will not be bobbing up again and again during this Encampment. For myself I hope to have it debated and will be glad to take part in that debate myself.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, may I ask Brother Griffin a question? General Griffin, will you change your motion so as to make it that the recommendation be not concurred in?

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Yes, Commander, I will so modify my motion. I desire to change the motion as suggested by Brother Morgan so that the matter may be debated.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair then understands that the motion now is that the recommendation of the committee be not concurred in. On that motion the Chair recognizes Brother Morgan.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander-in-Chief, I want to make a motion and afterwards, perhaps, to explain it. I desire to make the following motion as an amendment, or substitute, amending the report of the committee to read as follows:

"That a committee of five be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to consider and prepare a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, seeking to reorganize the Order so as to modify the evils that exist, and if possible to place the Order on a firmer basis, but on the same principles it now inculcates; the report of said committee to be submitted to the next meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief."

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: My point of order is, Commander, that when this Commandery-in-Chief decided that it was unconstitutional to appoint the committee of twenty-five as provided it disposed of this question entirely?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It did.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I understood Brother Orner to raise the point of order that the report of the committee was unconstitutional?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: We were then considering the first recommendation, considering that section of the report.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: The Commandery-in-Chief decided that it was unconstitutional, so that the report cannot come before this Commandery-in-Chief until it has been altered by the committee. This report of the committee is not before the Encampment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The report of the committee is not before us.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Then Commander, Brother Morgan's motion must come up as a new motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands he is speaking for the committee at this time.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I was about to make a motion that this matter be re-committed to this committee with instructions to incorporate in their report this resolution which I have written very hastily.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands Brother Morgan's aim is to assist this committee and the Commandery-in-Chief by making a motion that is unobjectionable.

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, it seems to me the business of the Encampment is to proceed with the report of this committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The report of the committee is not before us; that is, recommendation number one.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I make the motion that this matter be referred back to the committee with instructions to incorporate a recommendation providing for a committee of five to formulate this plan and present it at the next meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair cannot accept that motion. The Chair cannot accept a motion to instruct a committee how it shall report. The Chair will entertain a motion to instruct the committee to make another report. That is constitutional. The Chair can accept a motion of that kind, but it cannot accept a motion to instruct a committee definitely as to how it shall report.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, has not the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations the floor at this time?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, then I ask for the regular order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The second section of the report of the committee is then before us.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, the motion which I made has not been disposed of.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion that General Griffin made is out of order for the reason that the first recommendation of that committee was decided by the Encampment to be unconstitutional, and is not before us. The committee will proceed with their report.

Chairman Gardner continued the reading of the report as follows :

"*Recommendation No. 1.* That a committee of five be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to consider and prepare a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, seeking to reorganize the Order so as to modify the evils that exist, and if possible to place the Order on a firmer basis, but on the same principles it now inculcates : the same to be reported to the next meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief."

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, is an amendment to that report in order ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, I move to insert after the word "consider" in the recommendation of the committee, these words, "the advisability of revising;" and at the conclusion the words "said committee to serve without compensation," so that the recommendation will read :

"*Recommendation No. —.* That a committee of five be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to consider the advisability of preparing a revision of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, seeking to reorganize the Order so as to modify the evils that exist, and if possible to place the Order on a firmer basis, but on the principles it now inculcates ; the same to be reported to the next meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief ; said committee to serve without compensation."

J. W. NOEL, of Indiana : Commander, I second the motion.

CHAIRMAN GARDNER: Commander, the committee are willing to accept the second amendment, that said committee serve without compensation, but not the first.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, I insist on my first amendment, to insert after the word "consider" the words "the advisability of," so that the recommendation will read, "That a committee of five be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to consider the advisability of preparing a revision," etc.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : And the committee is not to do anything, even if they do consider it necessary.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, my brother, the ex-Judge Advocate-General and Past Commander-in-Chief, can place his own interpretation on my humble language.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is the amendment acceptable to the committee ?

CHAIRMAN GARDNER : No, Commander, it is not.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on the amendment. All in favor of the same will give their assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary the same sign. The ayes seem to have it ; the amendment is carried and the insertion will be made. The question now recurs on the recommendation of the committee as amended.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, I desire to hear the recommendation read as amended.

The recommendation of the committee as amended was read.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : Commander, the committee would rather withdraw the whole business than leave it that way.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana : Commander, that resolution as amended means nothing. It appoints a committee to consider the advisability of doing something, to report to this Encampment. That is, the committee, under this resolution, would report to the next Encampment whether it is advisable to amend the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of

this Order, and the Encampment would be just where it is to-day. That means nothing. Of course every man, when he considers it in that light, must be opposed to the resolution, unless he wants it to remain as it is.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin : Commander, I think we have weakened the matter rather than strengthened it. Why not abolish the one objectionable feature in the whole arrangement, that of delegating our powers to the committee, and let the rest stand.

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania : Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The brother will state his point of order.

C. J. MILLER, of Pennsylvania : Commander, my point of order is that there is no motion before this house.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The question before the house is on the adoption of the recommendation of the committee as amended.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin : Commander, we have obviated the objection made with reference to delegating our power to the committee ; but, Commander, the committee evidently have thought out a carefully prepared plan, perhaps at the suggestion of the Commander-in-Chief, of ascertaining the difficulty that now besets our Order, and perhaps have considered a plan for removing some of the obstacles. Now, Commander, I am heartily in favor of the original resolution with the feature of delegating our power to the committee stricken out. I believe that if we commit to a committee of Past Commanders-in-Chief and others, representative men of the Order, who have had long experience, these questions, and they report to us at our next Commandery-in-Chief meeting, we will have something that we can accept in toto. I am opposed to this suggestion of a committee of five. As was suggested by a brother on the other side of the hall, it means nothing. I would like to see the original proposition to appoint a committee of twenty-five, to report to the next Encampment, adopted. I, therefore, move as a substitute, the original proposition, with the one feature, delegating the power of the Encampment to that committee, omitted.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio : Commander, I second Brother Patton's substitute.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, I just want to say that Brother Griffin understands my position exactly. I am not in favor, unless good and sufficient reasons for it are advanced here and now, of cutting up our Constitution, Rules and Regulations. (Applause.) What is this great evil that is talked about ? What is this great evil that the brothers are declaiming about in this hall to-day ? I want to know what it is. So does every man here want to know what it is. If any great evil exists let us hear it now ; and if no evil, as a matter of fact, does exist, I want to see this recommendation adopted as amended. I cannot understand the demand for a revision of this Constitution. It has been tinkered with and retinkered with, juvenated and rejuvenated, inspired and re-inspired with the genius of distinguished members, and with the scissors and glue-pot, and what is the result ? We are absolutely and precisely where we started from. I ask again if any evil exists here, in the name of patriotism and the good of the Order, out with it ; present it to us here and now. If not, let us vote for the resolution as amended.

J. E. HAYCRAFT, of Minnesota : Commander, some of the brothers talk as though this committee had arrived at their conclusions and made their report from their own imaginings. That there are evils existing is evidenced by the fact that petitions and recommendations came in upon that committee thick and fast from individuals, Camps and Divisions suggesting and asking for amendments and additions to this Constitution.

This committee believed that five men could not in thirty-six or forty-eight hours give the proper consideration to those petitions and recommendations, and that was one reason why we offered our resolution recommending the appointment of a committee of twenty-five men, to be composed of the Past Commanders-in-Chief and the men who best understand the workings of this Order, to act upon them. We placed upon this committee the men who have been in command of the Order, so that we would have an in-

telligent body who could go home and quietly think this matter over and properly consider these various suggestions, away from the excitement of the Commandery-in-Chief. We provided that they should meet at some place to be designated by them, and after carefully considering these questions make their report. In order that it might not be said that it was a junketing trip at the expense of the Commandery-in-Chief we provided that they should pay their own expenses.

We did not mention any specific changes in the Constitution. Some of the brothers treat this case as hypothetical. One supposes that it means a change of uniform and option. Another supposes that it means a change in the ritual, and another that we are going to become a civic organization. But we mention no such things in the report. Our idea was simply to leave it to the committee of twenty-five good and true brothers, the best that we could pick in the organization; to have them deliberate upon these questions and consider them carefully without being forced to reach a conclusion in thirty-six or forty-eight hours. We decided upon this course upon reading the communications that came to us making recommendations and pointing out evils that it was thought could be remedied. We did not decide upon this course because we imagined evils existed or from personal interests. We had matters before that committee that are not before this Encampment. There are evils existing. Some are pointed out at some length in the report of the Commander-in-Chief; others, as I say, in petitions and recommendations. We cannot enumerate them here, but they exist. None will dispute that, and the committee simply wanted the subject to have good and sufficient consideration.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I have my own peculiar ideas as to the work of this committee, if it should be appointed, but that is neither here nor there. The power given to that committee is outlined in the resolution. Now, so far as the objections that are made to the appointment of this committee are concerned, they are without any force whatsoever, for this reason: The action of this committee, whatever it may be, whether it be to advise the adoption of an entirely new Constitution or not, must come before this body when it meets again in annual Encampment for consideration. If that report does not suit the body when it again assembles, and the report is laid before it, this body can reject the report. No expense is to be incurred. This body suffers no inconvenience, incurs no responsibility whatever, by appointing this committee. I believe I am warranted in saying that if this resolution is adopted there will be a sufficient number of brothers appointed upon that committee to constitute at least a quorum who are patriotic enough, loyal enough to this Order to sacrifice their own means in order to meet and formulate what they may think will best satisfy the needs and requirements of this Order, even if it be for a week or a month. I know there is one who is willing to do it, willing to do anything he can to save this Order. You may sit here and say it is no use, that the Constitution is all right; but there is something wrong, and whatever it may be, we want to discover it. If the committee can discover it, it will do the wisest thing and the best thing that has been done for the Order in the sixteen years of its existence. There is something wrong. You cannot say what it is. I might have my own ideas. You may have yours. But we would not, perhaps, agree. But perhaps this committee can solve the difficulty. Give it a chance, at least, for you are not taking any responsibility in so doing. You are incurring no expense. You are at liberty to repudiate its action. But it may be, when the time comes, that you will be willing to accept it.

Now, as the Commander-in-Chief has pointed out, we are going steadily down hill in about the same ratio every year, and it is only a matter of arithmetical progression, or digression, or loss, until we are wiped out of existence. I suppose there will be a few of us who will come here each year, but pretty soon there will not be enough left, although the per capita tax be increased to pay the expenses of the Commandery-in-Chief meeting. There must be something done. I have my idea of what that should be. If I am upon that committee I will give that committee the benefit of my ideas. It would not do any good for me to suggest them here, because at this time I believe they would be unpopular. But there are many brothers to whom I have talked who are heartily in accord with the theory I have

entertained and that is, briefly, that it is necessary to change the whole form of our organization.

We are modeled after the Grand Army of the Republic, but the Grand Army of the Republic is constituted upon a different basis of membership. Its members are men who bared their breasts to treason's bullets to save the flag. We are not made of that kind of timber. We are only honoring our fathers' memory, in an organization that is purely an honorary one, with the other idea of the preservation of the flag under which our fathers fought; but after all we are only an honorary organization. Call it what you please it is primarily that; and if we go about this in the right way, to make this Order what it ought to be, we will make it purely an honorary organization, something like the Sons of the American Revolution, the Loyal Legion and others. I know a great many will not agree with me in this opinion, but after you think this thing over, after you compare these orders with ours in the light of the events which called them into existence, and in the light of the events which called our Order into existence, you will change your mind I warrant you. This is a matter for the committee to consider. Let this committee be appointed and let it do its work. When its report is made to you in another year then, if it seems to offer you some relief, for relief it must offer or we stare the end in the face, adopt its report; but, if it does not, reject its conclusions and appoint another committee to act in the same way until you find out what is the matter. Do not reject everything. Do not say it is no use. Do something. Let us work. Let us put some body to work to devise ways and means by which we, in the rank and file, may be enabled to work successfully for the upbuilding of this Order of which we are so proud. (Applause).

H. L. VEAZEY, of Alabama: Commander, we have been doctoring the Constitution ever since I have been a member of the Order, and yet we have not got well.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, my point of order is that the brothers are not speaking to the question before the house.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The point of order is well taken. The question before the house is on the adoption of the recommendation of the committee as amended by the amendment of Past Commander-in-Chief Maccabe.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander and gentlemen, this seems to me to be a very important question. I think none of us question the sincerity and good faith of this committee in making this report. Certainly none of us question the sincerity and good faith of the Commander-in-Chief in making his report and the recommendations and suggestions which it contains. As I said before I am in favor of determining this question upon its merits and determining it here and now (applause); sweeping aside everything that is in the way. At every Encampment which I have attended for twelve years we have heard these same speeches. Every brother who has attended the Encampments that long will recognize the fact. It has been constantly and annually said that the Constitution is at fault; amend the Constitution; there is something wrong in the Order; amend the By-Laws; change the organic principles, the rules that we are governed by. At every Encampment there has been amendments made to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of some kind or other, and yet the same cry comes up. I remember distinctly at the St. Joseph Encampment, which some of you attended, seven years ago, yielding to that pressure and the then pretty general belief that the Constitution of the Order was at fault and should be amended, I had the honor of appointing a committee of five of the very ablest, and, as I supposed, the most experienced gentlemen in this Order, to report a new Constitution, Rules and Regulations at the next Encampment; and they reported that Constitution, Rules and Regulations to the Encampment at Minneapolis after having had a year to consider it. That committee did just what it is proposed now to have done over again. They took a year to consider; they reported at Minneapolis a

new Constitution. Then the next year that was amended, and the next year and the next; and if this organization lives fifty or a hundred years, which God grant it may, we will amend it every year.

Now, I do not believe that the fault is with the Constitution of this Order. The fault lies somewhere else. But, if it does, what is the question before us? The question, in fact, rises upon the report of the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief practically recommends that we abolish the military portion of this organization. The committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations reports recommending that that recommendation be adopted; it is ruled out for unconstitutionality. As a substitute now a committee of five is to be appointed to report at the next Encampment. What? What will that committee report? Why, if you appoint that committee under this resolution, in view of the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, that committee will report that the military portion of this organization be abolished, as sure as it rises in that Encampment to report. That is what it means. That is the question that confronts this organization, as I take it, from these reports of the Commander-in-Chief and of the committee and the arguments that have been made here. I am opposed to it. (Applause and cries of "right you are.") I believe, gentlemen, that one of the difficulties with this organization has been a kind of false pride. For myself, I am not ready to abolish the old blue coat and brass buttons that my father wore. (Applause). You may call it sentiment if you like, for sentiment it is; and sentiment is what rules this world and patriotism rules this government. (Applause). I say that every time you put a man out upon the street uniformed in blue, he is a standing evidence not only of his own patriotism, but the patriotism of his father and his father's comrades. This question goes to the vital portion of this organization. The trouble has not been, as I said at the outset, with the Constitution. The trouble, I take it, in the last five or six years, has been the adverse financial condition of the country. That is what has affected this organization. It has affected every organization in the United States adversely. There is no doubt about it. But the signs of the times are better, it must be admitted; we are just entering, if I do not mistake the indications, upon another wave of prosperity, and upon that wave of prosperity this Order, if you will let it alone, will launch forth upon another era of enthusiasm and progress and increase of membership such as it has not known for the last five or six years. (Applause). Let it alone. Give it a chance to live and it will live. It will grow and it will prosper and it will increase in numbers. For God's sake let it alone. Do not tinker with it every year and every year when we come here to these Commandery-in-Chief meetings.

I am opposed to the appointment of any committee of five or twenty-five. The measure proposed now providing for a committee of twenty-five seems to me to be absurd, because, if you appoint a committee of twenty-five, they will never get together. Everybody knows that. Two or three men will do the business, and those two or three will report, just as I said a moment ago, to abolish the military features of this organization, and to that I am opposed. (Applause).

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, while I feel that we are all out of order, in a technical sense, yet this question has been open to debate, and I feel that I am at liberty to transgress the strict parliamentary law and express my opinion as well as my colleagues and friends in this organization. I know I am out of order, as Brother Griffin was out of order, but if you will permit me I would like to say a few words.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: You have permission.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander and brothers, we are not discussing just where the trouble lies. I am not so discouraged over the prospect of this organization. My experience dates even back of Brother Griffin's time and I can verify all that he has said concerning this continual tinkering with the Constitution. I want to say to you that in the early days of this organization, when we scarcely had a Constitution, when Brother Merrill carried home with him all the possessions of the Commandery-in-Chief in his grip-sack, without a Constitution, without anything, the Order did grow to magnificent proportions. No Constitution was essential. We

had all kinds of rituals. Men did as they pleased, and the Order grew. In the succeeding years we continued to grow, notwithstanding we had a very poor Constitution. The point is that the Constitution is not the essential thing in this organization. My brothers, you cannot legislate men into this Order any more than you can legislate them into heaven. Prosperity comes from hard work, and I am proud of the work that was done in the days gone by. I am proud of what has been accomplished by this organization. Granted that we have mustered one hundred and fifty thousand men and only show a membership of thirty-two thousand at the present time, every one of the hundred and fifty thousand has taken the oath of allegiance to the government of the United States and can never forget that obligation, and the lessons of patriotism that he learned within the organization will not be without good effect. Thank God they will each and every one of them be loyal citizens. So the work of the organization has not been lost. I well remember, and my friends will verify it—perhaps it does not appear in my reports—but I did predict in the very heyday of our success that we would soon enter upon a period of shrinkage. It is the history of all organizations. It is the history of the Grand Army of the Republic. We are now going through that stage. We are going through the stage that children go through when they have chicken-pox and scarlet fever and diphtheria and whooping cough, but we will get through, and we will thank God some day that we went through it. (Applause). I am not afraid of the chicken-pox or the small-pox in this organization. We will win out.

Now I will tell you, my brothers, the lesson we have been learning, each one of you in his own Division and in his own Camp. Every one of you can recall Camps in your Division that melted away until there was scarcely a quorum left. I know a dozen such in my own city of Chicago. What has been the result? They have gone through the chicken-pox and the whooping cough and again come up with a fine, handsome membership. The Camp is the foundation, and its condition is indicative of the condition of the Order throughout the country. Of course the national organization moves in larger waves. We go deeper and we rise higher, but we will win out after all. The trouble does not lie in our good old Constitution at all. It does not lie in our ritual. We have ritual tinkers and Constitution doctors every year, as my friend Maccabe says—and he knows all about it—Moseses that are going to lead the Order out of all its difficulties. But, my friends, every Moses has proven a disappointment. Every year there is another Moses who is going to lead us into the promised land without work. That is where the trouble is. There is where the main point lies. I dare say—and I am almost tempted to bring the question right up here, only I do not want to make us all blush—by asking how many members of this Encampment have visited their Camp rooms six times within the last six months? (Applause); I would just like to know how many members of this Encampment got a man into the Order in the last six months? (Applause and cries of "good"). There is where the trouble is. There is where the work is, or the lack of it. I want to say to you, my friends, when I was enlisted—I know it is distasteful to speak of what I have done myself—nevertheless, I want to praise the boys who held up my hands, a long line of Colonels who are the leading men of the Order to-day; one of my most earnest supporters is the Commander-in-Chief of the organization to-day, and I dare say he has not done half the solid work as Commander-in-Chief that he did as Colonel of the Division of Pennsylvania. I see another brother here, General Loebenstein, who brought his Division up to a membership of twenty-seven hundred, and to-day it is back to nine hundred. I could designate a dozen able Colonels who were then in the field doing work, not for any salary, but for love of the Order. That was the kind of work that accomplished something. That was the kind of work that made our organization prosperous; and I tell you, brothers, there is where the trouble lies. It is in getting the members in the Order to attend Camp and see that the work is properly carried out. It is the same question of false pride that Past Commander-in-Chief Griffin referred to. We think the dignity of office prevents our getting out in the byways and highways and bringing the sons of our old comrades into the fold, as we used to do when we were only hungry for office. (Applause). I have been there.

In reply to my friend Russell I wish to say that we can never constitute this Order on the principles or after the manner of the Loyal Legion or Sons of the American Revolution. We are composed of entirely different material. We are a more democratic organization. We are for the rank and file. We want to bring in here the sons of the boys that carried muskets and this flag, the sons of the boys that defended this Union. I would like to ask Brother Russell where he would rather be to-day in case of war, at the head of the Sons of Veterans, or at the head of the Sons of the American Revolution? I can say that because I am on both sides. To-day we have a larger membership than either of those organizations, than either one of them will ever have. The sentiment is somewhat different in the two organizations, and you cannot change that sentiment. As Past Commander-in-Chief Griffin has said, this is an organization of sentiment and you cannot change it, and you cannot model it after the Sons of the American Revolution or the Loyal Legion, because we are organized on a different sentiment, a different principle. You cannot put the sentiment of the Loyal Legion into the Sons of Veterans. You cannot put it there any more than you can put the sentiment of the Sons of the Southern Confederacy into the Sons of Veterans—not that I want to make any comparison between the Loyal Legion and the Sons of the Southern Confederacy, because the Loyal Legion is composed of officers who served in the United States Army with credit and distinction—but I am speaking of the organizations. The organizations are based on different principles, therefore they cannot be made the same. It seems to me, my brothers, that the question is altogether outside of the Constitution, and while I do not object to your appointing all the committees in the world you want to, I do not believe it can accomplish anything. I am willing they should be appointed, but I tell you there is no use tinkering with this Constitution or with this ritual. Brother Maccabe is right. Let there be an option on the ritual. There may be little things that can be changed, that is all right, but you are not going to make this Order prosperous by changing the Constitution every year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on the appointment of this committee, and we are not considering the ritual. I think, perhaps, we have discussed the question to the point where all the members of this Encampment can vote intelligently.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, I am delighted with what I have heard. While I have not long been a member of this organization, it has been my privilege and pleasure to be a member of that other organization, the grandest in the United States of America, from its inception, the Grand Army of the Republic. (Applause). And I have heard there in the Post and in our National Encampments similar discussions upon the Rules and Regulations of the Grand Army of the Republic to this I have heard to-day about your Constitution, Rules, Regulations and ritual. The Grand Army of the Republic went through this same kind of a sweat-ounce, and we had three grades in the Grand Army. We thought that would remedy the evil of lack of membership. We had the recruit, the soldier and the veteran, and we fired over the coffin with the skull and cross-bones and all that kind of folderol. It did not bring any membership into the G. A. R. I tell you, brothers, what you want is recruiting officers for your Camps. You will then have no trouble about raising your per capita tax from sixteen to twenty cents. The boys must get after the fathers. They neglect their sons, many of them. You must make the fathers help you bring in the sons. (Applause). That is what you want. The boys in blue have neglected their sons. While their sons were standing with ears open and mouth open, and eyes watching eagerly for information, the fathers have not given it to the boys in the quantity that they were anxious to receive it and on all proper occasions; and I must say as a member of the G. A. R. there is too much jealousy of the Sons on the part of the G. A. R. I am speaking from personal knowledge. I have heard a Grand Army man of prominence in the city where I live say, "I do not countenance the Sons of Veterans because they come to the veterans and ask for help; they should help us." That is true, but we are now in the state that the Grand Army was previous to 1878 and 1879; since then we have been swimming on the flood tide of public sentiment. We are where they were previous to

1878, but we are going to be where they are now, by and by (applause) we will be where the Grand Army will require and receive our help. I am referring now to the younger boys. I will not be among those who will require your help, brothers, but you will bestow it upon those who do and I am going to help the younger brothers to be what I want them to be before I die—the grandest, numerically and in every other sense, organization in the United States of America. You are organized on the right basis. Your Constitution has the right foundation. It is patriotism, and that is enough. You have fathers to help you and you must see that they do so. I think if you will give this question a rest and pay more attention to the matter of recruiting officers you will get at the bottom of your difficulties very soon.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, the janitor of the building has made a request that we try and vacate this building by six o'clock. It seems to me that the question has been fully discussed and very ably discussed. What is the pleasure of the Encampment? (Cries of "question," "question"). The question is upon—does Brother Patton insist upon his substitute motion?

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, it will take but a moment to vote upon it. I do.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, my point of order is that the committee has the right to close this debate if they so desire.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That is perfectly proper. The committee has the right to be heard in closing the discussion. Debate will then cease. The Encampment desires to vote on the question. The Chair recognizes Brother Gardner to close the discussion on behalf of the committee.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, with the consent of my second I will withdraw my substitute motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question then recurs upon the adoption of the recommendation of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations as amended by Brother Maccabe. The recommendation of the committee was that the incoming administration appoint a committee of five to revise the Constitution, and Brother Maccabe's amendment makes it read that the incoming administration shall appoint a committee of five to consider the advisability of revising the Constitution.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, the committee will be heard through Brother Morgan.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I wish Brother Patton would hold to his amendment and let us vote on his proposition.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Patton has withdrawn his motion.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: (Cries of "question," "question"). Commander, I do not believe the boys will make any time by calling question on me for I can stand here quite awhile. I am not chosen to close this debate because I am able to present points either forcibly or completely, but because I have been talking around a good deal and the boys think I have something to say.

Past Commanders-in-Chief Abbott and Griffin and Maccabe are three men that I have a great deal of respect for. I love to hear Brother Griffin and Brother Abbott talk about uniforms, but where are they? Where are your uniforms, Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott and Past Commander-in-Chief Griffin? (Applause).

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, if the brother will point out the section of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of this Order which prescribes a uniform for a Past Commander-in-Chief I will be pleased to wear one. Until he does that I have no right to wear one.

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF BUCKLEY: Commander, before the committee has an opportunity to close this debate I want to say a word for the South.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Debate has closed.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : Commander, I did not intend to make the point so personal, but Commander-in Chief Griffin and Brother Abbott incidentally said that the reason why we did not get ahead was because we did not work so enthusiastically and show to the country that we are proud of the uniform ; and I thought they ought to wear one whether the Constitution made them do it or not.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Commander, I want to say that I appeared in uniform on the first day of the Encampment, and the Commander-in-Chief personally excused me from wearing it because I am not used to such a hot climate.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : Commander, Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott says, if he will excuse me for referring to him personally, that there is probably nothing the matter with the Order. He states that when the Order was young it was flourishing. Every man who has ever organized a Camp will tell you that at first, during the first few months or the first year or two, it was successful ; but where is your Division of Illinois now that used to be on top ? You have had good workers there.

Brother Maccabe, you said you believed there was nothing the matter with the Order. You worked faithfully, but the Order lost membership under your term of office as Commander-in-Chief.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : It would have lost under you too, Morgan.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas : I know it would. Now we are going back to our Divisions and our Camps. They will ask what did you do at the Commandery-in Chief ? They are all complaining, you know that. They will ask what did you do at the Commandery-in-Chief to remedy the difficulties that we are encountering. We will have to say "nothing," unless you adopt this report. Even if the report is adopted you can only say that "the Encampment appointed a committee to consider if something could not be done." Do you want us to go back and say that the Encampment even refused to vote in favor of that ? Now, I ask you to vote in favor of the appointment of a committee to consider and see if something cannot be done to stop the decrease in our membership. The decrease began before the hard times began. The decrease began in 1891, and the hard times did not begin until 1893. Let us go back to the Camps and say we have set some men, in whom we have confidence, to work on this question, and they will report to us next year if in their judgment something cannot be done.

H. E. COWDIN, of Michigan : Commander, Michigan is going up hill now. We are gaining.

C. R. CLARK, of Illinois : Commander, the Illinois Division increased eight hundred members in the past year by good hard work.

H. E. COWDIN, of Michigan : Commander, the Michigan Division has doubled in the last year ; we do not want any change in the Constitution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The question is on the recommendation of the committee as amended by Brother Maccabe. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual show of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The recommendation of the committee as amended is lost. The chairman of the committee will proceed with recommendation number two. (Cries of "division," "division"). A division is called for. The committee submitted a recommendation. Brother Maccabe moved to amend the recommendation by inserting several words. Brother Patton offered a substitute motion and with the consent of his second withdrew it. Brother Maccabe's amendment was adopted, and you have been debating for the last three-quarters of an hour the question of the adoption of the committee's report as amended, and you have voted upon it. The first recommendation of the committee was lost.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana : Commander, did not the last question stand upon the amendment offered by Brother Maccabe ?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment voted to incorporate Brother Maccabe's amendment into the report of the committee, and the entire recommendation of the committee was lost.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move you now that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be discharged with the thanks of this Encampment.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I would like to inquire whether this committee has completed its labors.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is unable to say.

CHAIRMAN GARDNER: No, Commander, they have not.

J. B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, it strikes me that would be an unwarranted insult. It would be discourteous to the committee and Sons of Veterans should ever be courteous. I hope that the motion will be withdrawn.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I understood the committee was through. With the consent of my second, I withdraw the motion. I thought they had completed their report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion to discharge the committee is withdrawn. The committee will proceed with the third recommendation of their report.

Chairman Gardner proceeded with the reading of the report as follows: "The expenses of the members of the committee to be borne by themselves." (Laughter).

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I move that the recommendation of the committee be concurred in.

WILLIAM DESTESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is hardly necessary to consider this recommendation in view of the action of the Commandery-in-Chief on the preceding recommendations of the committee. The same is true of the fourth recommendation.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Now, Commander, is the report of the committee completed?

CHAIRMAN GARDNER: That disposes of the present report of the committee.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, that was my understanding. I thought the report of the committee was virtually completed before when I made my motion.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander—

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Speelman has the floor at present. Does Brother Speelman desire to make a motion?

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I now renew my motion that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair desires to say to Brother Speelman that the committee have finished their report as they prepared it this morning, but they have a mass of matter before them which they have not considered which they would now consider and report upon. But if you desire the discharge of this committee it will be discharged.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I renew my motion.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be now discharged with the thanks of the Encampment. Are you ready for the question? Those in favor of the motion will give their assent by the usual vot-

ing sign of the Order. Contrary the same sign. The motion appears to be carried. The motion is carried and the committee is discharged with the thanks of the Encampment.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I attempted to get recognition before the Chair put the motion, because I have an amendment to the Constitution to propose which should be referred to that committee. Now that the committee has been discharged I presume it will be in order to offer it directly to the house.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Not under the present order of business. That could be presented under the head of new business. The next business under the regular order is the continuation of the report of the Committee on Resolutions. Has that committee anything further to report?

CONTINUATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report of the Committee on Resolutions as follows:

Resolutions presented by Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong, of Indiana, endorsing the action of the G. A. R., petitioning Congress to enact a law providing for military instruction in the public schools, and to that end authorizing the detail of officers of the U. S. Army; and providing further, that the Sons of Veterans use their utmost endeavors to further the cause of the bill to be presented in the National Congress, and that a copy of said resolutions be sent to each U. S. Senator and Representative, with a request that they give their influence and cordial active support to the measure.

The resolutions are as follows:

"WHEREAS, The defence of the nation is dependent on levies of volunteers.

"WHEREAS, It is well recognized that the levies of untrained men are not effective as soldiers.

"WHEREAS, The nation may be confronted with a condition of war too rapidly to give time for effective training to such volunteers.

"WHEREAS, The National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic have repeatedly declared that such emergencies should be provided for by giving military instruction in the public schools, and they have charged themselves with the work of endeavoring to have this realized.

"WHEREAS, The Grand Army of the Republic frequently have caused to be introduced into both Houses of Congress bills to authorize the details of officers and non-commissioned officers of the U. S. Army to give military instruction in the public schools.

"WHEREAS, Such bills, although favorably reported on by the committees to which they have been referred, have heretofore finally failed of enactment.

"WHEREAS, The Sons of Veterans are equally impressed with the Grand Army of the Republic with the necessity of thus partially providing for the National defence. Be it

Resolved, By the Sixteenth Annual National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, that we must be measurably prepared for war if we would avoid having it forced upon us.

Resolved, That the Order of the Sons of Veterans use its utmost endeavor and influence to cause the bill referred to to be brought to the point of enactment: and

Resolved, That an official copy of these resolutions be sent to each Senator and Representative in Congress, with a request that they give their influence and cordial active support to this measure and cause it to be enacted."

Your committee earnestly and warmly recommend the foregoing, and report affirmatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to this resolution?

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, I move that this resolution be adopted by a rising vote.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that this resolution reported by the committee be adopted by a rising vote. All in favor of the motion will please rise. Be seated. Those opposed will rise. The motion is carried unanimously.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

Resolutions presented by Past Division Commander William H. Armstrong, of Indiana, recognizing the necessity for reform of a radical nature in the matter of history taught in our public schools, to the end that the true story of the suppression of the ungodly rebellion be taught the children of the whole country, and warmly endorsing the action of the National Encampment of the G. A. R. in this matter and pledging our earnest support, and providing for the appointment of a committee of five by the Commander-in-Chief, to be known as the Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with similar committee of the G. A. R.

Those resolutions are as follows :

Resolved, That this Encampment fully recognizes the necessity of a reform in the matter of the histories now in use in the public schools of our country, to the end that they may furnish a more correct and patriotic account of the important period covering the war for the suppression of the rebellion, and we fully endorse the action of the last National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, in this matter and pledge them our earnest co-operation ; and be it further

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed by the Commander-in-Chief, to be known as the Committee on School Histories and Patriotic Teaching, to act in conjunction with a similar committee of the National Encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, and to report their action to the next Commandery-in-Chief."

The Committee on Resolutions realize that this is a question of most vital importance to the future of our American Republic, and warmly recommend its adoption and enthusiastically report it affirmatively.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: After the action taken by the Encampment this morning it is unnecessary to put the question on the adoption of these resolutions. Unless there is objection they will be considered as adopted. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and the resolutions are adopted unanimously.

These are the resolutions that were considered this morning upon which Judge Marsh spoke.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows :

Resolved, That the thanks of the Commandery-in-Chief and all Sons of Veterans are due and are hereby warmly tendered to that patriotic and earnest champion of our cause, Comrade John McElroy, of the *National Tribune*, for the valued and earnest support he has given us ; and that we commend him and his patriotic journal and warmly urge every brother of the Order to give it substantial and willing aid and support. Your committee believe that the good that Comrade McElroy and his paper have done and will continue to do our cause cannot be fittingly expressed in words, and we, therefore, urge practical support for the *National Tribune*. Reported affirmatively by the committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection to this resolution?

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa : Commander, while I do not object to the extension of our thanks to Brother McElroy for aiding us through his paper I would insist, if this resolution be adopted, that we also insert the names of some of our own journals which are edited and published by our own boys solely in our interest, which are published unselfishly and at financial loss to the publishers. I would insist upon the insertion of the names of some of our papers.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Commander, I have no doubt that if the brother will merely suggest the names to the committee they will include them in the resolution.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa : Commander, I speak feelingly on this subject because in the past I ventured to push my little journalistic bark

on the sea and for a number of years published an S. of V. paper at a loss. I am not now interested, but there are others in the field and I know that none of these boys are making anything out of it. They are doing splendid service for us, as is the comrade who publishes the *National Tribune*, who occupies a larger field at a profit. In the name of justice I ask that the names of some of our own journals be inserted in the resolution.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I will be very glad to move the adoption of a resolution that this committee be instructed to present a resolution applying to Sons of Veterans' papers. I feel it ought to be done.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, on behalf of the committee I will say that one reason for presenting this resolution was because Comrade McElroy was not a member of this organization. He came here to help us because he believed that our influence for good was something, and his action commended itself to us because he was not a member of the Order. Nothing else was presented to us. The committee will be glad to consider such a resolution as was suggested.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands there is no further objection, providing permission is given to introduce a resolution applying to Sons of Veterans' papers.

A. L. SORTER, JR., of Iowa: Permission being given to introduce such a resolution I withdraw my objection.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The chairman of the committee will proceed.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

"Resolved, That the Commandery-in-Chief hereby express to the Governor and officers of the State of Indiana, the Mayor and citizens and a generous press of Indianapolis, our high appreciation of the cordial and generous hospitality extended to us during this sixteenth annual session; and that to General Walker, Past Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R., Captain William H. Armstrong and others, who have honored us by their presence and kindly courtesy, we extend our warmest thanks and greeting.

"Resolved, That we shall return to our homes with the pleasant recollection that the efforts of the brothers of the Division of Indiana, and of Indianapolis particularly, to entertain and make our stay in Hoosierdom one of unalloyed pleasure, has been more than successful, and words fail in our desire to express what we feel, but politics nor distance shall ever erase from our hearts the pleasures of our meeting here."

Affirmatively reported by the committee.

W. J. PATTON, of Wisconsin: Commander, I move the adoption of this resolution by rising vote.

ORANGE H. COOK, of Massachusetts: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted by a rising vote. Any remarks?

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I would suggest the insertion of the name of Judge Marsh in that resolution.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, I thank the brother for the suggestion. That was intended, but was afterwards neglected by the committee.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I suggest the insertion of Rear Admiral Brown's name also.

CHAIRMAN REED: The committee will accept that suggestion with thanks. The resolution will then read:

"Resolved, That the Commandery-in-Chief hereby express to the Governor and officers of the State of Indiana, the Mayor and citizens and generous press of Indianapolis, our high appreciation of the cordial and generous hospitality extended to us during this sixteenth annual session; and that to General Walker, Past Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R., Captain William H. Armstrong, Judge Marsh and Rear Admiral Brown and others, who have honored us by their presence and kindly courtesy, we extend our warmest thanks and greeting.

"*Resolved*, That we shall return to our homes with the pleasant recollection that the efforts of the brothers of the Division of Indiana, and of Indianapolis particularly, to entertain and make our stay in Hoosierdom one of unalloyed pleasure, has been more than successful, and words fail in our desire to express what we feel; but politics nor distance shall ever erase from our hearts the pleasures of our meeting here."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the resolution be adopted by a rising vote. Those in favor of the motion will please rise to their feet. Be seated. Those opposed rise. The resolution is adopted unanimously.

Chairman Reed proceeded with the reading of the report as follows:

"*Resolved*, That Commander-in-Chief Jus. L. Rake and his able staff, by their untiring efforts in behalf of the Order, have won our admiration and love, and that we extend to them our fraternal regards and warmest wishes for their future success and prosperity."

Approved and recommended by the committee.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, I move you, sir, that this resolution be adopted by a rising vote.

IRA CHRISTIAN, of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that this resolution be adopted by rising vote. Those in favor of the motion will please rise. Be seated. Those opposed please rise. The resolution is adopted unanimously.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the committee have nothing further to report at present. The report thus far disposes of everything that has been presented to us. There are several brothers who spoke to the committee of resolutions they had to submit, but so far they have not been placed in our possession.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The committee will be continued for the present.

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF MERRILL.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I move the suspension of the rules of the Commandery-in-Chief for the purpose of yielding the floor for a few moments to the Division of Maine, in order that they may present a special matter. I hope there will be no objection.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I am sure the Commandery will not object at all when they learn the object of the motion. I suppose it may be taken by consent. (Cries of "consent," "consent"). Consent is granted and the Chair recognizes Colonel Soule, of Maine.

ARTHUR L. SOULE, of Maine: Commander:

My appearance before you at this time suggests to me a pleasant duty, as well as a privilege, to perform on behalf of the Maine Division, Sons of Veterans.

Recognizing that distinguished services are worthy of approbation and call forth on behalf of the boys of Maine a substantial testimonial, I appear before you at this time to present to this honorable body the crayon portrait of a brother of this Order, a member of our Division, who has in days gone by served in the capacity of Commander-in-Chief.

We feel that, in order to get into line and to pay the honor due this brother, we should at this time, in accordance with the custom in recent years established, present to you his portrait, that it may be hung upon the walls of the Commandery-in-Chief Headquarters, to assist in the completion of that grand galaxy of portraits of our Past Commanders, as well as to serve as a token of the love and regard that we wish to bestow upon this brother at this time.

General Frank P. Merrill, Past Commander in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans of the U. S. A., was born in Buckfield, Me., November 19, 1852. His father, Thomas Merrill, was a member of Co. D, Berdan's Sharpshooters, and served from the Fall of 1861 to the close of the war. At the age of sev-



FRANK P. MERRILL,

Past Commander-in-Chief.

1883.

enteen General Merrill joined the Maine Militia, serving in every grade until elected Captain of his company, a position which he resigned on taking command of the Sons of Veterans.

In 1882 his attention was called to the organization of the Sons of Veterans, and he assisted General I. S. Bangs in organizing the State of Maine into the first permanent Division in the United States, of which he was elected Colonel. In the Fall of 1883 he was elected by acclamation to the office of Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, being the first elected Commander-in-Chief of that organization. Under his command the Order had a wonderful growth, and on his retirement from office, at the end of his term, he was presented with an elegant solid gold badge as a testimonial of the regard in which he was held by his brethren. He has always been an earnest worker and has spent time and money liberally for the good of the Order.

We, therefore, of the Maine Division, the sixth largest Division of our Order, are pleased to present this portrait at this time in recognition of our regard for General Merrill's services to our Order. We feel that in a large measure the success of our organization, particularly in Maine and New England, was due to the energy and conscientious work of this brother. To-day the Massachusetts Division, in numerical strength, is the second largest in the Order.

The New England States comprise nearly one-quarter of the entire number of Camps and over one-quarter of the membership of the Order.

Of the New England Divisions Maine to-day has the proud distinction of holding second honors in numerical strength, numbering, as we do, nearly 1,500 members and prospects for the future growing brighter.

We, then, as a Division, are desirous of showing to our Order that we are not unmindful of the services of this brother. Therefore, on behalf of the Maine Division, I have alike the privilege and the pleasure to present to you this portrait. May you give it a conspicuous place on the walls of the National Headquarters, and as time goes on and we as associates of our honored brother shall look upon this portrait may we ever feel that our gaze is fixed upon one who has done his duty and has received the "well done, good and faithful servant," of his brothers and co-workers.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I know of no one present to-day in the City of Indianapolis who is better able, or who will more willingly, on our behalf, accept the gift we have just received than that old tried and trusted Son of a Veteran who served with General Merrill and wore the same drooping visor as he marched into Independence Hall—Joe Maccabe.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, frankly, I did not know that I was to be drafted to respond and to accept this portrait of my old friend, and I am at loss to say anything that would be fitting. As Brother Soule said, Frank has done his duty and done it well. It was my pleasure to know him during the days of 1882 and 1883, and I can say here honestly—though I wish in better terms—that I never knew a harder worker on behalf of this organization, nor a more loyal fellow.

He took this organization in its infancy, when it was an infant so small that you could get it into a small grip, such as they are in the habit of carrying in prohibitory Maine. (Applause and laughter). You can readily imagine how cumbersome it was. The largest item in that famous gripsack was the indebtedness of this organization. (Laughter). It has its laughable aspect and it has its serious aspect. Brother Merrill then earned the title which some of us in New England saw fit to apply, after having come in contact with some of the western brothers. A title which is not euphonious and perhaps not eloquent, but it expresses the idea thoroughly and completely, namely, "Gimp." "Gimp" was simply borne to the ground because of the tremendous load; but, my friends, he was in no way deterred from starting out and making the battle uphill; and he did it well; he did it loyally; night and day; in sunshine and in storm he was at the helm, and his hand guided the organization in its dark days. The result to-day is manifest in New England. The corner-stone was well laid. As Sons of Veterans we closed up and marched to the front, and to-day the result of Frank P. Merrill's work is evident. I cannot say what I would like to say as to his work. It is evident to everybody that a more loyal fellow, a more

trustworthy Commander-in-Chief, a more patriotic custodian never was impressed into the service of the organization.

I take pride in accepting this counterfeit presentment, and I trust it will long remain in the gallery of Sons of Veterans' fame, for there it belongs. He was the leader in the dark day, and to-day he is willing to render service loyally and well, true to his flag, his country and our beloved Order. (Applause).

INTRODUCTION OF GENERAL DODGE.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I have the honor of presenting General Dodge, Commander of the Indiana Division of the Grand Army of the Republic.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: General Dodge, we welcome you. Be seated.

RECESS UNTIL NINE O'CLOCK SATURDAY MORNING.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I move that this body do now take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

In the absence of Brother Bookwalter I wish, for the Executive Committee and Division, to extend a cordial invitation to attend the camp-fire, at Tomlinson Hall, this evening. A program has been arranged that will be entertaining, I think, and we want to see every brother of the Encampment there.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, before seconding that motion I desire to move that when we resume to-morrow morning we resume under the regular order. The Chair will bear in mind that the regular order was suspended a few moments ago by consent.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair understands that the regular order was suspended for the special matter of the presentation of the portrait of Past Commander in-Chief Merrill. That matter having been disposed of the regular order is resumed as a matter of course.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: I would ask the Commander if it is not possible for us to proceed with business for an hour longer?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The janitor of the hall in which we are meeting has made the request that we vacate as closely to six as possible.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO VISIT THE LADIES' AID.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, we were honored this morning by a visit from our sisters of the Ladies' Aid Society. I believe it would be proper to appoint a committee at this time—providing I am not on the committee—to return the compliment, so that the committee may have this evening and early to-morrow morning during in which to discharge that duty.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection the Chair will appoint the same committee that was appointed to receive the ladies when they visited us this morning. The Chair hears no objection and that committee will act accordingly.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I would like to have consent to introduce the amendment that I desire to propose, that is, I would like to have it read now because it will probably create a great deal of discussion, and it will perhaps save time if it is read now so that members can be thinking of it until it comes up in the regular order.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection Brother Bundy may read his proposed amendment.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I propose to move the following amendment, to be known as Section 2 of Article XX on page 75:

"SEC. 2. The use of ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits to be optional with Camps; but the obligation of membership shall never be omitted."

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I now second Brother Noel's motion that the Commandery-in-Chief take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary the same sign. The motion is carried and the Encampment takes recess until nine o'clock to-morrow morning.

SATURDAY MORNING SESSION.

HALL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Saturday, September 11th, 1897.

Nine o'clock a. m.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment will come to order. Inspector-General, are you satisfied that all present are entitled to remain?

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: Commander, I am.

HARRY D. SISSON, of Massachusetts: Commander, I move that the calling of the roll be dispensed with.

M. D. FRIEDMAN, of Alabama: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it has been moved and seconded that the calling of the roll be dispensed with. As many as are in favor of the motion will signify their assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried.

Adjutant-General, have you any communications?

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I am in receipt of the following dispatch:

"BUFFALO, N. Y., September 10th, 1897.

Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis:

Greetings from Buffalo Camp. Hold next Encampment in Cincinnati.

JOHN L. CRONIN, Captain."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The receipt of the telegram will be noted. Is the Committee on Ritual ready to report?

HARRY D. SISSON, of Massachusetts: Commander, the Committee on Ritual is ready to report.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RITUAL.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I imagine the committee has several resolutions there that have been referred to it, and that the report ends up with some general recommendation. If so, the Chair would suggest that the chairman read the various resolutions submitted to the committee by title, and then give us the general result. Is there any objection to that course? There appears to be none:

Brother Harry D. Sisson, chairman of the Committee on Ritual, submitted and read the following report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RITUAL.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 10, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS: The Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies beg leave to submit their report as follows:

Your committee would not recommend slight and unimportant changes in the ritual, promulgated through General Orders, for the reason that such changes tend to confusion.

Your committee believes that the present ritual has proven far more satisfactory than the one it superseded, and yet believes the present is subject to many improvements, changes and corrections, which if made, would be of vast importance to the Order.

Your committee would call attention to the Adjutant-General's consolidated report, alluded to in the report of our Commander-in-Chief, and to the enormous loss of members that our Order has been subjected to; and it is the opinion of your committee that considerable of this great leakage is due to a lack of interest in Camp work by reason of shortcomings in the ritual, which, if corrected and revised, would tend greatly to lessen our losses by members being dropped from the Order. We believe that the present ritual is weak and lacks force, is devoid of that dramatic action which attracts and holds those who are most desirable members of our Order; that it is deficient in that it teaches the lessons, principles and objects of our Order without interesting the recruit in the lesson so taught.

Your committee is of the opinion that if the ritual was so changed and revised so as to possess dramatic action and force, interesting alike to the recruit and to the members of the Camps, a great step would be taken in holding our most desirable members and stopping the enormous leakage complained of by our Commander-in-Chief.

And your committee is of the opinion that our present ritual can be so changed, revised and improved so as to possess these important and essential points, and would recommend that a committee of three be appointed from this Commandery-in-Chief whose duty it will be to revise and improve our ritual so that it shall possess the dramatic action and force of which it is now devoid; and that said committee report at our next annual Encampment the result of their work, and that an appropriation be made to cover the expenses of a meeting of the committee at least once prior to holding the next Encampment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report and recommendation of the committee. What is your pleasure?

MICHAEL CROWLEY, of New Hampshire: Commander, I move that the report be accepted and the recommendation of the committee adopted.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection we will adopt the same method of considering this report under which we have proceeded heretofore; that is, where there is no objection the recommendation of the committee will stand as adopted.

WILLIAM DESTESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, is the committee going to read the resolutions submitted by the different Divisions?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Only by title.

WILLIAM DESTESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, I understand the resolution that was put into the hands of the Resolution Committee relating to the ritual, from the Division of Wisconsin, has not been received. I would like to have the resolution passed upon.

CHARLES S. DAVIS, of Maryland: Commander, I would like to inquire if the committee has something to propose different from the recommendation by the Maryland Division.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: Commander, I think the matter referred to by the brother from Wisconsin is embraced in another resolution already in the hands of the committee.

WILLIAM DESTESE, of Wisconsin: Commander, it seems to me that it is hardly fair to the Divisions to have these matters disposed of without allowing their resolutions to be read. I shall insist upon the resolution submitted by the Wisconsin Division being read.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: They are simply to be read by title, but will be incorporated in the journal of proceedings. There seems to be no objection to that method of proceeding.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: The recommendation of the Pennsylvania Division is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION,

SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,

DEPARTMENT OF THE ADJUTANT.

MILTON, PA.

At the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, S. V., U. S. A., held at Towanda, Pa., June 8th and 9th, 1897, the following was adopted:

Your Committee on Ritual respectfully submit the following :

First. We recommend that the obligation now given in the degree of Loyalty, with the necessary corrections given in the degree of Friendship and the obligations now given in the degrees of Friendship and Charity, be dispensed with.

Second. We recommend that our delegates to the National Encampment be again instructed to use every effort to have one-degree ritual adopted. If this cannot be accomplished we suggest the present three (3) degree ritual to be revised and shortened. We further recommend that the present ritual, if retained, be so changed that the use of the coffin be omitted and the recruit be made to kneel.

(Signed), WILDUN SCOTT,
T. C. HARTER,
W. J. WALTON,
C. C. FULTON,
Ritual Committee.

Extracted and certified from the minutes.

WILDUN SCOTT, Division Commander.

Attest : ROBERT E. HOPKINS, Adjutant.

On which the committee report :

"Your committee recommend that this resolution be not concurred in, for the reason that it is impracticable to give a recruit one or two degrees embodying more or less secret work without obligating the recruit to secrecy."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : In the absence of any objection the action of the committee will stand approved. Proceed.

CHAIRMAN SISSON : The resolution passed at the Annual Encampment of the New York Division, S. of V., U. S. A., held in Auburn, June 22-24, 1897, is as follows :

"The Committee on Ritual respectfully reports that in its opinion uniform exemplification of the degree work is desirable, and that the same can be best secured by the issuance by the Commander-in-Chief of a series of charts, or some descriptive plan, for use of officers concerned in working the degrees, showing the positions or methods of procedure of officers and members at principal points of the degrees ; and furthermore recommends that on page 38 of the ritual, in exemplification of the secret work, the following corrections be made : 'When the Sergeant of the Guard approaches you will give him the hailing sign,' should read, 'he will give you the hailing sign.' Again, 'He will reply,' should read, 'you will reply.'

"These changes are recommended to accord with the direction that the challenger must always make the advance and keep it, the challenged party being on the defensive."

Your committee report "ought to pass" on above recommendation.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Is there objection ? There appears to be none. The recommendation will stand approved. Proceed.

CHAIRMAN SISSON : The recommendation from Admiral Porter Camp, No. 47, Division of Missouri, is as follows :

St. Louis, May 12th, 1897.

"Resolved, That the salute of the flag be the same as prescribed in the ritual on page 93, as follows : That (Inspector) Sergeant of the Guard advances to the altar with the U. S. flag, each brother raising his cap and placing it on left shoulder, replacing it when commanding officer gives the command recover. The (Inspector) Sergeant of the Guard returns to his station with the flag."

Your committee report on the above inexpedient at this time, unless a general revision of the ritual is ordered.

The committee received further recommendations from the Division of Missouri in annual Encampment, at Warrensburg, May 13th and 14th, 1897, as follows :

"Recommendation No. 1. That the representatives of this Division to the Sixteenth National Encampment be instructed to use all honorable means to secure a ritual having the long and short forms printed in full, same to be included in the same ritual.

"*Recommendation No. 2.* That the delegates to the Sixteenth National Encampment present a resolution to adopt a program for Union Defenders' Day Service in ritual form similar to the special Memorial Services, etc., now in our ritual; same to be made for use in all Camps in our Order for that purpose.

"*Recommendation No. 3.* That the ritual be so arranged as to include the sounding of taps for three (3) meetings after death of a brother; also to include the last call or taps in the Burial Services."

Your committee report on these recommendations, "Inexpedient at this time unless a general revision of the ritual is ordered."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There does not appear to be any objection. The recommendation will stand approved. Proceed.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: The resolution from the Division of Massachusetts is as follows:

"Inasmuch as no instruction is given recruits in any degree in regard to assuming the hailing sign at the close of Camp meeting; be it

Resolved, That the delegates from this Division to the National Encampment be instructed to vote for the abolition of the sign during the closing exercises."

Your committee report inexpedient at present time unless a general revision of ritual is ordered.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? There appears to be none. The recommendation of the committee will stand as the action of the house. Proceed.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: The resolutions submitted by the Maryland Division are as follows:

"WHEREAS, The present three-degree ritual of the Sons of Veterans has not proven satisfactory, as the Camps are not using same through lack of proper facilities; and

"WHEREAS, The present ritual is not as satisfactory as the one it superseded, and does not, in the opinion of the Maryland Division, present a proper muster ceremony; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Division's representatives be instructed to use their influence to have the ritual abolished and the former one substituted, with such other improvements as the Commandery-in-Chief see fit."

The report of the Committee on Ritual on foregoing resolution is as follows:

"Your Committee on Ritual has the honor to submit the approved resolution herewith, returned as the report of said committee, and urge that the representatives of this Division make a plea from the floor of the National Encampment for the same."

Which report was adopted.

In the same line the following section from the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports is quoted, viz:

"*Fifth.* Your committee is of the opinion that our delegation should go to the National Encampment instructed to announce that it is the sense of this Encampment that the three-degree ritual be abolished and recommend return to the old ritual, modified and improved upon, or that a shorter ritual than the present one be adopted."

Your committee report on the resolutions introduced by the Maryland Division that so far as said resolutions pertain to the ritual suggesting a return to the old ritual, "ought not to pass."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and the action of the committee is concurred in.

Chairman Sisson concluded the reading of the report as follows:

Your committee would recommend to the proposed Ritual Committee, for its consideration should it be appointed, the following recommendation received from the Massachusetts Division:

"That our representatives to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief be instructed to use their utmost endeavors to accomplish a revision of at least the short forms of our present ritual, so that, at the discretion of the Camp, the degrees may all be worked, or the recruit may be admitted to full membership in one evening upon taking a proper

obligation and receiving suitable lectures explanatory of our principles and objects. To be more explicit, I would advise the abolition of the short form of the degree of Loyalty, and the creation of a single degree, embodying the general lecture parts and obligations of the present three degrees in a condensed form, in order that Camps, not possessing the paraphernalia of the three-degree system can, at their discretion, admit a recruit to full membership at one meeting."

Committee recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

HORACE C. STILWELL,
GEO. F. WOLZ,
WALTER S. WILLEY,
H. D. SISSON,

Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report of the Committee on Ritual. The Chair understands that the committee also has a further or supplemental report.

CHAIRMAN SISSON: Commander, the committee begs leave to submit the following supplementary report:

"We would recommend the omission of the ballot as at present required for a recruit for the degrees of Charity and Loyalty, believing that one ballot upon an application should carry with it an election to all degrees."

GEO. F. WOLZ,
WALTER S. WILLEY,
H. D. SISSON,

Committee on Ritual and Ceremonies.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report and the supplementary report of the Committee on Ritual. What is the pleasure of the Encampment?

E. E. BEARD, of Kansas: Commander, I move that the report of the committee be adopted.

W. P. FEDER, of Kansas: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the report and the supplementary report of the Committee on Ritual be received and adopted. Those in favor of the motion will signify their assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried. Is the Committee on Officers' Reports ready to report?

FRANK P. MERRILL, of Maine: Commander, the Committee on Officers' Reports have attended to their duties and are ready to report; Past Commander-in-Chief Abbott has kindly consented to read the report.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, Brother Bundy has sprung a question upon us that relates to the ritual, and I think we had better thrash that out before taking up our report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection the Encampment will consider the amendment to the Constitution offered by Brother Bundy yesterday evening. The Chair will recognize Brother Bundy.

AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I desire to move the following amendment, to be known as Section 3 of Article XX, on page 75 of the C., R. and R.:

"Section 2. The use of ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits is optional with Camps, but the obligation of membership shall never be omitted."

That is to Article XX, on page 77, of some of the Constitutions.

W. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the amendment to the Constitution moved by Brother Bundy, to amend Article XX, on page 77, by the introduction of the new section proposed by him, making

the use of the ritual optional with Camps. Is there to be any debate? (Cries of "question," "question").

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I do not want to retard business, but I would like to ask General Bundy if he intends that the use of the ritual on every occasion shall be optional.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, not at all. I can state very briefly what my views in regard to the matter are. We have different kinds of Camps in this organization. We desire to build up the Order. The matter of the observance of the ritualistic ceremonies is not important in any particular unless it enables us to build up the organization. There are Camps in the organization, and I venture the assertion that nine-tenths of the Camps in this Order, as they exist and report to their Division Commanders at the present time, absolutely butcher the ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits. This amendment does not advocate nor provide for the abolition of the ritualistic ceremonies, nor the abolition of the ritual. It simply makes it optional with every Camp in the Order, when they get together, whether they will use the ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits as required at the present time. One trouble, as I take it, with the growth of this Order, has been that we have been undertaking all the time to compel people to do things that they could not do and that they did not want to do. Many of us have had the idea that we must be strict disciplinarians, and for some years I was upon that lay myself—I have been on both sides of the question, I have belonged to both kinds of Camps, or, rather, my Camp has been at one time a military Camp and now it is not a military Camp; we have all kinds of paraphernalia and everything necessary, and everybody in it possesses a uniform, and I believe the boys should possess uniforms, so far as possible and practical; but when we muster a recruit into the organization, the manner in which a great many of the uniforms are worn, and the manner in which they attempt to go through these ceremonies in nine-tenths of the Camps, is such, in my belief, that the recruit goes away with a very bad impression of the organization. We may frankly admit that it is not done properly. In many Camps they either cannot do it or they will not. Now I ask brothers to look at this question fairly, not from the standpoint of their individual Camps, but consider it as it applies to the Order generally. Those who have been Division Commanders know how it is. Although he may belong to a Camp that desires the ritual work and goes through it properly, how about the neighboring Camps? It creates a good impression upon the candidate in the Camps where the ritualistic ceremonies are properly conducted, but how is it in the other Camps? We all know that the impression made is anything but favorable. It seems to me we ought to meet conditions everywhere. There is not anything in this amendment proposed that will prevent any Camp in the organization from going through the ritualistic work that desires to do so, that considers it for the best interest for the organization in that community. It simply permits the Camps that cannot do it properly to omit it.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I do not know where this amendment reaches. I want to ask if it can be so construed as to permit the Camps to do away with ritualistic work in the opening and closing of the Camp?

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, not at all; it says the use of ritualistic ceremonies in the muster of recruits is optional with Camps, and then the Committee on Ritual should provide for one obligation.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander—

(Cries of "question," "question").

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question seems to be the desire of this Encampment. All those in favor of the adoption of the proposed amendment will so signify by the usual sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried. Is the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work ready to report?

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS' REPORTS.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, on behalf of the Committee on Officers' Reports I would say that the committee has omitted the usual complimentary reference to the officers of Commandery-in-Chief, but the committee wish it understood, and would preface their report with the statement, that in their opinion the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief have been faithful and capable and have done their work conscientiously and well, and the committee desire that all the good things that might be said of worthy officers may be considered as said. I am instructed to say that as the unanimous opinion of this committee. While it is brief I think it covers the ground thoroughly.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Before Gen. Abbott proceeds with the report the Chair would ask the pleasure of the Encampment as to the manner in which the report shall be considered; whether it shall be taken up section by section and considered that way, or whether it shall be considered as a whole? If there is no objection the method pursued in the consideration of the preceding reports will be pursued in this instance. There appears to be no objection and the report will be considered section by section.

General Abbott proceeded to read the report as follows:

To the Commander-in-Chief, Officers and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, S. 17, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—Your committee have duly considered all matters submitted to them, referring to the several committees the matters properly belonging to said committees, and taking such action on other matters as the evidence before us and our best judgment dictated and we beg leave to report as follows:

Communication from the Division of Indiana relative to changes in C., R. and R., referred to Committee on C., R. and R.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? The Chair hears none and the action of the committee is approved.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from the Division of Missouri asking for changes in ritual referred to Committee on Ritual, and that part of said communication relating to Division Council referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection the action of the committee is approved.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from Fair Oaks Camp, No. 15, of California, relating to ratio of representation, etc., referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection the action of the committee is approved.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from the Division of Massachusetts relating to changes in C., R. and R. as to jurisdiction referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection. General Abbott will proceed.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from the Division of Pennsylvania relating to restoration of past honors to Past Division Commander Robert E. Hopkins, of Camp No. 121. Inasmuch as no data has been given your committee as to how Past Commander Hopkins lost his honors, we are unable to make any recommendation in the case.

"That part of said communication relating to changes in ritual referred to Committee on Ritual."

Commander, that leaves the matter of Brother Hopkins in the hands of this Commandery-in-Chief. The recommendation by the Pennsylvania Division is as follows:

RESTORATION PAST RANK TO R. E. HOPKINS.

HEADQUARTERS PENNSYLVANIA DIVISION,
 SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.,
 DEPARTMENT OF ADJUTANT.

At the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., held at Towanda, Pa., June 8th and 9th, 1897, the following was recommended :

MILTON, PA., June 3, 1897.

William D. Orr, Adjutant Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Towanda, Pa. :

In recognition of the years' of loyal work for our Camp and Division, we earnestly request the delegates to the Commandery-in-Chief be instructed to work and vote for the restoration of the honors of Past Division Commander Robert E. Hopkins, of Camp No. 121.

(Signed) FRED A. GODCHARLES, Captain,
 WILDUN SCOTT,
 HARRY W. WILSON,
 EDWARD K. BARMAN,
 E. E. HUNTSINGER,
 A. S. RHOADS,
 GEORGE D. B. HEDENBERG,
 FRANK RHOADS,
 WILLIAM L. BEATTY.

Extracted and certified from the minutes.

WILDUN SCOTT, Division Commander.

Attest : FRED A. GODCHARLES, Sergeant-Major.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : What is the desire of the Commandery-in-Chief on the question of the restoration of past honors to Brother Hopkins, of the Pennsylvania Division ?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania : Commander, I move that the petition of the Pennsylvania Division, praying for the restoration of past rank to Brother Robert E. Hopkins, now Adjutant of Pennsylvania Division, be granted.

WILDUN SCOTT, of Pennsylvania : Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : Brothers, it has been moved and seconded that the petition of the Division of Pennsylvania, restoring past rank to Brother Robert E. Hopkins, former Past Commander of the Division, be granted. Any remarks ?

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts : Commander, I simply remember that yesterday my Brother Reed served very acceptably as reading clerk for the Committee on Resolutions, and one of the resolutions recommended by that committee was that dropped members should not be made eligible to again receive past honors. It strikes me the line of demarkation between tweedledum and tweedledee is being defined. I think it no more than fair that Brother Hopkins' case should go the way of all others unless there may be, perhaps, some extenuating circumstances, and in that case we probably ought to know them. If Brother Hopkins is to be granted this right and this privilege then why not grant it to everybody ? The spirit of equity is not dead here yet. We certainly must remember that if we give it to one we must give it to all. In short, we cannot afford to make fish of one and flesh of another and red herring of a third.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL HAMMER : Commander-in-Chief, the case of Brother Hopkins is simply this—I will make it very brief—Brother Hopkins removed from Milton, his home, and the location of his Camp. The Camp was indebted to Brother Hopkins to an amount somewhere between eighty and a hundred dollars. Brother Hopkins labored under the impression that some brother of the Camp was taking care of him to the extent of crediting his dues out of the Camp's indebtedness to him, and when it was discovered that that had not been done and that he was dropped from the Order for non-payment of dues, he was reinstated, and it is the unanimous request of the Pennsylvania Division that he be reinstated to his past rank. That is all there is in it.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, in reply to Brother Maccabe, on behalf of the Committee on Resolutions, I want to say that the committee is consistent in relation to the other brothers. That the committee reported adversely upon those cases because no data was presented to the committee, and no reasons given to the committee which would have justified them in reporting otherwise. No reasons were given why the past rank should be restored in those cases.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Just one question. Commander. Is it not the fact that the chairman of the Committee on Resolutions yesterday pronounced against restoring the past rank to dropped members who were reinstated?

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: I answer that, Commander, by saying yes, but qualify it in this way: No data was presented to the committee upon which they could recommend the restoration of past rank in the cases it had before it. There is quite a difference between those cases and this case, and it is not the difference between tweedledum and tweedledee. The committee reported against the restoration of past rank to those who had petitioned this Commandery-in-Chief for it, but had presented no reasons why the restoration should be granted. In fact some of those cases the brothers had voluntarily withdrawn from the Order, and the committee could not understand how in justice their past rank could be restored to them. As the Adjutant-General has said, the case of Brother Hopkins is entirely different. Brother Hopkins was a member of Camp No. 121; he was one of the old members of the Pennsylvania Division, an earnest worker, and the Camp was indebted to Brother Hopkins eighty dollars. He removed from Milton, Pennsylvania, with the understanding among the members that this money that was due him would be accredited to his dues. In the meantime the Camp surrendered its charter. Brother Hopkins was not present and not cognizant of the action taken by the Camp. He found himself a dropped member, notwithstanding the Camp was indebted to him eighty dollars, which Brother Hopkins was willing should be applied to the payment of his dues. He became a dropped member through no fault of his own, through no negligence of his whatever, and his case is entirely different from the others. No analogy can be drawn between the case of Brother Hopkins and those reported on by the Committee on Resolutions. I want to say right here that the record of the members of the Committee on Resolutions for the past fourteen or fifteen years has always been to favor the restoration of past rank to members where there was good reason for doing it; and if ever there was a case in which there was good reason for restoring past rank it is Brother Hopkins' case. He had given the Camp eighty dollars in money and said to them to credit him with his dues and charge it against that debt. Instead of doing so the Camp surrendered their charter and reported Brother Hopkins in arrears for dues.

G. B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I do not wish to speak as a member of this committee, but as an individual. This has always seemed to me an important thing, and I shall propose an amendment at the end of my remarks. It is within the memory of my brothers that at Cincinnati I begged the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations to report a law to provide for just such cases.

I was living at that time in a foreign country and my case was harder than Brother Hopkins', as the members of my Division will verify. Not only was my Camp indebted to me, but my dues had been paid in advance for twenty years. I got into the interior of Central America and the only communication from the Camp or Division that ever reached me were solicitations for contributions for the badge of the Commander-in-Chief. Some way or other they could always find me, but nothing else could. However, that has nothing to do with the case. My dues were honestly paid in advance, but had it not been for the watchfulness of the Colonel of the Division, my particular friend, Col. Shepard, I would be to-day in the same situation that Brother Hopkins is. The Camp was owing me, I will not say how much—it was a Camp that was named after me, and if any of my brothers have ever been honored in that way they know something about how much it costs—but it is not right that some two or three brothers should get reinstated, should have their past honors restored and others, whose

cases are just as meritorious, be turned down. Every Division has its past dropped Colonel. Illinois has a few. They would be glad to come back in the Order and have their past honors restored. Perhaps there may be a shade of difference in the circumstances, but the same rule should be applied to all.

Now I move that we pass some law governing this thing, covering these cases, so that hereafter there may be some uniformity of action. It is not fair that one Division have this thing and another not. I believe with my friend Maccabe that we should not make fish, fowl, flesh and good red hering of these applicants. I move as a substitute that Past Division Commanders, who have been dropped for lapsed dues, when they become members of the Order again shall be granted all their past honors.

L. A. DILLEY, of Iowa: Commander, yesterday I asked to have past honors restored to an Iowa Division Commander, and it was decided that we were not in proper shape, and we took our medicine. Let Pennsylvania do the same. Let them endorse Brother Hopkins as a Past Commander in their Division Encampment and let them present him under the seal of their Division Encampment to the next Commandery-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That has already been done.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander—

(Cries of "question," "question," "question").

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is called for.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, my point of order is that there is a prescribed method within the Constitution, Rules and Regulations for calling for the question. Members cannot be shut off simply by cries of "question."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The point of order is well taken.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I simply want to say a few words upon this case. The brothers here present will recollect that I opposed the admission of a worthy brother to a seat in this Encampment, contending that his past rank had been forfeited. This Encampment by a large majority vote saw fit to decide otherwise. I, like my Brother Maccabe, do not want to make any distinction between Divisions, and in view of the fact that this body in one case did recognize the past rank of one brother, let us not stultify ourselves and refuse this past rank to another brother who is equally worthy.

(Cries of "question," "question").

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on concurring in the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports restoring past honors to Brother Hopkins of the Pennsylvania Division. Brother Abbott's substitute motion was not seconded. Those in favor of concurring in the recommendation of the committee will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried and the report of the committee is concurred in. Proceed, Brother Abbott.

GENERAL ABBOTT: Commander, while we are on this question there is another one from Pennsylvania of the same kind and character relating to Brother Shuler. I will read the communication, which is a certified extract from the minutes of the Pennsylvania Encampment, with the permission of the Commandery. It is as follows:

At the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Pennsylvania Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., held at Towanda, Pa., June 8th and 9th, 1897, the following was recommended:

Adjutant-General Hammer moved that the delegates to the National Encampment at Indianapolis be instructed to endeavor to secure the restoration of the eligibility of W. H. Shuler, of Camp No. 44. So ordered.

Extracted and certified from the minutes.

WILDUN SCOTT, Division Commander.

Attest: ROBERT E. HOPKINS, Adjutant.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say to the Encampment that this case is both similar and dissimilar to the one we have just been considering. Mr. Shuler was a member of the organization, was court-martialed on some charge and dishonorably discharged from the Camp at Williamsport, Pennsylvania. Since that time he and the Camp have settled their differences. Their differences are past, and the Camp unanimously recommended to two different Encampments of the Division of Pennsylvania that he be restored to membership, or, rather, that we remove his disability. The Pennsylvania Encampment, in view of the fact that the Camp makes a unanimous request, certifying that the brother has made full atonement, decided in favor of granting the request of the Williamsport Camp, and the Division come here and unanimously ask that his disability be removed. It simply permits him again to make application for membership. It does not restore him to membership. It simply removes his disability and makes him eligible. Is their objection? (Cries of "consent," "consent"). Consent is granted. There is no objection.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from Division of Maryland recommending changes in ritual referred to Committee on Ritual."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection. The action of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from the Division of Pennsylvania relating to restoration of eligibility of W. H. Shuler. We have no data in this case, therefore can take no action."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That you have already passed upon.

"Resolutions from Division of New York relating to degree work referred to Committee on Ritual."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection. The action of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Resolution from Division of New York relating to removing disability of Claud D. Morehouse. Your committee recommend that the disability be removed."

Commander, to explain the action of the committee I will state that Brother Durston appeared before the committee and presented the case, supported by a resolution passed by the New York Division. We, therefore, recommend it, as we have some data to go upon.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there objection? (Cries of "consent," "consent"). Consent seems to be granted. It is granted.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Resolutions from the New York Division relating to uniform referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There appears to be no objection and the action of the committee is concurred in.

DeLESTRY—MINNESOTA DIVISION APPEAL.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from Louis DeLestry, of St. Paul, submitting a copy of part of Journal of Proceedings of Division of Minnesota, and appealing from the action of said Division Encampment, which refused the said DeLestry a vote in said Encampment, which he claimed by virtue of his being a delegate to the preceding National Encampment.

"We recommend that the appeal be not sustained."

The documents which the committee had before it in reference to this case are as follows:

ST. PAUL, Minn., August 25, 1897.

General J. L. Rake, Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans:

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—I enclose you herewith the transcript of minutes of the Thirteenth Annual Division Encampment, Minnesota Division, held at Princeton, so far as it may relate to an appeal I am herewith taking from the vote of that session.

I presented myself at that session as a member thereof, having been elected at the Twelfth Annual Encampment of the Division as a delegate to the National Encampment, and upon that election asked to be given a seat and vote in the Thirteenth Annual Division Encampment. Division Commander Kelley ruled that I was entitled to such seat and vote, but on appeal from that ruling the Encampment voted not to allow me a vote and, therefore, I withdrew from the Encampment after having given notice that I should appeal to the Commander-in-Chief for a ruling upon the question.

The enclosed papers are duly certified by both the Division Commander and Adjutant and are from the stenographic report. I, therefore, appeal from the vote taken which unseated me, and ask you to make a ruling and decision for future guidance upon the subject upon the question :

"Is a delegate elected by the Division Encampment to represent his Division in the National Encampment a member of the next session to which he is supposed to report, and, if so, is he not entitled to a voice and vote in such Division Encampment?"

Fraternally yours in F., C. and L.,
LOUIS DELESTRY.

Transcript of that portion of the minutes of the proceedings of the Thirteenth Division Encampment of the Minnesota Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., relating to the appeal to the Commandery-in-Chief, taken by Louis DeLestry, of Camp No. 1, St. Paul, Minn.

PRINCETON, MINN., June 17th, 1897.

We hereby certify that the within is a correct transcript of the minutes of the Thirteenth Division Encampment, Minnesota Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., at Princeton, Minnesota, June 17th, 1897, as they refer to the appeal to the Commandery-in-Chief taken at that session by Louis DeLestry, of Camp No. 1, St. Paul, Minnesota.

GEORGE P. KELLEY, Commander.

GEORGE H. SHEIRE, Adjutant.

MR. DELESTRY : I again, at this time, desire to make formal application for and ask that I be given a seat and a vote at this Encampment, claiming to be properly entitled to the same by virtue of being a duly and legally elected delegate of this Division to the Commandery-in-Chief for the present year, and I base my claim on Section 1, of Article II, of the Division Constitution, which is as follows :

The membership of the Division Encampment shall be made up as follows :

First. Its own elective and appointive officers (except Assistant Inspectors and non-commissioned staff) and its sitting Camp Captains.

Now I ask to be heard in this matter, particularly that a definite ruling may be had upon a question which has never been decided heretofore. We have searched the Constitution, By-Laws and Blue Books, but find no ruling on this point, and, therefore—

DELEGATE MILLS : Commander, I rise to a point of order.

COMMANDER KELLEY : You will state what it is.

DELEGATE MILLS : I would like to know what authority Brother DeLestry has to take up the time of this Encampment with this matter.

COMMANDER KELLEY : The brother is asking for his seat. He claims to be a duly elected officer of this Encampment. I think Brother DeLestry has a perfect right to be heard in the matter.

MR. DELESTRY : Now it is not merely a question whether or not I have a vote in this Encampment, but one which should be and must be decided for future Encampments, and I now formally ask that I be given a seat and a vote in this Encampment, under the provisions of Section 1, Article II, of the Division Constitution, which states that "The membership of the Division Encampment shall be made up as follows: *First.* Its own elective and appointive officers (except Assistant Inspector and non-commissioned staff) and its sitting Camp Captains," etc.

I maintain and contend the point that a delegate, elected by the Division Encampment to represent it in the supreme body of the Order, is a duly elected officer of such Encampment, and as such is entitled to his seat and

to his vote therein. If he is not such an elective officer, then what is he? If he is anything at all, he is certainly an elected officer of the Encampment, and at least entitled to a vote therein.

COMMANDER KELLEY: There seems to be a question for considerable argument here, and I really do not know exactly how to pass on it. It seems to me that the brother is entitled to a seat in this Encampment, and we must certainly give him a chance to be heard.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: He was heard yesterday in this Encampment, and we have enough other business to do. Have him cut it short.

MR. DELESTRY: I am going to cut it short, if the people will give me a chance. Now, I maintain this point, and will ask the Commander to rule upon it, for the purpose that it may be definitely decided upon, and that I may take such an appeal to the Commandery-in-Chief as may be proper, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations. I was, by the Division Encampment at Wells, elected as delegate of this Division to the Commandery-in-Chief, and under the Article and Section of the Constitution quoted, am a member of this Encampment, and one of the elective officers, and, therefore, entitled to a vote. I again formally ask that I be given a seat and a vote in this Encampment.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: Whoever heard of a delegate to the National Convention being considered as officer of the Division? And if he was an officer, why didn't he present a report.

MR. DELESTRY: I gave my report to the Adjutant yesterday morning, at the time the officers' reports were called for, and it was not read, but handed back to me.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: I am not reading reports when the officers are present to read them themselves.

MR. DELESTRY: I would like to know how I could have read the report when it was not regularly called for; when no opportunity was given me to do so.

PAST COLONEL MILHAM: Commander, how could Brother DeLestry make a report to the Commandery-in-Chief when he was not present at the meeting of that body?

MR. DELESTRY: In the same manner that other officers of the Division make reports of matters of which they have no personal knowledge.

DELEGATE MILLS: Commander, I move the gentleman be not entitled to a vote in this Encampment.

DELEGATE DETURK: Commander, I second the motion.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: That is out of order. It is not a question for the house, but rests with the Commander.

COMMANDER KELLEY: The question being one for the Chair to decide, and not for the convention itself, it seems to me to be a question as to whether or not Brother DeLestry is to be considered as officer of the Division as delegate to the Commandery-in-Chief. If he is actually an officer of this Encampment, he certainly should be entitled to a seat. I do not find any law touching the point materially. It is true he bases his claim upon Section 1, Article II, of the Division Constitution.

DELEGATE MILLS: Commander, when does his term expire?

COMMANDER KELLEY: As I understand it, his term has not yet expired, and will not until the adjournment of this Encampment. That being the case, and he has never resigned, his time has not yet expired. On the other hand, he has never made a report. Should he have made a report, I should have had to rule that he was a member of this Encampment.

MR. DELESTRY: I have been patiently waiting to be asked for the report.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: I appeal from the decision of the Chair; that is, I understand that the Commander has ruled that the brother be given a vote.

COMMANDER KELLEY: I have not yet so decided it, but in order to bring this matter before the Encampment, I will rule that Brother DeLes-

try, by virtue of his election as delegate to the Commandery-in-Chief, is entitled to a vote here, and I call upon him for his report, if he has a report to make.

MR. DELESTRY: I have not the report here; I did not bring it along this morning. It was here yesterday.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: I appeal from the decision of the Chair.

PAST COLONEL MILHAM: I second the appeal.

COMMANDER KELLEY: The Adjutant has taken an appeal from the ruling of the Chair. I must say that the question is rather too deep for me, and I ruled as I did in order that it might be settled by the Encampment itself, and so let me out. The proper mode, I think, of putting the matter is, "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?"

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: The Senior Vice Commander will conduct the voting. A rising vote should be taken, and the Sergeant-Major will count.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, the question before you is, "Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?" Those voting in the affirmative will rise to their feet.

THE SERGEANT-MAJOR: Five.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Be seated. Those voting in the negative, rise to their feet.

THE SERGEANT-MAJOR: Thirty-one.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The question is lost.

MR. DELESTRY: I hereby give formal notice and ask permission to take an appeal to the Commandery-in-Chief from the decision of this Encampment.

ADJUTANT SHEIRE: That is perfectly proper and in order that the brother gives notice of appeal.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there any objection to this recommendation of the committee? If not, the report is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

"Communication from Brother William L. Fees, of Elwood, Indiana, asking for reinstatement to membership and restoration of past rank of Captain. We recommend the granting of his request as it appears an injustice has been done him."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is there any objection? (Cries of "consent," "consent"). There is no objection and the report of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows:

FREMONT TIETZE—NEW JERSEY DIVISION APPEAL.

"In the matter of petition of Fremont Tietze for reinstatement to membership and restoration of past honors, your committee beg to report that new evidence, secured since General Rake made his decision, has been presented to your committee. Said evidence being no less than the honorable discharge of his father and a letter from Hon. Nelson A. Miles, of the U. S. Army, that this applicant's father served in the Union Army under his command. This fact being established beyond question, we recommend that said Fremont Tietze be reinstated and restored to past honors."

Your committee have duly considered the report of the Commander-in-Chief and recommend as follows:

Under head of Decisions, last paragraph (fearing that a wrong impression may obtain), your committee are of the opinion that *all* questions or decisions should be sent *direct* to the commanding officer, and he may consult his Judge-Advocate or such other legal authority as he may deem proper.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kennedy, will you assume command?

The Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief assumed command.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Senior Vice Commander, I had not expected that it would at any time be necessary for me to take the floor in this Encampment. I assure you it is entirely distasteful to me to do so.

But I cannot in justice to myself permit the action of the committee to go before you without an explanation and vigorous protest. The case of Fremont Tietze came up through the Past Commander of the New Jersey Division, Brother Adams. His eligibility was questioned and the papers in the case submitted. The committee's report would appear to say that they now have the honorable discharge of his father, and that it was not before me. That, however, is not the case. The discharge was before me, but it was not an honorable discharge from the United States. It was a discharge from the State of Pennsylvania. I informed Commander Adams that in my judgment the course to pursue was to endeavor to straighten out the eligibility of this candidate. He did so by furnishing Form 16, which was sent to the War Department and the return was made that the records at Washington showed that no such command as Bell's Unattached Independent Cavalry had been mustered into the service of the United States. Upon that the ruling was that he had been illegally mustered, and was not a member of this organization. That ruling was based upon an official circular issued on September 1st, 1888, by myself when in command of the Pennsylvania Division, and was a copy from the data furnished directly from the office of the Adjutant-General of the State of Pennsylvania.

I will briefly preface my remarks by saying that there is no State in the United States in which the military records, so far as they refer to the militia, are in such a tangle as in the State of Pennsylvania, for the reason that that State was the active seat of war at one time, and men who had not even been mustered into the service of the State of Pennsylvania, before even being mustered into the militia service, were pressed into the army and wounded and killed. The United States Government has, however, recognized them wherever a command served under a United States general officer, by virtue of a general order, and have granted, as a matter of fact, a United States discharge to such militia men. There are thousands of discharges in the State of Pennsylvania signed by Andrew G. Curtin as Governor of that State, and by a United States mustering-out officer, and you will find they are carried upon the rolls of the Government as honorably discharged from the service of the United States; but upon every one of those State discharges in the corner is the authority for mustering out from the United States. I do not pretend for a moment to say that Bell's Independent Unattached Cavalry, to which this applicant's father belonged, may not be found to be one of the regiments included in that category, if the proper investigation is made; but I do contend that the records of Pennsylvania say specifically, and I hold in my hand a letter of the Adjutant-General of that great State, which says they were mustered for State service only; and I know that the record from the United States Government says they were not under a United States general officer to entitle them to a discharge. That may be wrong, but so the record stands to-day, my brothers. I want to say to you right here that there is nothing in this case of a personal nature. It is not my purpose to keep brothers out of the organization. On the contrary, I want to get as many in as we can. I went on record as endeavoring to assist this candidate to establish his eligibility. Along in the early part of my administration this so-called decision was made, which is nothing more nor less than following the precedent of six or seven or eight decisions by Commanders-in-Chief Griffin, Maccabe and Bundy. That is their interpretation of the eligibility clause, and how this committee ever recognized the eligibility of the party in question without changing the eligibility clause of this Order, I cannot understand.

I have no objection to an appeal being taken from any decision I make. I am liable to error, and so is any one, and I recognize that fact; but permit me to call your attention to the fact that instead of an appeal, instead of sending to your Commander-in-Chief the additional evidence which they claim to have discovered—and I want to remark right here that there seems to be quite a discrepancy between the statement of General Miles and that of the Honorable Secretary of War, and I prefer in my case to believe the records until they are shown to be wrong—no appeal was taken from my decision, not a single word was said to let me know that there was anything objectionable in it, and this additional evidence, which I understand they had as long ago as April or May last, was never presented to me to modify my views. It is only right when your Commander-in-Chief makes a de-

cision that he should have the opportunity to review any additional testimony that may be secured, and to have the benefit of the opinion of his Judge Advocate-General upon it, and an opportunity to place before the committee reviewing his decision any data in refutation of the facts alleged that he may have; but I do not take any exception to that. If they establish the eligibility of this gentleman, I shall be the first to extend the hand of friendship and fellowship to him. I make no objection, but I say that they have come here, and when the order of business was reached where the reception and reference of communications from Camps and Divisions was asked for, they made no sign. I had no knowledge that the committee had this matter in hand. I expected they would on a question of privilege present it to this Encampment. I was led so to believe by conversations I had with members of that and other Divisions. Instead of that being done, I learned, after midnight this morning, that they had taken this action—without even saying to me, "Did you know that there was additional evidence?" I simply desire to go on record as saying that there is additional evidence on both sides of this question. I simply say to you that there is no honorable discharge from the United States. I do not want to contend that Bell's Unattached Cavalry may not be able to get relief. I have said to members of the New Jersey Division, the present Commander, and the Past Commander immediately retired, that I will assist them to clear up this record; but I warrant you if action is taken whereby you admit eligibility through certain regiments whose status is entirely different from that of others, who are not recognized by the G. A. R. in the Department of Pennsylvania, you will establish a precedent that will wreck your organization in that Division.

I guarantee that I can lay before any committee in reasonable time, if I am given the opportunity, data that will show conclusively the status of this particular organization. Without desiring to be understood that I have a single exception to take to any individual member of this committee, I take exception to the method in which this resolution came before the committee, in which it was acted upon, without an opportunity being given to present the other side of the question which is of vital interest, not to myself personally, but to the Division of Pennsylvania. (Applause).

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Senior Vice Commander, having some knowledge of the conditions of the records of Pennsylvania, I wish to state to Commander Rake, that there is no State in the Union in which the records of the late war are so garbled, so untrue, so unreliable, as in the State of Pennsylvania.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: I recognize that fact.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: There are a number of regiments which have on the State records duplicate numbers. Quite a number of them have the same number, one being in the United States service, and the other in the State service. There is no distinction made between them. I remember in my old regiment of Pennsylvania, for it was from that State that I served, that there were eighty men in the regiment who were reported upon the records of Pennsylvania as unaccounted for; and I know that with the exception of those that died and were left upon the field of battle, that those eighty men, every individual of them, were mustered out of the United States service at Washington, and returned to their homes at the close of the war. I feel that in dealing with Pennsylvania and its record when it comes, to a question of eligibility of Sons of Veterans, we cannot hold to the usual rule adopted by this Order. These cases must be made special cases. I know that there were many men in Pennsylvania who served honorably in the United States service during the war, concerning whose record there is not one scratch of pen at the State House at Harrisburg. It is an injustice to the soldiers of Pennsylvania that the State can never correct, and I hope that in dealing with the cases we will not pay too close attention to the records of the State of Pennsylvania, for they are worthless.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: That does not prevail in the Adjutant-General's Office at Washington, though.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: The Adjutant-General's Office at Washington is the reflection of the records at Harrisburg.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Senior Vice Commander, representing the committee that has presented this recommendation, I desire to explain briefly the position of the committee, and in the first place I desire to ask Past Commander Adams, or at least some member of the New Jersey Division, if this petition for reinstatement was not presented to the Commandery under the head of Communications from Divisions? That was the understanding of the committee, and if the brother who did so present it is in the room, I desire him to speak at this time.

W. L. VANDERHOOF, of New Jersey: Senior Vice Commander, when communications from Divisions were asked for, I stated that the New Jersey Division had a communication which it desired to present to this committee, and was granted permission to pass it to the committee by the Commander-in-Chief.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Senior Vice Commander, that is the understanding the committee had; that is the way this matter reached the committee. Now, while it grieves me to differ from the Commander-in-Chief in his presentation of this matter, I am just as conscientiously sure of my position as he can be of his. It is not a question of what may result to the Pennsylvania Division. It is not a question of how the door of eligibility may be opened to other follows, but it is this case, and this case only, that we are called to pass upon. I agree with my Brother Orner that these cases from Pennsylvania, and similar cases—there are some from Ohio—must be passed upon individually and as they may arise in the progress of events.

Now taking up the decision of the Commander-in-Chief in this matter, I want to review the record briefly. General Rake's decision is as follows:

READING, PA., February 2, 1897.

Col. J. B. Adams, Commander New Jersey Division, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Atlantic City, N. J.:

MY DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Herewith I return to you Form 16, in the matter of service record of Emile Tietze, enlisted June 30th, 1863, in Capt. James M. Bell's Unattached Cavalry, Penna., and discharged therefrom August 9th, 1863. From the return attached thereto you will observe that the War Department records do not show that this organization was mustered into the service of the United States. The formal discharge returned to you with correspondence bearing upon this case, in reply to your letter of the 27th ultimo, would seem to conclusively confirm the above return from the War Department.

Article V, Chapter 1, C, R. and R., in defining our eligibility clause, is explicit in that it bases proof of service upon a United States discharge. This particular portion of our law has never yet, to my knowledge, been questioned. On the contrary, it is sustained by numerous decisions and opinions. See General Bundy's Decisions VI, VII and X, proceedings Fourteenth Encampment, in which he cites prior decisions and opinions.

While I feel the deepest regret for the party concerned, until he can conclusively show that his father holds a discharge from the service of the United States, I must hold that he has been illegally mustered into our Order, and, as a natural consequence, the muster is null and void.

Fraternally yours,

J. L. RAKE,
Commander-in-Chief.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Will General Russell permit me to make one remark—it may shorten up the debate—as to the suggestion of Dr. Orner, that the cases from Pennsylvania, in view of the condition of the records there, which we partially admit, should be considered specially. I want to say that the worthlessness of the records in Pennsylvania is largely in favor of the militia people who never served in the army, who, we are in most cases abundantly prepared to prove, never served in the army. If they desire to make special cases of such claims as come here we are perfectly ready and willing, and are willing to make a special case of Mr. Tietze, but we ask for the opportunity of presenting our views in the matter that his eligibility may be established beyond doubt, or the contrary established. The objection that we raise to-day on the floor of this Encampment is to the methods that have been pursued in bringing this

matter before the Encampment. Without discourtesy to the committee I desire to say it is entirely unfair to those who have the interest of the Pennsylvania Division at heart. We are ready to accept any action that will permit the case of Mr. Tietze to be examined without prejudice to him or to this organization, and to thrash it out to a conclusion, that it may stand as a test case in the State of Pennsylvania.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Senior Vice Commander, in reply to General Rake I have only to say, so far as Brother Orner's remarks are concerned, that that may be necessary in every case. But that does not cut any figure in this case. This is the special case before this Encampment and must now be passed upon by it one way or the other. So far as this committee is concerned the Pennsylvania brothers had the same right to appear before the committee and present the evidence in their hands that the New Jersey Division had, and the same opportunity. It was the understanding of the committee, and it has been verified by the statement of the brother from New Jersey, that this communication came to the committee officially. All I know about it is that the chairman of the committee placed this resolution with others before the committee. We had no reason to believe that anybody was interested in it except those who appeared before the committee. If the brothers from Pennsylvania have let their day in court go by it is no fault of the committee. If they have any evidence in this matter let them present it here and now. They have a right to do it. This is the court of last resort. Let them introduce their evidence. I presume they have that right.

The eligibility clause of our Constitution reads thus:

"Section 1. All male descendants, not less than eighteen years of age, of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Civil War of 1861-'65, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has ever borne arms against the Government of the United States of America."

Now, then, taking that up in the light of the decision you will readily see the difference. From the return attached thereto you will observe that the War Department records do not show that this organization was mustered into the service of the United States. Let me say that the Constitution no where requires a muster into the service of the United States. The decision says, "From the return attached thereto, you will observe that the War Department records do not show that this organization was mustered into the service of the United States." There is no contention in this matter that Emile Tietze's father was ever mustered into the service of the United States. The committee contends that such is not necessary. Article 5, Chapter I, C., R. and R., is explicit in that it requires proof of service and an honorable discharge. No where does the section refer to or require any such thing as a discharge from the United States Government.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Will the Past Commander-in-Chief permit an inquiry?

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: I would prefer the brother would wait until I get through. The Constitution says, "All male descendants not less than eighteen years of age of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union Army." It does not say they must be honorably discharged from the United States Army. The United States Army is the regular army. The Union Army was the regular army and that great body of volunteers who went out to save the Nation's honor and the flag of the country.

"Or navy, during the Civil War of 1861-'65." The evidence before this committee shows that this man enlisted June 3d, 1863; that he was discharged August 9th, 1863; a short record, it is true, but it was at the time of that crisis when this nation's fate hung in the balance, just before the battle of Gettysburg. He was one of those who went forward and helped to turn the tide of battle at that time, and if the militia men of Pennsylvania had not so responded, the result of that battle might have been different, and if the result of that battle had been different, this nation might have been rent in twain. He was entitled to just as much credit, so far as our eligibility is concerned, as the man who served four years. "Who

served in the Union Army?" What record have we? You will remember that the battle of Gettysburg was fought on the second, third and fourth days of July, 1863. This man's service covers that period. We have his discharge from the Government, under the authority of the Government of Pennsylvania—

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio : Ohio is full of such discharges.

WILLIAM DESTEESE, of Wisconsin : Wisconsin has two thousand such discharges.

WILLIAM H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : The discharge is endorsed across the face, "Paid in full by Major George Taylor, Paymaster." I don't know whether he was paymaster of the Union Army or of the State of Pennsylvania. It don't make any difference.

I have here also a letter from General Miles bearing upon the actual service in which this man Tietze was engaged.

Now what have we? We have conclusive evidence showing that he enlisted in the service of the State of Pennsylvania prior to the battle of Gettysburg and that he was discharged from the service of the State by order of Andrew G. Curtin, having been paid in full for his service. We have the evidence, which is the very best, it seems to me, of an officer of the United States Army, who says that according to his recollection this command, to which this man was attached—and that is undisputed—was under his orders. We have the evidence of the Captain of that unattached cavalry, now Major Bell, that he did act under the orders of this officer of the United States Army at that time. Then, so far as that is concerned, the service is clearly, fully and conclusively shown to have been in the Union Army during the Civil War of 1861-'65. We have the discharge from Andrew G. Curtin, Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, which is an honorable discharge, and no where does the eligibility clause require that it be an honorable discharge from the United States authorities. It is an honorable discharge as distinguished from a dishonorable discharge that is required. His record is clear, so far as his honorable service is concerned. That is the point. We do not want sons of dishonorably discharged soldiers. We want the sons of honorably discharged soldiers. Understand the distinction.

There is a decision on the question involved in this case and the ideas of the committee are fully in accord with it; and we want to read it. This is a case decided by General Webb, and will be found on page 17 of the proceedings of the Tenth Annual Encampment; and I want to say this, that General Webb, during his lifetime, in the practice of the law in Kansas, was recognized as one of the ablest lawyers in the State, where we have some pretty good lawyers—no personal reference, of course, because none of them are here (laughter). But I want to read this decision in full, and I hope you will bear with me while I do it, so you may see how this case has been considered.

THE MCCRILLIS CASE.

Soon after my election I received a petition from Frank McCrillis, late member of Custer Camp, No. 6, Chicago, Ill., and a Past Colonel of that Division, for reinstatement. I made careful examination into the questions involved, and May 4th, 1891, General Orders No. 4, of that date, contained the following paragraph :

"IX. During the administration of General G. B. Abbott a question arose as to the eligibility of Colonel Frank McCrillis, of the Division of Illinois, and it was decided that Colonel McCrillis was not eligible to membership. He was a member of Camp No. 6, of Chicago. The matter was referred to the Judge Advocate-General, whose report is found on pages 111 and 112 of the proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Paterson, N. J. The question of Colonel McCrillis's eligibility was passed upon by General Griffin in his General Order No. 3, of date December 1, 1889, pages 51 and 52, journal proceedings of the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, St. Joseph, Mo., and decided adversely to Colonel McCrillis. The Commander-in-Chief has received a petition of Colonel McCrillis for reinstatement in the Order.

"The decisions of Judge Advocate General Applegat and Commander-in-Chief Griffin are based upon the fact that Colonel McCrillis's father was not mustered into the service of the United States, and that his discharge is

signed by the Adjutant-General of the State of Ohio. The petition for reinstatement is accompanied by the original discharge of Colonel McCrillis's father, and proof that the troops with which he served were under command of United States officers. The discharge is signed by the Adjutant-General of the State of Ohio and Major Malcom McDowell, of the United States Army, then serving upon the staff of General Lew Wallace. As a general rule troops mustered into the service of the State only are not eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic; but there is one exception to this rule, and that is, if such troops served in the Union Army under command of officers of the United States Army they are eligible to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic. Article V, Chapter 1, of the Constitution, provides that 'sons.'

"It now reads male descendants. That is practically the only change.

"Not less than eighteen years of age, of deceased or honorably discharged soldiers, sailors or marines, who served in the Union Army or Navy during the Civil War of 1861-'65, shall be eligible to membership.' The proof presented in support of the petition for reinstatement shows that Colonel McCrillis's father 'served in the Union Army during the Civil War,' and that the command in which he served was turned over by the Governor of Ohio to the Government of the United States, and were commanded by general officers of the Union Army. There were many regiments of State troops never mustered into the service of the United States, who 'served in the Union Army' at the battle of Gettysburg and other battles in the east, and during the raid of the rebel army under command of General Price through Missouri and the border of Kansas; many of these were killed, many more were wounded and many others lost their health in that service. All such troops are eligible to membership in, and many of them are members of the Grand Army of the Republic. I am of the opinion that such service comes within the provisions of the eligibility clause above referred to. I believe that those State troops who fought at Gettysburg, at the Battle of the Blue in Missouri, at Mine Creek in Kansas, and many other engagements, under the command of United States officers, 'served in the Union Army.' I am of the opinion that Colonel McCrillis was and is eligible to membership in our Order. He is, therefore, reinstated to membership in Custer Camp, No. 6, and to all the past honors which he held at the time he was dropped from the rolls."

Now, could there be anything clearer? If the opinion had been written upon this case, could it have been any clearer? It is our case to a "T." It is absolutely the same thing; and it appears further on in this decision that while Major Malcom McDowell, the paymaster, was a paymaster of the United States Army, the fact did not appear upon the discharge itself.

The decision continues:

"While I differed with Generals Griffin and Appleget in their construction of the law, I should not have reinstated McCrillis if I had before me only the facts presented to them, because their opinions had been approved by the Commandery-in-Chief. When the petition was presented to me it was accompanied by the original discharge of McCrillis's father."

In our case the discharge is endorsed, "Paid in full, by Major George Taylor, Paymaster."

"And the brief filed in support of his petition, and the other documents presented, cited official records in support of his claim of eligibility. I examined these records carefully, and I find that they contain all that is claimed for them. I also wrote the Secretary of War for information in regard to the military rank and status of Malcom McDowell, 'Major and A.-de.-C.' I was informed by the Secretary that Major McDowell was an officer of the United States Army, and that he served in various capacities during the War of the Rebellion—a portion of the time on the staff of General Lew Wallace, as stated in said General Order. Subsequently, being advised that these troops were paid by the Government of the United States for their services, I wrote the Secretary of War again, and under date of May 19, 1891, the Adjutant of the United States Army informed me that Major McDowell, whose name appears upon the discharge of McCrillis's father, was a paymaster in the United States Army with the rank of Major."

We do not know whether this man Taylor was an officer in the United States Army or not. For my part I will presume he was not, or else he

would have so stated, but that cuts no figure in the views of the committee, because undoubtedly the service was performed in the Union Army. In the McCrillis case they didn't have a letter from the United States Army officer showing the service of the body to which McCrillis's father was attached. We have supplied that. To go on with the decision.

"This correspondence is transmitted with the record in this case. The questions passed upon are purely of a legal character, and were so decided by me. Whatever of sympathy I may have had, or still entertain, for McCrillis, is a matter outside of the record. The appeals of his counsel in that respect I fully appreciate, but none of these things had any bearing upon my decision in this case, and I leave them to those who may here represent McCrillis if this decision shall be contested."

It seems to me that this case is clearly in line with the McCrillis case, which is good law in this Order, and I think the Commandery should have no trouble in passing upon the matter with the evidence presented.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Senior Vice Commander, I simply rise to correct a few statements made by General Russell. To begin with, he makes it so perfectly clear to this Encampment that I may say it is as clear as mud. He cites the McCrillis case as absolutely similar. In the same breath he states the fact that in the McCrillis case the discharge is franked with the signature of the disbursing officer of the United States Army. This discharge bears the distinction of being purely a State discharge. There are thousands of discharges like this in the McCrillis case in existence. Wherever they bear the frank of the United States disbursing officer, the United States Government has made an exception of them and has given them a record as being in the United States service, or rather, in the Union Army. Our contention is that men who dreamt that possibly next week they might go into the war, were not in the army; that while he may have been in the State army, so long as he did not come into the service of the United States Government he was not in the Union Army. We might just as well claim that every militia man in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois was in the United States Army. When we speak of a United States discharge, we want it distinctly understood that we are speaking of a discharge from the service of the United States, from the Union Army. The war of the Rebellion was fought by the United States Government on the one side, and by the seceding states on the other. It was not fought by Pennsylvania on one side, and our militia were not in the Union Army until they were received into it, and the evidence of that is the muster out and discharge by the United States Government. I want to say further to you, that wherever there was a case on record, where it was proved that a militia man in Pennsylvania had been forced into the active service of the United States, under a United States officer, by authority, that the Government has recognized that service and made an exception of such case, and we should do the same way.

Now they say to us that we have lost the case by not appearing in court. I say to them, without reflecting upon the committee—but I do reflect upon the delegation from New Jersey—that the case went into court without our knowledge, and we do claim that it has been disrespectful and discourteous to your Commander-in-Chief to allow the New Jersey Division to hold this case off for the best part of a year, when they had the opportunity of appeal—I am frank and fair as Commander and they could have had justice, as justice has been given to every one during my administration—to allow the New Jersey Division to hold this case off the best part of a year without availing themselves of their opportunity of appeal, and then bring it before this committee in this way.

General Russell makes a nice distinction about the Union Army. There is no one in this Encampment for whom I have a higher regard than General Russell. Let me call your attention to a decision of his in which he upsets his whole theory. It is found on page 49 of the Proceedings of the Fifteenth Annual Encampment. It is Decision twenty-four, and is as follows:

"Decision No. 24. (J. A. Gen. Opinion No. 6). May 15, 1896.

Colonel H. D. Sisson, Commander Massachusetts Division, Pittsfield, Mass. :

DEAR COMMANDER:—In the matter of the application of J. H. Manning, I hand you Opinion No. 6 of Judge Advocate-General Oglesbee. I

have given this case a very careful consideration, and feel constrained to concur in the conclusion reached by General Oglesbee, that Mr. Manning is not eligible to membership in our Order.

Surgeon Manning went to the front with all a patriot's zeal, and while he rendered valuable aid and assistance to suffering Massachusetts soldiers during the few weeks he was at Alexandria and Washington."

Now this applicant's father got as far as Alexandria and Washington; he smelt powder. Reference has been made to the other applicant's father having probably been at the battle of Gettysburg. So far as the proof goes, he was a number of miles away.

Yet the evidence is undisputed that his proffered services were not accepted by the Government, and that he returned home without having been either mustered into the service of the United States or having served in any other capacity than as a civil surgeon.

My sympathy goes out strongly, in his effort to become a member of our Order, to the son of this loyal Massachusetts surgeon who was willing to give his invaluable services, yes, even his life, in behalf of his country, but under the law of our Order I can only hold him ineligible to such membership, much as I regret to be compelled to do so.

Yours very fraternally,

W. H. RUSSELL,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official: C. BORIN, Adjutant-General.

Now the point is right here, that by General Russell's own argument, he insists that the applicant's father should have been mustered into the United States Army; and just the minute it is shown that this applicant's father came any where near that condition, nobody will come before this Encampment advocating his admission quicker than I will.

The whole question at issue here is the snap judgment that has been taken in this case. It is before you not on its merits, but in a manner which gave no opportunity to disprove the assertions that have been made. The committee have examined only one side of the evidence. They are entirely conscientious in the matter, I will grant, but only one side of the case was presented to them. They are distinguished brothers of our Order, and I believe they have no notion other than to do justice in the case."

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Will the Commander-in-Chief kindly state, however, that the committee considered all the evidence that came before it.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF RAKE: I want to say that I believe this committee conscientiously looked at the question placed before them. They claim no contrary evidence was presented, and that we admit. That is what we complain of. We want this Encampment to say that this eligibility shall be established before the applicant is admitted. We want the evidence on both sides to be heard. It will require correspondence; it cannot be obtained before this Encampment will adjourn. We simply ask you not to act on this report of the committee, but to take this case up after the evidence is all in.

GEORGE B. HOLMES, of Illinois: Senior Vice Commander, for the sake of the argument I will admit I know nothing about it--that this applicant's father was the best soldier in the Union Army, admit everything that the contestant claims, but it appears to me that this case was taken before this committee without the knowledge of the Commander-in-Chief of this organization, without his knowing anything about it, without he or his witness being notified to appear before this committee; that the committee heard only one side. No appeal from his decision was taken. It is true he told them to take it before the committee, but that practically was a mere letter of information to the committee, notifying them that that was their privilege if they desired to do so. No regular appeal was taken; he was not consulted, and it seems to me that this question is not properly before the committee and that it is not properly before this supreme body of the organization.

I move you, therefore, that it is the sense of this Commandery-in-Chief that the committee has no jurisdiction in this case, that it is not legally and properly before this body, and the matter be referred to the next Commandery-in-Chief to hear the evidence and decide upon.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio : Senior Vice Commander, while I fully appreciate the importance of what my brother from Illinois has said, it seems to me we have facts before us which were not before the committee, and that there is very little for this Commandery to do except to sustain the decision of the Commander-in-Chief, because no regular appeal has been taken from his decision ; and that need not deter the brother from prosecuting his appeal hereafter. I signed the general report with the information we then had at hand, but I desire now to offer the following dissenting minority report :

"While I agree with the majority report in the main, I respectfully dissent from the report as to the case of Fremont Tietze, and recommend that Decision number five of Commander-in-Chief Rake be sustained."

Now, Senior Vice Commander, I move the adoption of the minority report.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York : Senior Vice Commander, I second the motion.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Senior Vice Commander, I wish to state that my friend from Illinois is entirely mistaken in the statement he makes as to what was before the committee. He was not on the committee and does not know what was presented, therefore his resolution is not proper.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : Senior Vice Commander, I move the previous question on the adoption of the minority report.

The motion was seconded.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The motion is out of order at this time.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Senior Vice Commander, I will state on behalf of the brothers of the New Jersey Division that they presented all the evidence, all the communications that have been presented by the Commander-in-Chief. The Commander-in-Chief has nothing further to present at this time ; he has no evidence to present, only such evidence as was presented on his behalf. (Cries of "question," "question," "question").

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : Brothers, you have heard the call for the previous question. Those in favor—

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : Senior Vice Commander, that is not the way to put the previous question.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Senior Vice Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The brother from New York will state his point of order.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : My point of order is that a brother cannot move the previous question until he gets the floor, or the floor has been yielded to him.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : The Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief did recognize me.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER : The Chair did not recognize Brother Archer. General Abbott had the floor. Continue, Brother Abbott.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois : Senior Vice Commander, I do not wish to take up the time of the Encampment, but I want to say that for justice all seasons summer, all places a temple ; and this committee, individually and collectively, stand for justice. It is an injustice to keep this brother waiting a whole year. His claim is clearly made out. You have heard talk about the difficulties of this organization ; the trouble it is having—it is this confounded red tape that prevents the rank and file from getting justice and getting to the front ; that is what is the matter ; there is too much form. These very brothers who are opposed to the military branch of the organization in every particular, they are very punctilious when it comes to a question of their individual prerogatives.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE : Senior Vice Commander, I object to personal allusions, and particularly when I am in a position to prove everything that I have stated.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: What is the will of the Encampment in regard to this proceeding?

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move the previous question on the minority report submitted by Brother Bundy.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Senior Vice Commander, I second the motion.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, the previous question has been moved and seconded. The question is shall the main question now be put? Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes have it and it is so ordered. The question now is upon the adoption of the minority report. It is moved and seconded that the minority report be adopted and the decision of the Commander-in-Chief sustained. The Adjutant-General will read the minority report.

The Adjutant-General read the minority report as follows:

"While I agree with the majority report in the main I respectfully dissent from the report as to the case of Fremont Tietze, and recommend that Decision No. 5 of Commander-in-Chief Rake be sustained." Signed "William E. Bundy."

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: All in favor of the adoption of the minority report will signify it by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried. (Calls for "division," "division"). The question now recurs on the report of the committee with the minority report substituted as to the case of Fremont Tietze. Are you ready for the question? All in favor of the adoption of the report of the committee, as modified by the minority report, will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Senior Vice Commander, before that motion is put I would like to ask a question. I desire to understand, does the Chair rule that a division on the question of the adoption of the minority report is not allowable?

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The division was not called for until after the announcement of the result of the vote by the Chair, and, therefore, the call for division came too late.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: General Loebenstein will state his point of order.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, my point of order is that the Chair has no right to render a decision instantly, without giving an opportunity for a call for a division. The Chair has no right to say, "The motion seems to be carried; the motion is carried," all in one breath without giving an opportunity for a request for a division to be made and then rule that the call for a division comes too late, because it comes after the announcement of the decision of the Chair.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The question is on the adoption of the report of the committee as amended by the minority report in reference to the case of Fremont Tietze. Those in favor of the—

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I insist upon my point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: We are proceeding under the call for the previous question and debate is not in order. The question was put upon the adoption of the minority report of Brother Bundy and the minority report was adopted.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander—

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Senior Vice Commander, I rise to a point of order. The previous question has been ordered and it cuts off debate.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I ask for a ruling on my point of order. My point of order was that the Chair had no right to render a decision without giving an opportunity to brothers to call for a division; that a call for a division was made as soon as it could be made, and a division should be ordered.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Senior Vice Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brother Bundy will state his point of order.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, my point of order is that the Constitution provides how a call for a division should be made.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The Chair holds General Loebenstein's point of order not well taken.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I respectfully appeal from the decision of the Chair.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Senior Vice Commander, there were three Divisions called for a division on the question, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brother Speelman will state his point of order.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, my point of order is that the question before the house is shall the minority report as substituted be adopted by the Encampment?

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I have appealed from the decision of the Chair. I demand that my appeal be put to this Encampment. The commanding officer of this organization is not clothed with arbitrary power. The right of appeal exists upon the floor of this Encampment. I demand that my appeal shall be put to the Encampment. The Constitution provides that the commanding officer shall put an appeal from his decision.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The Junior Vice Commander will put the question to the house on the appeal.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, an appeal has been taken from the decision of the Chair. As many as are in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair—

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Senior Vice Commander, I would like Brother Loebenstein to state the ground for his appeal.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Junior Vice Commander, my appeal is from the decision of the Chair overruling the point of order raised by myself. My point of order was that the Chair arbitrarily, without giving an opportunity for any brother to call for a division, decided that the vote upon the minority report was in the affirmative and that the motion to adopt the minority report carried, and the record will show that it was done in one breath. I contend that the Chair should have given opportunity by making the statement that the motion seems to prevail, and should have hesitated long enough for protest or call for division to be made; and further that as a matter of fact the call for division was made by Past Commander Abbott, of Illinois, and seconded by brothers from two other Divisions as required by the Constitution. If the Chair did not see fit to recognize these brothers and to give them opportunity to go on record as being from certain Divisions the fault is not of the brothers. We want to do justice in this Encampment; we want to decide these questions upon their merits. We do not want any matter that comes up here for consideration in this Encampment to be railroaded through.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Junior Vice Commander I rise to a point of order.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brother Morgan will state his point of order.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, my point of order is that General Loebenstein is not debating the point of order.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Does the Chair desire to make a statement?

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, I think the record will show that I said "The motion appears to be carried; the motion is carried." That is the usual parliamentary form. I have nothing further to say.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, the question is upon the appeal from the decision of the Chair. The question is, shall the decision of the Chair stand as the decision of the house. Those in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. (Cries of "division," "division"). A division is called for.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Junior Vice Commander, will you please state that question again. I know some here did not understand the way they were voting. Several voted on the wrong side, not knowing they were voting that way.

THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER: Brothers, I will put the question again. The question is, shall the decision of the Chair be sustained. Those who are in favor of sustaining the decision of the Chair will make it known by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The noes seem to have it. The noes have it. The decision of the Chair is not sustained.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Senior Vice Commander, I now ask for a division of the house on the question of the adoption of the minority report.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I second the call.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Senior Vice Commander, I second the call.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, the question is on the adoption of the minority report.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I ask for a roll call.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The Adjutant-General will call the roll.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, I rise to a question of information. I do not understand, and I think the brothers about me do not understand what the question now before the Encampment is, upon which we are asked to vote. The confusion has been such that we could not get it.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The question is upon the adoption of the minority report submitted by Brother Bundy. On that question a division has been called for, and the Adjutant-General will call the roll.

The Adjutant-General called the roll.

THE SENIOR VICE COMMANDER: The Adjutant-General will announce the result of the roll call.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Senior Vice Commander, the vote is as follows:

Commandery-in-Chief Officers and Past Commanders-in-Chief: Ayes—Rake, Kennedy, Buckley, Hammer, Spink, Redmond, Mabbs, Light, Myers, Heine, Griffin, Bundy, Reed and Davis—14.

Nays—Loebenstein, Merrill, Abbott, Maccabe and Russell—5.

Connecticut, ayes—3.

(Cries of "Just give us the total." "What is the total?")

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Ayes—76; nays—78.

The Commander-in-Chief resumed command.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, by your vote the minority report is lost. The question now recurs on the adoption of the majority report of the committee.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, the committee desires to be heard to close the debate upon the report of the committee.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a point of order.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother will state his point of order.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, my point of order is that the previous question has been ordered and that cuts off debate on the whole proposition, applies to the whole report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It may be so, but I think it would be well to hear Brother Russell. Proceed, Brother Russell.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, there has been a great deal of feeling manifested in this case which seems to me entirely unnecessary. The committee considered this case on the evidence. The committee made this recommendation conscientiously. So far as the decision rendered by myself a year ago is concerned I do not think it is at all in point. The decision which I would now make in this case would not be inconsistent with that decision. Let me read you one clause of that and you will agree with me. I say:

"Surgeon Manning went to the front with all a patriot's zeal, and while he rendered valuable aid and assistance to suffering Union soldiers during the few weeks he was at Alexandria and Washington, yet the evidence is undisputed that his proffered services were not accepted by the Government and that he returned home without having either been mustered into the service of the United States or having served in any other capacity than as a civil surgeon."

My decision is only in line with all the others on the same state of facts, and is not inconsistent with the stand taken by this committee in this matter.

Now, here is a letter from Headquarters Lieut. S. C. Potts Post, G. A. R.

(Read).

That simply shows that the Grand Army takes in members who served in this command. It seems to me this matter has been fully discussed, that you all understand the service, that it was service in the army of the Union during the war 1861-'65, and men of the same standing exactly have been admitted in our Order. I have not any fault to find with the Commander-in-Chief's decision; it was right under the evidence that was before him, but now we have the evidence of General Miles and other evidence, that he did serve in the Union Army, which he had not; and this is not a slam at the Commander-in-Chief in any way; and a refusal to endorse his decision is not contemplated; the committee coincides with the decision, taking the evidence as it was before him, as it was at the time his decision was rendered; but this committee petitions for the applicant's reinstatement, basing it on the ground of evidence that the Commander-in-Chief did not have before him.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I ask for a recapitulation of the roll call on the question of the adoption of the minority report.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: A recapitulation of the roll-call on the adoption of Brother Bundy's amendment is asked for. Brothers are under the impression that there was some error in the announcement in the result of that vote.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: "Commander and brothers, I sincerely beg the Encampment's pardon, and yet I do not feel as though I ought to, because I wanted to call over and check the vote, but you 'called me down' on it. I find that there is an error in the total vote and I would like very much to call off the vote in the Encampment so that we can check it and know just how we voted. There were no tellers, and I thought I could tabulate it as I went along and be ready to announce the result at the conclusion of the vote. I find there is an error. I would like to check up the vote now."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will read the vote in detail. Brothers will pay attention and see that the votes of their Divisions are correctly recorded.

The Adjutant-General read the record of the vote as follows:

Commandery-in-Chief Officers and Past Commanders-in-Chief : Ayes—
 Rake, Kennedy, Buckley, Hammer, Spink, Redmond, Mabbs, Light, Myers,
 Heine, Griffin, Bundy, Reed and Davis—14.
 Nays—Loebenstein Merrill, Abbott, Maccabe and Russell—5.

	<i>Ayes.</i>	<i>Nays.</i>		<i>Ayes.</i>	<i>Nays.</i>
Connecticut.....	3		Nebraska.....	3	
Illinois.....	4	4	New Hampshire.....	2	
Indiana.....	11		New Jersey.....	6	
Iowa.....	1	6	New York.....	7	
Kansas.....	3	4	Ohio.....	9	
Kentucky.....	5		Pennsylvania.....	12	1
Maine.....	2		South Dakota.....	1	
Maryland.....	4		Vermont.....	2	
Massachusetts.....		13	Washington.....	1	
Michigan.....	2	2	Wisconsin.....	1	3
Minnesota.....	1				
Missouri.....	2	3	Total.....	75	62

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The minority report submitted by Brother Bundy is substituted for the majority report of the committee by this vote. The chairman of the committee will proceed.

J. R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey : Commander, I desire to make a statement. The Commander-in-Chief stated in this Encampment that it was discourteous upon the part of the New Jersey Division to present this resolution or communication from the Division to this committee. I desire to say—

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If the brother will permit me, the Commander-in-Chief will save time by saying that, after conference with brothers of the New Jersey Division, he understands the case and withdraws his remarks, so far as they apply to them.

The committee will proceed.

J. R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey : Commander, I want to say, if granted the courtesy, that we have brothers here who can prove beyond doubt that Fremont Tietze is eligible to this Order, and we produced that evidence before this committee, and this committee made this report declaring Fremont Tietze eligible, and now this Commandery-in-Chief refuses to accept that report, and I want to say to you right here that if this is the kind of justice we are to get from the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, the New Jersey Division, so far as I am concerned, is out of the Order. (Hisses).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The brother does not understand the question at all. The Chair has repeatedly stated, and the members of the Encampment who have had knowledge of him for the past fifteen years in this organization will, I think, take his word, that he would endeavor with you to establish the eligibility of Brother Tietze. The Chair was entirely sincere in making that statement and stands ready to do that, notwithstanding any action that has been taken or anything that has been said here to-day. (Applause).

Proceed with the report of the committee.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Commander, the original report as amended has not been adopted. I understood that that question was placed before this meeting.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It was placed before the meeting. Proceed with the report.

General Abbott resumed the reading of the report as follows :

"We concur in suggestion relative to a short history of the Order being printed in pamphlet form, same size as C., R. and R., so that they can be bound with future editions of C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection, and this section of the report of the committee is adopted.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"With regard to Blue Book, we recommend that no action be taken at this Encampment."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection. It is adopted.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"We refer that portion of the report pertaining to the ritual to the Committee on Ritual."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection. It is adopted.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"That part of report relating to Division Officers (top of page 5) to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection. The action of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"We recommend that the question of sick benefits and insurance be left optional with Camps."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"Relations with G. A. R. and Ladies' Aid Society referred to Committee on Resolutions."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection and the action of the committee is concurred in.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"The part relating to membership referred to Committee on C., R. and R."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"That part relating to officers and staff referred to Committee on Resolutions."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

"All decisions of the Commander-in-Chief are approved, except No. 5."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment has just approved of Decision No. 5, so that that exception should be stricken out. If there is no objection, this section of the committee's report, with the words "except No. 5" stricken out, is concurred in. The Chair hears no objection, and it is so ordered.

General Abbott continued the reading of the report as follows :

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT.

"Recommending change in No. 49, approved.

"Recommendation to charge \$1.00 for dispensation, not concurred in."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection the recommendations of the committee in reference to the Adjutant-General's report are concurred in. The Chair hears no objection, and it is so ordered.

General Abbott concluded the reading of the report as follows :

"Fraternally submitted in F., C. and L.,

FRANK P. MERRILL,
WALTER PAYNE,
G. B. ABBOTT,
WILLIAM E. BUNDY,
W. H. RUSSELL,
Committee."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work. What is the pleasure of the Encampment?

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio : Commander, I move that the report of the committee be adopted and the committee discharged.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania : Commander, I second the motion.

W. H. RUSSELL : Commander, would it be in order at this time to offer an amendment to the report?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say yes.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas : On motion to adopt?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Yes.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Then, Commander, I desire to move an amendment striking out of the report that matter which applies to the Fremont Tietze case.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Does the mover of the motion accept the amendment?

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: No, Commander.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I move the previous question.

The previous question was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The previous question is seconded, and the question is on the acceptance of the report and the discharge of the committee. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes seem to have it; the report is accepted and the committee discharged. We will now hear from the Committee on Resolutions.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I rise to a question of privilege. The Commander of the New Jersey Division wishes to retract his remarks.

(Cries of "consent," "consent").

J. R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey: Commander, we came here from New Jersey to use all honorable means to have Fremont Tietze reinstated. The act of this Commandery rather angered me, as was natural it would any one, with the feeling we had.

I wish to apologize to this Commandery-in-Chief for the words that I uttered, and to withdraw them entirely. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Commandery-in-Chief is apparently satisfied. The Chair is pleased to hear the remarks of the brother from New Jersey. Brother Reed will proceed with the report of the Committee on Resolutions.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I rise to a question of special privilege. My name is signed to the general report. At the time I introduced the minority report I stated, and I wish it to be so stated in the minutes, that I withdrew my name from the majority report so far as it applies to the case of Fremont Tietze.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The minority report so states and the minutes of the proceedings will so show.

COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS REPORT (ADDITIONAL).

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report of the Committee on Resolutions as follows:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Encampment be tendered Mrs. J. V. Cooke, editor, for the beautiful and ably-prepared souvenir edition of national hymns, prepared and presented to the delegates of this Encampment.

Resolved, That the Adjutant-General be directed to forward to Mrs. Cooke a copy of this resolution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection and the resolution stands adopted.

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTIONS FROM DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA.

Petitioning the Commandery-in-Chief to so amend fourth sub-division of Section 1, Article II, Chapter 3, of C., R. and R., so as to permit Divisions with a small membership to fix the ratio of representation of one delegate at-large and one representative for every twenty-five members in good standing.

That resolution is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS
DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., July 29th, 1897.

(Resolution presented by Fair Oaks Camp, No. 15).

WHEREAS, The present ratio of representation of Camps in the Division Encampments, *i. e.*, one delegate for each fifty members or major fraction thereof (sufficient for the larger Divisions) is too small for the Divisions where there are few Camps, and these with small memberships, making the Encampments of these Divisions little more than meetings of a council, simply to transact routine business, instead of grand reunions of members from all parts of the State; and

WHEREAS, Large and well attended Encampments are, in a great measure, necessary to the success of our Order; therefore be it

Resolved, By the Division of California and Hawaiian Islands, in Eleventh Annual Encampment assembled, that the Commandery-in-Chief be and is hereby respectfully petitioned to amend the fourth sub-division of Section 1, of Article II, of Chapter 3, of the C., R. and R., as follows: After the words, "Fifty members or major fraction thereof in good standing," insert the words, provided that Divisions may by By-Laws fix the representation of Camps as follows: "One representation-at-large and additional representatives in the ratio of one for every twenty-five members or major fraction thereof in good standing;" and

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS OF
CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS DIVISION,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 4th, 1897.

This is to certify that the above is a true copy of the resolution adopted at the Eleventh Annual Encampment of this Division, at Salinas, California, April 23d, 1897.

Official:

FRANK R. HANDLEY,
Adjutant.

CHARLES L. PIERCE,
Division Commander.

"Your committee is of opinion that this amendment would have a tendency to destroy the ambition in Divisions to increase the number of representatives by building up and increasing their membership; we, therefore, report the resolution negatively."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection and the action of the committee is concurred in.

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report as follows:

"Resolution asking that the rank of Past Captain be restored to Brothers Charles W. Dunn and John T. Stone, of Camp No. 15, Division of California."

That resolution with the accompanying communication is as follows:

HEADQUARTERS
DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 6th, 1897.

(Resolution presented by Guy E. Abbott, of Camp No. 10).

Resolved, By the Division of California and the Hawaiian Islands, in Eleventh Annual Encampment assembled, that we respectfully petition the Commandery-in-Chief to restore to Brothers Charles W. Dunn and John T. Stone, of Fair Oaks Camp, No. 15, of this Division, their rank as Past Captains, lost by their withdrawal from the Order.

HEADQUARTERS OF
CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS DIVISION,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 4th, 1897.

This is to certify that the above is a true copy of the resolution adopted at the Eleventh Annual Encampment of this Division, at Salinas, Cal., April 23d, 1897.

Official :

FRANK R. HANDLEY,
Adjutant.

CHARLES L. PIERCE,
Division Commander.

HEADQUARTERS
DIVISION OF CALIFORNIA AND HAWAIIAN ISLANDS,
SONS OF VETERANS, U. S. A.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., September 6, 1897.

To the Committee on Resolutions, Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans :

DEAR SIRS AND BROTHERS:—The resolution to which this letter is attached possibly needs some explanation. Charles W. Dunn and John T. Stone were identified with the Order in its earliest infancy in this State, being charter members of General John F. Miller Camp, No. 3, the third Camp organized in California and the first in this part of the State. In 1889 they transferred from Miller Camp and organized Fair Oaks Camp, No. 15, San Francisco, of which Camp Dunn was the first and Stone the second Captain. After a couple of years prosperity deserted the Order in California and Camps were broken up everywhere. Fair Oaks Camp was reduced in numbers and fell into control of a clique, who forced Dunn and Stone to resign from the Order, and with them went the best element of the Camp. All other Camps in San Francisco and vicinity were broken up, so that it was impossible for these brothers to save their rank as Past Captains.

Lately Dunn and Stone have been induced to rejoin Fair Oaks Camp, and it is hoped through them to regain to the Order all the old "boys" (many of them men of influence) who made the Order such a success in its earlier years. The resolution was introduced by a brother from an outside Camp and was entirely unsolicited by either of the brothers mentioned therein. If your committee can give this resolution a favorable recommendation it will go far toward restoring harmony in this Division, will bring into our ranks many most desirable recruits and will be an act of justice to two very worthy brothers. Fraternaly yours,

FRANK R. HANDLEY, Adjutant.

"It appears from the record that these two brothers had voluntarily withdrawn from the Order; we, therefore, report the resolution with a negative recommendation."

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection the action of the committee is concurred in.

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report as follows:

Resolution presented by Brother A. J. Sorter, Jr., of the Division of Iowa:

That we recommend that the members of the Commandery-in-Chief, as individuals, use their influence to induce the members of the various Divisions to subscribe for and support the worthy organs now being published in our interests by brothers of the Order, and that the printing of the Order be given to the fraternal press in all cases where it can meet competition.

Recommended affirmatively by the committee.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection and the resolution is adopted.

Chairman Reed resumed the reading of the report as follows:

RESOLUTION PRESENTED BY THE DIVISION OF MARYLAND,

praying for closer relations with the G. A. R., to the end that Sons of Veterans be admitted to meetings of the G. A. R. These resolutions are as follows:

"We, the Committee on Resolutions, respectfully report that

"WHEREAS, At a regular meeting of Mansfield Camp, No. 2, of this Division, it was

Resolved, That Mansfield Camp endorse the action of the Department of Maryland, Grand Army of the Republic, in their endorsement of the resolution providing for the admittance of Sons of Veterans into their meetings during the transaction of active business, initiation, etc., to be referred to the National Encampment, G. A. R., to be held at Buffalo, N. Y.; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Encampment instruct its Representative and Representative-at-Large to the National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, to be held at Indianapolis, Ind., to use all honorable means to secure the favorable approval of the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans to the above resolution of Mansfield Camp; and be it further

Resolved, That the Representative and Representative-at-Large use their best endeavors to secure favorable action of the National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., to a resolution to secure the endorsement by the National Encampment, G. A. R., to the resolution adopted by the Department of Maryland, G. A. R., admitting Sons of Veterans to their meetings."

Which report was adopted.

In the same line the following section from the report of the Committee on Officers' Reports is quoted, viz.:

Seventh. Your committee coincides with the Division Commander in his reference to the closer relations that have existed and should exist between the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Veterans."

Which report was adopted.

This subject having been considered in Resolution No. 3, your committee report it back without action.

Fraternally submitted by the Committee on Resolutions,

R. M. J. REED, Chairman,
WALLACE L. VANDERHOOF,
FRANK L. SHEPARD,
MICHAEL CROWLEY.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There being no objection, the action of the committee is concurred in.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move the report be received and the committee discharged.

The motion was seconded.

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, I desire to call the attention of the committee to the resolution with reference to Mrs. Cooke and the souvenir edition of national hymns prepared and presented to delegates. I would say for the information of the committee that W. O. Pierce bore the entire expense. I think Mrs. Cooke was the author or suggested the scheme, but Dr. Pierce bore the expense and wrote the music of the hymn, "The Banner of Beauty and Glory." We desire to have Dr. Pierce's name inserted in that resolution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: There is no objection, and Dr. Pierce's name will be inserted.

CHAIRMAN REED: Commander, the resolution will then read as follows:

Resolved, That the thanks of this Encampment be tendered Mrs. J. V. Cooke and Dr. W. O. Pierce, for the beautiful and ably-prepared souvenir edition of national hymns prepared and presented to the delegates of this Encampment.

Resolved, That the Adjutant-General be directed to forward to Mrs. Cooke and Dr. Pierce copies of this resolution.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The resolution as amended is adopted in lieu of the original resolution. The question is on the motion to accept the report and discharge the Committee on Resolutions. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is carried, the report accepted and the committee discharged.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FRATERNAL RELATIONS G. A. R.

The report of the Special Committee on Fraternal Relations to the G. A. R., of which Brother Dustin, of Illinois, is chairman, is now in order. William G. Dustin, chairman of the committee, submitted the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 9th, 1897.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans :

Three of the members of the Committee on Fraternal Relations with the Grand Army of the Republic, appointed by Commander-in-Chief Rake, in compliance with a resolution adopted by the last meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, met at Buffalo at the recent meeting of the Grand Army. Your committee organized by the election of Past Commander Edward W. Hatch, of New York, as chairman. The committee visited the first session of the Encampment and received a hearty reception from Commander-in-Chief Clarkson and the members. Colonel Hatch conveyed the fraternal greetings of our Order to the Grand Army of the Republic and paid a fitting tribute to our fathers.

Commander-in-Chief Clarkson spoke very kindly of our organization and said that we should be encouraged by the Grand Army in every way, and that he thought an invitation to meet with them would be encouraging to the Sons.

Your committee would respectfully recommend that a committee of three be selected by the incoming Commanders-in-Chief, on Fraternal Relations with the Grand Army, and that the necessary expenses of said committee be paid by the Commandery-in-Chief. We believe that this is one of the most important and beneficial duties of our organization, and that in the future it should not be necessary for a Commander-in-Chief to ask for volunteers to perform this most important duty to our fathers.

EDWARD W. HATCH, New York,
W. DESTERSE,
WILLIAM G. DUSTIN, Illinois.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the report of the Committee on Fraternal Relations with the G. A. R.; what is your pleasure?

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I move that the report be received and adopted and the committee discharged.

F. L. SHEPARD, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to second that motion.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I want to inquire if the report of the committee contemplates the appointment of a standing committee to visit the next Encampment of the G. A. R., whose expenses are to be paid by this body?

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Yes, a committee of three.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I move to strike out the expense part.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I second that motion.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I accept the amendment.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the report, with the words "that the necessary expenses of said committee be paid by the Commandery-in-Chief" stricken out, be received and adopted and the committee discharged. Those in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is agreed to and the report adopted as amended by striking out the provision that the Commandery-in-Chief shall bear the expenses of the committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MILITARY RESERVE.

The report of the Committee on Military Reserve is next in order. Brother Rooney is chairman of that committee.

Chairman Rooney submitted the following report:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., September 10, 1897.

To the Officers and Members of the Sixteenth National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

BROTHERS:—The Committee on National Legislation, appointed for the purpose of securing the passage of a bill establishing Sons of Veterans' Camps as a reserve militia, begs leave to submit the following report:

A bill was introduced in the 54th Congress by Representative Kiefer, of Minnesota, and referred to the Committee on the Militia. It was not reported by the committee nor acted upon by the House or Senate. In the 55th Congress the same bill was re-introduced by Representative McCall, of Massachusetts, and again referred to the same committee. On account of the fact that no committees were appointed during the first session of this Congress, no action could be taken upon it.

Some opposition developed as to the form of the bill, which can easily be amended so as to remove the charge of class legislation. Nothing, however, can be done until the beginning of the next session of Congress in December.

Your committee respectfully recommend that a committee of three be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief with power to draft a new bill or to take other action to secure proper legislation in this matter.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

W. H. RUSSELL,
W. J. PATTON,
E. R. CAMPBELL,
C. D. ROONEY.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move the adoption of the report and the discharge of the committee.

The motion was seconded.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, is that with or without expense?

THE COMMANDER-IN CHIEF: Without expense. The question is on the adoption of the report and discharge of the committee. As many as are in favor will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The report is adopted and the committee is discharged.

Has the Committee on Credentials any further report to make? If not, the Credential Committee should be disposed of.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move the Committee on Credentials be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF: All in favor will give assent by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried and the committee discharged. That disposes of the reports of committees. We pass now to new business.

IN REGARD TO THE MUSTER OF RECRUITS.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, it seems there was a slight oversight when we passed the amendment to the C., R. and R. upon my motion; we did not refer to the two things in the ritual that make it absolutely necessary in order to have a proper muster of recruits. At the suggestion of a number of brothers I will move a reconsideration of the vote adopting that amendment in order to offer it in this form:

Section 2. The full use of the ritualistic ceremonies on the muster of recruits is optional with Camps; but the obligation of membership, the closing instruction by the Captain in the degree of Loyalty in presenting the insignia of the Order, and the demonstration of the Order and the demonstration of the secret work shall never be omitted.

THE COMMANDER-IN CHIEF: Is there any objection to the substitution? There appears to be none. All in favor of the substitution of this amendment for the one heretofore moved by Brother Bundy will give assent by the usual sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, the Committee on Ritual is not discharged. I move that committee be discharged with thanks.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that the Committee on Ritual be discharged with the thanks of the Encampment. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The committee is discharged with thanks and without expense. (Laughter).

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER ELECTED TO LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, on behalf of the representatives of the Indiana Division, and on my own behalf, I desire as briefly as possible to make a motion that Section 5, Article II, page 36, of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order be suspended, and that Brother Charles A. Bookwalter, of the Indiana Division, be made a life member of the Commandery-in-Chief.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, the motion having been seconded, I desire to be heard.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and seconded that Section 5, Article II, of C., R. and R., be suspended and that Brother Charles A. Bookwalter, of the Indiana Division, be elected to life membership in the Commandery-in-Chief. Brother Griffin has the floor.

CHARLES F. GRIFFIN, of Indiana: Commander, I desire to say in the first place, that while this is an unusual matter and an unusual distinction—and we mean it as such—there is precedent for it. Brother Bookwalter has been chairman and head of the Committee on Arrangements of this Division, and what his services and courtesies have been you all well know. I remember that at the Cincinnati Encampment Brother Luther Davis, who was the chairman of the Committee on Arrangements of that Encampment, was given this honor; and it has been done in other cases. We ask it on behalf of the Indiana Division in honor of one of the most energetic, consistent and loyal members that the Order of the Sons of Veterans has or has ever had. (Applause). Brother Bookwalter's services are known to everybody in this Order. There has scarcely been an Encampment that he has not attended. He is always at the front, whether it is in discussions upon the floor of the Encampment, or as chairman of Committee on Arrangements or as a steering committee to show brothers the town. In any one of these capacities he is an expert.

I know your time is short, and while I would like to say more, I will make it brief and simply ask, as a compliment to Brother Bookwalter's Division, that you suspend this rule and make him a life member.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, in behalf of the Division of New York, and speaking from my own personal desires upon this question, it gives me great pleasure to second this motion. The Constitution requires at least a two-thirds vote. It would be a high compliment, but no higher than this brother deserves, if we make it a unanimous vote.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is before the Encampment. All in favor of the motion will give assent by the usual show of the Order (cries of "a rising vote," "a rising vote") or will rise. Be seated. Contrary, if any, will rise. The motion is unanimously carried and Brother Bookwalter is elected a life member of the Commandery in-Chief.

Any other new business?

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY COLLEGE TO BE APPOINTED.

A. L. SORTER, Jr., of Iowa: Commander, under the head of New Business I move you that the present Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee of five to investigate the advisability of establishing a military college as a memorial to the soldiers and members of the G. A. R., and, if possible, to report some feasible plan to the next Annual Encampment; said committee to act without salary or perquisites.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would prefer, Brother Sorter, that you would make your resolution read that the incoming Commander-in Chief appoint this committee, as he will have better facilities.

A. L. SORTER, Jr., of Iowa: With the consent of my second I will alter that feature of it as suggested by the Chair.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair hears no objection on the part of the second and the question is on the adoption of the resolution as modified in that particular. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The motion is agreed to.

DISPOSITION OF REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I have just been informed that the report of the Council-in-Chief has not been adopted; it was simply made to the Encampment, and was under consideration when the Encampment took recess.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair would say to the Encampment, without desiring to make an arbitrary ruling, that the recommendation of the Council-in-Chief raising the per capita tax was by motion laid on the table. When the motion was put by Governor Jones the Chair immediately asked the brother whether that meant to indefinitely lay it upon the table, and he said it did. That being the case, it cannot be taken up at this session, and the per capita tax remains at sixteen cents.

AMENDMENT TO ELIGIBILITY CLAUSE.

EDWARD K. DEPUY, of Maryland: Commander, I wish to propose an amendment to the Constitution. The amendment I propose is this, to change Article V, Section 1, Eligibility to Membership, so that it will read in this way:

ARTICLE V.

SECTION 1. All male descendants, not less than eighteen years of age, of soldiers, sailors or marines who served in the Union Army or Navy during the war of 1861-'65 and who were in the service at the close of said war, or who by reason of death or honorable discharge severed their connection therewith before the close of said war, shall be eligible to membership, provided that no person shall be eligible who has ever been convicted of any infamous crime, or who has, or whose father has, ever borne arms against the government of the United States of America.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: As I understand the intent of this amendment is to change the language so as to specifically provide for the son of a soldier who was killed or died in the service, and also to specifically provide a place for the son of a Union Army officer who is to-day in the service. I understand that it does not change the eligibility clause in any other respect, but simply makes it specific that the son of a soldier who died or was killed during the Rebellion, or the son of a United States Army officer who is still in the service, and consequently could not have been discharged therefrom at the close of the war, is eligible. It simply covers those two cases that at present do not appear to be provided for clearly in the eligibility clause of our Constitution.

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, I move the adoption of the amendment.

The motion was seconded.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I move the previous question on that amendment.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I second the previous question.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The question is on the adoption of the amendment to the eligibility clause of the Constitution. On that the previous question is moved.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander, I want to ask whether the sons of officers of the regular army who were in the service prior to the outbreak of the war and who are now in the service are not eli-

gible, whether their fathers did or did not receive a discharge at the end of the War of the Rebellion. As a matter of fact many did not. In my own experience as Commander-in-Chief that question was not raised at any time; but I want to ask whether or not there could not be a ruling by the Commander-in-Chief in the event that a question of that sort did arise that would absolutely meet everything, and if that would not be better than going to work to tear this thing up. I ask that as a matter of information. Suppose, in the wisdom of Providence, General Miles had a young son who desired to join this organization. We will assume that General Miles was never discharged as a volunteer officer during the war of 1861-'65. Suppose that application came to my Camp and we submitted it to Brother Parkinson as Commander-in-Chief for decision, whether or not Brother Parkinson would not decide that the boy was eligible to join, and whether his ruling would not become law, as a matter of fact?

E. C. PARKINSON, of New York: Commander, I desire to say that the volunteer officers who became officers of the regular army were mustered out as volunteer officers and then were mustered into the regular army of the United States; but officers of the regular army were not discharged at the end of the rebellion, but continued as officers until they retired or died. In my judgment this is the proper action to take.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The previous question has been moved and seconded. All in favor of the question will so signify by the usual show of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion appears to be carried; the motion is carried. The question now is upon the adoption of the amendment. All those in favor of the amendment will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The amendment seems to be adopted. The amendment is adopted.

SALARIES OF DIVISION OFFICERS.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I desire to offer an amendment to the Constitution. It occurs in a great many Divisions that they are hopelessly in debt through the carelessness of their officers and through the looseness of Division By-Laws. I feel there should be provision in the Constitution prohibiting the careless expenditure of money. The salaries of Division officers should depend on the amount of work they do. We find Divisions in debt four or five hundred dollars, who have scarcely that many men in the Division. You take the Division of Missouri—and I beg pardon for calling attention to it—at one time it had twenty-seven hundred members and paid something over two hundred dollars a year for the services of its Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General. It has now nine hundred members and pays three hundred dollars a year to those officers. The number of members has dropped down two-thirds and yet they have increased the pay for looking after them. My recommendation is that there be a constitutional prohibition against paying salaries beyond a certain per centage of the per capita tax to officers of the Division for services. If they want to increase their salaries, let them increase the membership of their Divisions.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Chair is obliged to rule the proposed amendment out of order. It is a matter that could only come up in Division Encampments. We delegate to Divisions the power to govern themselves, and so long as they do not usurp the powers of the Commandery-in-Chief, the Commandery-in-Chief cannot control them. If the Divisions that are in this Commandery cannot govern themselves, they must take the consequences.

NEW INSPECTION BLANKS.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, in view of the amendment to the Constitution that we have adopted, in reference to optional use of the ritual, I move that the Inspector-General be instructed to prepare and issue a new inspection blank that will meet the requirements of the new order of things.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That requires no motion. The Commander-in-Chief can so order.

A NEW ELIGIBILITY CLAUSE.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I wish to make a motion. The eligibility clause in our Constitution has long been a trouble to the Order. In every Encampment we have modified it in one way or another, until most of us do not know the true meaning of the eligibility clause. It is modified by locality; it is modified by our own positions; and I think we should have a standard clause put in there by persons who are acquainted with all the circumstances concerning the difficulties that have arisen under the present eligibility clause. I move you, therefore, that a committee be appointed by the incoming Commander-in-Chief to report for the consideration of the next Encampment an eligibility clause.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, I second the motion.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, on that question I move the previous question.

The previous question was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee to draft a new eligibility clause to the Constitution, to be submitted to the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief. On that motion the previous question has been moved. The question is, shall the main question be now put? Those in favor will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed, the same sign. The previous question is ordered. The question is then upon Brother Orner's motion. Those in favor will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Contrary the same sign. The motion seems to be carried. The motion is carried.

SELECTION OF NEXT PLACE OF MEETING.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move you that we now proceed to the selection of the place of meeting for the next Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief proceed to the selection of the place for its next meeting. Those in favor will so signify by the usual show of the Order. Down hands. Contrary, if any, the same sign. The motion is agreed to.

RECESS FOR FIVE MINUTES.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I move that this Encampment take recess for five minutes in order to enable Mr. Parks, a gentleman who is not a member of the Order or a member of the Grand Army, to present the claims of one of the places that desires to entertain the Encampment at its next national meeting.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: That seems to be absolutely fair, and if there is no objection the Chair will declare recess by consent.

H. T. COOPER, of Tennessee: Commander, I move that nominating speeches be limited to five minutes.

(Cries of "two," "two," and "three," "three").

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The motion seems to meet with the approval of the house. It seems to be the sentiment of the house that nominating speeches be limited to three minutes. All in favor of that will give assent by the usual sign of the Order. It is agreed to.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander-in-Chief and brothers of the Encampment, I have the honor of introducing to you Mr. Parks, proprietor of the Hotel Victory, at Put-in Bay.

MR. PARKS' INVITATION.

MR. PARKS: Commander-in-Chief, I do not have the honor to be either a member of the Grand Army or of this great organization, but I think that I am in touch and in sympathy with the object and ends and purposes for which you have gathered here. You will remember that eighty-four years ago yesterday was one of the dark periods in the history of our country. The capital of our country was in the hands of a foreign

foe. Every conflict upon the great lakes, every naval encounter, had ended in trailing the stars and stripes in ignominious defeat, while the Union Jack of England had risen on our lakes in exultant triumph. Eighty-four years ago to-day Commodore Perry with a fleet that he had made himself, of which he was the architect and builder, representing as he did the invincible courage and energy of New England, combined with the irresistible valor and push of the then new Northwest, sailed out to meet the enemy opposite what is known as the famous Put-in-Bay Island, sailing out from Put-in-Bay. There, off between the beautiful islands called Green Island and Rocky Island, was fought that famous victory, and the words were sent across the continent, "We have met the enemy and they are ours." (Applause). This was the conflict which decided and determined whether the great northwest should be under the stars and stripes, or should be controlled by Great Britain. Next year we propose to celebrate that occasion in a fitting manner. There has been erected at Put in Bay a magnificent hotel, costing, with furniture, a half million dollars; six hundred feet in length, three hundred feet in depth, surrounding a court two hundred feet square. In it we can take care of fifteen hundred people. It is situated in Forest Park, consisting of twenty-one acres, gradually rising from the lake until it looks over the scene of this contest from a height of eighty feet above the level of the water. My time is short, but I want to say this, that every modern convenience can be found, not only at that hotel, but at others, if you come, and next year is the time to celebrate this great victory. If you are with us next year, I will tell you what will take place.

One year from yesterday, as the setting sun shall decline in the west, you will see the waters between Rocky Island and Green Island and Put-in-Bay covered with steam and naphtha launches, sailing yachts and big steam vessels, while along the shores looking out upon the space will be thousands of people watching the coming conflict, which on the very spot will be repeated as it took place eighty-four years ago, and as that conflict shall end, and as the shades of night shall descend upon those beautiful islands, you will turn back and see the twenty-one acres of Forest Park illuminated by electric lights in every direction, with colored illuminated fountains, and in the background will be that building six hundred feet in length, illuminated with its four thousand electric lights, welcoming you to a naval dance in a hall one hundred and eighty-five feet long by fifty feet wide and sixty feet high, where five hundred brave soldiers and sons of soldiers, and the fairest women of the country will wind up that celebration. I tell you we are going to make it a red letter day, and it will be more so if you join with us, because we will feel at loss without you.

Gentlemen, in the name, not only of Hotel Victory and Put-in-Bay, but in the name of the people of Northwestern Ohio, I invite you to come and be with us. We will give you a royal reception. Every convention that has met there almost has decided to come back again, and if you come it will be the red letter day of your lives. I thank you for the attention you have given me.

C. T. ORNER, of Illinois: Commander, I rise to a question of information; is that without expense? (Laughter).

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: The recess is concluded and the Commandery is in session again. Are there any other places to be put in nomination?

L. W. KENNEDY, of Colorado: Commander, inasmuch as you want me to be brief I will refrain from delivering the extended address that I have prepared for this occasion. I will simply say that the city of Denver, the great city of Colorado, wants this Encampment next year and wants it in earnest, and will treat you right if you come.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Any other places?

F. J. COATES, of Nebraska: Commander, the brothers of this Encampment who have our interest at heart and who are in favor of coming to Omaha, being well acquainted with the fact that I seldom open my mouth without putting my foot in it, have told me to be very careful or I would talk my case to death; so I will not say more than that if you will come out there "we will not do a thing to you." I will simply read the communications from others.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.
OMAHA, NEB., September 4th, 1897.

National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis, Ind.:

GENTLEMEN:—As Mayor of the City of Omaha, as one of the "Old Boys of '61," a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and Sons of Veterans, I take pleasure in extending to you a cordial invitation to hold your National Encampment of 1898 in Omaha.

The great Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition will be open from June to November, and it will be a splendid opportunity for the "boys" to take in the Exposition and see the great West while attending the Encampment, on the exceedingly low rates which will be in effect from all parts of the country during the Exposition.

Our Exposition management would gladly set apart the days of your convention as special Sons of Veterans' days, and it would be a grand object lesson, with its flags, fireworks, illuminations and patriotic addresses, of the power of American patriotism, and would serve to increase the reverence and honor of the American people for the "old soldier and the old flag."

Nebraska has as many patriotic citizens to the square foot as any State in the Union and every one of them will enthusiastically welcome you if you come to Omaha in 1898. In extending this invitation to you I assure you that I voice not only the sentiment of the City of Omaha, but of every old veteran, Son of a Veteran and citizen of the State of Nebraska and of the Trans-Mississippi region.

There is also to be a gathering of the G. A. R. living in the Trans-Mississippi States, which will bring over 10,000 old veterans, and with the mobilization of the Regular Army and National Guards we will have fully 50,000 soldiers in camp at one time in our midst.

As Mayor of Omaha I shall stand ready to turn over the keys of the city to the boys upon their arrival. Fraternally,

FRANK E. MOORES,
Mayor.

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.
OMAHA, NEB., September 4th, 1897.

National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, in Annual Convention Assembled, Indianapolis, Ind.:

GREETING:—I am directed by the management of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition to extend to your society a cordial invitation to hold your annual convention for 1898 at the City of Omaha.

The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition is designed to illustrate the products, resources, capabilities and civilization of the Trans-Mississippi States and Territories of the United States and of foreign countries. It is proposed that this Exposition shall be second only to the World's Columbian Exposition, held at Chicago in 1893.

The very low railroad rates which will be granted to visitors to the Exposition will be available for the members of your society and will be of benefit in securing a large attendance at your annual meeting.

The Exposition will open June 1st and close November 1st, 1898. The management of the Exposition and the citizens of Omaha will use every effort to make your sojourn in our city both pleasant and profitable.

Trusting that it may be your pleasure to decide to hold your annual convention for 1898 in the "Gate City" during the Exposition period, I am,

Yours very truly,
JOHN A. WAKEFIELD, Secretary.

HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA, G. A. R.
STANTON, NEB., September 6th, 1897.

To the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis, Ind.:

On behalf of the Department of Nebraska, Grand Army of the Republic, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you a cordial invitation to hold your next Annual Encampment in the City of Omaha, Neb.

An effort is being made to hold a grand interstate reunion of the old soldiers living west of the Mississippi River at Omaha in 1898, and we will endeavor to so time it that the Sons of Veterans can meet with them at the time of their Encampment.

The Trans-Mississippi Exposition will be held at Omaha in 1898, which will be second only to the World's Fair held at Chicago, which will afford you an opportunity to witness the marvelous transformation of the Great American Desert to the Great American Garden.

On behalf of our old comrades I bid you and all your friends a cordial welcome. Whatever is ours shall be yours, and our energies will be devoted to making your meeting with us both pleasant and profitable—pleasant for you and profitable to us. I remain yours fraternally in F. C. and L.,

JOHN A. BHRHARDT,
Department Commander.

THE COMMERCIAL CLUB OF OMAHA.

OMAHA, NEB., September 4, 1897.

To the National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, Indianapolis, Ind.:

GREETING:—The Commercial Club, of this city, by unanimous action, cordially invites your worthy organization to select the City of Omaha, Neb., as the place for holding your next annual meeting for the year 1898.

The membership of this club is composed of all the business and professional interests of this city of all classes.

Provided you select Omaha for your next meeting place we will furnish ample accommodations for meetings, also guarantee first class hotel accommodations at reasonable rates. (The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition will be in operation at that time, which will be second only to the World's Fair and will be an attractive feature for your meeting). Omaha is the central city of the United States. Twenty lines of railway diverge from Omaha, forming a direct line of road to every city in the country. This city is midway on the shortest trans continental line between the oceans. Provided any of your members desire to go farther west a direct line of road runs from Omaha to all places of interest, including the Black Hills, Yellowstone Park, Colorado, Salt Lake and California.

The fact of the Exposition being in Omaha in 1898 will guarantee you less passenger rates than you could otherwise secure.

Again we urge you to come to Omaha in 1898. The freedom of the city is extended to you and you will be entertained by warm hearts and prodigal hands.

Hoping your meeting in Indianapolis will be attended with success, and extending to you our best wishes, I am, yours very truly,

J. E. UTT,

Secretary of Omaha Commercial Club.

P. S.—We will also furnish music for entertainment, etc.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Are there any other places to be placed in nomination? If there are no others the Chair will declare nominations closed. Put-in-Bay, Denver and Omaha are before the Encampment. What is the pleasure of the Encampment in regard to voting?

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, Mr. Parks overlooked the question of hotel rates and transportation. He requests me to state that the distance is about sixty miles from the city of Cleveland, and there is transportation over there by boat, and the hotel rates will be two and three dollars a day during the sessions of the Encampment.

F. J. COATES, of Nebraska: Commander, we will make the same rates at Omaha, or better.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: If there is no objection the vote will be taken by Divisions. The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of Ohio was called:

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, we desire to withdraw the nomination of Put-in-Bay and move, if it can be done with the consent

of Brother Kennedy, that Omaha be selected unanimously as the place of holding the next annual Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that Omaha be selected as the place of holding the next Annual Encampment. This can only be done at this time by unanimous consent. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

F. J. COATES, of Nebraska: Commander, I desire to say we thank you and will do the right thing by you.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: What is the next will of the Commandery-in-Chief?

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, I move that we now proceed to the election of a Commander-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions for the nomination of candidates. Is it the pleasure of the Encampment that the candidate shall simply be named by the spokesman of the Division or shall there be nominating speeches? (Cries of "name him," "name him").

DAN S. GARDNER, of Ohio: Commander, I move that nominating speeches be limited to three minutes.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Adjutant-General will proceed with the roll-call.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Alabama and Tennessee.

H. T. COOPER, of Tennessee: Commander, Alabama and Tennessee gives way to Massachusetts.

JOSEPH B. MACCABE, of Massachusetts: Commander and brothers, three minutes is not enough time for me to present to you and say all that I desire to say on behalf of New England's Darling candidate. (Applause). But, sir, three minutes will suffice as well as would three months, because in ninety days I could not present his virtues, his goodness of heart, capacity and executive ability; I know whereof I affirm in that particular, for I have come in very close contact with him, and I can say truly and sincerely that a more loyal, and more devoted and better business man in my opinion does not exist to-day in this organization. I say it with all due deference to the magnificent brain and to the magnificent capacity as demonstrated here in this convention this week.

On behalf of old rockbound New England, then, we present for your honorable consideration the name of the brother whom we regard with the highest esteem; and those who came in contact with him during his service as Adjutant-General of this organization will bear me out in the assertion that he fulfilled the duties attendant upon that office well and faithfully. Nothing need be said of any man more than that. This he has done and when he was Adjutant-General of the Order that was the highest honor that he personally desired; but New England, appreciating that magnificent ability, does not rest content with his modest conception of his worth and his modest ambition; we say to him you must go higher; you must do that which belongs to the organization; you must lead, and you will build up this great pure monument of patriotism and charity that indeed we may be second in word and deed to the parent organization, that glorious organization whose members bared their breasts to shot and shell that Old Glory might live and that the spirit of disintegration might be stamped under loyal feet. We want him where he can meet the exigencies that may arise and lead us on to further glory, and as Abbott, and as Merrill, and as Bundy and as Russell live to-day in our love, and live in the gallery of our fame forever, we want our loyal Darling to rest side by side with them, so that not only will he be our Darling, but your Darling as well.

Therefore, Commander, on behalf of old New England, I present for your honorable consideration the name of Charles Kimbal Darling for Commander-in-Chief of this organization. (Applause).

The Adjutant-General continued the calling of the roll.

When the Division of Illinois was called :

F. L. SHEPARD, of Illinois : Commander, I rise on behalf of Illinois to subscribe to everything that Past Commander Maccabe has said in reference to Brother Darling ; he has the respect of every member of this Commandery-in Chief, and we believe that the principles of our fraternity have been exemplified by him, and we believe also that those principles will be furthered by the election of Brother Darling. Without taking further time the Division of Illinois takes pleasure in seconding the nomination of Brother Darling. (Applause).

When the Division of Iowa was called :

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa : Commander, Iowa has no candidate to present. I am authorized to withdraw the name of Louis A. Dilley and second the nomination of Charles K. Darling.

When the Division of Kentucky was called :

T. Z. MORROW, of Kentucky : Commander, for the first time in the history of the south the Kentucky delegation did intend to present a name, for the south and of the south, to this Encampment for recognition ; but in deference to the magnificent Division of Massachusetts, and in deference to the magnificent candidate they have presented, Kentucky forgoes her intention to present a candidate and desires to second the nomination of Brother Darling. (Applause).

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa : Commander, if there are no other nominations I move that the rules be suspended and—

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF : The motion is not in order at this time ; the balance of the Divisions have not been called.

When the Division of Maryland was called :

E. R. CAMPBELL, of Maryland : Commander, on behalf of the Division of Maryland I rise to second the nomination of the son of the man who served with the Vermont Brigade under the gallant Stadden and who was one to help to break Pickett's charge at Gettysburg. I second the nomination of Brother Darling, of Massachusetts.

When the Division of Michigan was called :

H. E. COWDIN, of Michigan : Commander, Michigan wants the New England Darling to become ours as well as theirs. I therefore second the nomination of Darling.

When the Division of New Jersey was called :

JESSE R. DUNGAN, of New Jersey : Commander, New Jersey seconds the nomination of Charles K. Darling.

When the Division of New York was called :

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York : Commander, Brother Maccabe's candidate seems to be a Darling on general principles, and New York seconds the nomination.

When the Division of Ohio was called :

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio : Commander, Ohio is never without a darling. If she has not one of her own she adopts one. Ohio seconds the nomination of Charles K. Darling, of Massachusetts.

When the Division of Pennsylvania was called :

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania : Commander, the largest Division in the Commandery-in-Chief heartily seconds the nomination of Brother Darling, of Massachusetts. (Applause).

When the Division of South Dakota was called :

R. J. COURTNEY, of South Dakota : Commander, as there are a great many bachelors in South Dakota, and we second the nomination of the Darling.

When the Division of Wisconsin was called :

CHARLES C. TOWNSEND, of Wisconsin : Commander, last but not least, Wisconsin wishes to second the nomination of Charles K. Darling and move that the Commandery-in-Chief make his election unanimous.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move that the rules be suspended and that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the entire vote of this Commandery-in-Chief for Charles K. Darling as Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Out of courtesy, I trust Brother Speelman will give way to Brother Wilson, of Iowa, who rose to make a similar motion a few moments ago.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Certainly, Commander.

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa: Commander, I move that the rules be suspended and the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the entire vote of the Encampment for Charles K. Darling for Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

T. C. HARTER, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the vote of the Encampment for Charles K. Darling for the Commander-in-Chief of the Order for the ensuing year. Those in favor of the motion please rise. Be seated. Those opposed, if any, will rise. It is unanimously carried. The Adjutant-General will cast the vote of this Encampment accordingly.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, I now cast the vote of the Encampment for Charles K. Darling for Commander-in-Chief of the Order for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, Charles K. Darling having received the unanimous vote of this Encampment for Commander-in-Chief of the Order, it is my pleasure to announce his unanimous election to that high office (applause); and I designate Past Commanders-in-Chief Russell and Bundy a committee to escort the distinguished brother to this room.

Commander-in-Chief-elect Darling entered escorted by Past Commanders-in-Chief Russell and Bundy.

W. H. RUSSELL, of Kansas: Commander, your committee have the honor to present to this Encampment Commander-in-Chief-elect Charles K. Darling.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Darling, the members of the Sixteenth Annual Encampment of this Commandery-in-Chief have seen fit to bestow upon you the extraordinary honor of a unanimous election, practically by acclamation. I desire to say that it is creditable alike to the Commandery-in-Chief and to yourself. I congratulate you, sir.

(Applause and cries of "Darling," "Darling," "speech," "speech").

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF-ELECT DARLING: Commander-in-Chief and brothers of this Commandery, for the great honor which you have conferred upon me, and for the manner of its bestowal, I return my heartfelt and sincere thanks. I trust I appreciate the responsibility which it brings, and I trust also that I know what it ought to mean to disappoint the expectations of a body of men such as I see before me, or the great body of the membership of the Order at large, by failure in the performance of my duty in any respect, through lack of knowledge or zeal, in your behalf. I pledge you the earnest and honest effort of my life in your service. We have a great and noble organization, one that is not only laden with all that is best and highest and noblest in this country of ours, and in the appreciation of the service of those who fought in her defense, but also an Order which has a history and traditions of its own, so that to thousands of young men throughout this land it is the brightest and happiest memory of the years of their later boyhood, or earlier and later manhood.

Such an organization as this must not and shall not be permitted to go down. I wish I had it in my power to point the membership of this Order to the body which has been assembled here during the past few days. I wish I had it further in my power to appoint every member of this Commandery-in-Chief and aid with power to go out into his own Division and work for the upbuilding of the Order, but such is, perhaps, not practicable. I do, however, ask one thing at your hands, and that is that when we take back to Boston the Headquarters of the Commandery, that it shall not be

with a feeling of loneliness or lonesomeness, as we open up our Headquarters, but that we may throughout the year hear from you and hear from you often; that we may have good counsels as well as bad news. That from certain Divisions in this Order the only communications which come may not be the quarterly reports, or excuses for not sending them, or a request for some decision, or some opinion; but that we may throughout the year be kept in close touch with the various Divisions of the Order. I did not intend at this time to make an extended speech. I only ask you for your kind consideration during the year, and your earnest co-operation in all that we may endeavor to do for the upbuilding of the organization. I thank you. (Applause).

ELECTION OF SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Nomination of candidates for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief is now in order. The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: "Alabama and Tennessee."

H. T. COOPER, of Tennessee: Commander, Alabama and Tennessee gives way to Illinois.

GEORGE B. ABBOTT, of Illinois: Commander, I wish to be as brief as possible; Illinois has the pleasure of presenting a brother for the honorable position of Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of the Commandery-in-Chief. I shall name for that office a brother who has been known through the west as one of the hardest workers, one of the war horses in the work for the preservation and extension of the Order. By his efforts he has made the Division of Michigan one of the leading Divisions of the Order. At a time when his Division, perhaps owing to sickness of his own, or inability of Division officers, or want of enthusiasm, was not up to its previous standard, he took to the Camps and worked with the rank and file and built up his Division, and within the last six months worked up the enthusiasm in that Division until its membership has been nearly doubled.

This brother is distinguished both in a military and a civic way. There is scarcely one of his brothers who does not know him as well in some other capacity. He is fitted to fill any position in the gift of this Order. I do not wish to refer to my personal knowledge, but I wish to say to you that at the time of the National Encampment of the G. A. R. met at Milwaukee, and at other times, when I desired the assistance of a particularly able military brother to bring in his Camp or his company, and put up an exhibition drill, or for any purpose of that kind, for the benefit of the Commandery-in-Chief, I found the right man in Brother Cogshall. He has marched his command many hundred miles in various directions for our benefit and the benefit of the organization, and I feel that it is eminently fitting at this time that we elevate to the position of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief George E. Cogshall, of the Division of Michigan.

The Adjutant-General concluded the calling of the roll.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move that the Adjutant-General be authorized to cast the vote of this Commandery-in-Chief for Brother Cogshall as Senior Vice-Commander.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The rules must be suspended. If there is no objection I will consider the motion as made in that way. Those who are in favor of it will so signify by the usual sign of the Order. Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The motion is carried unanimously, and the Adjutant-General will cast the vote of the Commandery for Brother Cogshall for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, the unanimous vote of the Commandery-in-Chief is cast for George E. Cogshall for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is Brother Cogshall present? I have the pleasure of announcing to you, Brother Cogshall, that you have been selected for this high office by the unanimous vote of this Encampment. I congratulate you. Do you accept the office?

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF-ELECT COGSHELL: Commander and brothers, it gives me pleasure at this time to accept this

high office tendered to me as you have to-day. It is an honor that any man may well be proud of to have any office tendered to him at the hands of the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America; and it is a pleasure which I will carry home with me, and it will be my effort to do all that I can to uphold this Order through the coming year.

H. V. SPEELMAN, of Ohio: Commander, I move that the further calling of the roll for nominations be dispensed with.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: That will be taken by consent, if there is no objection. We will now proceed to the nomination and election of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

ELECTION OF JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, it gives me great pleasure to comply with the wishes of one of the most prominent Divisions in this Order in presenting a candidate for your consideration at this time. We all appreciate the royal hospitality that has been showered upon us by the city of Indianapolis and by the Division of Indiana. Never within my knowledge have we been so lavishly entertained. Never within my knowledge have the arrangements been so complete, so perfect, and has such a high standard been set for us to rally round in the future. In fact there is only one thing left, after the resolutions that have been adopted, which we can do to convey a sense of our gratitude, and that I am certain this Commandery will be only too glad to sanction, and that is to elect the candidate that I shall name. The hospitality of Indiana has been such, the hospitality of Indianapolis has been such that we can safely carry in our hearts that little couplet:

“Come in the night-time, come in the morning,
Come when looked for, come without warning;
Comfort and cheer you will find here before you,
And the oftener you come the more we'll adore you.”

It gives me great pleasure, Commander, to present the name of James W. Noel, in behalf of the Division of Indiana, for Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief (applause), and if there be no other nominations, I move you that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the vote of this Encampment for James W. Noel for Junior Vice Commander-in Chief.

THE COMMANDER IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and that the Adjutant General cast the vote of the Encampment for James W. Noel, of Indiana, for Junior Vice Commander-in Chief for the ensuing year. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual show of the Order. Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The motion is unanimously agreed to.

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL: Commander, by direction of the Encampment, I cast its entire vote for James W. Noel, of Indiana, for Junior Vice Commander in-Chief of the Order for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Is Brother Noel present? Brother Noel, it is my pleasure to announce your unanimous election to this important office. Do you accept?

JAMES W. NOEL, of Indiana: Commander, the Division of Indiana, after the Encampment passed the resolution, decided that the Indiana Division would not present a candidate to the Commandery-in-Chief for election to any office. It was the intent that the hospitality of Indiana should be free and that we should invite no compensation or recognition for it. I will say to the brothers that I thank you in behalf of the Indiana Division for this compliment which has come without seeking; it gives us the feeling that we have done our duty in a respectable manner at least. I take this opportunity to thank this Order for the compliment that is conferred upon me as a representative of the magnificent Division to which I belong, and I will say to you that I will try to the best of my ability to perform any duty that may be assigned me officially for this Order. (Applause).

ELECTION OF COUNCIL IN CHIEF.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief is now ready to enter upon the nomination and election of

three members of the Council-in-Chief, and for that purpose I recognize Brother Bolton, of Massachusetts.

F. E. BOLTON, of Massachusetts: Commander, I desire to be very brief, but not the less earnest, when I say it affords me great pleasure and gratification at this particular time, in accordance with the custom of the organization for many years, to move that the Commander-in-Chief designate some one to cast the ballot of this Encampment for Horace H. Hammer for the first member of the Council-in-Chief.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, it affords the Ohio Division great pleasure to second that motion.

WILLIAM G. DUSTIN, of Illinois: Commander, Illinois takes pleasure also in seconding that motion.

L. W. KENNEDY, of Colorado: Commander, Colorado also seconds the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It has been moved and numerously seconded that the Chair designate some one to cast the ballot of the Encampment for Adjutant-General Horace H. Hammer for member of the Council-in-Chief for the ensuing year. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual show of the Order. The motion is carried unanimously. The Chair will designate for that purpose Brother Bolton, of Massachusetts.

F. E. BOLTON, of Massachusetts: Commander, I desire to announce by authority of the Commandery-in-Chief that the unanimous ballot of this Encampment is cast for Horace H. Hammer for member of the Council-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The announcement is made that Brother Hammer has been elected unanimously as member to the Council-in-Chief. Brother Hammer, do you accept the office?

ADJUTANT-GENERAL HAMMER: I do, Commander, and return my thanks for the honor conferred upon me.

REGRETS OF GOVERNOR MOUNT.

CHARLES A. BOOKWALTER, of Indiana: Commander, I desire to convey to the Commandery-in-Chief the greetings and regrets of Hon. James A. Mount, Governor of this State, who had promised the committee that he would visit the Commandery this morning. Unforeseen business rendered it impossible for him to be with us this morning; he has been called from his office by an engagement that would not allow any delay. He wished me to say to you that as a soldier—and he was a gallant soldier, being a member of the 72d Indiana and part of that most famous brigade of Wilder, the Iron Brigade—he wished me to say to you that, as a soldier and comrade of your fathers, he wanted you to understand that at all times and upon all occasions the Sons of Veterans of this nation would find in him a friend upon whom they could call for any service. He further said, Mr. Commander, that he wished to convey to the brothers of this Order his thanks for the magnificent manner in which you have shown your appreciation of the tender of this building. He said that he wished also to say to you that, if in the future any of you should again come to the capital city of Indiana, he would be pleased to have you call upon him in the executive chamber.

Commander and brothers, this is the last announcement that the local committee will have to make, and we bid you good-by.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Bookwalter, I am sure that we appreciate thoroughly the distinguished consideration of the Governor of the great State of Indiana. Our greatest regret is that he has been unable to attend these sessions.

Nomination and election of the additional members of the Council-in-Chief is in order.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF RESUMED.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, it gives me pleasure to rise to nominate for the second place on the Council-in-Chief a brother who has proved his ability not only in the private walks of life, but in the

affairs of this great body; he has already served you in several capacities and his ability is known. An enlargement upon those abilities would only consume time and not make them shine more brightly. It gives me great pleasure to place in nomination for the second place Gen. Borin, of Kansas, and I move you, sir, that the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the vote of this Encampment for Gen. Borin for second position in the Council-in-Chief. (Applause).

HOWARD B. GREEN, of New Jersey: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Borin is nominated for the second member of the Council-in Chief, and it is moved and seconded that the Adjutant-General cast the vote of the Encampment for his election. As many as are in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order.

Those opposed, if any, the same sign. The motion is agreed to unanimously.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, by the authority of the Encampment, I hereby cast its entire vote for Brother Borin as a member of the Council-in Chief for the ensuing year.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Borin, it is my pleasure to announce that you have been elected by the Encampment for the second time to serve upon the Council-in-Chief, an honor which you must appreciate as highly as those do who have bestowed it upon you. Do you accept the office?

C. BORIN, of Kansas: Commander-in-Chief and brothers, I desire at this time to extend to you the assurance of my most distinguished consideration. I thank you for the election and the manner of it.

W. Y. MORGAN, of Kansas: Commander, I desire to present in the name of Kansas and in the name of the great Division of Minnesota, the name of J. E. Hayercraft, one of the best workers in the great northwest, as a candidate for member of the Council-in-Chief, and if there are no other nominations I move that the Adjutant-General be instructed, under suspension of the rules, to cast the vote of the Encampment for Brother Hayercraft.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the rules be suspended and the Adjutant General cast the vote of the Encampment for Brother Hayercraft as a member of the Council-in-Chief. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is agreed to.

THE ADJUTANT-GENERAL: Commander, in obedience to the vote just taken, I cast the entire vote of the Commandery for Brother Hayercraft's election as a member of the Council-in-Chief.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brother Hayercraft, it is my pleasure to inform you that you are unanimously elected a member of the Council-in-Chief. Do you accept?

J. E. HAYCRAFT, of Minnesota: I do, Commander, and I thank the Commandery-in-Chief for the great honor.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: The election of officers being completed the final order of business is the installation of the officers-elect. The Chair will designate the Inspector-General to attend to that pleasant duty. I do it for the reason that I am suffering from a throat affection and desire to give it as much rest as I can.

I thank you all for your consideration and esteem and for the perfect order that you have kept most of the time. (Laughter and applause).

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL: I would ask Brother Parkinson, of New York, to act as Inspector-General during the installation service.

The newly elected officers of the Commandery-in Chief, with the exception of the Commander-in-Chief, were duly installed and conducted to their stations in the Encampment room.

INSTALLING OFFICER SPINK: Commander-in-Chief-elect Darling, I will now call upon you to announce your staff.

Commander-in-Chief-elect Darling announced his staff appointments as follows:

Adjutant-General, Fred E. Bolton, of Massachusetts.

Inspector General, J. Frank Durston, of New York.

Judge-Advocate General, Edward K. Gould, of Maine.

Surgeon-General, Dan S. Gardner, of Ohio.

Chaplain-in-Chief, Harry J. Veazey, of Alabama and Tennessee.

The Commander-in-Chief and staff, with the exception of Judge-Advocate-General Edward K. Gould, of Maine, were duly installed.

Commander-in-Chief Darling assumed command and the newly installed officers were conducted to their proper stations in the Encampment.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING: Judge-Advocate-General Edward K. Gould, of Maine, will be installed hereafter. Brothers, what is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE.

R. M. J. REED, of Pennsylvania: Commander, as a representative of the Division of Pennsylvania, I desire to say that there has never been anything that has ever come to Pennsylvania that gave us more unalloyed pleasure than the fact that last year you honored us by choosing one of our number for Commander-in-Chief. We believe that the history of this Order will warrant us in saying that there was no deception practiced upon you, and that he did make good by honorable and fair dealing all the promises we made in his behalf, and that as Commander-in-Chief he has striven to do everything in his power for the furtherance of the interests of this organization. I do not propose to make a speech, but I am here for the purpose of performing a pleasant duty, and that is to present a portrait of Past Commander-in-Chief Rake to this Commandery-in-Chief (applause); that portrait has peculiar significance to the members of the Pennsylvania Division, as well as to the members of the Commandery-in-Chief. Every portion of that portrait is the work of a Son of a Veteran, from the frame to the painting, and it is presented by Pennsylvania as her tribute to her Past Commander-in-Chief, and we hope that it will be placed upon the walls of Headquarters along with the illustrious predecessors of Past Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake. I give it on behalf of the Division of Pennsylvania to the Commandery-in-Chief.

PRESENTATION OF JEWEL.

And now, Past Commander-in-Chief Rake, a word to you. Your friends and brothers, not only appreciating your magnificent work in the past in the Division of Pennsylvania, but as Commander-in-Chief of the Commandery-in-Chief of Sons of Veterans, have prepared for you this memento of their affection and regard for you. It is the designation of your past rank, made brilliant not only by the adornment on the badge, but by the service that you have rendered to this Commandery-in-Chief. As such they give it to you with their best wishes, and I believe it is the sentiment of every member of the Commandery-in-Chief in the United States when I say I hope there will not be a year in the long future that we will be debarred of the pleasure of having you with us at the annual meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief. Take this badge with the blessing and the best wishes of every member of the Commandery-in-Chief. (Applause).

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF RAKE: Major Reed, Commander-in-Chief and members of this Commandery: While the presentation of a mark is not entirely a surprise to the retiring Commander-in-Chief, I desire to say to you that I am surprised at the magnificence of the gift. I do not propose at this time to detain you with any speech making for I am suffering with quite a bad throat. I simply have to say to you, as I have heretofore said, that I have endeavored during the year to administer the office of Commander without fear or favor to anyone.

Forgetting that there was any clash at any time in this organization I will leave the office endeavoring to maintain your esteem, and if I succeed

in doing that it will repay me for many years' of service in this organization. I will promise you that if alive and well I will be with you at each recurring Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief; and whilst I to-day join that fossilized gang of "has-beens" I warrant you we will make ourselves heard in a few years, for I anticipate that as you go on graduating Past Commanders-in-Chief we will soon get to the point where we can outvote you on any question in the Commandery-in-Chief, and in that way we will once more get back into the active deliberations of this body. I thank you indeed. (Applause).

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: I will call upon Past Commander-in-Chief Bundy to accept on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief the portrait of Past Commander-in-Chief Rake.

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, of Ohio: Commander, I only object to one remark that has been made, and that is the extreme modesty of Brother Rake when he denominated the rest of us as a "fossilized gang." I know that Brother Rake will do like most of the Past Commanders-in-Chief of this Order, and that is the highest encomium you can place upon him—he will go right back where he started from and be an active participant in Camp work. (Applause).

I consider it an especial honor, knowing his record as I have known it, having studied it for the last twelve years, to be called upon by the Commander-in-Chief to accept this photograph which is to be placed in the picture gallery at Headquarters. We knew what we were doing when we elected him. We know he has made a magnificent and conscientious record; that everything he has done, and everything he has said, has been done and inspired with the sole view of performing his duty, as he understood it, under the Constitution and laws of the Order of the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America. And so I say on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief to the Division of Pennsylvania, the largest one in the Order, and in some respects the grandest, that we thank you for this presentation, and we know that so long as that picture may hang in Headquarters—and that will be as long as this Order shall exist—that no one will ever have cause to blush for shame that the Sons of Veterans once had a Commander-in-Chief known as James Lewis Rake. We thank you not only for this presentation, not only for this picture, but we thank you for the man himself. (Applause).

THANKS TO THE INSTALLING OFFICER.

E. W. YOUNG, of Washington: Commander, I think it would be proper at this time that this Encampment express their appreciation of the services of Past Inspector-General Spink as Installing Officer. I make that motion.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the thanks of the Encampment be tendered to Past Inspector-General Spink for his services as Installing Officer. Those in favor of the motion will make it manifest by rising. Those opposed will now rise. The motion is unanimously agreed to.

MINUTES OF THE STENOGRAPHER APPROVED.

W. S. OBERDORF, of New York: Commander, I move that the minutes of the stenographer be approved as the official minutes of the proceedings of this Encampment.

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that the minutes of the stenographer be approved as the official report of the proceedings of this Encampment. All those in favor of the motion will make it manifest by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. It is a vote, and it is carried.

THANKS TO THE COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

WALTER E. DUNCAN, of Pennsylvania: Commander, I think it would be in order to give a rising vote of thanks to our past Council-in-Chief, for their work has been very laborious, and they have discharged it with great faithfulness. I make a motion to that effect.

The motion was seconded.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, it is moved and seconded that the thanks of the Encampment be voted the Past Council-in-Chief for their faithful service in that capacity. Those in favor of the motion will make it manifest by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is carried unanimously.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL LOEBENSTEIN: Commander, I desire to request through you that the new Council-in-Chief meet at Room 27, Denison Hotel, at three o'clock.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: Brothers, you have heard the statement of the Quartermaster-General. Is there any further business to come before the Encampment?

E. H. ARCHER, of Ohio: Commander, I move that the Encampment do now adjourn *sine die*.

A. T. WILSON, of Iowa: Commander, I second the motion.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF: It is moved and seconded that the Sixteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., do now adjourn *sine die*. Those in favor of the motion will make it manifest by the usual voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The motion is carried.

There being no further business to come before this Encampment, and the motion to adjourn *sine die* being carried, we will now proceed to close in regular form.

The Commander-in-Chief then closed the Encampment in due form.

READING, PA., October 25th, 1897.

The foregoing is a true and correct record and report of the proceedings of the Sixteenth (16th) Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., held in the House of Representatives, State Capitol, Indianapolis, Indiana, September 9th, 10th, 11th, A. D. 1897.

J. L. RAKE,
Past Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:

H. H. HAMMER,
Past Adjutant-General.

RECORD OF ROLL CALLS

...OF THE...

Sixteenth * Annual * Encampment,

OF THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, S. V., U. S. A.

The following shows the members of the Encampment answering roll call:
P, present. A, absent.

	1st Session.	2d Session.	3d Session.
COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF OFFICERS.			
Commander-in-Chief, James Lewis Rake.....	P	P	P
S. V. Commander-in-Chief, Leo W. Kennedy.....	P	P	P
J. V. Commander-in-Chief, R. M. Buckley.....	P	P	P
Adjutant-General, Horace H. Hammer.....	P	P	P
Quartermaster-General, Rudolph Loebenstein.....	P	P	P
Inspector-General, Arthur B. Spink.....	P	P	P
Judge Advocate-General, John Redmond.....	P	P	P
Surgeon-General, J. A. Mabbs, M. D.....	P	P	P
Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. S. Light.....	A	A	P
Council-in-Chief, (C. Borin.....	P	P	P
(F. W. Myers.....	P	P	P
(J. H. Heine.....	P	P	P
PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.			
Frank P. Merrill.....	P	P	P
A. P. Davis.....	P	P	P
Walter S. Payne.....	P	P	P
George B. Abbott.....	P	P	P
Charles F. Griffin.....	P	P	P
Joseph B. Maccabe.....	P	P	P
William E. Bundy.....	P	P	P
William H. Russell.....	P	P	P
PAST GRAND DIVISION COMMANDER.			
R. M. J. Reed.....	P	P	P
CONSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBER.			
William Luther Davis.....	P	P	P
ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.			
Commander, L. W. Friedman.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, (M. D. Friedman.....	P	P	P
(H. L. Venzey.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-large, H. T. Cooper.....	P	P	P
Delegate, J. J. Straub.....	P	P	P
COLORADO.			
Delegate-at-Large, George L. Hodges.....	P	P	P
CONNECTICUT.			
Commander, W. W. Wheeler.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, George E. Cox.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Fred G. Pool.....	P	P	P
ILLINOIS.			
Commander, C. R. Clark.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { C. T. Orner.....	P	P	P
{ C. G. Marsh.....	P	P	P
{ Frank L. Shepard.....	P	P	P
{ William G. Dustin.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, George B. Holmes.....	P	P	P

	1st Session.	2d Session.	3d Session.
ILLINOIS—Continued.			
Delegates, { M. N. Baldwin.....	P	P	P
{ W. T. Church.....	P	P	P
{ C. T. Spackman.....	P	P	P
INDIANA.			
Commander, R. S. Thompson.....	P		
Past Division Commanders, {	John E. Edmonson.....	P	P
	George C. Harvey.....	P	P
	John W. Newton.....	P	P
	Newton J. McGuire.....	P	P
	Frank Martin.....	P	P
Wm. H. Armstrong.....	P	P	
Delegate-at-Large, Horace C. Stillwell.....	P	P	
Delegates, { J. G. Leffler.....			P
{ Ira W. Christian.....	P	P	P
Substitute Delegate in place of W. H. Case, James W. Noel.....	P	P	P
IOWA.			
Commander, A. T. Wilson.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, {	Lewis A. Dilley.....	P	P
	A. L. Sorter.....	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, E. C. Weintgarter*.....	P	P	P
{ W. W. Bisby.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { H. C. Ring.....	P	P	P
{ Henry Speelman.....			P
KANSAS.			
Commander, W. P. Feder.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, W. Y. Morgan.....	P	P	P
Alternate, E. E. Beard.....	P	P	P
KENTUCKY.			
Commander, T. Z. Morrow, Jr.....		P	
Past Division Commanders, {	George H. Capito.....		P
	W. R. Heflin.....		P
	W. A. Field.....		P
	B. F. McClelland.....		P
Delegate-at-Large, Thomas T. Fogle.....		P	P
Alternate, Joseph F. Biggs.....		P	P
MAINE.			
Commander, Arthur M. Soule.....	P	P	P
Delegate, George W. Gragg.....	P	P	P
MARYLAND.			
Commander, Edward K. DePuy.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, E. R. Campbell.....	P	P	P
Delegate at-Large, W. Harry White.....	P	P	P
Delegate, Charles S. Davis †.....		P	P
MASSACHUSETTS.			
Commander, Orange H. Cook.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, {	Nathan C. Upham.....		P
	William A. Stevens.....	P	P
	Charles K. Darling.....	P	P
	Daniel F. Goulding.....		P
	Fred E. Bolton.....	P	P
	Harry D. Sisson.....	P	P

* Substituted for James E. Whipple. † Substitute. ‡ Substitute.

	1st Session.	2d Session.	3d Session.
MASSACHUSETTS—Continued.			
Delegate-at-Large, William R. Waterman	P	P	P
(A. A. Tilden.....)	P	P	P
Delegates, { Thomas J. Hannon.....	P	P	P
{ C. F. O'Brien.....	P	P	P
{ C. D. Rooney.....	P	P	P
{ L. C. Couch.....	P	P	P
Alternates, { H. E. Morse.....	P	P	P
{ Benjamin A. Harris.....	P	P	P
{ Edward H. Lounsbury.....	P	P	P
MICHIGAN.			
Commander, H. E. Cowdin.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, George E. Cogshall.....	P	P	P
Delegate, H. O. Herrick.....	P	P	P
Alternate, C. J. Post.....	P	P	P
MINNESOTA.			
Delegate-at-Large, D. W. Bevers.....	P	P	P
Delegate, J. E. Haycraft.....	P	P	P
MISSOURI.			
Commander, E. E. Schoening.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, Manley Wren.....			P
(E. J. Eakin.....)	P	P	P
Delegates, { Samuel Loebenstein.....	P	P	P
{ Fred W. Miller*.....	P	P	P
NEBRASKA.			
Commander, W. H. Davis.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { F. J. Coates.....	P	P	P
{ George F. Wolz.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, John M. Thurston.....	P	P	P
NEW HAMPSHIRE.			
Commander, Walter S. Willey.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, Michael Crowley.....	P	P	P
NEW JERSEY.			
Commander, Jesse R. Dungan.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, { Fred D. Morse.....	P	P	P
{ James B. Adams.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, James M. Mathews.....	P	P	P
Delegates, { Howard B. Green.....	P	P	P
{ W. L. Vanderhoof†.....	P	P	P
NEW YORK.			
Commander, John M. Diven.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, W. Scott Oberdorf.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, J. Frank Durston.....	P	P	P
{ W. A. Personias.....			P
Delegates, { W. D. Spear.....	P	P	P
{ E. C. Parkinson.....	P	P	P
{ Russell B. Harrison †.....			P
Alternate, John V. B. Clarkson.....		P	P

*Substitute. †Alternate Del. ‡Substitute.

	1st Session.	2d Session.	3d Session.
OHIO.			
Commander, A. W. Jones.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, {	P	P	P
Filmore Musser.....	P	P	P
Dan S. Gardner.....	P	P	P
Don C. Cable.....	P	P	P
L. Vern Williams.....			
Delegate-at-Large, R. J. Williams*.....		P	P
Delegates, {	P		P
H. V. Speelman.....			P
A. S. Bickham.....	P		P
W. G. Thompson.....		P	P
E. H. Archer.....		P	P
Alternate, Charles T. Scheid.....		P	P
PENNSYLVANIA.			
Commander, Wildun Scott.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commanders, {	P	P	P
C. J. Miller.....			P
W. B. McNulty.....			P
James H. Tawney.....			P
Delegate-at-Large, J. Spaulding.....	P	P	P
T. C. Harter.....	P	P	P
James Culbertson.....	P	P	P
J. Q. Davis.....	P	P	P
R. E. DeGross.....	P	P	P
R. F. Schwartz.....	P	P	P
Delegates, {			P
Harry Louderback.....			P
Hugh M. Irwin.....	P	P	P
Walter R. Ross.....	P	P	P
W. U. Hall †.....		P	P
Walter E. Duncan †.....		P	P
George J. Blum ‡.....			P
Emil Poerstel, Jr. §.....			P
SOUTH DAKOTA.			
Commander, R. J. Courtney.....	P	P	P
VERMONT.			
Past Division Commander, E. T. Monahan.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Glenn A. Wilkins.....	P		P
WISCONSIN.			
Commander, Charles C. Townsend.....	P	P	P
Past Division Commander, W. J. Patton.....	P	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, William DeSteese.....	P	P	P
Delegate, A. G. Braband ¶.....			P

* Substitute. † Substitute. ‡ Substitute. § Substitute. ¶ Substitute.

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