

PROCEEDINGS  
C.-IN-CHIEF  
S. V., U. S. A.

1905-09

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Twenty-fourth  
Annual Encampment

OF THE

Sons of Veterans,  
U. S. A.

HELD AT

Gettysburg, Pa.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,  
September 18, 19 and 20,  
1905.



Commander-in Chief WM. G. DUSTIN.

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## Tuesday Morning Session.

Gettysburg, September 19th, 1905.

The Twenty-fourth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. convened in the Adams County court house, at 10 o'clock a. m., Commander-in-Chief William G. Dush in the chair.

Commander-in-Chief: Brothers, prior to the official opening of this encampment I would announce that Brother John D. Keith of the Gettysburg Camp is here and will deliver an address of welcome in behalf of the Camp and the citizens of Gettysburg. I have the pleasure of introducing Brother Keith.

John D. Keith: Brothers of the National Encampment: This is not going to be an address of welcome at all; it is simply going to be a few words to express on behalf of the citizens of Gettysburg, on behalf of Camp 112, and as I understand it, the Division of Pennsylvania, a welcome to this National Encampment. I feel that the Sons of the men who made Gettysburg what it is today should be heartily welcomed. The men who made Gettysburg have left a heritage for their sons and for all their descendants for all time to come. Anything that I might say or might attempt to say here can add nothing to what they have done. So I am not going to take up the time of this encampment this morning by an attempt to deliver an address, and in this connection I feel very different from the way that Daniel did—I know you all are familiar with your Bible and the biblical story, and possibly none of you have thought of the reason why Daniel, when he was in the lion's den was so happy and so contented. I like the explanation of Sprague, of Detroit, who says the reason that Daniel was happy and contented and not at all alarmed when he was looking the lions in the face was because he knew when that banquet that was being prepared was over that he would not be called upon for a speech. (Laughter) I am somewhat that way today. I feel that I am not equal to the occasion of extending to you the

heartily welcome you are entitled to, and I will just say you are heartily welcome to Gettysburg. (Applause)

Commander-in-Chief: Brother Keith, in behalf of the representatives of this Encampment, I will say to you we are very thankful and pleased to be in Gettysburg. I believe we appreciate what it means to us, and I do not know that I can say anything better at this time than what Corporal Tanner told me in Denver two weeks ago. He says "if every one of you would go there and go over the battle ground you will come away better American citizens and better Sons of Veterans," and I believe it. (Applause) I thank you again. I hope you will be as pleased with our visit afterwards as you are before.

#### Encampment Called to Order.

Commander-in-Chief: The officers and members of the twenty-fourth annual encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans U. S. A., will now come to order. I will appoint A. S. Moulthrop of Pennsylvania as Officer of the Day, and I will appoint F. W. Hendrix of Ohio as Inspector, and James B. Adams of New Jersey as Assistant Inspector. Brother Moulthrop you will please name the proper guards for the encampment from among the local camp, if they are here. The Inspector and Assistant Inspector will take up the password and countersign.

Inspector General: Commander, upon due inspection we find the Guards at their proper station, and all present in possession of the pass word and countersign and entitled to remain.

Whereupon, the twenty-fourth annual encampment of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., was opened in due form.

#### Roll Call of Officers.

Commander-in-Chief: The secretary will call the roll of officers of the encampment. During the temporary absence of the secretary, I will ask Brother E. F. Buck of Illinois to call the roll.

The roll call of officers showed the following officers of the Commandery-in-Chief present:

Commander-in-Chief, Wm. G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, George S. Gels, San Francisco, Cal.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, L. W. Friedman, Birmingham, Ala.

Chief of Staff, R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.

Council-in-Chief: H. V. Speelman, Cincinnati, Ohio; N. J. McGulre, Indianapolis, Ind.; W. R. Congdon, Wickford, R. I.

National Treasurer, Fred E. Bolton, Boston, Mass.

Assistant National Treasurer, Thos. B. Hannon, Boston, Mass.

National Secretary, James E. Seabert, Dwight, Ill.

Assistant National Secretary, Isaac Cutter, Camp Point, Ill.

National Counselor, Edgar Allan, Jr., Richmond, Va.

Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. J. J. Skinner, Topeka, Kans.

National Inspector, H. E. Cowdin, Rockford, Mich.

## Appointment of Committees.

Commander-in-Chief: I have taken the liberty to appoint some committees that I thought could get to work, and I will read them and ask the Encampment to take action on them:

Credential Committee—Chairman, James E. Seabert, Illinois; A. E. B. Stephens, Ohio; Karl Steward, Pennsylvania; F. A. Soper, New York; T. W. Blair, Indiana.

Committee on Constitution and Laws—Chairman, Frank L. Shepard, Illinois; R. M. J. Reed, Pennsylvania; A. L. Sorter, Iowa; R. M. Genthner, New York; E. R. Campbell, Maryland.

The Ritual Committee is a standing committee. Owing to the death of one of the members I have filled that committee. The committee now is—Chairman, F. H. B. McDowell, Wisconsin; T. C. Cazeau, New York; William E. Smith, Pennsylvania.

The Transportation Committee—Chairman, John T. Stockton, Illinois; William R. Stevens, Massachusetts; H. V. Speelman, Ohio; R. M. J. Reed, Pennsylvania; A. L. Sorter, Iowa; Frank B. Wilson, California; N. J. McGuire, Indiana; Freemont S. Gibson, Iowa; Martin Grasse, Wisconsin; G. E. Snyder, New York; Henry Kesselring, Missouri; A. W. Sherer, Kansas; Frank J. Kellogg, Michigan; L. W. Friedman, Alabama.

Committee on Officers Reports and Distribution of Work—Chairman, James B. Adams, New Jersey; E. F. Buck, Illinois; Harry Sisson, Massachusetts; E. W. Estes, New York; J. E. Blythe, Iowa.

Press Committee—Chairman, W. F. Muse, Iowa, with power to increase if necessary.

Committee on Resolutions—Chairman, Edgar Allan, Jr., Maryland; George B. Abbott, Illinois; George E. Hunt, Massachusetts; W. B. McNulty, Pennsylvania; F. J. Kellogg, Michigan.

Committee on Fraternal Greetings—Sons of Veterans Auxiliary—M. D. Rudd Chairman, Rhode Island; H. E. Pennell, New Jersey; G. H. Stebbins, Kentucky; G. T. Drake, Minnesota; C. H. Cram, Maine, F. E. Watson, Indiana; E. E. Schoening, Missouri; F. T. Vaughn, New Hampshire; W. T. Shrive, Ohio; John Bower, Pennsylvania; F. W. Spear, Vermont.

Committee on Memorial University—Chairman, N. J. McGuire, Indiana; Frank L. Shepard, Illinois; F. J. Kellogg, Michigan; F. W. Hendrix, Ohio; R. M. J. Reed, Pennsylvania; George B. Abbott, Illinois; G. E. Cox, Connecticut; W. J. Reinke, Michigan; James E. Blythe, Iowa.

That is all the committees I have appointed. I would like to have the Encampment take some action on them.

Edgar Allan, Jr., of Maryland: I move that the recommendations for committees be accepted and approved.

F. T. Vaughn of New Hampshire: I second the motion that the committees as announced by the chair be approved.

Commander-in-Chief: There is a motion before the house. The motion of Allan of Maryland was then put and declared carried by the chair.

I will ask if the Committee on Credentials is ready to make a report?

The Chairman of the Committee on Credentials submitted and read the following report:

#### Report of Committee on Credentials.

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

Commander: Your Committee on Credentials would beg leave to report as follows:

We find the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief all present and entitled to vote in this Encampment.

We also find the following past officers and constitutional life members and delegates present and entitled to seats in this Encampment:

Commander-in-Chief, Wm. G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill.

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, Geo. S. Gels, San Francisco, Cal.

Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, L. W. Friedman, Birmingham, Ala.

Chief-of-Staff, R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.

Council-in-Chief, H. V. Speelman, Cincinnati, Ohio; N. J. McGuire, Indianapolis, Ind. and W. R. Congdon, Wickford, R. I.

National Treas., Fred E. Bolton, Boston, Mass.

Asst. National Treasurer, Thos. B. Hannon, Boston, Mass.

National Secretary, James E. Seabert, Dwight, Ill.

Asst. National Secretary, Isaac Cutter, Camp Point, Ill.

National counselor, Edgar Allan, Jr., Richmond, Va.

Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. J. J. Skinner, Topeka, Kans.

National Inspector, H. E. Cowdin, Rockford, Mich.

Past Commanders-in-Chief: George B. Abbott, Chicago, Ill.; James Lewis Rake, Reading, Pa.; R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.; Frank L. Shepard, Chicago, Ill.; Edward R. Campbell, Washington, D. C.

Past Grand Division Commanders, R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia, Pa.

Constitutional Life Members, Isaac Cutter, Camp Point, Ill.

#### DIVISIONS.

Alabama and Tennessee, L. W. Friedman, Birmingham, Ala.

Connecticut: Malcolm D. Rudd, Lakeville; G. E. Cox, Hartford; W. N. Barber, Meriden; C. E. Batchelor, Ansonia; Robert T. Alcorn, Hartford.

Illinois: Bruce H. Garrett, Rockford; G. B. Abbott, Chicago; Jno. D. Hall, Peoria; Wm. G. Dustin, Dwight; Frank L. Shepard, Chicago; W. C. Schneider, Kankakee; J. E. Seabert, Dwight; Isaac Cutter, Camp Point; L. F. Meek, Peoria; E. F. Buck, Peoria; D. G. Robertson, Chicago.

Indiana: N. J. McGuire, Indianapolis; F. E. Watson, Goldsmith; R. S. Ducomb, South Bend; W. F. Geller, Ft. Wayne.

Iowa: W. F. Muse, Mason City; J. E. Blythe, Mason City; J. W. Reinke.

Kentucky: Geo. H. Stebbins, Cincinnati, O.; C. F. Hannon, Berea, Ky.

Maine: Clarence H. Cram, Augusta; Arthur M. Soule,

Portland; E. N. Keene, Waterville; Edward Small, Lewiston.

Maryland: Francis E. Cross, Washington, D. C.; E. R. Campbell, Washington, D. C.; Edgar Allan, Jr., Richmond, Va.; B. J. Northcott; C. S. Davis, Washington, D. C.

Massachusetts: Everett H. Lynds, Holyoke; Wm. A. Stevens, West Roxbury; Fred E. Bolton, Boston; Harry D. Sisson, Pittsfield; Fred E. Warner, Salem; Leonard C. Couch, Taunton; Thos. J. Hannon, Boston; Samuel A. Pickering, Lowell; Herbert A. Mayo, Roslindale; Walter Penney, West Lynn; Geo. E. Hunt, Abington; Henry M. Carven, Dorchester; Lyman W. Floyd, Manchester; F. L. Kirchgassner; Chas. H. Hayden, Chelsea; John E. Wilcox, Westminster.

Minnesota: Geo. T. Drake, St. Paul.

Missouri: E. E. Schoening, St. Louis; Louis C. Spies, St. Louis; L. B. Philo, St. Joseph.

New Hampshire: Frederick T. Woodman, Concord; Michael Crowley, Charlestown; F. T. Vaughn, Keenc; A. J. Boutwell, Portsmouth.

New Jersey: John W. Robbins, Paterson; James B. Adams, Atlantic City; James M. Matthews, Trenton; A. I. Vercellus, Paterson; F. W. Stockbridge; H. E. Pennell.

New York: T. D. Rivers, New York; T. C. Cazeau, Rochester.

Ohio: W. T. Shrieve, Lancaster; H. V. Speelman, Cincinnati; A. E. B. Stephens, Cleves; F. W. Hendrix, Springfield; F. W. Combs, Marietta; Dr. H. J. Guy, Dayton; W. B. White; Sherman Arter, Cleveland; W. S. Ruhl, Salem.

Pennsylvania: R. M. J. Reed, Philadelphia; H. H. Hammer, Reading; C. J. Miller, Philadelphia; J. L. Rake, Reading; J. H. Tawney, Philadelphia; Wildun Scott, Milton; A. S. Moulthrop, Du Bois; C. Day Rudy, Harrisburg; E. M. Amies, Altoona; C. C. Fulton, Mauch Chunk; Scott McMichael, Reading; W. E. George, Pittsburg; D. S. Smith, Lancaster; John Wrightman, Mt. Carmel; Karl Steward, Harrisburg; Jos. H. Grady, Tyrone; Joseph Prosser, Milton.

Rhode Island: James T. Hoxie, Hope Valley.

Vermont: Fred W. Spear, Bennington; H. D. Pollard, Richford.

Michael Crowley of New Hampshire: I move that the report be accepted and the delegates accredited as members of the Encampment and the committee continued.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: I second the motion.

The motion was put and declared carried by the chair.

Commander-in-Chief: Under the head of Reception and Reference of communication I believe comes the reports, and I would ask the Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief to take the chair while I read the report of the Commander-in-Chief, if I may be allowed to.

The Senior Vice-Commander took the chair and the Commander-in-Chief submitted and read the following report:

#### Commander-in-Chief's Report.

Gettysburg, Pa., Sept. 18, 1905.

To the Delegates and Members of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.:

It is a great pleasure to me to be present today not only to report my acts for the past year, but also to extend



my personal greetings to the representatives of this great Order which we all love. You honored me with a unanimous election as your chief executive officer, and whether I have fulfilled the trust is up to you to say, after having been apprised of the results. It has been a busy year, also a most pleasant one. The work of assisting in building up and maintaining one of the country's great patriotic organizations cannot but be pleasant when we are inspired by the thought, that the work is for the nation's glory. Anything which goes to build up sentiment for the grand old veterans of the Civil War and their acts during that time and since the close of that immortal struggle is surely for the nation's glory and assists in raising "Old Glory" a little higher all the time. We all know, and we say it without fear of contradiction or egotism, that the public history of our fathers and their deeds, is the history of this country for the past forty years, and that as an organization we are but doing our simple duty in carrying out our principles and honoring those who honored the Nation. With such principles, such thoughts and such inspirations there is no doubt of the success of our Order. While today our numerical strength is about thirty-one thousand, and some think it almost an insignificant number and it is in proportion to the number of eligibles in the country, but for patriotic strength and influence in the Nation it is large. It is larger than the United States Army was for many years up to the Spanish-American War. It is influential—more so than many of us realize, and it will become more so, and in future years when it's influence for good in the Nation is at its zenith, we will look back with pride on having been the pioneers in this splendid organization. Let us give some of our wisest thoughts and influence to our Order now and in the future. What is hard for one is easy for many.

#### Membership.

If there is one subject which is of more interest to all of us than others, it is the question of membership. Nearly every Commander-in-Chief and many other officers have offered suggestions as to how to get members and how to keep them. Many of these suggestions have been carried out, but still there are hundreds of thousands of eligibles to get, and thousands drop out each year. There will always be many who will not join our Order and there will always be many suspensions. That is the history of all fraternal organizations. There are no rules or theories which can be applied which will stop that. However, in my judgment, suspensions can be stopped to a large degree by promptness of Camp Treasurers in collecting; permanency can be maintained by permanent executive heads to an Order. We are all ready to acknowledge that any business, where the executive heads are changed each year and different ideas advanced will suffer, where if permanency is established by placing a competent business man at the head of the business, prosperity will follow. In my judgment the same would follow in our Order.

Our Order fourteen years ago, in round numbers, was 54,000 strong, and today is about 30,000, a loss of about

23,000. The loss is a cause for regret as far as numbers are concerned, but in my humble judgment, there is no comparison of the Order today and fourteen years ago. It is composed of thoughtful men of affairs who think and act and make their influence felt all over the land. Brothers, we have nothing to fear but on the other hand, everything to be proud of.

One year ago at the end of this month the Secretary's report showed 26,269 members in good standing—today we have nearly 30,000. The December quarter 1904, showed a net gain of thirty-six Camps and six hundred forty-eight members. The March quarter, 1905, showed a net gain of thirty-six Camps and one thousand four hundred and twenty-two members. The June quarter showed a net gain of 45 camps and 2540 members. Since June 30, 15 Camps have been organized with a membership of 442. With proportionate gains in Camps, and losses from all sources the Order today shows a gain of about five thousand for the year. The gross gain for the year is 214 Camps and 10,111 members. There have been 130 new Camps organized and 84 reinstated. The number suspended and dropped is 127 Camps and 7,342 members, showing a net gain in Camps of 87. This, I believe, is the first year in some time that the Order has shown a gain in the number of Camps. The Secretary's report will give a detailed statement of the gains and losses by quarters and divisions.

#### The Grand Army of the Republic.

Never in the history of our Order were our relations with the Grand Army of the Republic more close or cordial than now. These favorable conditions were enhanced to a large extent by the love shown our Order in many ways by the late Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, Wilmon W. Blackmar, and his splendid Adjutant General, John W. Gilman. Our Order never had better friends and at the encampments they visited they never forgot us. In the death of General Blackmar, the nation lost a great and good man, and the Grand Army a faithful, loving Commander, and all patriotic organizations a safe and able and friendly adviser and practical teacher of patriotism.

Among the many visitations made during the past year, none were more pleasant, and I believe, more successful, than the recent one to the 39th annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic held at Denver, Colorado, the week of September 4th. The people generally and the patriotic societies especially of that beautiful city and state did all in their power to make the visit of the veterans pleasant.

As will be seen by the report of the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army, your Commander-in-Chief was requested to be present. I did so and was cordially received by Commander-in-Chief King, Adjutant General John E. Gilman, the officers and representatives present, from both an official and social standpoint.

A fraternal committee composed of the following brothers visited the encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and the reception could not have been more

cordial. The chairman was given all the time desired to convey the fraternal greetings of our Order and to explain the practical features of our work. Following is the committee:

Wm. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, Dwight, Illinois.  
 J. W. Cook, Jr. Vice Com. Cal. Div., San Jose, Cal.  
 Gen. Sherman Bell, Camp No. 1, Denver, Colo.  
 J. L. Papes, Past Div. Com. Kans., Wichita, Kans.  
 Alvin M. Steinmetz, Camp No. 1, Denver, Colo.  
 J. H. Head, Com. Colo. Div., Denver, Colo.  
 R. J. Mellette, Com. Camp No. 1, Denver, Colo.  
 E. D. Whiting, Com. Camp No. 144, Bridgewater, Mass.  
 L. S. Whitney, Past Com. Colo. Div., Denver, Colo.  
 E. R. Downes, Camp No. 1, Denver, Colo.  
 Dr. F. D. Tucker, Pres. Memorial University, Mason City, Iowa, was added as an associate member of the committee and delivered strong addresses at the meetings of the W. R. C., Ladies of the G. A. R. and Daughters of Veterans.

Brothers Cook, Papes and Whitney also spoke at the above meetings and were enthusiastically received.

The following is contained in Commander-in-Chief King's address:

#### Sons of Veterans.

This loyal organization is increasing in numbers and influence and is unquestionably destined to play an important part in the future history of the land their fathers saved.

That the influence they exert will be for the good of our country and the glory of our flag, none who know those loyal sons of patriotic sires ever doubt.

The Order now numbers 31,000, having increased 5,000 during the past year; and it is predicted that in five years from now it will number 100,000.

It is greatly to be hoped that this prediction will prove true; for the stronger and more numerous they are, the greater will be their facilities for assisting the Posts to which they are severally attached.

Already in many places their services are invaluable to us. Nearly nine-tenths of their camps took part in the exercises on last Memorial Sunday and about one hundred and fifty camps had entire charge of the Memorial Day exercises, under the direction of small Posts in thinly populated towns.

It is known that about sixty camps furnish hall rent free to weak Posts, while many divisions have legislative committees whose duty it is to assist in securing adequate appropriations for the State Soldiers' Home.

They realize more fully than ever before the filial duty they owe to the comrades. They are willing—nay, anxious—to prove their devotion, and all they ask in return is that fraternal affection and moral support and counsel which a father should be ready to give to a son, a recognition which they so well deserve.

They do not seek membership in our organization. On the contrary, they believe that the Grand Army should cease to exist with the muster-out of its last comrade, and thereafter be to them and to the country a sacred memory.

So many efforts have been made and so many hours wasted in former National Encampments on this subject

that it will be time well spent for this Encampment to devote a few minutes to hearing from the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans himself his official opinion on this much-mooted question."

The above was unanimously concurred in by the committee on Officers' Reports and their reports unanimously adopted by the Encampment. The thanks of our Order are due the officers of the Grand Army and affiliated societies, and the division and local Order of Sons of Veterans and Auxillary of Denver, for their entertainment and courtesies shown your representative while in Denver.

In connection with this visitation it might be well to note that 30,324 survivors of the Civil War died during the past year.

There are 684,608 survivors on the pension roll, as against 690,792 last year, notwithstanding the large increase during the past year on account of Order No. 78, which relates to those having reached the age of sixty-three. The pension committee of the G. A. R. speak very highly of the fairness of the present Commissioner of Pensions, Comrade V. Warner, of Illinois.

The records of the Grand Army are not complete prior to the year 1878. There were then 31,016 members. There was a gradual increase when the high water mark was reached in 1890, when there were 409,489. There has been a constant decrease since then until July 1st this year the Order numbered 232,455. There has been over 130,000 deaths since 1886. Before that there was no mortality record kept.

During the past year the Grand Army has gained 22,009 and lost 36,894. There were 6,222 Posts one year ago and 6,031 July 1st this year.

Reports to the Grand Army indicate that Memorial Day, Memorial Sunday, Flag Day, Lincoln Day, and all patriotic occasions were never so generally observed as during the past year. The same can be said of the reports from the Sons of Veterans.

The committee on patriotic education is a most important one in the Grand Army and other Orders and the Sons of Veterans should co-operate with them.

#### Visitations.

Shortly after I was elected and qualified to this office I sent for General R. M. J. Reed, Chief of Staff and Commander of the Reserve, and together we visited the divisions of Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. We held conference and public meetings in each state, and the speeches and presence of General Reed among the members of our Order and among the comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic assisted materially in building up the right kind of sentiment, and most of the Divisions show gains and improvements in many ways. The thanks of the Order generally is due General Reed for leaving his business and giving his time to the Order for about six weeks. He made speeches as follows: One in Mason City, Iowa; four in Minneapolis and St. Paul; one in Battle Creek, Michigan; two in St. Louis; four in Illinois; one in Newport, Ken-

tucky; one in Indianapolis, Indiana; two in Dayton, Ohio, and one in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

During the year I visited Topeka, Kansas, found it necessary to remove the Division Commander and placed Senior Vice Commander Sherer in command. He proved a splendid worker. It will be remembered that this Division was suspended at Boston. It now has a membership of nearly a thousand and is growing rapidly.

I also held a conference at Lincoln, Nebraska. The Division at that time had about thirty-six members. It now has about two hundred and prospects are bright.

I attended the Division Encampment at Oskaloosa, Iowa. That division has been unfortunate in many ways, but I am pleased to report is now growing rapidly and I believe will become one of the best divisions in the Order in the near future. I also visited the Division encampments of Massachusetts, California, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. They were all splendid meetings. The other divisions held enthusiastic encampments and I am sorry it was not possible for me to be in two places at one time so I could have been present at all of them.

I believe that personal contact and visits with the brothers of the Order does much good, gives encouragement and tends to stimulate the work, and I would recommend that these conferences and visits be continued. While it costs the Order considerable, I believe it money well spent, and that eventually it will be returned ten fold. The business of this Order is like all other business, if you wish to extend it and build it up it will take money to do it.

#### Memorial University.

This splendid institution is gaining in popularity each year, and with proper support is sure to become one of the great institutions of learning in the world. It is unique in the fact that practical patriotism will be taught and the young better equipped to take up the higher duties of citizenship.

Many plans have been formulated by our Order to assist this institution, but up to the present not a great deal, from a financial standpoint has been done, but probably as much as can be expected from an Order of our size which has gone through the ups and downs which such orders generally pass. Our order is not rich, neither are its members, but they are influential and can do much for this institution. If every Camp in the Order would appoint a financial committee, not particularly to get money from the members, but to thoroughly canvass their communities, they would find the results would be grand. There are lots of rich people, and I do not mean the millionaire especially, but people of moderate means, who would willingly assist such an institution if the matter is brought before them in an intelligent manner. It is not the money we give ourselves, but the influence we could exert with our friends, which would be of valuable assistance in maintaining the Memorial University. Every brother should remember that he has a certain responsibility in connection with this institution and that he owes it, at least, his intelligent consideration. I hope that every brother here

will go home fully conscious of this responsibility and will do what in his judgment is best for the institution. Get in touch with that splendid conscientious educator and gentleman, President Tucker, and encourage him. I hope the encampment will set an hour today to be devoted to the University and that President Tucker and others will be heard from, and favorable action taken.

#### Reserves.

The Reserve movement was ridiculed by some but it has certainly been a success. We have splendid military organizations in nearly every division and they have attracted the younger element to our Order and been the means of increasing the membership of many a camp. I had the pleasure of attending the encampments of New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, where the Reserves took part in the encampment and especially the parades. There were several companies in both the Ohio and New York encampments and they made a splendid appearance, they were well uniformed and equipped and the officers were competent and the men of soldierly bearing. In Pennsylvania there were about one thousand Reserves in Camp and took part in the parade, and too much praise cannot be given them for their general appearance in camp, in ranks and wherever they were.

General R. M. J. Reed, Chief of Staff, and Commander of the Reserve, and a faithful, competent officer, will present a report to this encampment.

#### The Per Capita Tax.

There has been some complaint in regard to the per capita tax being too high. There is no question about it being high, but when the conditions of our Order are taken into consideration, the struggle we have had for years, every cent has been needed. Our Order today is about thirty-one thousand strong and the prospects are bright for the future. While I would not recommend any reduction at this time, simply because it is a critical time in the history of our Order, and with the proper expenditures of the funds, the Order can be increased to fifty thousand in the next three years, and the per capita tax can be reduced materially each year. The question of lessening the per capita tax is reduced to this: If every member of the Order would do his simple duty and give a little time to systematic practical work in behalf of the Order the membership would be doubled and the per capita tax could be reduced from thirty to forty per cent. Every brother knows that all of the routine work of the Order for ten thousand members is about the same as it would be for fifty thousand. While a reduction could be made the fact is that, no matter what other societies pay, from sixty cents to one dollar per year per capita tax for the support of our Order is not so very much after all. It is often the case that some of us will kick about paying sixty cents or a dollar a year per capita and while we are kicking about that will spend ten times that amount for something which does not do us much good.

#### Recruiting.

The question of recruiting our Order is as old as the

Order. There are many ways to do this but the best has always been found to be to go out after them and get them. There is no doubt but a Sons of Veterans Camp can be organized wherever there is a Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, providing a sentiment is created, followed by practical work. To retain the members after we get them is a proposition which has never been met successfully in our Order. The Division of Pennsylvania has been more successful in that line than any other, and I account for that in the fact that that Division took an advanced step several years ago, and established permanent headquarters, and has a permanent secretary and treasurer. They became intimately acquainted with the Camps and conditions surrounding them, and also with the individual members and are successful in holding the membership. They have made a constant net gain for years. Their losses have been considerable, but they always will be in any organization builded on sentiment. I am of the opinion that our Order would be materially benefited in the line of retaining members by establishing permanent headquarters and electing a permanent secretary.

#### Orders and Circulars.

In the judgment of the Commander-in-Chief the plan of issuing all official information to the Order in circulars published in The Banner each month has been beneficial and the information more widespread than ever before. I would recommend its continuance. It is a saving of over three hundred dollars to the Order. I have found that information and advice to division commanders, special aides, etc., is more effective by personal correspondence accompanied by proper literature in relation to recruiting. There has been about twelve thousand charter application blanks and about one hundred and fifty thousand pieces of literature including instructions as to how to organize, endorsements by the Grand Army, etc., sent out to Grand Army Posts, Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., Sons of Veterans Auxillaries, etc. This work has brought about good results and assisted in educating the people in regard to the principles of our Order and created the right kind of sentiment to assist in building up our Order. There have been over fifteen thousand letters written and sent out from this office.

#### Permanent Headquarters.

From the experience I have had during the past year I am of the opinion that our Order should immediately take an advanced step and establish permanent headquarters and elect a secretary or a secretary-treasurer for at least five years. The argument is used that the Grand Army of the Republic did not do this and that their Order has grown to an immense body of patriotic men. This is true but their cohesive strength and comradeship is much greater than ours can ever be, and while it is true of the Grand Army, a large majority of fraternal orders have permanent headquarters and permanent secretaries, and their success numerically dates from the time they took this advanced step. The secretaries become in touch with the conditions of divisions and with the minor bodies,

and become acquainted with thousands of the membership and succeed in retaining them. Permanent headquarters and the election for five years would save the Order a large sum each year. It would save at least one month's time and often more each year in transferring property and getting settled down to business. There are many ways where saving could be made, so that in my judgment, the per capita tax of the Order could be materially reduced in one year from now. I believe that the change would result in a steady, healthy growth of the Order, and when it reached fifty thousand the per capita tax could be reduced at least 30 or 40 per cent what it is at present. I would not advocate handicapping the Commander-in-Chief in any manner, but simply to remove him from the business cares of the Order. He should be allowed sufficient appropriation to maintain his department with the dignity which goes with the office. The cost of the change would not be as much as at present, and could be materially reduced before the first year is ended. This can be easily demonstrated, and I recommend the establishing of permanent headquarters and the election of a secretary or a secretary-treasurer for five years, whose duty it shall be to perform the duties of both offices. I am satisfied that I could have accomplished more if the details of the business of the Order had not taken up so much of my time.

#### Ritual.

It is necessary that a new ritual be adopted soon to conform to the new C. & L. but I would recommend that it not be done until there is practical agreement that the parts of the constitution and laws which refer to the ritual be not changed for at least ten years. This refers particularly to the titles of the officers, etc. The committee will, I understand, make a report at this encampment.

#### Buttonhole Decoration.

It is believed by many in our Order that something neat which every member would take pride in wearing as a buttonhole decoration should be adopted and copyrighted. With this end in view I have secured samples of decorations which are in possession of the Committee on Constitution and Laws. I wish every representative would inspect them and if possible make a suitable selection.

#### Printing of Supplies.

I would recommend that the printing of supplies for the Order, where the amount is over \$10. be let by competitive bids, and the lowest responsible bidder be awarded the contract for one or two years supplies as the officer in charge would decide. I would also recommend that the cost of supplies to divisions and camps be revised at least once in five years. It is possible they may be much less in some forms and more in others.

#### Courts-Martial.

There have been several courts-martial during my term of office. The most important one is the Camp No. 2 court-martial in Philadelphia. The court found the parties



guilty and passed sentence. The findings were approved by the Commander-in-Chief and ordered carried out. The camp refused to carry it out and I found it absolutely necessary to annul the charter to maintain discipline in the Division and Order. The particulars of this and other cases will be presented by the National Counselor.

#### Divisions Suspended.

The Commander-in-Chief found it necessary to suspend the Divisions of South Dakota and West Virginia. It was found impossible to get them to make reports or do anything for the good of the Order, and your Commander-in-Chief does not believe that any Division should retain a Charter to keep a few past officers in good standing. Divisions and Camps should stand for something for the good of the Order and not for any special privileges.

#### Constitutions and Laws.

The new Constitution and Laws adopted at the Boston Encampment seems to be popular in our Order. Twenty thousand copies have been printed and over fifteen thousand sold. There may be mistakes in it but it is hoped that the committee will see that all necessary changes are made and that there will be no further changes made for ten years.

#### Finances.

We are unable to report as much money on hand as last year, but when it is taken into consideration that the proceedings of the past four encampments have been printed, distributed and paid for, and other additional, extra, necessary expenses paid, it will be seen from the treasurer's report that without those expenses the amount would have been larger than for years. We, however, are not offering any apologies. I believe the members pay money into the Order to be used honestly in conducting the business and building up the Order, and not to make big financial showings at the end of the year, and that is what we have tried to do.

The cost of the proceedings for four encampments is \$700.61; postage and express for sending out the same \$98.48. Besides this \$100 for expenses of National Counselor in courts-martial was paid; \$600 more is paid on The Banner than up to last encampment, also \$100 paid Memorial University from charter fees, and the expenses up to date include thirteen months, all paid from four quarters' receipts. The per capita tax for the coming year at the same rate as now will amount to over one thousand dollars more than the past year. The traveling expenses and postage are the big items during this term and we believe them good investments.

I recommend that a complete financial statement be published in the official organ each month.

#### Death Benefit Association.

This association is still prosperous and is doing the Order of Sons of Veterans much good in quite a number of Divisions. The membership of the association must be in good standing in our Order, and it has not only

attracted many members to our Order for the insurance, but it has kept many in good standing. I take pleasure in recommending the association to all Camps who wish the insurance feature with their business.

#### Special Aides.

The Commander-in-Chief appointed Special Aides in the different Divisions, all of whom were recommended by division commanders. This is a personal matter to a large extent, but has proven a success this year. Some of my aides have as high as seven new and re-instated Camps to their credit. The total number of new camps and re-instated camps to the credit of special aides during the past year is over fifty. I wish to publicly thank them for their work.

#### Memorial Day.

From the best information obtainable nine-tenths of all the Camps in the Order took part in the observance of the Soldiers' Sunday, as it has been called. About two hundred Camps located where the Grand Army Posts are small had entire charge of the day's observance and were successful. This is a grand patriotic work and a duty to be performed forever, and every Camp and every member should be prepared to take up the work and see that flowers are placed on the graves of the heroes of '61-'65. While performing this duty of love do not forget the living, and provide means for them to see their comrades' graves upon that day, and listen to the patriotic addresses.

#### Memorials.

I would earnestly recommend that an hour be set aside today to pay our respect to our deceased, beloved Brother and Comrade, E. C. Parkinson and John V. B. Clarkson, of New York, Theo. A. Barton, Providence, R. I., and the deceased Comrade Wilmon W. Blackmar, and such other brothers as have passed away since our last meeting.

#### The Banner.

I have sent out about seventy-five thousand extra copies of the official organ to the Grand Army of the Republic during the year and about ten thousand copies to other patriotic orders, at no expense to the Commandery-in-Chief. There have been sent to members of the Order in good standing about three hundred and thirty-five thousand during the year.

#### S. of V. Auxillary.

This organization has done splendid work during the past year and in many communities given valuable assistance to camps financially and otherwise. They are receiving the cordial support of the Order generally, and I wish to return my thanks for their many kindnesses extended to me during my term of office.

#### Patriotic Orders.

The Woman's Relief Corps, Ladies of the G. A. R., and the Daughters of Veterans have given our Order valuable support during the past year. I wish to congratulate them

on their splendid work of patriotism and to thank them for their most cordial support.

#### My Staff.

They have all done their duty and I wish to thank them for their support.

#### The Homes.

There is one National Home for disabled volunteer soldiers and thirteen branches provided by the government and thirty provided by the different states for the comfort of the veterans, their wives and widows and their orphans. There are about 51,351 veterans cared for, and several thousand wives and widows and orphans. There is appropriated by the government and states five and a quarter million dollars for their maintenance. In some of the Divisions committees visit these homes and study their needs, and I would recommend that every division appoint a regular committee to visit these institutions and report the general conditions and needs of these splendid institutions. It should be fully understood that these institutions are not charity homes, but that everyone in them is simply getting a little of what he or she has earned, and are entitled to, and this great patriotic nation cannot afford to allow even one veteran to stand in need of anything reasonable. Brothers, see that these institutions get the necessary appropriation to provide for the veterans and those dependent upon them as long as they live. For other valuable information, statistical and otherwise, I would respectfully refer you to Document No. 71, 53th Congress, 3d Session, which can be procured through your congressman. They should be on file in every camp room and at Division and National Headquarters.

#### Pensions.

The question of pensions for the veterans of the war of 1861-5 is one which should interest every Son of a Veteran. It has been estimated that of the \$150,000,000 in round numbers paid to veterans annually that not one-half a million remains in the possession of the parties who receive it. The veteran needs the money for his living expenses and it goes out into the channels of trade, and everyone is benefitted indirectly. Members of our Order should know how to proceed to assist a veteran to apply for a pension, and to be able to save him from \$10 to \$25, the amount he has to pay generally for the service of an agent. The practical way to proceed is to apply to the Pension Commissioner at Washington for the pension laws in pamphlet form and study them carefully and become posted on the different acts of congress relative thereto. In case a veteran wishes to apply the proper blanks can be secured from the Pension Commissioner. The different forms are printed and the blank spaces can be filled in easily and returned to the Department at Washington. What will follow depends upon the act under which the pension was applied for. The veteran may be ordered before an examining board, and then will follow some of the necessary proofs.

Brothers, this pension business is practical work for our Order and wherever there is a camp some member

should be detailed to attend to this work. It should be a work of love as well as duty.

The End.

I wish to return my sincere thanks to all who have assisted me during my term of office, and to thank the representatives of the Order for having elected me to the office of Commander-in-Chief. I wish you all, and through you the whole Order, a happy and prosperous future.

WM. G. DUSTIN,  
Commander-in-Chief.

The reading of the Commander-in-Chief's report was received with prolonged applause.

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief: Brothers, if there are no objections the report of the Commander-in-Chief will be referred to the Committee on Officers Reports.

Commander-in-Chief resumed the chair.

J. W. Reinke of Iowa: I move Commander-in-Chief that an hour be now devoted to the subject of our Memorial University, and that President Tucker of said institution, who is here, be asked to address this encampment.

Commander-in-Chief: I would just offer this suggestion. I do not want to interfere with Brother Reinke, but let us proceed with our reports until we can secure the presence of our Auxilliary and then take the recess. In the meantime have some one dispatched to invite the Auxilliary to be present during that time. If somebody will make a motion that we take a recess for that purpose I would entertain it.

J. W. Reinke of Iowa: Commander, I would embody that in my motion.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: I would make a suggestion. I do not want to interfere with Brother Reinke, but let us proceed with our reports until we can secure the presence of our Auxilliary and then take the recess. In the meantime have some one dispatched to invite the Auxilliary to be present, and in that way we can save some time.

Michael Crowley of New Hampshire: There is quite a delegation of the Auxilliary now in the ante room.

Commander-in-Chief: I will appoint George B. Abbott of Illinois and Major Stewart of Pennsylvania to visit them and find out what are their wants. I believe there is a motion before the house. If that motion prevails and the Auxilliary is here ready to enter shall we go ahead with this right now.

The motion was then put and agreed to unanimously.

The Ladies of the Auxilliary were escorted to the Encampment.

Commander-in-Chief: During this intermission I will call on Hon. James E. Blythe of Iowa to preside.

Brother Blythe was escorted to the platform.

Commander-in-Chief: I have the pleasure of introducing to the Sons of Veterans Auxilliary and to the members of this Encampment the Hon. James E. Blythe of Iowa. (Applause)

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Ladies of the Auxilliary and Brothers, I believe the special order at this hour is to hear the report of President F. D. Tucker of the Memorial University. If President Tucker will come forward I will take pleasure in introducing him to the members present.

President Tucker was escorted to the platform.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Ladies of the Auxilliary Sq-

cieties and Brothers of the order: I take pleasure in presenting to you President F. D. Tucker of Memorial University, who will make a brief report upon the Memorial University. (Applause)

Report of President Tucker of Memorial University.

Mr. Chairman, Commander-in-Chief, Ladies of the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary and Members of the Sons of Veterans:

This is my first meeting with you in your National Encampment and I can assure you that it is a pleasure. I came up to the door a few moments ago and peered in through the crack as the door was swung open for some one to enter, and I saw this formidable body in here and I shivered a little about coming in to face you, and finally I determined I would go back for reinforcements. I went over to the G. A. R. Hall, primarily to escort Mrs. Shannon over here, who is a delegate from the Ladies of the G. A. R. which organization recently met in Denver, to present greetings to your Encampment, and you see the result of my visit to the Grand Army Hall. I came over here and here we have the whole Encampment, and they are fortunately placed between myself and you, so if anything I should say is objectionable to you I want to warn you that there is a barrier between you and myself and a very fine barrier it is. These ladies present have assisted in more ways than one by their loyal support of you as well as by their support of Memorial University.

Now I understand that your time is limited and while I would like to indulge in flights of eloquence if that were possible, both as to time and ability because of this historic and the associations here, I cannot do so, but I must tell you briefly something in detail of the University and try to explain to you what it is at the present time and show to you if possible how the idea of this form of a Memorial is taking root in the hearts, not only of the members of the patriot orders, but also of the people at large throughout our land.

Two years ago I was called from the University of Minnesota to take charge of the Institution and I outlined to the board the educational policy which is being closely followed. The action of your order at Syracuse in 1900 led to the founding of this Institution. Its location in Iowa is admirable from a geographical standpoint as well as for other reasons. There are many reasons which we are hoping to develop which will ultimately show to you its scope and influence as a national living memorial. I am going to outline to you how much of the educational policy we have in force at the present time. This was given in the recent number of the Banner. We expect 150 students this year. The course of study at the present time includes the Academy and the first two years of the College work. We expect within a year or two to add the remainder of the college course which will be developed on the basis of the Group System. We have a Normal and Commercial Department. Special attention is given in the Normal department in the nature study. In the Commercial department we are planning courses which will train our young people for higher lines of business, in-

cluding banking, corporation finance, and international commerce. We have already inaugurated household science for girls and mechanical drawing for boys. We are working out an excellent idea suggested by a prominent member of the Grand Army of the Republic. This includes the ultimate development of a college of American history. Special training will be given to all the boys and girls relating to the modern activities of American citizenship. A little later forge work and carpentry with elementary engineering will be added for boys, also a department of agriculture and horticulture. This equipment will afford three things:

First, it will be used as a medium of instruction; secondly, it will give an opportunity for many boys and girls to earn something toward their board or other expenses and thirdly, by the application of scientific methods this department can be made a source of income toward the expense of the culture side of the University. We intend to keep the institution in touch with the soil and industry, and we expect thereby to develop an educational idea which in some respects will be unique and an honor to your order. The struggle to maintain the Institution during the last two years has been severe, something after the fashion of the method by which Pat said a house should be built; namely, hold up one brick while you put another under. Messrs. Blythe and the Muse members of the Board of Regents and also of the Executive Committee are present and they have generously borne their share and have given their sympathy in this struggle. The other local members have done much toward carrying the institution through its critical stages. People of Mason City have fulfilled their agreement and there are excellent reasons why the institution should now receive the broad national support it deserves. The possibilities of the institution are such today that with your hearty support it can become the grandest monument your order or any other order ever erected. It is national in its scope and purpose and not local as many have thought it to be. Three free scholarships are awarded to the children or grand-children of each state. Later when the endowment fund is increased the institution will give free tuition to any child or grand-child of a veteran. We expect it also to become the institution for higher learning for the young people who come from the soldiers and sailors orphans home. You can see what a grand opportunity this will be, when, in addition to free tuition, we give them an opportunity to earn a part or all of their other expenses in our Industrial Department. We have students from a number of different states already and many more will come as soon as our industrial department is fully established. We have a property with improvements and other assets in the amount of \$150,000 in value. The Board of Regents was established by your Commandery-in-Chief, which appointed the original eight members of the board. Full board consists of twenty-five members and twelve states are represented at the present time. It is your institution. We have a national G. A. R. Board and several State Boards in the same order. There are eight State Advisory Boards of the W. R. C. though the

names of all have not yet been received at our office. The Ladies of the G. A. R. also have several State Advisory Boards. The Daughters of Veterans have a National Board and the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary make a definite annual contribution. In several states the Sons of Veterans themselves have appointed Advisory Boards. The institution has been visited by prominent officers of the W. R. C., among them, Mrs. Winans, during her term of office as National President, together with her secretary Miss Wright. Mrs. Minot has also visited Mason City, but before her term of office. This last year she has marked work for the institution and sent her senior Vice-President to make an official inspection of the University and I wish to assure you that Mrs. Mary Noyes Farr of Pierre City, South Dakota is a woman of education and ability, and her investigation was a searching and business-like one. Her report shows the highest and fullest endorsement of the University and advocates larger support by the members of her order. The new President of the W. R. C. has expressed her desire to fulfil the spirit of this report during the coming year. The matter, I understand, is left with her and the members of her council. The Ladies of the G. A. R. have become intensely interested during the last year, through the efforts of their President and her Secretary. At their recent convention in Denver they voted to endeavor to raise this year for the institution a dollar a member. Their membership of 35,000 is but little in excess of the membership of the Sons of Veterans. There are many members of both the Woman's Relief Corps and the members of the G. A. R. who have done a great work individually. I could not name one without naming all and time will not permit me to do this.

At the meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic at Denver, there were many resolutions turned down in the Committee but the Veterans passed the following one, showing their favorable attitude toward the institution and their willingness to co-operate with us in its development.

"WHEREAS, The institution located at Mason City, Iowa, and known as "Memorial University," dedicated to the patriotic men and women of the Civil War, has made such progress, and is rapidly becoming National in its constituency and influence because of its relation to our patriotic orders through its Board of Regents and State Advisory Boards.

BE IT RESOLVED, That we do all in our power to interest friends of education in this noble enterprise, and when possible, personally to persuade them to consider this institution as the object of their benefactions and assist the president and authorities by giving to them and to the institution the full moral support of our beloved order of the Grand Army of the Republic, and in every way promote its interests, thus aiding in the development of a living and growing memorial which shall not only honor the heroism of the past, but will bless future generations and inculcate in them that patriotism which is so necessary to the life of the nation."

General Grenville M. Dodge of New York has visited the institution, has made contributions from his own pri-

vate purse, and is now voluntarily trying to interest other wealthy men in the enterprise. At the time of his visit Clara Barton was present. A scholarship has been started by her. Senator Dolliver has also investigated the institution and has recently stated that it was the most attractive educational proposition in the country. Contributions have been recently received from prominent individuals in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois and Iowa and within the last year the contributions of the Woman's Relief Corps have been far in excess of any received from the Sons of Veterans. There are pledges on our books from your order amounting to \$15,000. These pledges were made on a ten year basis and should be yielding \$1,500 a year, even that is a small amount considering the size of your order. As a matter of fact outside of a percentage of your charter fees, only about one-fifth of this is received. Please understand me when I make this statement. I do not mean to convey to you the impression that we do not appreciate your assistance. Every penny helps. The lack of larger support by your order is due not so much to poverty of your members, as probably to the fact that you fail to comprehend the breadth and scope of this enterprise. There are great things in store for this institution and many promises will be fulfilled as soon as we have sufficient funds to enable us to achieve the results we desire. As your agent in the development of this great work we are trying to fulfil your purposes and desires. We now have four Sons of Veterans on the faculty and in our future growth other things being equal we shall endeavor to add to this number.

I wish now to speak to you frankly and urge that you carry out the ideas suggested by your worthy Commander-in-Chief Dustin, whereby you can reach the people of every community where your Camps are located. I wish to say that the Commander-in-Chief has been a tower of strength for me ever since I was fortunate enough to meet him and he has been especially helpful during this past year. I congratulate you on having such a man to conduct the affairs of your order. He has done much to bring the members of the Grand Army of the Republic into sympathy with you. I have been with him at several State Encampments and know how cordially he has been received. Because of the attitude of all the patriotic orders, toward the University revealing their desire to encourage you in this noble undertaking my personal belief is, that the time has come for generous, definite action on your part. Because of the generous support given by these other orders your pride alone ought to lead you to do your utmost to show your interest in the work. I pledge you my powers and strength to carry this work to a higher stage. We do not ask you to do all but just as the first Minnesota was called upon to hold the opposing forces in check until the Union soldiers could be brought into line on this historic battle field, so we ask you to assist at this critical time in the life of the University. We cannot build this institution without large sums of money. This money can be secured, if you will give us your support immediately and during the next few years. We have laid



the financial and educational foundation and as I have said we can rally friends throughout the country to this enterprise, when they realize that the Sons of Veterans individually and as an order are dead in earnest concerning the same. Putting it on a very selfish basis your order ought to come into line simply to retain the assistance which so many people and organizations are willing to grant. There should be, however, a higher inspiration than this. This monument is rapidly becoming a central point around which all the patriotic orders are rallying. It is through this enterprise that your order is coming into the closest relationship with the men and women of the Civil War. Let us go forward and make this a National Institution, a great Memorial unlike anything in the land which will benefit boys and girls of the present and the future. It makes no difference from point in our land a boy or girl may come to this institution or by what method we may reach them in their own home. If you have assisted in developing an Institution whereby we can help their young lives you have rendered patriotic service to the nation. The question is for you to ask is, "Not what am I to get out of it, but what am I to put into it. The reward will be yours in the satisfaction that you have a share in this growing and living Memorial.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Brothers of the order: President Tucker has said to you that he is not a son of a veteran and is not a member of this order. I assure you that it was no fault of his and not on account of his choosing, and you have seen by the earnestness which he has displayed here and his enthusiasm in this project, that he has all of the patriotism that naturally goes with and accompanies the prerogative which we as Sons of Veterans enjoy. I happened to be closely and intimately associated with President Tucker, living as I do at Mason City and I want to assure every member of this order, and all who are interested, that President Tucker's earnest manner, the earnestness which he displaying in presenting this project to you is only characteristic of his executive conduct of the business which you have entrusted to him, and upon him I reply largely for its success. He is devoting his young manhood and splendid talents to building up this Memorial. I would like to ask if there are any of the Brothers who would like to say a word in connection with this subject of Memorial University.

James Lewis Rake of Pennsylvania: Mr. Chairman: We have listened with a great deal of interest to the remarks of President Tucker. His remarks are entertaining and to us should be instructive. I still go back to the principle that we have started in, practically to aid the institution at Mason City. Flags and constitutions are all right, but they aren't worth much without the appropriation. Politicians when they are poor amount to very little, as we have seen in Philadelphia recently. (Laughter) However, the adding of a few lines in a general order, asking for financial assistance to an institution is like throwing chaff before the wind. It is read, placed in the desk, and in the hurley burley of business it is forgotten. I arise to make a suggestion, which I hope may be of more practical value, and it is that the Past Commanders-in-Chief

start practically to demonstrate that they have an interest in this institution at Mason City. For one, I give you my pledge of \$25 a year for five years. (Applause) The rest who will follow me will talk for themselves. I suggest however that the institution be given permission, through the regular channels of his organization to issue regular subscription lists, showing from time to time what has been pledged, and to collect the money through the regular channels; that the president be given every opportunity to use those channels in the fullest and freest way possible. I believe you can collect enough money to make it your while to go after it, and without going after anything in this life you do not get it. It is the practical end of business, and that applies to institutions of learning as well as it does in selling pins, needles or anything else. There are thirty thousand members in this order, and if you can get an average of \$1 a year you will be able to realize quite a sum, and I believe as I stand here it could be made much more than that without a great deal of work. God speed you.

Frank L. Shepard of Illinois: Mr. Chairman, without occupying the floor only for an instant, expressing my pledge for this institution of which I have been somewhat acquainted during its life, and my abiding faith in its future and in its officers, and in its president, I too as past Commander-in-Chief desire to subscribe twenty-five dollars per year for five years. (Applause)

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Well, Pap has to fall in line. I can't have these kids who grew up around me and I mustered into the order, beat the old man; so you can just put me down for the same.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: I have been requested to say a word or two as to what I know about the University, and I want to acknowledge just here, that until I was educated differently, my opinion of the University was not very exalted, and I believe that was the impression of a good many since its inception at Syracuse. It was my privilege last fall to be a guest of that institution. In company with the Commander-in-Chief I visited it and I was not only educated, but very agreeably surprised. I hadn't the remotest idea of the progress that had been made and what had already been accomplished, and when I did see what had been done, the buildings that had been erected, the preparations there for the pupils, I was more than agreeably surprised, and I come to you and say that I bespeak on behalf of the whole order, the most respectful consideration of every request that President Tucker may make of you. I believe, with the Chairman of this meeting, that he is imbued with the right kind of spirit. He is a progressive, aggressive man, and one that is calculated to make that University one that will challenge comparison with other institutions of learning in our country. And following in the wake of my predecessors, Mr. Chairman, I want to say I want you to put me down for twenty-five dollars per year for five years.

Commander-in-Chief William G. Dustin: Mr. Chairman: The remarks up to the present time apply to the past Commanders-in-Chief, but I am not going to let a day or two prevent me from keeping up with that crowd of

"has-beens," and you can put me down for twenty-five dollars per year for five years.

Edward R. Campbell of Maryland: Mr. Chairman. Ladies of the Auxillary and Brothers: I have very little to say, but as our esteemed Brother sitting over there by the wall has set the pace, I think we will all have to get into this before we draw cards. I want to say that during my term of office I had the pleasure of visiting Mason City, and I know that what our friend, the President of the institution has said, is true. I know too that this organization should give their moral support and of their means to keep that institution alive, and I have called Brother Rake. Put me down for twenty-five dollars per year for five years.

E. M. Amies of Pennsylvania: Mr. Chairman: Two years ago at Atlantic City, the subject of the responsibility and the liability of the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans in its connection with the Memorial University in Iowa was subjected to me for my opinion as to whether or not there was any financial responsibility whereby our organization would become liable. All the papers of the institution, its charter of organization and all other papers therewith were placed before me. Prefacing my remarks or my opinion, if I may be pardoned for so using the expression, I said that if these papers were subjected to me in my office and my opinion asked I might be able to render an opinion, subject to the laws of the state of Pennsylvania; but so far as the subject matter contained in those papers was concerned, and so far as I could observe, there was no liability whereby the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans could be sustained in its respect to the Memorial University. I so rendered an opinion verbally to the committee who had subjected it to me. Since then, upon investigation, and now by optical demonstration, and other means of information, the judge reverses himself and says now that there is a financial responsibility whereby the Commandery-in-Chief and all of its members is not only financially bound, but morally bound to the Memorial University, and it is incumbent upon every one of us, of every Son of a Veteran, to hold himself financially responsible to that institution. It seems that Brother Rake in prefacing his remarks said that the Commanders-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans are called upon to render themselves personally responsible. Why he designated the Commanders-in-Chief instead of Sons of Veterans I do not know, but, Mr. Chairman, in behalf of one who is absent, in behalf of one whom I know is heartily interested in this organization, I in his absence pledge for Commander Edward W. Alexander of Reading, Pennsylvania, twenty-five dollars per year for five years. (Applause.)

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Brothers of the Order, speaking as one of the regents of Memorial University, I wish to express to you our feeling of deep gratification over the progress of the educational work which President Tucker has undertaken, not only of the public in general, but of the order, which has founded this institution. This spirit that has been exhibited here presages in my judgment an era of generous support for the Memorial

University, and I believe that the time will come when the Sons of Veterans will vie with the women of the Auxiliary in supporting this institution, and that the great success which President Tucker has predicted here may be in the future a living source of pride to every member of our organization. We have with us at this time Mrs. Shannon of Philadelphia, who is the accredited committee of the Ladies of the G. A. R., appointed at Denver, and comes to us to bear to us the greetings of the order which she represents. If Mrs. Shannon will come to the platform I will take pleasure in introducing her to the members present.

Mrs. Shannon was escorted to the platform, and was received with applause.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Ladies of the Auxiliary and Brothers: It gives me great pleasure to present to you Mrs. Shannon of Philadelphia, who comes to us as the representative of the Ladies of the G. A. R.

Mrs. Ada L. Shannon: Mr. Chairman and Brothers of the Sons of Veterans: It is a difficult task for a woman to talk after all this eloquence, but I was permitted to be at Denver when your Commander-in-Chief with his committee and President Tucker came into the Organization of the Ladies of the G. A. R. with their greetings, their well wishes from the Sons of Veterans. While it was our nineteenth Encampment it may surprise you to know that this is the first time that our Sons have remembered us. We appreciated it wonderfully; it was an inspiration. We felt wonderfully inspired, and I feel proud to be one of a committee of five, and the only one present, who was appointed there to meet with you on this historic ground, where your fathers and our loved ones did so much for us; brought to us the flag unspotted and unsullied, without a single star gone. (Applause) Gave you and I the privilege of wearing this badge of which we are so justly proud. No money can buy it—a Rothchild cannot wear this badge, but we can wear it and know we paid for it in blood. I want to say that while our husbands and loved ones were at the front and fought many hard battles, yet we women fought just as hard at home; many of us with little ones around us to care for. It is not necessary to repeat these things for you boys all know it and have heard it no doubt at your mother's knee of how she suffered living death almost, listening and waiting for the news, especially from this hallowed ground, where you meet today. Sons of Veterans, I want to say the Ladies of the G. A. R. extend to you their best wishes. We are your own. We are part of you. We are your mothers and sisters. And I bring to you today the best wishes of those who were assembled in Denver. Do not think because we are a parent organization that we are all old women. We have youth and beauty in our organization; we have your sisters and we have your daughters; and we expect to be here to stay, to live after our sires and our husbands have been laid away. But I want to thank you, especially thank this organization and your Commander-in-Chief for the committee. I have four daughters in the order. I have never felt so inspired as I did when your Commander-in-Chief spoke as he did of the boys, for my heart lays very near to the Sons of Veterans.

I want to say a few words in regard to President Tucker and the Memorial University. Our organization understood his explanation better and it was more clearly laid before us than ever before. He explained it so plainly. Our National President was very much interested in the work. She too had a resolution in her report, which was adopted unanimously and that will go broadcast over the land. It was to the effect that each Circle of the Ladies of the G. A. R. of the Republic should give this University their special attention. Since talking to President Tucker he informs me that after our soldiers' orphans have attended school to the age when they are sent away from the school, which is sixteen or eighteen, they will then take them in their University and finish their education there. What is there in this world worth more to a man than education? It is everything, and it is certainly one of the very best institutions we think that possibly can be established, and the beauty of it is it belongs to us; not only the Sons of Veterans. I am not a son of a veteran, but nevertheless it belongs to the loyal, to the true, the people who are descendants of those men who fought on just such fields as these. I want to thank you and say again that under all circumstances and at all times, and I represent the National organization, you can call on us no matter where it may be. As the Mayor of Denver remarked: "If any one gets too much Denver water while here, bring him to my house." If such is the case anywhere, bring him to our house, the Ladies of the Grand Army. It was my privilege to accompany your organization to Helena, Montana, some few years ago. While going there the trip was very interesting. It was mountains at times, snow sheds, then stopping in the desert and taking on an Indian or letting one off the train, and as you know I am a woman and asked lots of questions. One Son of a Veteran from Iowa arose and threw up his hat and said "give three cheers for the old woman in the crowd that asked lots of questions, and we are all ashamed to answer." (Laughter)

I thank you, Brothers, for your attention, and never forget that the old women in the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic are ready to shield you at any and all times. (Prolonged applause.)

John D. Hall of Illinois: Mr. Chairman, as the "has-been" crowd of Commanders-in-Chief have started the ball rolling, you may put me down as a "has-been" Division Commander for ten dollars a year for five years.

A. S. Moulthrop of Pennsylvania: As Past Commander of Pennsylvania, put me down for ten dollars a year for five years.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Brothers of the Order, we have just heard the greetings brought to us by Mrs. Shannon from the Ladies of the G. A. R., and I asked the Commander-in-Chief here whom I should appoint to reply, and he said that he had replied to the speech of welcome to Gettysburg and that I must do so in this instance. He also warned me that I must be just as brief as he was and make equally as brilliant a speech. So I will reply for the Sons of Veterans to the beautiful message that has been brought to us by Mrs. Shannon. And the way in

which I shall reply is to indulge for a moment in reminiscence. When I was a very small boy Abraham Lincoln made the call for seventy-five thousand troops to go out into the first battles of the rebellion. My father and my oldest brother responded to that call and my mother stayed at home down on the border of the Ohio over next to Kentucky to keep the family together and do the part that was borne by the patriotic women during the great struggle of the rebellion. I remember the heroic figure with which she impressed me in my young boyhood, leaving the duties of this terrible situation, terrible as it was to all the women, the patriotic women of those days. Now all that we can say to Mrs. Shannon and to the order that she represents, and to like orders, is that we were your children then, and while some of us are gray and some of us are old I believe that the same filial spirit, the same love that the small boy had for his mother, lingers still in our hearts, and when we meet these magnificent women of these orders, we feel the reverence and the affection for them that as children we felt for them. We appreciate the bond that has existed, and while our order is dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic, intermingled with our feelings towards them and towards their order, our affection and fealty also goes out to the orders which you represent. (Applause)

I will call on Mrs. Hardcastle, President of the Ladies Auxilliary.

Mrs. Katie E. Hardcastle of Pennsylvania: I beg to be excused as our Past National President Sister Wallace will be the speaker.

Miss Addle M. Wallace of Indiana: Brother Blythe, Commander-in-Chief, and others: I hardly know just what I am expected to talk on; whether about the University or our greetings to the Sons of Veterans or just what, but I take it following the precedent set by the ones who have preceded me we are to talk about the University.

As far as the Auxilliary is concerned, you may not quite recognize us with our new name, but we are very proud of it. We are just a little closer than we were as Ladies Aid Society, because we always had to explain just what we were Ladies Aid Society to. Last year at the Boston Encampment we pledged our financial support to the University at Mason City. It was not very much, but you know the women as a rule are not the wage earners. So we pledged as best we could. I am sure we have been all very delighted to hear from President Tucker of the splendid work of the University. It is very close to all of our hearts. I think it is generally understood that to the mothers (I am speaking figuratively) that the education of the children is a little bit nearer to them than to the men. I think you all know that it is the mother who gets the children ready for school and insists upon the children going to school as far as possible. I know a personal acquaintance at home whose young boy of sixteen just left home to go into an office to work. His father was delighted at the prospect of his securing a business training and at the opportunity to do so, but the mother was concerned and she said "I know that it is a good

opportunity but I know the boy can never go back to school." And so I think the school proposition probably appeals just a little stronger to the female heart. It is needless for me to say to President Tucker that he has our very best wishes and sympathy for the success of this institution, and our financial support as far as we are able. As Past National President I desire to pledge to the University ten dollars a year for five years. (Applause.)

President Tucker: I wish to say, this kindly spirit of co-operation, financial and moral support, has come this morning unexpected by me. Not that I did not expect you to do what you could, but coming in this form. I want to thank the ladies and all for your kindness and co-operation, and I want to say to you, while you say your action is not great, the spirit in which it is given is worth more than a hundred times the face value of the checks you send, because it gives me that encouragement that I need to overcome the difficulty.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Brothers of the order, I want to say in yielding the gavel to the gentleman to whom it rightfully belongs, that to have presided over this delightful love feast was worth much more than a journey to Gettysburg.

Commander-in-Chief Dustin here resumed the chair.

Commander-in-Chief: We are very thankful indeed to have the members of the Auxilliary with us on this occasion, and we hope they will be with us again later in the day at the time of our memorial service for the brothers and sisters who have passed away during the last year. We would be pleased to hear from any of the others of the Auxilliary if you have any further remarks to make. Otherwise this meeting will be now closed and the Encampment will immediately be called to order and a motion to take a recess will be entertained.

The Ladies of the Auxilliary retired and the Encampment was called to order by the Commander-in-Chief.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, I now move you that we take a recess until two o'clock p. m. today.

The motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 O'CLOCK P. M.

Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

Commander-in-Chief: The Encampment will come to order. The Inspector and Assistant Inspector will satisfy themselves that all present are entitled to remain.

Inspector General: Commander, I find that all brothers present are entitled to remain.

Commander-in-Chief: I will now call for the report of the Senior Vice-Commander George S. Geis of California.

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Geis submitted and read the following report:

#### Report of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

Gettysburg, Pa., Sept. 19, 1905.

Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

I have the honor to submit the following report, as one of the officers during the administration now closing,

of efforts, observation and condition of our Order, its present relations, and work with affiliated patriotic organizations. When you gave your unanimous vote, at last National Encampment, I sincerely appreciated the honor conferred upon me by election to the second highest office within your gift. As we stood together, a year ago, we are "United" today, in the cause and principles we advocate, Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty, more than ever before in the history of our Order.

I have visited Camps in many Divisions, and spent some time in Indiana, Illinois, Missouri and California. Like many years past, in our Order, with both officers and brothers, the past year has bound us more closely in fraternal ties, and harmony is evident everywhere.

In the work, I met Commander-in-Chief Dustin, and Major General R. M. J. Reed, in Illinois, at the annual banquet of Camp 100, at Springfield, Ill., (the former home of Abraham Lincoln) and again in St. Louis, during the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The visit of these officers was an encouragement and inspiration to the local Camp, and splendid results followed. The order the past year, in having such officers at the head of the civic and military department, is to be congratulated on time those two have given, and energies for its interests, leaving their home city, and business some times, to work for the Order.

By this manner, and through correspondence and associations, our principles and objects are now better understood by other patriotic societies, and we are now united and in harmony with all. In our responsibilities, as men, no longer boys, (for you of Pennsylvania, have had your twenty-fifth anniversary) we have the respect, good will and even cooperation of the G. A. R., W. R. C. and other societies.

I have traveled seven thousand miles across the continent and back, and I found the G. A. R., the S. of V. and even the U. S. W. V. to be drawn closer for the patriotic purposes they represent in the work, united for mutual good.

The Sons of Veterans' Reserve is also interesting other military organizations, besides our own membership, and many regret they have not the heritage that is required to be eligible. Companies have been organized in Kansas, and northwest in Washington, southwest in California, and in only one state, west of Mississippi, we cannot carry arms, that is, in Missouri. The Missouri Division brothers have made an effort to pass a favorable bill in legislature, and done good work, first the bill passed, then was amended to include Sons of Confederate Veterans, then was defeated. Some confederate there, are as stubborn as the proverbial Missouri mule, who hails from same place and has to be shown, while Mo. Div. brothers are endeavoring against great odds.

As one of the S. V. Reserves, I acted as a guide for Commander-in-Chief Dustin, piloting him across the plains and mountains, that I have oft traveled before, and routes I am familiar with in our Great West, from the Missouri River to and through California, a distance of over 2,000 miles, even to the Golden Gate, and the "City of the Angels," Los Angeles. Several Camps have been organiz-



ed since that visit to our Golden State. I have issued a circular letter to Camps west of Mississippi River, relative to the Sons of Veterans' Reserves, and soon expect to report more Companies to my superior, General Reed. I believe firmly in all the Order stands for; the civic body, the Military Department, the Memorial University, and D. B. A. and official organ, "The Banner," all of which inspire and promote patriotism and deserves our united support. They have been an encouragement to many Camps I visited.

During the official year, I have written over five hundred letters, many others in reply to inquiry about these things just mentioned, everybody received a prompt reply.

Have visited the Sons of Veterans' Auxiliary, and note the Camps having an Auxiliary are more enthusiastic and California Division--the one at Long Beach, California, has all features, the S. of V. Auxiliary, a company of S. prosperous, and accomplish much good. One Camp of our of V. Reserves, and even their own band, and their Auxiliary have sent a delegate to meet with National Encampment of our Auxiliary and us here.

It has been my pleasure to meet many National officers of G. A. R. and W. R. C., L. of G. A. R. and D. of V. at various times, and places. I also spent two days at their National Encampments at Denver, Colorado, this month, and conveyed our good wishes to their officers there.

Since our Boston Encampment, I was present as a delegate to the first, and second National Encampments of the United Spanish War Veterans, and attended the California Department Encampment, at San Jose, California, where a brother of our Order was elected Commander and even the following resolution was adopted, which shows we work together there:

WHEREAS, it is well known that the rights and privileges which should belong to the soldiers and sailors of this country, can best be obtained through established organizations, be it,

RESOLVED, That we, the U. S. W. V. Department of California in convention assembled in San Jose, Cal., July 24, 1905, do hereby extend to the G. A. R. Dept. of California, and Sons of Veterans, California Division, our greetings, and our appreciation of the noble deeds they have performed and are performing, and we desire to offer them our services in any capacity, if they can be utilized by them in upholding the principles of their Order, and in procuring the proper recognition due the Soldiers and Sailors of the great American nation; that this resolution be placed in our minutes, and a copy of same be forwarded to the Adjutant-General, G. A. R. Department of California, and to the Division Secretary, Sons of Veterans, Division of California, and to the National headquarters of United Spanish War Veterans.

In observing the various patriotic exercises, I find that harmony and good will among these affiliated organizations, when working together on Union Defenders' Day, Flag Day and Memorial Day are of much influence.

There is in some localities, a lack of knowledge of the principles and objects of our order, or its eligibility to

membership; many who should be informed do not know much of the Memorial University or the S. V. Reserve, but I am glad to report the knowledge of all these has been given out by fraternal visits to other societies by the press and through correspondence.

I have sent a thousand copies of a circular letter with information of S. V. Reserves to western camps, who on account of the many recent encampments held in the East, have not had an opportunity to have delegates at National Encampments or to meet those brothers who were present to know of the latest features of the order.

I have also replied to four hundred letters of inquiry about the Military Department with some good results accomplished and anticipate much progress and many gains in the near future.

The work of organizing, of correspondence, uniforms and equipment is borne by its individual members. It is an interesting work for me. My services, time and money are given freely for this purpose. In Denver I represented the S. V. Reserve in military parade on Sept. 5 as aide on staff of Gen. Bohn, Grand Marshall. During the past week and also one year ago, when a delegate to the National Encampment of the United Spanish War Veterans, a better understanding is noticeable and among that body are members of the S. V. Some of my Milwaukee comrades are present in this room as delegates here. Both the U. S. W. V. Encampments at St. Louis and Milwaukee asked me to accept office. Only last week, I was nominated for the second highest office in their gift, but informed my friends that I was deeply interested in the Sons of Veterans' Order and withdrew at this time to finish up my term as one of the officers to which you brothers elected me at Boston; and also to devote my time the coming year to the S. of V. Reserve.

In conclusion, I sincerely appreciate the honor and confidence you placed in me a year ago, by your unanimous vote; and while I represented a State on the Pacific Coast, California Division, and you of the East were the strength at Boston Encampment; but East or West, North or South in this country, I feel one of you, and the fraternal ties of comradeship unite our order everywhere. In 1901, I stopped in Boston enroute to Providence Encampment, and saw the monument "by the rude bridge that arched the flood where the Minutemen stood and fired the shot heard around the world." From that time, to my meeting you last year, at same place I sailed around the world under Old Glory, the flag of stars and stripes, the emblem representing the country we love, cherish and are proud to serve. In completing my task for you, my prayer will be may we always be loyal, true and worthy sons of the veterans who even here at Gettysburg, fought to preserve the Union and may we all carry away some inspiration from this encampment and this battlefield, where Pres. Lincoln left a lesson to make us better and more patriotic citizens.

Loyally yours,

GEORGE SHERMAN GEIS,

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief S. of V. U. S. A.  
Commander-in-Chief: Report of the Senior Vice-Com-

mander-in-Chief will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

The next order of business is the report of the Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief L. W. Friedman.

Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Friedman submitted and read the following report:

**Report of Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief:**

Birmingham, Ala., September 18, 1905.

To the Officers and Members of the Twenty-fourth Annual session of the Commandery-in-Chief.

Brothers:—Since my election to the third highest position in the Order, I have kept myself in close touch with the workings of the Order all over the United States, prepared should any emergency arise to be ready to perform such duties as might have been assigned me by such contingency. No such call was found necessary, I am glad to say. I devoted all my time to the development of my own division, which shows a healthy growth in the past twelve months, three live and active camps being added. These are the nucleus of many others which I hope will be mustered before long. The Sons are not as numerous in the South as in other sections and there are conditions which are not conducive to numerous and large Camps. There are some very loyal Sons to be found in my section of the country, however, and every encouragement from the National organization will be of much avail in later years. The members of the Order in the South appreciate the honor which was conferred upon me at the Boston session and in returning the trust I cannot but thank you again for the great distinction and assure you that the Order will have the services at command, as can be given by a devoted son.

I attended the division encampment of my own division and gave what encouragement I could, telling the gathering that the Commandery-in-Chief was proud of its Southern division and its recognition will not fail to have effect.

Again I thank you gentlemen, for the honor which was conferred.

In F. C. and L.,

L. W. FRIEDMAN.

Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief: If there are no objections this report will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

Mayor Stewart of Gettysburg has some announcements to make and we will listen to them at this time.

Major Stewart of Pennsylvania: Brothers, the arrangements for the battle field trip, which is to be given to the members of this encampment tomorrow are these: The carriages will load at the Eagle Hotel on Washington street and start at eight thirty in the morning. The tickets entitling every delegate, every voting member of the encampment, to a complimentary trip over this battle field, are in the hands of the Credential Committee and will be issued on application. At the same time another ticket will be given entitling each voting member to the souvenir

badge and a souvenir book of Gettysburg with the compliments of the Pennsylvania Division. These tickets may be presented at the photograph gallery of Brother J. I. Mumper and the badges and souvenirs will be given out. The trip over the battle field occupies the entire day, morning and afternoon, returning to town for dinner. The ticket entitling you to a trip over the battle field will be presented to the driver of the carriage to be turned in to the livery department. Any brother of the order who is present, not a delegate, and desires to take the trip can do so by making his own personal arrangement with Brother Harry Holzworth, the proprietor of the livery stable, who has undertaken the contract at one dollar per head for the all day trip. (Applause)

Commander-in-Chief: We will now listen to the report of Chief-of-Staff, General R. M. J. Reed.

Chief-of-Staff, General Reed submitted and read the following report:

#### Report of the Chief-of-Staff.

Gettysburg, Pa., September 19th, 1905.

William G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. Sir:

In preparing my report as required by the constitution of my official acts as Chief-of-Staff in charge of the Military Department of the Order, it seems to be fitting that it should be without flourish, and strictly confined to a plain statement of present conditions of what has been accomplished, facts and suggestions.

Two years ago, at the Annual Session of the Commandery-in-Chief, held at Atlantic City, N. J., the military feature was adopted having for its object the promotion of the best interests of the Order in general, and giving our members an opportunity of organizing and maintaining military companies on a military basis, combining all the armed guards into a consolidated and disciplined army, adopting a uniform equipment, and eliminating from our Order the indiscriminate wearing of military insignia and a multiplicity of styles and patterns of uniforms.

It was formerly no usual thing at the meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, and of the several divisions, and even in Camps themselves to find every other member wearing a shoulder strap, even though he never commanded a squad of armed men. Very frequently, a half hundred different styles and kinds of uniforms were found at every one of these sessions. These matters were a serious obstacle in our way, and brought frequent and deserved criticism from members of the Grand Army of the Republic, National Guards, officers and men and citizens as well. All this has been changed, and now when we see a member wearing a uniform shoulder strap or chevron, we realize that it means something, that an insignia of military rank, or a soldier's uniform signifies that the wearer is a member of a military organization.

Up to the time of the Commandery-in-Chief at Boston, Mass., one year ago, much of the time has been spent in preparatory work, but in spite of the chaotic condition of the Military situation, and much misunderstanding as to the real object in view, its advisability and utility, we

came to Boston with over fifty regularly organized military companies formed into regiments of infantry, batteries of artillery and troops of cavalry. At this time after but two years planning, formulating, explaining and organizing, we have ten regular organized regiments of infantry, seven troops of cavalry, five batteries of artillery, two signal corps and twenty-two other separate companies not yet organized into regiments. As examples of what have been accomplished, we point with pride to the successful Camps in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio.

At the Camp held at Milton, Pa., in June 1905 over 1000 men fully armed and equipped reported for duty. The Camp under the immediate command of Brigadier General Tschudy, commanding the Department of Pennsylvania Sons of Veterans Reserves, was the pride of the Division, and challenged a comparison with the best of the National Guards. Many officers and men of the National Guards of Pennsylvania, whose testimony is valuable, said to your Chief-of-Staff, "Nothing finer or more soldierly was ever paraded in the state of Pennsylvania, they are a credit to the Order, the Division and the whole state."

In Pennsylvania, Ohio and New York many separate camps were established by companies and battalion, much enthusiasm and good resulting therefrom. There is at this time organized Companies of Reserves in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Ohio, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, California and state of Washington.

During the year just past, I have spent seventy-six days of my time visiting the several states, in many cases in company with the Commander-in-Chief, urging increased interest in the membership at large, organizing the Reserves, addressing public meetings of the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans, Woman's Relief Corps and Sons of Veterans Auxiliary. The results have proved such visits and meetings to be beneficial and have brought practical and wished for results.

During these visits, I have traveled over 7,500 miles. While it has resulted in some business losses and some personal discomfiture, I feel repaid for it all by the good that has come to this Order, which has been the hope and pride of my heart for a quarter of a century.

The constitution provides that each commission officer of the Reserve, shall wear the regular Reserve insignia on the points of the coat collar. These officers are privileged to purchase these wherever they see fit and manufacturers everywhere, who will go to the expense of the necessary dies, have the right and are accorded the privilege of making and selling the same. It is a business proposition pure and simple, the same as the manufacture and sale of other military equipments.

I have had made a lithographic stone, from which commissions were made from their sale report as follows:

144 Commissions .....	\$131.50
Cost of lithographic stone .....	68.00
Preparing, sealing, mailing tubes and postage ....	17.65
Loss and damaged commission replaced .....	5.39
Cost of sealed press .....	10.00

Incidentals .....	3.19
Total .....	\$104.23

Leaving a net profit for sale of commissions of \$27.27.

I respectfully submit the following recommendations:

1st. That commissions be furnished by the Chief-of-Staff on proper requisition made to the Adjutant General, and that the price to be charged be under the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief and the Council-in-Chief. The revenue derived therefrom to become a part of the revenue of the Commandery-in-Chief, that the Council-in-Chief shall determine the amount to be allowed the Chief-of-Staff for his handling, preparing and forwarding the same.

2nd. That Section 6, Article XVIII, page 9, of the constitution be stricken out.

3rd. That any Camp having an independent Company or Guard not attached to the Reserve, or that may hereafter be organized, shall be permitted to maintain such independent Company or Guard, provided said Company or Guard shall not parade as a Military Company or Guard, except on Memorial Day, the funeral of a comrade of the G. A. R., or a brother of the Sons of veterans, U. S. A.

It shall be unlawful and a violation of obligation and of Article XXIV, Section 2 of the constitution for such a Company or Guard to parade as Sons of Veterans at any other time or any other occasion.

4th. The matter of stationery being an item of considerable cost, I recommend that the necessary stationery and printing be furnished by the Commander-in-Chief, to the headquarters of commanders of departments (Division) of the Reserves. This to be furnished on requisition, approved by the Chief-of-Staff.

Those of us who have been observant and noted the progress made in the movement along military lines, to bring order and system out of chaos, have seen the marked improvement in the matter of uniforms.

Where we formerly had numerous kinds and styles of uniforms, each pattern after individual fancy and desire, many of the butterfly style, we now have a modest and an appropriate American soldier's uniform. All who were so fortunate as to witness and be present at the Camp held in Pennsylvania, New York and Ohio and other states, will willingly agree that more has been accomplished than the most sanguine sponsors of the movement had even hoped for.

The Camps were models of order and system, the number of the Reserve were entitled to and did receive most glowing, flattering and enthusiastic encomium. Brothers who have been unable to see the utility or benefit of the movement, have fully and manfully acknowledged that they are now convinced that it was a wise and proper course.

The military of the Sons of Veterans are no longer repudiated by the Grand Army of the Republic, or sneered at by the National Guardsmen, Citizens, Soldiers of the National Government, and brothers of the Order unite in declaring that the Reserve has won an honorable place, and are at least sure to pattern after the armed soldier, whose achievement and patriotic valor have made our country

first among the nations of the civilized world.

In the two years that I have been in charge of the Military Department, it has been my constant aim to make no unreasonable demand, and use no harsh measures to compel a compliance with the provision of the constitution. Having the power of the constitution to compel all armed guards to report for assignment and obey the law, I have been patient and rather than use the authority given me, have made every effort to conciliate and have them see that it was to their advantage and the good of the Camp to which they belong, to become volunteers rather than be drafted. The success has proven the wisdom of the course, we have testimonials from all over the country, speaking of the great good that has resulted from the organized Military Company of the Reserves.

My thanks are due and hereby tendered to many of the Division officers and of the Commandery-in-Chief, for valued help and encouragement. Many of the Division officers who have made their greatest progress in building up the numerical strength of their Division, have been our most willing and enthusiastic helpers. The Commander-in-Chief and his Staff, have withheld nothing that could in any way contribute to our success, and to them and others who have given so much of time and energy in aiding in the work, we owe unlimited thanks,—without them, nothing could have been accomplished.

Five days ago we visited Trenton, N. J., and mustered one of the finest batteries of light artillery it has ever been my pleasure to see drawn up in line.

The officers and members of the Camp (4) say that the military has been the life of their Camp.

In closing, I desire to express a heartfelt appreciation for the kindness and forbearance shown me at all times by all the members of the Order with whom I have had the honor to associate and meet with. While I do not hope to ever deserve or to receive the approval of each and all members of the Commandery-in-Chief, and am willing to accord to them the right to criticize my official acts, I do ask for your respect and your trust in my good faith, believing that I shall do what is right, so far as God gives me to see the right.

Fraternally submitted,

R. M. J. REED,

Chief-of-Staff.

Commanding Military Department of the Commandery-in-Chief.

The reading of the Chief-of-Staff's report was received with applause.

Commander-in-Chief: If there are no objections the report will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

The next report will be that of the National Secretary, James E. Seabert.

National Secretary Seabert read and submitted the following report:

Report of National Secretary.

Headquarters Commandery-in-Chief Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Department of National Secretary.

William G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief,  
Sons of Veterans U. S. A.

My Dear Commander:—I have the honor to present my report of the transactions of the office of National Secretary for the years of 1904-1905, as follows:

**Records.**

The books of record pertaining to this office have been carefully kept throughout the year. Twenty dispensations have been issued. 122 applications for Camp Charters have been received and approved and 120 Charters have been issued. Eight Charters were issued applications for which were approved by Past Commander-in-Chief Spink. 10 applications have been approved for which charters have not been issued as yet. The total receipts for the National Secretary's department for the term has been: Per Capita Tax, \$101,983.08; Charter fees \$610 minus \$3; total \$11597.03. The expenses including Banner, printing, postage and traveling expenses, \$9767.65.

**Correspondence.**

Correspondence has been exceedingly large. Over fifteen thousand letters have been sent to Division officers, Camp officials, Special Aldes and Camp officers. We have kept up a continuous correspondence with the G. A. R., the W. R. C. and the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary.

**Membership.**

The report of Adjutant General Congdon at the 23rd Annual Encampment showed a membership of seven hundred and thirteen Camps and twenty-seven thousand and one hundred twenty members. Our report for the past year is as follows:

**For Quarter Ending September 30, 1904.**

Which was over half in former administration.

	Cps.	Mbs.
No. in good standing June 30, 1904 .....	713	27,120
Gains		
By muster .....	10	1,059
By transfer .....		29
By re-instatement .....	15	497
Total gain .....	25	1,585
Aggregate .....	738	28,705
Loss.		
By disbandment .....	5	60
By death .....		32
By honorable discharge .....		26
By transfer .....		13
By suspension .....	61	2,303
By dishonorable discharge .....		2
Total loss .....	66	2,436

No. in good standing Sept. 30, 1904. .... 672 26,269

**For Quarter Ending December 31, 1904.**

	Cps.	Mbs.
No. in good standing Sept. 30, 1904 .....	672	26,269
Gains		
By muster .....	16	1,339



By transfer .....		42	
By re-instatement .....	39	991	
Total gain .....		55	2,372
Aggregate .....		727	28,641

## Loss.

By disbandment .....	9	157	
By death .....		33	
By honorable discharge .....		53	
By transfer .....		41	
By suspension .....	10	1,430	
By dishonorable discharge .....		10	
Total loss .....		19	1,724

No. remaining in good standing Dec. 31, 1904 .. 708 26,917

## For Quarter Ending March 31, 1905.

No. in good standing Dec. 31, 1904 .....		Cps. 708	Mbs. 26,917
Gains		Cps.	Mbs.
By muster .....	38	2,130	
By transfer .....		69	
By re-instatement .....	17	578	
Total gain .....		55	2,777

Aggregate .....

## Loss.

By disbandment .....	3	37	
By death .....		43	
By honorable discharge .....		46	
By transfer .....		29	
By suspension .....	15	1,194	
By dishonorable discharge .....		6	
Total loss .....		19	1,355

Remaining in good standing Mar. 31, 1905 .. 744 28,339

## For Quarter Ending June 30, 1905.

No. in good standing March 31, 1905 .....		Cps. 744	Mbs. 28,339
Gains		Cps.	Mbs.
By muster .....	55	2,871	
By transfer .....		72	
By re-instatement .....	13	434	
Total gain .....		68	2,377

Aggregate .....

## Loss.

By disbandment .....	3	366	
By death .....		52	
By honorable discharge .....		68	
By transfer .....		50	
By suspension .....	20	1,291	
By dishonorable discharge .....		10	
Total loss .....		23	1,837

No. in good standing June 30, 1905 .. 789 29,879

## Summary.

	Cps.	Mbs.
Gains		
By muster .....	119	7,399
By transfer .....		212
By re-instatement .....	84	2,500
Total gain .....	203	10,111
Aggregate .....		
	916	37,231
Loss		
By disbandment .....	20	610
By death .....		160
By honorable discharge .....		193
By transfer .....		133
By suspension .....	107	6,218
By dishonorable discharge .....		28
Total loss .....	127	7,352
No. in good standing June 30, 1905 .....	789	29,879

## Divisions.

The divisions of South Dakota and West Virginia were in a very weak condition and as all our efforts to get reports from them were futile they were suspended in the report for the September Quarter. Kansas was re-instated and has shown a steady growth in membership. Colorado, Iowa, Nebraska and Washington need special attention at the present time.

The question of Quarterly Reports is one that each Division Commander should give his personal attention. If reports by Division Commanders were properly made out the expense and worry at National Secretary's Office would be a great deal less.

## Permanent Headquarters.

The question of permanent headquarters has been talked of a great many times. In my judgment the office of secretary and treasurer should be consolidated and a secretary-treasurer elected for a term of five years. The expense of maintaining two offices is an additional expense to the Order and in my judgment the Commander-in-Chief should not have anything to worry about but should be able to devote all his time to the upbuilding of the Order. I also believe it would be less confusing to Division Secretaries and Treasurers. Quite frequently we receive requisitions for camp supplies with Quarterly Reports. This necessitates an extra expense for remitting to National Treasurer and also delays the Order in reaching the Camp.

## Conclusion.

I wish at this time to express my thanks to the Division Commanders and their officers with whom I have had official relations. To Commander-in-Chief Dustin I can but say, that the past year as National Secretary has been but a repetition of the past seven years spent in your employ in other lines. You have done all in your power to make my work light and at the same time have exacted a strict business like method in all transactions. I thank

you one and all and trust my efforts have been worthy of the honor conferred upon me.

Respectfully submitted,  
**JAS. E. SEABERT,**  
 National Secretary.

Commander-in-Chief: The report will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

The next report will be that of the National Treasurer, Fred E. Bolton.

National Treasurer Bolton read and submitted the following report:

**Report of National Treasurer.**

National Treasurer's Department,  
 Sons of Veterans,  
 947 Tremont Building,  
 Boston, September 14, 1905.

Mr. William G. Dustin,

Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Sir and Brother:—I have the honor to respectfully submit herewith a report of the financial and business transactions of the National Treasurer's Department for the term ending September 12, 1905, embracing the period of your administration.

**Report Supplemental to Twenty-third Annual Encampment**

Cash on hand, as shown by report, . . .	\$2937.89	
Cash received for Per Capita Tax . . . . .	507.34	
Cash received for Charter Fees . . . . .	15.00	
Cash received for Supplies . . . . .	17.70	
Cash received for Miscellaneous . . . . .	1.59	\$3479.52
<hr/>		
Paid for Office Expenses . . . . .	42.66	
Paid for General Expenses . . . . .	64.09	
Paid for Traveling Expenses . . . . .	28.00	
Paid for General Orders . . . . .	2.00	
Paid for Supplies . . . . .	9.63	
Paid for 23rd Encampment . . . . .	463.70	
Paid for The Banner . . . . .	600.00	1210.08
<hr/>		
Cash on hand at beginning of Administration ..		2269.44
Receipts and Expenditures from September 1, 1904 to September 12, 1905.		
Receipts.		
Cash on hand at beginning of Administration		2269.44
Received for Supplies . . . . .	3689.60	
Received for Per Capita Tax . . . . .	10983.08	
Received for Charter Fees . . . . .	610.00	
Received for Sale of Furniture . . . . .	4.00	15286.68
<hr/>		
Total Cash Receipts . . . . .		17556.12
Expenditures.		
Traveling Expenses:—		
Commander-in-Chief . . . . .	1168.50	
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief . . . . .	20.00	

## ENCAMPMENT.

43

Council-in-Chief .....	9.75	1198.25
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## Supplies:—

Badges and Decorations .....	1032.80	
Camp and Division Supplies .....	1155.25	
Cost of Shipping .....	89.25	
Insurance .....	18.00	
Wrapping Paper, Twine, Etc. ....	3.03	2298.33

## Office Expenses:—

Postage, Commander-in-Chief .....	574.50	
Postage, National Treasurer .....	34.81	
Rent, Commandery .....	139.14	
Rent, National Treasurer .....	411.71	
Light and Toilet Supplies, Nat'l Treas.	15.75	
Express and Telegrams, Commandery ..	44.64	
Express and Telegrams, Nat'l Treas. ..	1.70	
Stationery, All National Officers .....	113.55	
Stationery, Commandery .....	106.70	
Cost of Exchange Fees .....	2.40	1444.90

## General Expenses:—

Moving Commandery Headquarters ....	79.16	
Premium on Bond, Commander-in-Chief	20.00	
Premium on Bond, National Treasurer..	20.00	
Gold Star, Commander-in-Chief .....	150.00	
Commandery Ribbon .....	4.00	
Printing Circulars, Advertising, etc.:		
Commandery .....	143.15	
Military Department .....	81.75	498.06

Salaries .....	3250.01	
General Orders .....	71.28	
Furniture .....	2.85	
The Banner .....	5484.50	
23rd Encampment .....	59.55	
Legal Service account Camp 2 Penn. Div.	100.00	
Receipt Book, National Treasurer .....	16.00	
Floral Wreath for C.-in-C. Blackmar ....	12.00	
Form 37, Free to Divisions .....	45.00	
Rebate Ohio Division P. C. Tax .....	126.44	
Printing Pass Word .....	1.50	
Printing Proceedings—20, 21, 22, 23rd ..	700.61	
W. G. Dustin, Postage on Proceedings..	98.48	
Printing on account of Proceedings ....	3.30	
Memorial University .....	100.00	
Miscellaneous .....	83.65	
24th Encampment .....	28.00	10183.17

Total Expenditures .....	15622.71
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Balance Cash on Hand .....	1933.41
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Supplies on hand Inventoried at Cost	1136.61
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The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief at the close of business August 10, 1904 was as follows:

General Account August 10, 1904.

Assets.

Dr.

Furniture .....	\$ 408.15
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Supplies .....	883.27
Cash .....	2937.89
Due from Divisions .....	48.03
	<hr/>
	4277.34

## Liabilities.

	Cr.	
Due to Divisions .....		8.35
The Banner .....		300.00
Surplus .....		3968.99
		<hr/>
		4277.34

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief at the close of business September 12, 1905, is as follows:

## General Account September 12, 1905.

## Assets.

	Dr.	
Furniture .....		366.30
Supplies .....		1136.61
Cash .....		1813.85
Due from Divisions .....		123.60
Military Department .....		93.78
		<hr/>
		3539.14

## Liabilities.

	Cr.	
Due to Divisions .....		26.09
Memorial University .....		187.50
Surplus .....		3325.55
		<hr/>
		3539.14

The account of Profit and Loss from August 10, 1904 to September 12, 1905 is as follows:

## Profit and Loss Account August 1904 to September 1905.

## Losses.

Furniture (10 per cent reduction) .....	43.55
Supplies .....	57.59
Salaries .....	3166.68
General Orders and Pass Word .....	72.78
Traveling Expenses .....	1119.25
Office Expenses .....	1418.68
General Expenses .....	498.06
23rd Encampment .....	59.55
The Banner .....	5184.50
Legal Services .....	100.00
Supplies Free to Divisions .....	61.00
Floral Wreath .....	12.00
Rebate P. C. Tax .....	126.44
Printing Proceedings and Postage 20-21-22-23 Encampment .....	802.39
Memorial University .....	287.50
	<hr/>
	13009.97

## Gains.

Per Capita Tax .....	10409.97
Charter Fees .....	575.00
Supplies .....	1691.04

Balance (Net Loss) ..... 333.96

13009.97

Divisions are indebted in the following amounts: Indiana \$10.49, Iowa \$8.51, Maine \$.14, Massachusetts \$9.65, Minnesota \$15.43, New York \$3.97, Pennsylvania \$78.31, Rhode Island \$.50, Washington \$1.10, West Virginia \$.23.

Divisions have credits in their favor as follows: Alabama and Tennessee \$1.77, California \$3.13, Colorado \$.09, Connecticut \$.71, Illinois \$1.89, Kansas \$.86, Kentucky \$.50, Maryland \$.29, Michigan \$.55, Nebraska \$5.27, New Hampshire \$.55, New Jersey \$3.04, Ohio \$2.51, Vermont \$1.19, Wisconsin \$3.40, South Dakota \$.29.

The foregoing figures cover a period of 13 months. Contrasted with those of a year ago they show a reduction in the actual cash on hand, in fact the balance is the smallest for a number of years. The cash on hand—\$1933.41 is \$1004.48 less than reported to the 23rd Encampment. Practically \$800.00—the expenses connected with the publication of the proceedings of the 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd Encampments can be properly termed an extra expense and fairly considered as proportionately belonging to past administrations.

The sales of supplies increased during the term, the total income \$3689.60 being greater by \$304.29 than the previous years. The net profit was \$1691.04.

The receipts from the Per Capita Tax \$10983.08 is a gain of \$950.27 for the same period. Out of this account there has been paid to The Banner \$5481.50; leaving the actual membership and tax account as \$5498.58, from which must be paid the .01 cent per capita to the Military Department, since January 1st, 1905, which amounts to \$131.48, leaving the actual receipts from P. C. Tax \$5367.10.

The Charter Fee account represents 122 Charters—\$610.00; an increase of 45 Charters approved over that of the last administration, and the best showing in this respect for a number of years back. One half of the income from Charter Fees is appropriated to the Memorial University permanent endowment fund which leaves the net income to the organization \$305. At this time \$205 is due the Memorial University from this account and will be paid to their representatives at the Encampment.

The administration shows a large amount for Traveling Expenses—\$1198.25 for all officers—an increase of \$736.04 over last year, which was then \$161.01 greater than any previous 5 years—would seem a large item, but as nearly all Divisions have been visited by the Commander-in-Chief or a representative the expenditure will probably be equalized in future gains in membership and a consequent increase in the income for Per Capita Tax and Charter Fees.

Publicity has been a chief policy of the administration and by circulars and other forms of advertisement a great quantity of literature has been circulated, this combined with personal correspondence, brings the item for postage of the Commandery up to a figure of \$574.50 (not including the \$98.48 for distribution of proceedings) and is an increase of \$433.86 over the expenditures of the preceding administration.

The receipts for supplies (296 requisitions being filled) was \$3689.60, and netted a profit of \$1691.04. In the face of the increased cost of production, due to the cost of labor and material, this is a most satisfactory showing. We are today selling to the Divisions articles that cannot be duplicated in the open market at the same price. Had this department handled all of the printing contracts we should have shown at least \$100.00 more in profits.

The expenditure for purchase of supplies was \$773.33 greater than a year ago, large purchases were made necessary by a depletion of stock on hand. The value of supplies on hand is \$253.34 greater than that of last year.

There are a number of useless and antiquated forms carried on the stock account, for which there is no demand. These should be destroyed and charged off on the accounts. This is equally true of the furniture as an asset. It has been customary to charge off a 10 per cent reduction each year, but with new purchases nearly every year the increased value becomes largely fictitious.

The profit and loss account records a loss of \$333.96 for the term, as against a gain of \$1379.98, which is explained by the increased expenditures, and the obsoleting of certain supplies by the legislation of the last encampment.

Moderation in legislation that necessitates a revision of printed forms, or has frequently been the case, absolutely obsoleting certain stock that represented good values, is counselled.

The department for a long time was no where being self-sustaining and it has only been from the most persistent effort, careful and close buying, and the study of a policy of strict economy that it has been brought to a condition that is close to that standard.

Supplies should be handled at a reasonable profit to the Order and yet sold at better than the local cost of production to the Camps, giving at the same time a compensation to the Division. This has been and will continue to be a problem that requires the most persistent watchfulness to cope with the conditions of increasing cost for production, due to the rise in price for stock, material and labor to the contracting printers.

I desire to record a full acknowledgement of the great courtesies and kindly friendship of those with whom I have had direct and official relations. Covering a period of eight years, I feel myself indeed a debtor to a large circle of splendid men who have both honored and aided me by those noble qualities that constitute a generous friendship.

To the Commander-in-Chief and associate officers my thanks are due for their cooperation. My most direct and personal obligations are largely to one person who has stood by me for the many years that have covered my official service in Sons of Veterans. The close personal relations that unite the links of a strong and unselfish friendship bind me to Brother Hannon.

Respectfully submitted in F. C. and L.,

FRED E. ROITON,

National Treasurer.

Commander-in-Chief: Referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

The next report will be that of the National Counselor, Edgar Allan.

National Counselor Allan read and submitted the following report:

Report of National Counselor.

Richmond, Va., Sept. 15th, 1905.

To the Officers and Members of the Twenty-fourth National Encampment, Sons of Veterans U. S. A., at Gettysburg, Penn.

Brothers:—I beg leave to submit, as your National Counselor, the following report.

First: I desire to thank each and every member of the Order from it's highest official down to it's most humble member for the loyal support they have given me during the past year. It is with profound pleasure that I announce that a very charitable disposition has permeated the ranks of our Order and with one or two exceptions our relations have been void of discord. We are to be congratulated upon the universal harmony which has prevailed.

Second: My opinion has been requested on numerous questions of minor detail, most of which were, however, looking to the good of the Order and it's increase in membership. My decisions have, without exception been published in the National Organ and up to this time have not to my knowledge been seriously questioned. I have endeavored to show "equal rights to all and special privileges to none" and if I have fallen short in my reckonings it has been due to mistakes of the head and not of the heart.

Third: It is necessarily expensive, where traveling has to be done and legal action taken in connection with the office of National Counselor, to meet the expenses of said officer, and I therefore recommend that all expenses of the National Counselor be paid by the Division requiring his services and incurring the expense necessary therefor. There is seldom a case that cannot be handled by the Division Counselor but there are some cases, such as the revoking of charters under the advice of the Commander-in-Chief, where it is necessary to have the presence and co-operation of the National Counselor. In these cases the property of the Camp reverts to the Division within whose jurisdiction the Camp is located and therefore by reason of said Division becoming the owner of said property it seems only reasonable and proper that they should stand the expense connected therewith.

Fourth: The most serious case in which my services were deemed by the Commander-in-Chief to be necessary was the case of Phillip R. Schuyler Camp No. 2 of the Division of Pennsylvania. This Camp had amongst it's members brothers who were convicted of being in open violation of our laws, and who apparently were discourteous and disrespectful to the brothers who were instructed with enforcing of orders from higher authority. Becoming apparent that action had to be taken by the Commander-in-Chief, I was instructed to go to Philadelphia and revoke the charter of said Camp. I did so, and the matter is now in the courts under the able management of their Division Counselor. About fifty of the old members of said Camp who had not been disloyal were at once granted a new



charter and immediately adopted the name of the old camp. As a matter of fact serious charges were lodged only against about four of said Camp's members and after court martial proceedings, sentence was passed upon two of its members. It was the refusal of said Camp and members to obey these orders carrying out said court martial which necessitated the revoking of its charter. The discordant element which existed in this Camp will eventually be disposed of and having disposed of the chaff, the grain remaining will be of greater value and service.

Fifth: Another case which required considerable thought emanated from the Division of New York. In this case it was apparent to your National Counselor that error existed in the trial and conviction by court martial of Elsworth Foster. Without the papers before me it is at this time impossible to set forth my reasons for my action but it was deemed best for the good of the Order, to have the case remanded to the New York Division for further action and the case is now pending before said Division.

Sixth: There was a number of other questions regarding eligibility to the Order submitted. The most important of which came from New York and Vermont Divisions. Decisions were rendered in these cases, and accepted and acted upon by the Commander-in-Chief. As they were all of minor detail I do not deem it necessary to mention them further.

All of which is respectfully submitted, in F. C. & L.,  
EDGAR ALLAN, JR.,

Commander-in-Chief: The report of the National Counselor will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

We will now listen to the report of the Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. J. J. Skinner.

Chaplain-in-Chief Skinner read and submitted the following report:

Report of Chaplain-in-Chief.

Topeka, Kas., Sept. 12th, 1905.

Headquarters Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Department of Chaplain-in-Chief.

To

Mr. W. G. Dustin,

Commander-in-Chief, S. of V.

Dear Sir and Brother:—As per your request, I have the honor to submit for your consideration the report up to date, from the Department of Chaplain-in-Chief. I have endeavored to follow instructions and otherwise employ my office to the best interests of the order. My appeal to observe Union Defenders' Day and to assist in Memorial services was cheerfully received by the boys, and responded to quite heartily. Nearly 250 Camps observed Union Defenders' Day.

Nine thousand attended Sunday Memorial services. Twelve thousand or more boys were in line on Memorial Day, 3400 of these were uniformed and nearly 8000 armed. The boys furnished nearly 200 firing squads, and made over 300 addresses on Memorial Day. From my corre-

spondence I learn that the Sons are ever ready to assist the old Veterans at every turn. Reports show a goodly number of funerals attended and conducted. So far I have reported 135 deaths in the order during the last 12 months.

The date reports show 23 Divisions reporting and 2 not reporting, of these 488 Camps have reported, 222 not reporting, making a total number of Camps 710, with a membership of 23,455.

I submit herewith fourteen tabulated reports showing detail statistics statis of our order as reported to me.

Owing to the tardy reports from Divisions, I am unable to report in as complete a manner as I otherwise would.

Hoping this may meet your approval, and that I may soon have the pleasure of meeting you at Gettysburg. I remain,

Loyally yours in F. C. and L.

JOSEPH J. SKINNER,

Chaplain-in-Chief.

Table No. 1.

Showing percentage of Camps reporting from each Division.	
Division	Per cent.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	100
California .....	
Colorado .....	
Connecticut .....	100
Illinois .....	45
Indiana .....	38
Iowa .....	100
Kansas .....	40
Kentucky .....	25
Maine .....	48
Maryland .....	100
Massachusetts .....	89
Michigan .....	100
Minnesota .....	50
Missouri .....	91
Nebraska .....	72
New Hampshire .....	34
New Jersey .....	37
New York .....	43
Ohio .....	48
Pennsylvania .....	71
Rhode Island .....	100
Vermont .....	71
Washington .....	60
Wisconsin .....	100

Table No. 2.

Showing Camp with largest membership in each Division.		
Division	Camp No.	Members.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	1	75*
California .....		
Colorado .....		
Connecticut .....	6	31
Illinois .....	26	95
Indiana .....	116	104
Iowa .....	2	40

Kansas	0	0
Kentucky	4	86
Maine	52	76
Maryland	Del. 2	94
Massachusetts	11	117
Michigan	102	30
Minnesota	1	102
Missouri	14	130
Nebraska	168	21
New Hampshire	18	78
New Jersey	8	190
New York	60	138
Ohio	466	158
Pennsylvania	16	575
Rhode Island	5	99
Vermont	19	57
Washington	35	33
Wisconsin	0	0

Table No. 3.

Showing Camp with greatest number of brothers in line Memorial Day in each Division.

Division	Camp No.	Members
Alabama and Tennessee	1	10
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut	6	81
Illinois	26	68
Indiana	116	97
Iowa	8	30
Kansas	0	0
Kentucky	4	86
Maine	8	45
Maryland	Del. 2	27
Massachusetts	11	72
Michigan	102	26
Minnesota	5	25
Missouri	65	28
Nebraska	4, 5, 38	Each 10
New Hampshire	18	60
New Jersey	8	70
New York	168	79
Pennsylvania	16	187
Rhode Island	5	30
Vermont	19	38
Washington	24	14
Wisconsin	0	0

Table No. 4.

Showing Camp with greatest number of brothers in line and armed on Memorial Day in each Division.

Division	Camp No.	Members
Alabama and Tennessee	0	
California		
Colorado		
Connecticut	7	41
Illinois	25	35
Indiana	85	18
Iowa	68	8
Kansas	0	0
Kentucky	3	10

ENCAMPMENT.

51

Maine .....	1	28
Maryland .....	Del. 2	27
Massachusetts .....	130	35
Michigan .....	102	26
Minnesota .....	1	15
Missouri .....	17	5
Nebraska .....	38	7
New Hampshire .....	8	11
New Jersey .....	45	40
New York .....	60	50
Ohio .....	43	40
Pennsylvania .....	233	95
Rhode Island .....	10	25
Vermont .....	74	17
Washington .....	24	12
Wisconsin .....	0	0

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
Alabama and Tennessee .....	0	0
California .....		
Colorado .....		
Connecticut .....	7	41
Illinois .....	414	30
Indiana .....	11 and 85	Each 20
Iowa .....	53	12
Kansas .....	0	0
Kentucky .....	20	11
Maine .....	2	40
Maryland .....	Del. 2	27
Massachusetts .....	11	70
Michigan .....	102	26
Minnesota .....	1	18
Missouri .....	1	18
Nebraska .....	38	7
New Hampshire .....	18	54
New Jersey .....	15	60
New York .....	168	79
Ohio .....	43	50
Pennsylvania .....	16	98
Rhode Island .....	2 and 10	Each 25
Vermont .....	77	20
Washington .....	24	12
Wisconsin .....	0	0

Table No. 6.

Showing Camp having greatest attendance at Memorial Sunday services in each Division.

Division	Camp No.	Members
Alabama and Tennessee .....	1	38
California .....		
Colorado .....		
Connecticut .....	6	50
Illinois .....	26	49
Indiana .....	116	30
Iowa .....	2	30
Kansas .....	0	0
Kentucky .....	20	14
Maine .....	2	36

Maryland .....	Del 2	27
Massachusetts .....	11	50
Michigan .....	102	30
Minnesota .....	29	25
Missouri .....	17	16
Nebraska .....	4 and 5	Each 10
New Hampshire .....	18	30
New Jersey .....	15	36
New York .....	168	54
Ohio .....	466	55
Pennsylvania .....	16	309
Rhode Island .....	4	21
Vermont .....	19	32
Washington .....	24	9
Wisconsin .....	0	0

Table No. 7.

Showing number of Camps furnishing Firing Squads in each Division.

Division	No.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	0
California .....	
Colorado .....	
Connecticut .....	2
Illinois .....	6
Indiana .....	7
Iowa .....	3
Kansas .....	7
Kentucky .....	0
Maine .....	8
Maryland .....	6
Massachusetts .....	22
Michigan .....	3
Minnesota .....	7
Missouri .....	3
Nebraska .....	1
New Hampshire .....	3
New Jersey .....	13
New York .....	8
Ohio .....	11
Pennsylvania .....	70
Rhode Island .....	4
Vermont .....	3
Washington .....	1
Wisconsin .....	6
Total .....	194

Table No. 8.

Showing number of addresses delivered by members of the Order on Memorial Day in each Division.

Division	No.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	2
California .....	
Colorado .....	
Connecticut .....	8
Illinois .....	6
Indiana .....	11
Iowa .....	5
Kansas .....	4
Kentucky .....	1
Maine .....	13

## ENCAMPMENT.

53

Maryland .....	4
Massachusetts .....	80
Michigan .....	3
Nebraska .....	0
New Hampshire .....	7
New Jersey .....	13
New York .....	14
Ohio .....	20
Pennsylvania .....	91
Rhode Island .....	0
Vermont .....	2
Washington .....	2
Wisconsin .....	7
Total .....	296

Table No. 9.

Showing number of Camps observing Defenders' Day  
in each Division.

Division	No.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	3
California .....	
Colorado .....	
Connecticut .....	9
Illinois .....	6
Indiana .....	4
Iowa .....	2
Kansas .....	3
Kentucky .....	2
Maine .....	8
Maryland .....	5
Massachusetts .....	44
Michigan .....	2
Minnesota .....	1
Missouri .....	8
Nebraska .....	1
New Hampshire .....	6
New Jersey .....	15
New York .....	26
Ohio .....	5
Pennsylvania .....	63
Rhode Island .....	2
Vermont .....	3
Washington .....	0
Wisconsin .....	3
Total .....	221

Table No. 10.

Showing number of deaths during the year past in  
each Division.

Division	No.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	1
California .....	
Colorado .....	
Connecticut .....	6
Illinois .....	2
Indiana .....	2
Iowa .....	1
Kansas .....	4
Maine .....	5
Maryland .....	7
Massachusetts .....	26

Michigan .....	1
Minnesota .....	1
Missouri .....	6
Nebraska .....	0
New Hampshire .....	5
New Jersey .....	8
New York .....	4
Ohio .....	2
Pennsylvania .....	46
Rhode Island .....	4
Vermont .....	3
Washington .....	0
Wisconsin .....	1
Total .....	135

Table No. 11.

Showing number of funerals attended by Camps in a body in each Division.

Division	G. A. R.	S. V.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	3	1
California .....		
Colorado .....		
Connecticut .....	1	4
Illinois .....	4	2
Indiana .....	19	2
Iowa .....	0	1
Kansas .....	0	0
Kentucky .....	0	0
Maine .....	1	2
Maryland .....	6	4
Massachusetts .....	59	19
Michigan .....	3	1
Minnesota .....	0	0
Missouri .....	7	3
Nebraska .....	2	0
New Hampshire .....	20	2
New Jersey .....	29	8
New York .....	14	6
Ohio .....	25	1
Pennsylvania .....	187	41
Rhode Island .....	3	1
Vermont .....	4	2
Washington .....	0	0
Wisconsin .....	4	1
Total .....	391	101

Table No. 12.

Showing number of burial services conducted by Camps in each Division.

Division	G. A. R.	S. V.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	0	1
California .....		
Colorado .....		
Connecticut .....	0	2
Illinois .....	3	2
Indiana .....	0	2
Iowa .....	0	1
Kansas .....	0	0
Kentucky .....	0	0
Maine .....	0	0
Maryland .....	0	3

ENCAMPMENT.

55

Massachusetts .....	7	12
Michigan .....	0	1
Minnesota .....	0	0
Missouri .....	5	4
Nebraska .....	0	0
New Hampshire .....	1	0
New Jersey .....	3	4
New York .....	5	3
Ohio .....	0	0
Pennsylvania .....	42	30
Rhode Island .....	0	1
Vermont .....	1	1
Washington .....	0	0
Wisconsin .....	0	0
Total .....	67	65

Table No. 13.

Showing number of Camps using Memorial services and which in each Division.

Division	A.	B.
Alabama and Tennessee .....	0	0
California .....		
Colorado .....		
Connecticut .....	3	0
Illinois .....	2	2
Indiana .....	4	1
Iowa .....	1	1
Kansas .....	0	0
Kentucky .....	0	0
Maine .....	1	10
Maryland .....	2	1
Massachusetts .....	16	15
Michigan .....	2	0
Minnesota .....	1	1
Missouri .....	4	3
Nebraska .....	0	0
New Hampshire .....	1	1
New York .....	7	8
New Jersey .....	3	5
Ohio .....	4	5
Pennsylvania .....	26	24
Rhode Island .....	0	1
Vermont .....	2	5
Washington .....	0	0
Wisconsin .....	1	2
Total .....	80	85

Chaplain's report referred to Committee on Officers' Reports.

The report of the National Inspector, H. E. Cowdin, is as follows:

Inspector's Report.

Rockford, Mich., Sept. 13, 1905.

To Commander-in-Chief, Wm. G. Dustin and Brothers:

At the 23d annual encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief held in Boston last year the C. R. & R. adopted provided for the re-establishment of the inspection department, the creation of the offices of National Inspector and Division Inspectors and for an annual inspection to be made during the last quarter of the year. In Official



Circular No. 4 of the Commander-in-Chief promulgated in the November Banner was the announcement of a special inspection to be made during January and February, 1905, for the good of the order. After due consideration of the matter in all its phases an inspection blank was prepared and promulgated to the various divisions to be used in this year's special inspection. These blanks were devised as a result of past experience together with present organization of the order.

The completeness of the inspection of the Camps and Divisions is not what was wished and labored for, but I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the majority of the brothers who have served as Division Inspectors the past year for their hearty co-operation.

Consolidated reports were received of the Camp inspections from the Division Inspectors in the order of their receipt as follows: Ohio, Alabama and Tennessee, New Jersey, Kentucky, Iowa, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Kansas, California, Missouri, Indiana, Vermont, Maine, Illinois, Michigan, Maryland, New York, Connecticut, Wisconsin. Reports were not received from Colorado, Wyoming, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, West Virginia and South Dakota, although all possible efforts were made to secure them.

The following is a summary of the reports as far as possible, several being incomplete:

Q. 1. Are the relations cordial between Camp and local G. A. R.? 95½% report yes, and 4½% no.

Q. 2. (a) Are the relations cordial between the Camp and local W. R. C.? (b) With the Ladies of the G. A. R.? (c) With the Daughters of Veterans? The replies show cordial relations existing to a very pleasing degree.

Q. 3. Has the Camp a Ladies Auxiliary? The answers show about half and half.

Q. 4. Did the Camp assist in the observance of Memorial Day? The replies show very few negative answers.

Q. 5. Did the Camp observe Union Defenders Day? 35% report yes and 65% no.

Q. 6. What are the sentiments toward the Memorial University? A large degree of the answers are favorable.

Q. 7. What amount are the annual dues? Average is \$2.94.

Q. 8. What amount is the muster fee? \$2.66 is the average.

Q. 9. Is the regulation badge and copy of the C. R. & R. presented to each recruit when mustered? 91¼% report that they do and 8¾% that they do not.

Q. 10. Number of members in good standing? 20,238 in Camps reporting.

Q. 11. Total number of members mustered? This was answered in such a way in many cases as to render the replies of little value.

Q. 12. Value of all property owned by the Camps? \$157,610.47 by those reporting.

Q. 13. Does the Camp own any fire arms? 63½% do and 35½% do not.

Q. 14. Is the Camp free from debt? 87½% report that they are in this fortunate condition and 22½% that they are not so fortunate.

Q. 15. How many members belong to the Death Benefit Association? 4,786 in Camps reporting.

Q. 16. Does the Camp Chaplain make out his report on May 30th and forward it at once? 90% say that their Chaplains are prompt and 10% that they are not.

Q. 17. Do the Camp Secretary and Treasurer promptly make out their reports at the close of each quarter and forward same at once to Division Headquarters? 92% of the Camps report that this important matter receives the attention it should and 8% report otherwise.

Q. 18. Do the Camp Secretary and Treasurer thoroughly understand laws governing suspensions, dropping, re-instatement, back tax on re-instated members, etc.? Over 97% are reported as well posted and less than 3% to the contrary.

Q. 19. Does the Camp Treasurer promptly attend to the collection of dues? Over 96% report that this duty is performed in accordance with its importance to the welfare of the Camp and less than 4% replied in the negative.

Q. 20. Does the Camp Secretary and Treasurer's books contain correct copies of reports submitted by them? Over 95% report that they do, and nearly 5% that they do not.

Q. 21. Are all books and records of the Camp Secretary properly kept? Over 98% report that they are and less than 2% to the contrary.

Q. 22. Are the Camp Secretary and Treasurer elected or appointed? 79% appointed and 21% elected.

Q. 23. Does the Camp use the supplies which can be secured from the Division Treasurer as far as possible? 99% report that they do.

Q. 24. (a) Has the Camp a military company attached? 19% yes and 81% no. (b) If so state whether organized as Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Naval Reserves or Signal Corps. 59 companies of Infantry, 4 batteries of Artillery, and 3 companies of Cavalry. (c) Number of members? 1,766. (d) Have they complied with Art. 24, Sec. 1 to 15 inclusive of C. R. & R. of 1904? 43 yes, 4 no.

It was something of a disappointment that question No. 25 in regard to the average attendance of officers and members at Camp meetings was not answered more definitely and completely. But where it was answered it shows conclusively that our order has a larger percentage of its membership attending Camp meetings than any other order does its meetings that I know of.

The answer to question 12 in regard to the amount of property owned by the Camps is a showing that every member of the order should be proud of, when taken in conjunction with question 14 in regard to the indebtedness of Camps, which shows but few in debt, and the amount small of those which are.

The following Division Headquarters were inspected: Alabama and Tennessee, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin, and which left California, Colorado and Wyoming, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, South Dakota and Washington not inspected although strenuous efforts were made to

have it done and reports made.

The following is a summary of the Division Headquarters inspections:

All the Divisions have Charters.

All the Divisions excepting Ohio and Iowa have a set of By-Laws.

All the Divisions report membership records in good shape, several using the card system. The other records in most of the Divisions are kept up in a proper manner.

The Treasurer's books are reported in good shape in all the Divisions.

All the Divisions report that a cash account is kept with each Camp at Division headquarters.

Requisitions are reported as promptly filled, excepting Maryland, where there has been some complaint.

Every Division reports correspondence promptly answered.

Value of Supplies on hand reported as follows: Alabama and Tennessee, \$40.00; Connecticut, \$86.41; Illinois, \$94.00; Indiana, \$15.00; Iowa, \$50.00; Kansas, \$5.00; Kentucky, \$5.00; Maine, about \$50.00; Maryland, \$15.00; Massachusetts, \$2.25; Michigan, \$5.00; Missouri, \$46.08; New York, \$60.00; Ohio, \$3.00; Pennsylvania, \$96.96, (Division Property \$460.74); Rhode Island, \$30.00; Vermont, \$25.00; and Wisconsin, \$36.50.

Amount of salaries paid (a) Commander, (b) Secretary, (c) Treasurer: Alabama and Tennessee, (a) \$1.00, (b) \$60.00, (c) \$15.00; Connecticut, (a) \$0, (b) \$1.00, (c) \$74.00; Indiana, (a) \$300.00, out of which he pays Secretary and Treasurer; Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Kentucky pay no salaries; Maine, (a) \$0, (b) \$25.00, (c) \$25.00; Maryland, (a) \$1.00, (b) \$30.00, (c) \$20.00; Massachusetts, (a) \$0, (b) \$125.00, (c) \$125.00; Michigan, (a) \$3.65, (b) \$75.00, (c) \$25.00; Missouri, (a) \$50.00, (b) \$50.00, (c) \$0; New Jersey, (a) \$1.00, (b) \$50.00, (c) \$50.00; New York, (a) \$0, (b) \$50.00, (c) \$25.00; Ohio, (a) \$0, (b) and (c) 10% of gross receipts each; Pennsylvania, (a) \$1.00, (b) \$50.00, (c) \$50.00; Rhode Island, (a) \$0, (b) \$15.00, (c) \$10.00; Vermont, (a) \$0, (b) \$15.00; (c) \$10.00; Wisconsin, (a) \$0, (b) \$15.00, (c) \$25.00.

Bonds were required of the Treasurer in all Divisions excepting Kentucky and Michigan. The amounts being: Pennsylvania, \$2,000.00; Alabama and Tennessee, Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey and New York \$1,000.00 each; Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas and Maine \$500.00 each; Vermont, \$250.00; Wisconsin, \$200.00, and Rhode Island, \$100.00.

Every Division reports efforts are made to receive reports from Camps promptly, chiefly by correspondence.

All Divisions are making efforts towards the organization of new Camps.

All report that the relation between the Divisions and the Departments of the G. A. R. and W. R. C. are cordial and friendly.

In conclusion, I think that the work of the Inspection Department is productive of much good to the order by showing where the weak points in Camps and Divisions are, and by the proper officers giving these weak places prompt and careful attention a great deal of good can be accomplished.

In closing, permit me to express to Commander-in-Chief Dustin the sincere appreciation I feel upon the honor conferred upon the Michigan Division in placing one of the members in his official family, and I can truly say that it has been a great pleasure to me to have done what I could for the Order we all love so well. I feel that words fail me in trying to express my hearty appreciation of the kind and valuable assistance of the Commander-in-Chief. Also I wish at this time to express my sincere thanks to all the Brothers who have assisted in carrying on the work of the Inspection Department and in trying to make it a success and beneficial to the Order.

Yours in F. C. & L.,

H. E. COWDIN.

Commander-in-Chief: The Committee on Credentials has a supplemental report to make. We will listen to that report.

The Committee on Credentials then submitted the following supplemental report:

Your Committee on Credentials respectfully report the following brothers entitled to a seat in this Encampment: Maryland: E. K. DePuy, Kensington, Md., F. T. F. Johnson, Washington, D. C., New York: William B. Moynihan, Rochester, N. Y., Lewis J. Macey, Pulaski, N. Y., Ralph Sheldon, Albany, N. Y., Rudolph M. Genthner, Rochester, N. Y., Calvin B. Burch, Pulaski, N. Y., C. H. Floyd, New York, T. D. Rivers, New York, G. E. Snyder, Rochester, N. Y., William Klein, Syracuse, N. Y., T. D. Champion, Pennsylvania: H. M. Rebele, Allegheny, C. E. Diefenderfer, Reading, S. S. Horn, Easton, W. P. Baker, South Bethlehem, J. W. C. Austin, York, Charles McIntyre, Doylestown, G. J. Sautter Sharpsburg, W. I. McGirr, C. P. Krueger, S. B. Lawrence, Albert Scott, Robert Miller, Gettysburg.

N. J. McGuire of Indiana: I move that the report of the committee on credentials be accepted and the committee continued.

Motion was seconded and agreed to.

Commander-in-Chief: If the Committee on Memorial University is ready to report, we will listen to it at this time.

Chairman N. J. McGuire then read and submitted the following report:

#### Report of Memorial University Committee.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Twenty-fourth Annual Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Whereas, Memorial University founded by the action of the Sons of Veterans U. S. A. at their Nineteenth Encampment at Syracuse in 1900 and dedicated to the patriotic men and women of the Civil War, has made such progress that there is no longer any question as to its ultimate success, and

Whereas, The idea of this form of Memorial is rapidly increasing in popularity as shown by its recognition by citizens in general and by the patriotic organizations of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Womans Relief Corps, the Ladies of the G. A. R. and the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary, and

Whereas, This memorial like the services of our fathers to the government should be supported by a hearty free will offering and not a tax levied upon the membership,

Therefore, Be it resolved, That we the Sons of Veterans assembled here at Gettysburg in our 24th National Encampment at a spot hallowed by the heroism and sacrifice of our fathers, take definite action towards the support of this great memorial in their honor, and in keeping with the suggestions of the Commander-in-Chief we recommend that each camp appoint a financial committee the ensuing year, to secure from the patriotic friends of their community a sum equivalent to one dollar for each member in the camp thus giving by our personal efforts our financial as well as our moral support to Memorial University and that the matter be made the subject of a general order from the Commander-in-Chief and be it further

Resolved, That we express our appreciation for the moral and financial support extended by the other patriotic orders, to this noble enterprise.

Whereas, Many patriotic citizens not members of the orders and many individual members of the G. A. R. are becoming interested in Memorial University to the extent of contributing generously to its support,

Now therefore be it resolved, That we recommend to the Board of Regents of the University that they recognize these individuals and show appreciation of their interest by appointing a citizens advisory committee of not to exceed five members from each state.

N. J. McGuire,  
James E. Blythe,  
R. M. J. Reed,  
Frank L. Shepard,  
W. J. Reinke,  
F. W. Hendrix,  
Geo. E. Cox,  
G. B. Abbott.

Chairman N. J. McGuire of Indiana: Commander, I move the report be adopted.

Motion was seconded and agreed to unanimously.

#### MEMORIALS.

Commander-in-Chief: I spoke this morning in regard to the Memorial for those of our members and the members of the Auxilliary who had died during the past year. It is now nearing four o'clock, and if it is the wish of the Encampment I would suggest that a motion be made to have an open meeting until that is finished and then close in proper form unless there is further business to come before the meeting this afternoon.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: I move we take a recess for so long a time as may be necessary for the Memorial remarks of the brothers deceased, and the Ladies of the Auxilliary who have died during the past year.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

The Ladies of the Auxilliary were escorted to seats in the Encampment room and at four thirty o'clock Commander Everett H. Lynds of Massachusetts took charge of the meeting at the request of the Commander-in-Chief.

Chairman Everett H. Lynds: Commander and members of the Twenty-fourth National Encampment and Ladies of

the Auxiliary: It is not my intention to take up a great deal of your time. You all agree with me that the Massachusetts Division feels very sad on this occasion. I will call upon Past Commander William A. Stevens of Massachusetts, whom you all know, he needs no introduction.

William A. Stevens of Massachusetts: Commander Lynds, Brothers and Sisters: I don't know why it has devolved upon me to pay a tribute to one whom it would take the oratorical powers of a Webster or a Choate to properly express my feelings at this time. It is fitting perhaps, particularly fitting, that we should devote a few moments of our time to say a few words to the memory of one who was near and dear to us all, and as I say, it is fitting that it should be done here. General Blackmar was as I understand a Pennsylvania man. He was, as I may say, later adopted by the state of Massachusetts. At the time of his death he was Commander-in-Chief of our parent organization, a resident of the state of Massachusetts, and Massachusetts comes today to the state of his birth to pay a slight token of respect to his memory. The war record of General Blackmar is perhaps better known to most of you than it is to me, and I am not going to touch upon that at length, except to relate one little instance where Captain Blackmar, and I believe that was the highest title that he received during the war, was with Custer and lead a cavalry charge with such valor, with such bravery, as to command the attention of his superior officer and was immediately promoted on the field of battle and later was given a medal of honor by Congress. Like all of our daddies, when the war was over and he came back to his home, the ties of comradeship, which were formed during those four years of bloody strife did not die with the close of the war, but were cemented more strongly and they felt that the helping hand which they gave to each other in time of need should also be given as long as life did last. So early taking up this work as a comrade, as a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, he was always first and foremost to do all that lay in his power for his less fortunate brothers.

He was a friend of our organization. Those of us who knew him intimately, knew him but to love him. A man who actually gave up his life to carry out the work of the Grand Army of the Republic. Elected to the highest position within the gift of his comrades, though in ill health at that time, he immediately started upon a campaign which seems to me would have been too much for a man of more vigorous constitution. Several times during the past year he was obliged to forego trips because of his ill health, and strongly against the advice of his physician and others he made his last and final trip. He died a soldier's death. He died in harness, as he would wish it if he had his way. He died in the arms of his comrades. He knew what the comradeship, which existed in the Grand Army of the Republic meant. As a friend of our organization we never had a more staunch one. We in Massachusetts knew him but to love him. Our organization in that state is under many obligations to him for favors rendered, and it is fitting that we should at this time pause for a few moments to pay a tribute of love

and respect to his memory. When I was requested by our Division Commander to fill this position I could think of but one thing that I thought would fittingly express our feelings at this time, and that would be a few moments of silence. It seems to me that silence speaks loudly. It seems to me that we can best express our feelings by pausing for a moment.

General Blackmar has gone from our midst. His memory will always be precious and sacred to us. His life is but an example to us, and while we think of him and respect him for what he was and for what he has done for us, let us all try to so regulate our lives, so conduct ourselves, that when we pass away the world may be better for our having been in it. We may feel that we are indeed loyal sons of those brave men who made this country that we might enjoy all the blessed privileges we do at this time. It was only by their efforts that we have these privileges. It was only by their efforts that we are permitted to gather year after year in convention assembled, to meet the old familiar faces and to legislate for our future. Our future is grand. Let our legislation be such that the organization will be benefitted by each meeting of our National body, and as these brave men pass away let us all see if we cannot find something in their lives that will make our lives better and brighter. (Applause)

Commander-in-Chief: I will call upon Commander William B. Moynihan of New York Division to take charge of this meeting during the memorial of Brother Edward C. Parkinson.

William B. Moynihan of New York: Commander-in-Chief, Ladies of our Auxillary and Brothers: The Division of New York deeply mourns the loss of one of their number. A comrade who was active in our organization for a number of years and who took pride in the work; who always responded to every call, and best of all he was a veteran of the Civil War. I will call upon Past Division Commander Rudolph M. Genthner of New York, who will fittingly express our feelings at this time.

Rudolph M. Genthner of New York: Commander-in-Chief, and Commander Moynihan, Brothers and Sisters: In obedience to your will, on this sad, solemn occasion, I arise as a representative of the New York Division to speak commemoratively of our late Brother Edward C. Parkinson, whose death occurred on the 31st day of July last.

While your action in setting aside this hour will transmit to posterity your esteem of our departed Brother, it can but faintly portray the deep sorrow we feel in his loss.

Edward Clemons Parkinson was born in Ireland on the fifth day of July, 1842. He came to America with his parents when but six years of age, and for a short time resided in the City of Brooklyn, from which he moved with the family to Ballston Spa, Saratoga county, N. Y., where the boy Edward received his education in the public schools and graduated from Professor Gilmore's Academy. At the close of his school days Brother Parkinson journeyed to New Bedford, Mass., and shipped for a three years cruise upon a whaling expedition. This expedition finally brought him to the shores of Australia.

He spent several months in Australia and then took passage on a vessel for Ireland with the intention of paying a visit to his father's relatives. It was during his sojourn in the land of his birth that he learned through the newspapers of the outbreak of the Civil War, and from letters received from home of the enlistment of his father in the Union army. Hastily bidding his relatives farewell he sailed for the United States to take up arms in the cause of his adopted country.

He was nineteen years of age when he enlisted as a private in Company B 44th New York Volunteer Infantry. He was detached from his regiment January 9th, 1862 and assigned to Battery D Fifth U. S. Artillery, soon attaining the rank of Sergeant in that Battery. March 1864, he was appointed Second Lieutenant of Company L Thirteenth New York Volunteer Heavy Artillery, Naval Brigade, Army of the James. October 20th, 1864 he was made Captain of Company M, and assigned to the command of the Army Gunboat "Burnside." He was honorably discharged and mustered out with his Company July 11, 1865. He was in action with his command at Yorktown, Hanover Court House, Mechanicsville, Gainesville, White Oak Swamp, Malvern Hill, Harrison Landing, Second Bull Run, Groveton, Antietam, Gettysburg, Sheppardstown Ford, Kearneyville, Fredericksburg, Rappahannock Station, Chancellorsville, Culpepper, Mine Run, Nansemond and Fort Clifton. In the battle of Yorktown April 5, 1862, he was permanently injured, and was wounded May 26th, 1862, at Hanover Court House, and July 3, 1863 at Gettysburg.

Captain Parkinson was a prominent member of the G. A. R., joining that organization in 1867. He was Inspector of the New York Department for five years, during the period of its most efficiency, especially in the military line, for he was chairman of the committee on construction, which had charge of the superintending of the construction of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath and he raised the first twelve subscriptions of one hundred dollars each for that home. He served as president of the board of trustees and was the first superintendent of the Home, resigning that position February 23, 1880. He moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, to take up a position in the government service. Not finding the western state congenial and not being a suitable field for one accustomed to such an active life, as he was to take up, he returned to the east in 1892. He made his home at that time at Rochester, Monroe County. After his return he has served the New York Department of the G. A. R. on the Council of Administration, and Senior Vice Commander, holding the latter office at the time of his death.

Captain Parkinson was a charter member of O'Rorke Camp No. 60 Sons of Veterans, and always exhibited a deep interest in its welfare. Since 1896 he has been prominent in Division and National Encampments and six years ago at the Detroit National Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief he was elected to life membership in this body. His interest in the Order of Sons of Veterans and love for it seem to increase as his strength failed. During the latter period of his life, his strong will power seemed to force the feeble body to the camp meetings, the encamp-



ments, and the social gatherings, where the Sons and the Auxiliary would meet. Only four days before his death he left his bed to attend a prearranged meeting of his Camp, at which time a suitable token was to be presented to him. At our Encampment last June at Watertown, a committee was authorized to procure a suitable token to present to Captain Parkinson. The initiatory steps were taken at that time and later were continued and to him was presented one of the handsomest testimonials that I believe ever fell to the lot of man. An emblem that any man in the United States; any ruler of any foreign country might deem a high honor to be presented with. (Emblem here exhibited to the Encampment) Typical as it is of his entire life, showing his rank and service in the United States, his career in the Grand Army of the Republic and in the Sons of Veterans, it portrays in precious metals and stones and conveyed to him the esteem in which he was held by the members of the order of the New York Division. As I stated Brother Parkinson left his sick bed, setting at nought the advice of his physician and the appeal of his family and friends, and made the eighty mile journey to be present at that Camp-meeting, and four days before the close of his life Captain Parkinson joined with the members of his Camp for the last time in singing the closing ode: "Brothers, now our work completed, let us to our home prepare." Few of us, and indeed Captain Parkinson himself, did not realize how near was the close of his life's work, and how soon he was to repair to his home on high. At that time he spoke freely of the pleasure he anticipated in attending this encampment. He was going to take us boys of New York to Little Round Top and there paint the picture as he saw it forty years ago, and not the least of his pleasures was to be that of greeting those of you whom he has met from year to year in the annual gatherings.

Brothers, my feelings forbid that I speak further along this line. Let it be said of Brother Parkinson that his career, not only in the Order of Sons of Veterans, but throughout his entire life mark him as one of those men, whom while he lives is revered and admired, "and when he dies he leaves a lofty name, a light, a land mark, on the cliffs of fame." (Applause.)

We believe that in exhibiting this token of our esteem of Captain Parkinson to those in attendance at this Encampment, we do an act that he would be pleased to have us do, and I will pin it upon the breast of our Division Commander, where those who desire may gaze upon the splendid piece of work, and perhaps get a faint idea of what we thought of Captain Parkinson.

Commander-in-Chief: I would like to inquire if the Division Commander of Rhode Island is present. He does not seem to be present and I will call upon W. R. Congdon to speak to the memory of our Brother Theodore A. Barton of Rhode Island.

W. R. Congdon of Rhode Island: Commander-in-Chief and members of this Encampment: It is my sad duty to announce the death of Past Division Commander and Past Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Theodore A. Barton of Rhode Island.

I would that we had here some of the eloquent speakers from my Division to portray to you the character of that esteemed Brother who has now passed beyond. I did not come here anticipating that I would be called upon to say even a word in respect to his memory. Therefore, probably some things that I may say may be a little in error as to data, because it is entirely from memory.

He was a Massachusetts boy, and he went from there with a Massachusetts regiment to the Civil War. Nothing but a mere boy, following his father, he did gallant service for the Union. When he came home in a few years he came to Rhode Island and there he made his home until his death. He was known in Rhode Island probably as no other Grand Army man or Son of a Veteran. Though a young veteran I may say he took first rank in the Department of Rhode Island Grand Army of the Republic. He became the Commander of Slocum Post in the Rhode Island Department, and the growth of that post under his administration was something marvelous. It increased rapidly in membership, and from that position he went to a higher honor in his Department, becoming the Department Commander, and in that capacity he showed the same ability for service as Commander of his Post. His great interest in the Grand Army of the Republic also manifested itself in the Sons of Veterans. He was the founder of the Rhode Island Division of Sons of Veterans. He was its second Division Commander, and he was loved, honored and respected in that Division. He was ever present in time of need, and served in every capacity that that Division might call him to. As I say he was its Division Commander. Later he served for several terms as Adjutant and in various other capacities. He was well known to the members of this Commandery, and was elected Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief. He was also active in his own state outside of these orders that I have mentioned, being at the time of his death Secretary of the State House Commission. Brother Barton was stricken in January last upon a street car in the city of Providence, and in less than two weeks passed away. It was a great shock to the members of the Rhode Island Division and at our Encampment in February a splendid tribute was paid to his memory. Let us remember his good deeds and let us revere his memory. (Applause)

Commander-in-Chief: I will call on the Chaplain-in-Chief Rev. J. J. Skinner to speak to the memory of the other departed Brothers of our order during the past year.

Chaplain-in-Chief Skinner of Kansas: Commander, Ladies of the Auxiliary, Sons of Veterans and Countrymen: It is with trembling feeling that I stand in your presence at this moment. A little over two weeks ago I received a message from the Commander-in-Chief that I was to occupy this moment in behalf of the fallen of our order and those of the parent order in the year past.

We are gathered today overshadowed by memories of the past as we look upon the stars and stripes, and look upon the faces of these time honored heroes, who have borne the heat and strife of battle, faced the hardship of warfare, having fought valiantly to defend the God given principles of which this glorious flag is an emblem.

As we listened to the memoir of General Blackmar by our Brother Stevens our mind has been turned for a moment in its reflection, upon our country's past. As the memoir of Brother Parkinson, who has been so prominent in our Order, was being given, our meditation, reflection and interest was riveted upon the opportunities and responsibilities of the present hour. In our former reflection, we behold this grand republic in embryo. Upon its eastern coast were planted two colonies. The one in Plymouth Rock, the other within the borders of the southland at Jamestown, Virginia.

With these two colonies were introduced two great principles in America. The former were those God given principles implanted by God in the hearts of our Puritan fathers and by Divine authority destined to be the fundamental principles of this, the greatest nation under the shining sun to be ushered in the twentieth century. The latter introduced upon American soil those principles that ever enslave, wreck and destroy the principles of any true government.

With these two pictures so feebly drawn before our gaze at this moment we are compelled in the language of the Psalmist to cry out "if the foundations be destroyed what can the righteous do?" For we can see as we look to the southland slavery rising before us. Children torn from mothers and sold. We read the Dred Scott Decision and ask if justice is a mockery. The picture darkens around us as we hear the cry of State Rights reverberating through the land in defiance of the hell steeped principles of slavery.

What a foe to North and South, the unconstitutional doctrine of State Rights has always been to our great country. State Rights would send an army across state lines to pursue a fugitive slave, but would oppose the government in crossing the lines to strike the shackles of bondage from a human being. State Rights would support piracy and murder and encourage American citizens to go into the business of selling men and women and children and feeding their cargo to the sharks of the sea. State Rights would welcome the vile principles of secession and rebellion and would send and devour the greatest and best government in all the world.

Who will meet the heroic armies of our erring countrymen who defy the Stars and Stripes? Who will rise to the dreadful occasion and fall upon the field of battle to save our government from downfall and ruin? I point to the green graves of our dead soldiers and say, "Behold the men." I look with hazy eyes upon the tottering forms of the comrades of my father and cry to the world, "Here they are." These are the men who undertook the bloody work of killing and dying and offering to die that the Goddess of Liberty might be enthroned forever in America. These are the men who fought under the Stars and Stripes that the principles of Liberty might be defended. Is it any wonder that the old soldier loves the flag under whose folds he fought and for which his comrades shed so much blood? He loves it for what it is and for what it represents. It embodies the history of the government itself. It records every scene of the defender on land and sea; It

heralds the heroism of our revolutionary fathers, who planted freedom on this continent and dedicated it to liberty forever; it attests the strength of our army and the valor of our citizens in all the wars of the republic; it has been sanctified by the blood of our best and bravest; it records the achievements of Washington and the martyrdom of Lincoln; it has been bathed in the tears of a sorrowful people; it has been glorified in the hearts of a freedom loving people not only at home but in every part of the world.

Our flag expresses more than any other flag; it means more than any other national emblem; it expresses the will of a free people and proclaims that they are supreme and that they acknowledged no other sovereign but themselves. It was never assaulted that thousands did not rise up to smite the assailant. Glorious old banner!

If Egypt built pyramids to honor the memory of her tyrannical kings, it is fitting that America should keep the memory of those who died in defense of the liberty our ancestors won by battling against a king. What other nation has such good cause for honoring its heroes as America? We would have our children learn the lesson of patriotism which comes from the bivouac, the tedious march and the battle field. We would have them emulate the self-sacrificing of those men who so cheerfully left the office, the shop, the counting room or the plow, to show their loyalty by fighting, if need be, by dying for their country.

The destinies of nations are shaped by those who fight and die at their country's cause. History is written in the blood of the brave and true. But the manhood of a nation is formed by the hand that rocks the cradle.

So long as the American mothers teach their sons that the greatest privilege and the highest honor is to fight for country, its safety and its honor, so long shall we have a nation in which honor, chivalry, glory and patriotism shall be dominate. Let us cherish the memory of our dead heroes, and while we minister to the necessities of the living, let us not forget the dead, but as each recurring Memorial Day rolls around, let us scatter flowers above the sacred dust and renew our tribute of admiration and gratitude.

Then how fitting a memoir at this time for our brothers. Division after division has had its ranks thinned during the year. Our Brother Genthner has given so beautifully a memoir of the honored but fallen Edward C. Parkinson and Brother Congdon the memoir of Theodore A. Barton and it now falls to me to note the rank and file or as it were the boys behind the guns. Boys, though not before the public gaze, have been in the rank and file. Boys dear to mother and valuable to country. Boys not unlike those, who in the flush of youth, heard Old Abe's call for thousands strong. These boys too heard their country's call in the days civic strife. The President's call has been for men. Men of integrity and honor.

They have fallen. The reports come division by division. Alabama and Tennessee, two; California, three; Colorado and Wyoming, one; Connecticut, seven; Wisconsin,

sin, three; Vermont, two; Rhode Island, four; Pennsylvania, fifty-two; Ohio, three; New York, eighteen; New Jersey, twelve; New Hampshire, two; Missouri, six; Minnesota, one; Massachusetts, twenty-eight; Maryland, six; Maine, five; Kansas, one; Indiana, one and Illinois, two. Total, one hundred and fifty-nine.

Yes, Brothers and Sisters, they have fallen. Does it matter? Let me ask, did it matter when the rank and file went down in bloody array on yonder hills and in those fertile valleys, when the fate of this nation hung on the result of that awful Gettysburg struggle. Inspiring environment this. Battles, battles today? Yes. Battles in which the fate of the nation rests as much as in the bloody conflict of July 1st-3rd, 1863.

We hear it said that we are privileged to look upon and enjoy the freedom and the blessings of the strongest and grandest nation on earth. America has been the Eldorado of hope, the north star of freedom of the nineteenth century. Her poets, warriors, and statesmen have mounted the highest rounds of the golden ladder of fame. The blacks from African sands, and the Esquimaux from Greenland's snows; the Mongolian of the Orient and the Red Men of the Occident, have alike done homage to her flag. Tidings of her name and fame, her glory and prosperity, her liberty and generosity, have been sounded from pole to pole. America is the Mayflower of liberty. She is leading the nations of the world to the Plymouth Rock of Democracy.

The sons of those heroes of freedom, whose blood sanctifies thousands of battle fields, must make duty instead of wealth, the passport to greatness. Oh, sons and daughters of America's patriots, remember today the rich legacy that is our and the debt that we owe to the battle-scarred heroes; and that the American constitution is founded, not on the sands of class compact and inequality, but on the solid rocks of equality and fraternity. The school and the pulpit are the polar stars in democracy. Guided by them the Republic marches on the highway of progress. Woe to the ignorant and godless nation.

Honor the rank and file who have fallen during the past twelve months. Keep green their honored memory. May the inspiration it brings inspire each Division, Camp and Son to more effective labors for our Order, country and God, during the next twelve months. Ever remember the principles of our order, Friendship, Charity and Loyalty. (Applause.)

Commander-in-Chief: I will now call upon Mrs. Julia A. Moynihan, National Chaplain of the Ladies Auxillary. It is fair to say that no notice has been given to Mrs. Moynihan of this except a few hours ago.

Mrs. Julia A. Moynihan of New York: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers of the Sons of Veterans: The Commander has said that I knew nothing until a few hours ago of this. Brother Chaplain-in-Chief stated he had been informed two weeks ago. Now I was informed about two minutes before our meeting adjourned to come before this body for this service. So I am wholly unprepared to say that which my heart might wish me to say. I will state that the National Auxillary of the Sons of Veterans has

lost twenty-four faithful members during the past year. I can only state now to the Brothers, and I express the sentiments and the feelings of each of my Sisters here present and those absent, that your joys are our joys, your sorrows are our sorrows. I thank you. (Applause)

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander-in-Chief, I feel that I would be remiss if I fail at this hour to take up the time of this Encampment for a moment. I want to testify to the faithful service and devotion of Brother Parkinson of New York. I want to testify to the devotion and faithfulness of Brother Theodore A. Barton of Rhode Island. It chanced that he served as Commander of the Rhode Island Division when I was Commander-in-Chief, and a more faithful Commander and more devoted officer I did not have during my service of two years as Commander-in-Chief. Those of you who were present at the Encampment at Patterson will join me in testifying to the splendid delegation which he headed when they came to that Encampment. Thorough gentlemen all of them. Thoroughly proud of their Commander, and we were all so proud of "Rhodie" and Theodore Barton.

I also wish to testify to the memory of John Clarkson of the Division of New York. I believe he has not been mentioned. John Clarkson was a material factor in the development of the Division of New York. John Clarkson was the one man in New York City after considerable solicitation on my part, to lend a hand of fellowship for the erection of that magnificent Camp 140 in the city of New York, which had so much to do, by its influence, its social standing, with the development and growth of the Division of New York, when it was in a most delicate condition from reasons which are well known to the Brothers of New York. John Clarkson worked faithfully in the organization of that camp. He called together an element that no other man seemed to be able to reach. Without his aid that camp would not have been organized, and the influence of that camp was most beneficial to that Division and I feel that I owe it to the memory of John Clarkson to call the Commander-in-Chief's attention to his work. He served the order faithfully as Quartermaster General under Commander-in-Chief Weeks. He was always a forceful member of the order, earnest, and did that which he believed was for the benefit of the order. I want to say this for I feel that it is justice to a Brother that we all knew, and when he was more active we all loved.

George S. Geis of California: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers of the Sons of Veterans: As the delegate of California Division to your Encampment I desire to mention the names of two loyal brothers of that Division, one a member of the Commandery-in-Chief, who have passed away since our last meeting. Onward as Christian soldiers both have followed the orders of the Great Ruler of the Universe.

In our Division they were the guiding spirits of our Order, and in their state, they were honored, both as Sons of Veterans who loved the order, their country and who from kind deeds and acts are known throughout our order in the nation.

One is Past Commander Lt. Col. Theodore S. Bangham of Pasadena, Cal., who was in the service of California as Ass't Adjt. Gen'l of the Cal. Nat'l Guards at the time of his death.

The other was always in the harness, always serving our order from private to Commander of the Division, and in office as Div. Adjt. when the summons came—Well done good and faithful servant.

I refer to Frank R. Handley, Past Commander of Cal. Division. How I remember my first meeting with him in Redlands, Cal., where we organized and mustered in McKinley Camp No. 25 there. To know him, to serve under him, to be guided by his advice has been my privilege as a brother. At all times a dear and loving friend, and comrade.

I offer this testimony for California the State and Division he so loyally served. He died on the birthday of that state, at the large meeting of the Masonic Fraternity in Mechanics Pavilion, San Francisco, on Sept. 9th, 1904, the 54th anniversary of the admission of California as a star in the Union and Sisterhood of States, when W. H. Steward said, "The unity of Empire hangs of the decision of this day."

At the time of this fitting observance of this occasion in California by the Native Sons and Daughters of the Golden West and Masonic bodies numbering several thousand when it was learned that he expired the large celebration was adjourned. Showing the high esteem in which he was regarded, and as a tribute to our worthy and noble brother our Past Commander F. R. Handley.

In the same sentiments as this is the first of our meetings since, in the plan of Memorial service, may we add these two brothers of California Division? May their teachings and high resolve be recalled here at Gettysburg and their souls rest in peace, in our loving memory in all our hearts as brothers assembled here.

Commander-in-Chief: We will be pleased to hear from any other Brother or any Sister of the Auxilliary. I would request that the Division Commanders, who are here and know of Brothers who have died during the past year, hand them to the stenographer so that they may become a matter of record in these proceedings.

If there is no one else who wishes to say anything farther this meeting will be dismissed.

The Ladies of the Auxilliary retire and the Encampment was called to order by Commander-in-Chief Dustin.

Commander-in-Chief: What is the pleasure of the Encampment?

Frank L. Shepard of Illinois: I move you that we take a recess until eight thirty o'clock Thursday morning.

The motion was seconded and agreed to and the Encampment took a recess until Thursday September 21st, 1905, at eight thirty o'clock a. m.

Wednesday, September 20th, 1905, was entirely occupied by a drive over the famous battle field of Gettysburg under the supervision of the famous guide and delineator Captain James T. Long of Gettysburg. The delegates to

the Encampment being the guests of the Pennsylvania Division and the Local Camp.

#### THURSDAY MORNING SESSION.

September 21, 1905. 8:30 o'clock a. m.

Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

Commander-in-Chief: The Encampment will come to order. The Committee on Credentials have a supplemental report to make. We will listen to that report.

Isaac Cutter Assistant Secretary of Illinois: Commander-in-Chief: The Committee on Credentials report the following brothers present and entitled to seats in this Encampment:

Past Commander Miles W. Ross of Maryland, Commander F. J. Kellogg of Michigan; Past Commander W. B. McNulty of Pennsylvania.

Edward R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander-in-Chief I move the report of the Committee on Credentials be adopted and the committee continued.

H. E. Cowdin of Michigan: I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

Commander-in-Chief: I have some communications here that I will read to the Encampment.

The following communications were then read to the Encampment:

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 20, 1905.

W. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, Gettysburg Pa.: Severe affliction of eye prevents me being with you. Best wishes for successful Encampment.—Louis M. Wagner.

Reading, Pa., Sept. 20, 1905.

Twenty-fourth Annual Encampment S. V., Gettysburg, Pa.: Permit me the pleasure and honor of extending my heartfelt greeting knowing that your deliberation can only redound to the future of our noble organization, whose labors are each year growing more responsible and enabling.—E. W. Alexander.

Providence, R. I., September 20, 1905.

Wm. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, Eagle Hotel, Gettysburg, Pa.: Please convey to members of the Encampment my regrets at not being present. Business prevents. Wishes for a successful meeting. Fraternally yours.—Arthur B. Spink, Past Commander-in-Chief.

Los Angeles, Cal., September 18th, 1905.

Wm. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, Battlefield at Gettysburg, Pa.: In behalf California Division wish you success in all undertakings. God bless you all.—Geo. W. Conart, Division Commander.

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 19, 1905.

Mr. W. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, Gettysburg, Pa.: Father's illness prevents my leaving. Trust you will have a good time. Writing.—John T. Stockton.

Lyndonville, Vt., September 19, 1905.

W. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, Gettysburg, Pa.: Green Mountain Division extends congratulations for your most successful administration. Best



wishes for harmonious Encampment and prosperous future.—Com. J. B. Ripley and Staff.

Peoria, Ill., September 19, 1905.

W. G. Dustin, Commander, Gettysburg, Pa.: Extend greetings to the Encampment. Express my regret at not being present. Extend to them my invitation and pleasure of meeting them in Peoria next year.—Wm. E. Hull.

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 18, 1905.

Wm. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A., Dear Sir and Brother: I herewith extend to you the greeting of General D. B. Birney Camp No. 13 Pennsylvania Division, S. V., U. S. A. at the Encampment at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Yours in F. C. L.—Harry Theils, Secretary; J. W. B. Magill, Commander.  
(Seal)

Fort Wayne, Ind., Sept. 19, 1905.

W. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, Gettysburg, Pa.: Accept and convey greetings of Indiana Division.—T. W. Blair, Commander.

Denver, Col., Sept. 8, 1905.

To the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans in Convention assembled: The officers and members of the National Alliance Daughters of Veterans in Fifteenth Annual Convention assembled send greetings and wish you a successful and harmonious convention. Sincerely in F. C. & L.—Katharine R. A. Flood, Mass.; Lulu McGraw, Colo.; Agnes S. McCoy, Mass. Greeting Committee.

Wilmington, Ill., Sept. 19, 1905.

W. G. Dustin, Comander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, Gettysburg, Pa.: Congratulations, best wishes for a prosperous future for the order.—Flo. Jamison Miller, Special Aid C-in-C.

Escanaba, Mich., Sept. 18, 1905.

Wm. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., Gettysburg, Pa., My Dear Commander and Brothers: It is with a feeling of sincere sorrow that I am forced to pen my regrets upon not being one with you and the brothers of the Commandery-in-Chief at the Encampment on the Gettysburg battle field.

At the time of its selection my good wife and myself looked forward with a feeling of pleasure to the coming event, but falling health and a change in my district work, only gave additional proof how true the lines of dear Old Bobby Burns.

That I am with you in the spirit, goes without saying, and without, at the present, having the pleasure of listening to your final report, accept my congratulations. My heart tells me it will be a good one. Give to my brothers of the Illinois Division, who today are sharing with you in the glory of your splendid year, my kindly fraternal love. I owe much to them, more than at any time of life I can ever repay.

It is our hope and wish that nothing shall mar the Encampment or the Encampment week. That it may be a week of pleasure to all who are present and of benefit to our order, and that out of all shall be only that which will be best for the Nation, with no regard for code in politics or creed in religion,

With my fraternal regards to all the brothers of the Commandery-in-Chief, I am, Yours truly, George W. G. Estover, Past Division Commander, Ill. Sons of Vet. U. S. A.

Waterville, Me., Sept. 18, 1905.

Commander-in-Chief and Brothers of National Encampment: Please accept my best wishes for a very pleasant and most successful meeting. Fraternaly in F. C. & L.—A. S. Bowker, Division Past President of Maine Sons of Veterans Auxillary.

Niagara Falls, N. Y., Sept. 19, 1905.

W. G. Dustin, Care Sons of Veterans, National Convention Hall, Gettysburg, Pa.: Niagara Falls extends cordial invitation for next meeting. Consider our location, our hotel accomodations are ample. Will guarantee reasonable rates. Natural attraction will draw large attendance. Will provide some forms entertainment. Please present to convention invitation. Is seconded by mayor and common council.—Bureau of Publicity, E. F. Olmstedt, Director.

Philadelphia, Sept. 20, 1905.

Mr. Wm. G. Dustin, Commander-in-Chief S. V., U. S. A., Gettysburg, Pa., My Dear Brother Dustin: No more disappointed man in the whole Pennsylvania Division exists today than your humble servant. I had made every preparation to leave here on the 4:35 train today and even purchased my ticket while out at lunch today so as to be able to get away. At the last minute my chief told me that we have a very large deal coming up tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock and he wanted me to be on hand at that time. You may know just how I felt especially after getting everything ready to jump off in time to make the train. I feel that I am not doing my duty as Commander of the Division when I am not on hand to welcome you into our midst, but man proposes and some one else disposes and there we are.

I wish you would convey my regrets to the members of the Commandery and hope that the members of the Pennsylvania delegation more than made up for my short comings.

Hoping that this meeting will be of great benefit to our noble order, I have the honor to subscribe myself, Your obedient servant in F. C. & L.

John Bower, Jr., Com. Pa. Div. S. V.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: I move that the communications be received and entered on the records of the Commandery-in-Chief.

Isaac Cutter of Illinois: I second the motion.

Motion was agreed to.

Commander-in-Chief: The Secretary will call the roll and credit those present.

The roll call showed all present who had been reported by the Credential Committee.

Commander-in-Chief: The Committee on Officers Reports have informed me that they can make a partial report. We will listen to the partial report.

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Commander-in-Chief your Committee on Officers Reports are ready to make a partial report to this body. I will read the partial report:

To the Officers and Members of the Twenty-fourth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Your committee after carefully discussing the report of your Commander beg leave to report as follows upon the recommendations contained therein.

1st. Relative to the recommendations relating to the Memorial University, we heartily concur in such recommendation and respectfully request that the same be referred to the Special Committee on Memorial University.

3rd. Your committee concurs in the recommendation for continuing the publication of circulars or general orders in the official organ.

4th. As to the recommendation relative to Ritual this committee believes that the matter should be referred to the Ritual Committee and request that such action be taken.

5th. That portion of your Commander's report relative to buttonhole decoration, we respectfully recommend be referred to the Committee on Constitution and Laws.

6th. Relative to the recommendation for the printing of supplies by competitive bids, your committee fully concurs in the recommendations as made.

7th. Relative to Commander Dustin's recommendations in the matter of constitution and laws, your committee is of the opinion that the same should be referred to the Committee on Constitution and Laws and would respectfully request that such action be taken.

8th. Your committee fully concur in our Commander's recommendations that a full and complete monthly financial statement be published in the official organ.

9th. Your committee concur in the recommendation that each Division appoint a regular committee to visit all military homes within their Division and report to their conventions the general conditions and needs of these institutions.

10th. Referring to these suggestions of the Commander-in-Chief regarding pensions, your committee approves the same, and recommends that the substance of the Commander-in-Chief's suggestion be embodied in general orders for circulars.

11th. Relative to the recommendations for recruiting involving the proposition of establishing permanent headquarters and the election of a permanent secretary or a secretary-treasurer, your committee in general approves the proposition but in view of the constitutional questions involved recommend that the matter be referred to the constitution and law committee.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

James B. Adams,  
E. F. Buck,  
W. A. Stevens,  
James E. Blythe,  
E. W. Estes.

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of this report and the continuance of the committee.

William A. Stevens of Massachusetts: I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief: The question now on the adoption of the report. All in favor of the adoption of the report say aye, contra no. It is carried, and the report is adopted.

I understand the Council-in-Chief is ready to report.

Chairman H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander-in-Chief, I will read the report of the Council-in-Chief.

The report of the Council-in-Chief as read and submitted is as follows:

Gettysburg, Pa., September 19, 1905.

To the Officers and Members of the Twenty-fourth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Brothers: A record of the proceedings of your Council-in-Chief for the past year is herewith submitted for your consideration and approval.

Following the adjournment of the Twenty-third Annual Encampment, our first meeting was held in Boston, Mass., and an organization was affected by the election of H. V. Speelman of Ohio as Chairman, and Wm. R. Congdon, of Rhode Island, as Secretary. Bonds were fixed as follows:

Commander-in-Chief, five thousand dollars.

National Secretary, twenty-five hundred dollars.

National Treasurer, ten thousand dollars.

It was voted to have printed under one cover fifteen hundred copies of the proceedings of the Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third Annual Encampments, this work to be under the supervision of the Commander-in-Chief.

By action of your Council, September 18, 19, 20 and 21, 1905, were decided upon as the dates for holding the Twenty-fourth Annual Encampment.

The books and accounts of the National Secretary and National Treasurer, together with the vouchers and requisitions pertaining thereto, have been audited and have been found to agree.

On examination of the books, up to and including August 31, 1905, a balance of \$1813.85 was found to be on the books and in the hands of the National Treasurer.

By action of the Twenty-third Annual Encampment a tax of one cent per member per annum was assessed in favor of the headquarters of the Sons of Veterans Reserves. The expense account rendered by General Reed for the year, amounts to \$201.51. In view of the fact that the tax of but two quarters, amounting to \$131.48 on account of the constitutional provision covering it not having become effective until January 1, 1905, is thus far available, your Council recommends the payment of this amount, also the balance of the account, \$70.03.

Your Council-in-Chief recommends that the per capita tax for the coming year be fixed at thirty-six cents per member, the same as heretofore.

Fraternally submitted,

H. V. Speelman, Chairman,  
Wm. R. Congdon, Secy.,  
Newton J. McGuire.

Edward R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander, I

move the report of the Council-in-Chief be accepted and adopted.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

Commander-in-Chief: I have just been handed a communication here, which I will read.

"Gettysburg, Pa., Sept. 21, 1905.

To the Officers and Members of the Commandery-in-Chief.

Brothers: For reasons that involve personal and business affairs I most respectfully tender my resignation as National Treasurer of the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. In doing so I wish to record my most grateful appreciation of the honors that have been conferred upon me in the past and to assure the representatives of the Commandery that I take this action on my own motion for the reasons above stated, and that I shall continue to take a most active and earnest interest in the work of the organization and the affairs of the Commandery. Very respectfully, in F. C. & L.—Fred E. Bolton, National Treasurer."

Commander-in-Chief: What will we do with the communication.

Michael Crowley of New Hampshire: Commander, I move we accept the communication.

Samuel A. Pickering of Massachusetts: I second the motion.

George T. Drake of Minnesota: Commander, has the Treasurer's report been accepted?

Commander-in-Chief: The action of the Council-in-Chief wound up that business entirely.

Edward R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander, it occurs to me in accepting this resignation that the thanks of the Commandery are due Brother Bolton for the very efficient manner in which he has performed this duty, and I believe that should be incorporated in this motion.

Frank L. Shepard of Illinois: Commander, I desire to second the suggested amendment.

Commander-in-Chief: Wouldn't it be well to suggest that the committee on resolutions take the matter up.

Edward R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander, I accept that suggestion.

E. M. Amies of Pennsylvania: Commander, only this one matter. The motion that Brother Crowley made was that the communication be accepted. What does that imply?

Commander-in-Chief: I understood it to be that the resignation be accepted.

Michael Crowley of Massachusetts: No, the communication.

E. M. Amies of Pennsylvania: What do we understand by that?

Michael Crowley of Massachusetts: That you then proceed and act on the resignation.

Commander-in-Chief: I misunderstood. I would say then that the motion is that the communication be received.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Do not let us make a motion to go on the record to receive it. The only proper motion is to reject or adopt or refer to a committee. I move that the resignation be accepted and that the resq.

lution offered by Past Commander-in-Chief Campbell be referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Michael Crowley of Massachusetts: I accept that and withdraw my motion.

Samuel A. Pickering of Massachusetts: As seconder of the motion I accept it also.

Motion of Reed to accept the resignation and refer the resolution was put and declared carried.

"Old Guard."

Commander-in-Chief: I understand that there is a delegation from the "Old Guard" of Washington at the door. I will detail Brother Campbell of Washington, D. C., to escort them to the altar.

The "Old Guard" were then escorted to the altar amid great applause.

Edward R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander-in-Chief I have the distinguished honor and pleasure of introducing to you, and through you to the members of this Commandery-in-Chief, a detail from the "Old Guard" of the city of Washington. They are here on invitation of the local committee. They are members of an organization that has had an existence for many, many years. They have acted as the escort to the Department of the Potomac many years and also for the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army on many occasions. They are here today to pay an official visit to this Commandery, and extend their greetings to their sons. They are comrades of our fathers and we appreciate their coming to Gettysburg, this historic spot, to extend their greetings and pay a visit to this Commandery.

Commander, personally I have the honor to introduce Lieutenant Patten the commanding officer of the "Old Guard" for the time being.

Commander-in-Chief: Brother Campbell and Lieutenant Patten: I assure you that we are much pleased to welcome the members of the "Old Guard," or any veteran of the war from sixty-one to sixty-five. We appreciate your visit very much, and I would request that Brother Campbell escort you to seats and then we would be pleased to hear from you as a commanding officer of the "Old Guard."

Lieutenant Patten: Commander-in-Chief: I myself am laboring under difficulty and am very hoarse. I will introduce as the speaker of the occasion Lieutenant Calhoun.

Lieutenant Calhoun was then escorted to the rostrum and introduced by Commander-in-Chief Dustin to the members present.

Lieutenant Calhoun: Commander-in-Chief and Sons of Veterans: It gives me great pleasure to represent the "Old Guard" here this morning upon this old historic battle field of Gettysburg, which was once the scene of blood and thunder and carnage, and today is the scene of quiet and peace. It also gives me great pleasure to have the honor of addressing the sons of old veterans. The old veterans in my estimation are the true patriots of America. We follow the examples that were set by our old Revolutionary forefathers, but I doubt very much if

our Revolutionary forefathers ever enjoyed the distinction that the soldiers of the late Civil War enjoyed today. It is true that they had their societies, such as the Society of Cincinnati, and the Societies of Ohio, but that was something like the Society of the Army of the Potomac. It was not a large organization like the Grand Army of the Republic. I can remember well when I was a boy of hearing the children of my great grandfather tell about his great journey from Massachusetts to Hartford, Connecticut, a distance of fifty-five miles, to meet General LaFayette. How they exchanged their greetings. They told of their ills and griefs, and it is only characteristic of what we tell today ourselves when we meet one another. You talk to an old soldier of the Civil War today five minutes about himself and I'll bet he hasn't got a sound bone in his body. (Laughter) There are a great many things that we have to contend with. We have to contend with those who fought on the other side, and I only speak of it in the spirit of patriotism. While they fought bravely it seems to me at this late day, they ought to acknowledge which side was right and which side wrong and not try to educate the rising generation that their cause was right and ours was wrong. (Applause) We, the old soldiers have always been very sympathetic towards the Confederate soldier, believing that when they surrendered at Appomattox and advanced their foot into the bloody chasm of their own soldiers blood and said to us "we are one and inseparable," we the old soldiers advanced that other foot into the blood and said "united we stand, divided we fall."

Ulysses S. Grant took in the whole situation at a glance and threw the mantle of charity over the whole bloody scene and said "let us have peace." We took them at their word. He furthermore said "take your horses, go home and plow your fields" and we supposed that that would be what they would do, but instead of plowing their fields and cultivating the soil and building up the country, they seem to give more time to politics and who should govern this country than anything else.

When we old soldiers pass away, we leave to you, Sons of Veterans, a heritage of the greatest republic upon the face of the earth that we saved. When they pass away they leave to you a heritage of the greatest republic upon the face of the earth, that they did not save and that they tried to destroy.

Now my good friends and Sons of Veterans, all honor to you, all honor to the cause which you represent here today, all honor to the flag, which you are to support after we are dead and gone, all honor to yourselves for supporting this grand country that we saved, because you are the sons of veterans and are the ideal of humanity. (Applause)

Commander-in-Chief: Comrade Patten, members of the Grand Army, I wish to assure you again we are very thankful for your visit here today as representatives of the "Old Guard" and as representatives of the Grand Army of the Republic. We assure you we are proud to have you visit us. We want your encouragement in our work all the time. We appreciate the fact that it is an honor to

be sons of veterans, but we also appreciate the fact that we should be more than that. We appreciate the fact that if ever we become a great organization of influence in this country that we must build up an organization from a firm foundation and stand for something good everywhere, in every community, where we are organized over this broad land. We wish you to understand that we are organized to assist you in every way possible all over this country. It is our duty. It is the foundation upon which our organization has been built, and I am glad to report to you that our organization is growing in numbers and I believe in influence all over this land. We are not boys anymore; we are most of us men of affairs, and we begin to realize more and more every year that we have something to do, and we are going to try to do it; we are going to try and follow in your foot steps as teachers of patriotism in this country, and all we ask of you is your moral support, which we have a right to ask I believe. We have the same blood flowing in our veins and I would say to you, you are not backward at all about taking your sons in and advising them and pushing them along in a business way. The same should apply to our organization I believe. That is all we ask, your moral support. We recognize that the history of the Grand Army is the history of this country for the past forty years, and we have a great deal to be proud of, and we are proud of our birth, and we want to build up an organization all over this country, that you will be proud of and the nation will be proud of. I thank you for being here. I would like to have you remain during our session, if you so desire. (Applause)

Isaac Cutter of Illinois: Commander-in-Chief the Committee on Credentials have an additional report to make, which I would like to read.

Commander-in-Chief: We will listen to the supplemental report of the Committee on Credentials.

Isaac Cutter of Illinois: Commander-in-Chief, the Committee on Credentials beg leave to submit the following supplemental report:

To the Officers and Members of the Twenty-fourth Annual Encampment Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

We would respectfully report the following brothers present and entitled to seats in this Encampment:

Pennsylvania: W. A. Gray, E. B. Hartman, J. H. Hoffmeyer, Stauffer and Past Commander J. H. Claussen.

New Jersey: E. W. McCann and Charles Lawrence.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: I move that the brothers named be seated and the committee continued.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

Commander-in-Chief: I would ask if the Committee on Constitution and Laws is ready to report?

Chairman Frank L. Shepard of Illinois: Commander, your Committee on Constitution and Laws would beg leave to make the following report, which I will read.

"Gettysburg, Pa., Sept. 19, 1905.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Twenty-fourth Annual Encampment:

Your Committee on Constitution and Laws beg to state that it has carefully considered the several suggestions



and proposed amendments presented to it, inviting and considering the views of the members of this Encampment thereon, and presents as its conclusions the following amendments with the recommendation that they be adopted:

1. Amend Sec. 6, Art. 13, page 6, by striking out the word "treasurer" in the third line and inserting in place thereof the word "secretary."

2. Amend Sec. 7, Art. 13, page 6, by striking out all after the word "officers" in the third line thereof, so that said section shall read:

"Sec. 7. On assuming office the Commander-in-Chief shall appoint all other Commandery-in-Chief officers."

3. Amend Sec. 7, Art. 13, page 9, by changing the number to Sec. 6, so that said section shall read as follows:

"Sec. 6. The National Secretary shall receive an annual salary of \$2,000. The National Treasurer shall receive an annual salary of \$300."

4. Amend the first Sec. of Art. 14, page 6, by prefixing thereto the words "Sec. 1."

5. Amend Art. 14, page 7, by adding thereto the following section as section 2:

"Sec. 2. the National Secretary shall hereafter perform all of the duties heretofore performed by the National Secretary and the National Treasurer, except the duties hereinafter specified for the National Treasurer, and he shall promptly pay over to the National Treasurer all moneys received by him. The National Treasurer shall receive, hold and account for all such moneys paid to him, and pay out the same upon the order of the National Secretary, countersigned by the Commander-in-Chief."

6. Amend Sec. 10, Art. 13, page 6, so as to read as follows:

"Sec. 10. The term of office of the National Secretary the National Treasurer and the Chief-of-Staff shall be five years. The terms of office of all other elective or appointive officers shall be one year except where otherwise provided."

Chairman Frank L. Shepard: Those six divisions of this report combines and covers the legislation recommended by your committee on constitution and laws with reference to the two offices of National Secretary and National Treasurer. To recapitulate and re-state the proposition: In a word, this legislation contemplates that the National Secretary shall hereafter do all the detail work now performed and heretofore performed by the National Treasurer and the National Secretary. So that the detail work, furnishing supplies, attending to charters, applications, reports and things of that kind will be in one office, under one officer. That the National Treasurer shall simply receive and disburse the moneys of the order. He shall receive these moneys from the National Secretary to whom they will be remitted as heretofore and shall pay out these moneys by checks or otherwise upon the order of the National Secretary, countersigned by the Commander-in-Chief of the order. To properly compensate these two officers, the salaries of these two officers have been re-adjusted, as you will notice from this report, and the National Secretary who assumes this additional burden

and carries this additional work, shall receive a salary of two thousand dollars. The National Treasurer, who simply receives, accounts for and disburses the money, without attending to any of the details or communications as heretofore, shall receive a salary of three hundred dollars. Brothers, these recommendations, covering this one subject matter, have received the earnest and careful consideration of your committee. The committee have been favored by the views and opinions of all of the brothers in the Encampment, not only at this meeting but in prior meetings of our Commandery-in-Chief, and we earnestly recommend the adoption of these sections.

Commander-in-Chief, in order to keep this matter separate from one or two other minor changes pertaining to other subjects, I move the adoption of the first six divisions of this report pertaining to the offices of National Secretary and National Treasurer, as just read.

E. M. Amies of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

F. T. F. Johnson of Maryland: Commander, at Boston last year the matter of increasing the term of office of the National Secretary from three to five years was first broached. Without any thought, not only by the committee, but by the members of this Encampment, it was changed from three to five years. Now it seems to me that that was unnecessary. The term of office should not extend for the period of five years any more than the office of the Commander-in-Chief. This is an experiment pure and simple. Now why not make that three years. Make the period of experimentation as short as you can, consistent with good business. I can see no reason why five years should be inserted. The period is too long. If it should prove after a trial that this method is unsatisfactory, it requires a change of the constitution. All brothers know that the fundamental law of an order or organization should not be tampered with. The less you tamper with it the better it is, the more stable, and the better it is understood.

Now Brothers, with these remarks as a preface, I move that the term of the office be made three years instead of five.

A. E. B. Stephens of Ohio: Commander, I second that motion.

E. M. Amies of Pennsylvania: Commander, I arise to a point of order. You can not amend the constitution in that manner. This is a matter of the adoption of a report.

F. T. F. Johnson of Maryland: Commander, I do not quite get the drift of the remarks of my brother from Pennsylvania. It appears to me that if this matter is before the Encampment for adoption that any amendment may be made thereto. I make that as an amendment to the committee's report.

Commander-in-Chief: You made it as a motion before. If it is an amendment, that is different.

F. T. F. Johnson of Maryland: Commander, if that be the case, I move that the committee's report be amended to read three instead of five years.

W. A. Gray of Pennsylvania: Commander, I ask for information. Does the report as read provide for the

election of a National Secretary for a period of five years?

Chairman Shepard of Illinois: Yes, it does.

Commander-in-Chief: You have heard the amendment offered that three years instead of five be inserted. Are there any further remarks.

Michael Crowley of New Hampshire: Commander, how is this going to expedite the matter when by that recommendation they say that the Commander-in-Chief shall countersign all orders? That order has to be sent to the Commander-in-Chief and in turn back to the Treasurer, whereas at the present time, it goes to the Treasurer and it then goes to the Commander-in-Chief. It is tit for tat.

Commander-in-Chief: The question now is on the amendment that has been offered, Brother Crowley. That will come up later.

W. R. Congdon of Rhode Island: Commander, I heartily concur in the recommendation. You are getting back to the very recommendation I offered a year ago as Adjutant General. My experience taught me that the sooner this organization got down to business and put a man in who would attend to the business in a business way and devote the time necessary to the order, the sooner we would get on a sound basis. I think the term should be made five years.

Frank L. Shepard of Illinois: I shall take but a moment of time of the Encampment, speaking to the proposed amendment of Brother Johnson. He speaks of this as an innovation and change in the affairs of our order. This is not an innovation. Thirteen years ago the order, after considering the matter for a number of years prior to that time, decided that it was wise to establish permanent headquarters, and did. Brother Lobenstein was elected thirteen years ago, as I remember, for a term of three years. That proved so beneficial to the order that the order was reluctant and refused to change the incumbent or place of the office, and he was re-elected for a term of three years, making his term of office six years. At the expiration of that time, he retired, and our much loved Brother Bolton was elected as his successor. The work of the office of Quartermaster General in attending to the details of the office from a single office and by a single officer from year to year, or for a period of years, rather than having the office shifted about the country with a new incumbent each year, proved so satisfactory during his term of office that Brother Bolton was unanimously elected as his own successor, and was again last year at the Boston Encampment unanimously elected as his own successor, so that he has held the office for a period of seven years, and the order has been benefitted by having a single officer throughout that period with the one office, or an office located in the same city throughout that period. The membership of the order became acquainted with him and he became acquainted with the membership, and the business of the office was transacted in a more satisfactory manner to the order, and it is following that precedent and following the conclusions of the committee, and it seems to us the almost unanimous conclusion of this Encampment, that this office is a business office

and should be made a permanent office for a definite period, and we have fixed that period less than either one of the aggregate terms of office of the two preceding National Treasurers and have made it five years. We consider this a very reasonable period and for the good of the office and the better transaction of the business of that office.

Commander-in-Chief: Are there any further remarks, if not, the question is on the amendment to insert three instead of five, relating to the number of years. You all understand the question. Those in favor of the amendment say aye. Contrary no. The amendment is lost.

The question is on the adoption of the first six paragraphs in relation to the Secretary and Treasurer. Those in favor of the adoption of the first six sections will manifest it by saying aye. Contrary no. It is carried. We will take up the balance of the report.

Chairman Shepard of Illinois read as follows:

"7. Amend Sec. 2, Art. 21, page 11, so as to read:

Sec. 2. Division Commanders may suspend Camps or any officers or members thereof for failure to perform any duties required by the constitution and laws.

8. Amend Sec. 3, Art. 21, page 11, so as to read:

Sec. 3. The Commander-in-Chief may suspend Divisions or any officer or member thereof for failure to perform any duties required by the constitution and laws.

Chairman Shepard of Illinois: I move the adoption of those two sections.

The motion was seconded and agreed to, and the sections adopted.

Chairman Shepard of Illinois reads as follows:

"9. Amend Art. 18, page 9, by striking out the present section six thereof pertaining to the one per cent for per capita tax for the Sons of Veterans Reserves.

Chairman Shepard of Illinois: The Chief-of-Staff recommends that that section be stricken out, and the committee concurs in that recommendation and I move the adoption of that section.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to and the section adopted.

Chairman Shepard of Illinois reads as follows:

"10. Amend the obligation of a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserves, on page 19, striking out the word "three" in the first line of the last paragraph thereof and inserting in its place the word "two" so that said obligation shall read "two years" instead of "three years."

Chairman Shepard of Illinois: The obligation of a member of the Military Reserves provides he shall serve for a period of three years. The committee upon the suggestion of General Reed recommend that it be reduced from three years to two years. The committee concur in that recommendation and I move the adoption of this section.

The motion was seconded and agreed to and the section adopted.

Chairman Shepard of Illinois reads as follows:

"In reference to a provision for a new button-hole decoration, we have to report that the limited time prevents this committee from reaching a conclusion to report

to this Encampment, and we, therefore, recommend that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee of three to investigate and consider this matter and report a recommendation thereon at the Twenty-fifth Annual Encampment."

Chairman Shepard of Illinois: I beg to state in this connection that the Commander-in-Chief and others have submitted samples of proposed button-hole decorations to the committee, but that is a matter that requires a good deal of careful study and investigation, which could not be given by your committee at this Encampment and we feel that if the incoming Commander-in-Chief will appoint a committee of three, they may carefully canvass this matter and recommend at the next Encampment a new button-hole decoration that will meet with the approval of the Encampment. I move the adoption of that recommendation.

The motion was seconded and agreed to, and the section adopted.

Chairman Shepard of Illinois reads as follows:

"Whereas, the National Treasurer has tendered to this Encampment his resignation, which has been accepted, and

Whereas, the duties of the office of National Treasurer have been largely transferred by the action of this Encampment, to the office of National Secretary,

Therefore be it Resolved, that the retiring National Treasurer be requested to continue to discharge the duties of his former office till November 1, 1905, for the purpose of closing up the business of his former office and transferring to his successor the property in his charge and that he be remunerated therefore at the rate of his former salary for such period."

Chairman Shepard of Illinois: This is simply to cover the period of time necessary for the closing up of one office and transferring the property to another, and follows the precedent established seven years ago in transferring the headquarters from Chicago to Boston, and it is only just that it be arranged in this way and that the compensation be provided for by this Encampment.

E. M. Amies of Pennsylvania: Commander, with all due deference to the chairman of the committee on constitution and laws, I move the adoption of this resolution.

The motion was seconded and agreed to and the resolution adopted.

Chairman Shepard of Illinois: Commander, that completes the report of the Committee on Constitution and Laws. There may be some other suggestions to come before this committee and the committee will not ask at this time that it be discharged. All of the recommendations having been adopted, we with your permission will stand continued, if that is the pleasure of the Encampment.

Commander-in-Chief: The recommendations all having been adopted in this report, I will continue the committee, and if there is any other brother who wishes to bring anything before this committee, please do so as soon as possible.

Is the committee on resolutions ready to report?

Edgar Allan, Jr., of Maryland, chairman: Commander, in the rush of business, it has been absolutely impossible

for me to have the resolutions copied. With your indulgence I will read the brief draft of the resolutions, which will be hereafter copied and you will overlook my little hesitancy in the reading of them, as I wrote them myself. (Laughter.)

Chairman Allan of Maryland reads as follows:

**Report of Committee on Resolutions.**

WHEREAS, it is our custom, pleasure and duty to offer as a body, such resolutions as may be appropriate, be it therefore

RESOLVED, first; we the members of the Twenty-fourth National Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., in convention assembled at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, September 19, 20 and 21, 1905, do hereby renew our full faith and allegiance to our Order, and commend to the sons of all loyal soldiers and sailors of the great fraternal war of 1861-65 the work in which we are engaged.

RESOLVED, second: we tender to the Division of Pennsylvania, the members of the Gettysburg Camp and Sons of Veterans Auxilliary Society, the citizens of Gettysburg, and the press, our heartfelt thanks for the cordial and hospitable reception extended to us. We deeply appreciate their many acts of kindness.

RESOLVED, third: To the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the G. A. R., the Daughters of Veterans, and all other patriotic organizations, we tender our best wishes and hearty greetings. May their work of inculcating the principles of charity, justice and loyalty continue on until time shall be no more.

RESOLVED, fourth; It is with extreme pleasure that we at this time make mention of our Sons of Veterans Auxilliary. This organization is composed of ladies whose sole desire is to further the ends of our order, which means keeping green the memory of our father's sacrifices that the nation might live. Words of praise and commendation fail to express the noble work which they have done in the past. We wish them God speed in their future endeavors. We recommend that all Sons of Veterans do everything within their power to encourage this grand organization.

RESOLVED, fifth: Our thanks are hereby given to the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief for the able and efficient manner in which they have conducted the business of their respective positions.

RESOLVED, sixth; That Brother J. B. Wolf, of Camp 142, Pennsylvania Division; Charles A. Herrmann, of Camp No. 10, Pennsylvania Division; Brothers Frank P. Schenkel, J. Edwin Fisher, Samuel F. Cooley, Harry D. Miller and Harry Morgan of Camp 2, Pennsylvania Division; Brother A. H. Cargo of Camp 6, Pennsylvania Division; Brothers F. R. Fife of Camp 52, Willard Hayford of Camp 10 and E. A. Vose of Camp 1, Maine Division; Brother George Douglass of Camp 8, Division of New Jersey; and Brother O. H. Bud-

long of Lincoln Camp 2, Division of Maryland, have their ranks of Past Camp Commander restored.

Edgar Allan, Jr., Chairman,  
George B. Abbott,  
George E. Hunt,  
W. B. McNulty,  
F. J. Kellogg.

Chairman Edgar Allen of Maryland: Commander, I move the report of the committee on resolutions be adopted.

The motion was seconded and agreed to and the resolutions adopted.

Lieutenant Patten: Commander-in-Chief, the "Old Guard" extend to you their hearty thanks for the courtesies bestowed upon us and hope to be permitted to be present at some time in the future.

Commander-in-Chief: We hope you will any time you have an opportunity.

At this point the "Old Guard" retired from the Encampment amid applause.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Commander-in-Chief, speaking for the Committee on Officers Reports, I would say that in view of the subject matter of certain of the reports, we find that the matter of three certain appeals in connection with the courts martial in Camp No. 2 have been inferentially referred to our committee but not definitely referred to our committee. That at the request of all parties to these appeals, we have taken jurisdiction and have heard these appeals. We now ask, in order that the record may be in proper shape that those appeals be formally referred to our committee and that we be authorized to report upon the same. I make that motion.

Edgar Allan of Maryland: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

Wm. B. Moynihan of New York: Commander, if there is no business before the Encampment I suggest we take up something else to occupy the time. I therefore move you that we now select the meeting place of the next Commandery-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

The Commander-in-Chief: Nominations for the next meeting place are now in order. Will you have the roll call or will you make the nominations without that?

Wm. B. Moynihan of New York: If there is only one city or town presented there will not need to be any roll call.

The Commander-in-Chief: Well, I don't know as to that. If there is anybody kind enough to invite us to meet with them let us hear from you.

L. F. Meek of Illinois: Commander and Brothers: I come today to invite the members of this order to the great state of Illinois, a state that did so much for the country during the great Civil War; a state that gave to you Generals Logan, Oglesby, and that man who sat down and with his head begrimed with battle smoke wrote those

That great state that not only gave you its great generals but also had the greatest hero, the greatest one in the whole civil strife, the leader as it were, in this great drama, Abraham Lincoln. (Applause) So we believe that we have some rights and claims upon this order. We believe that we are entitled to consideration, and I as a citizen of Peoria come to invite you to our city.

We have a beautiful little town, not so little either, nestling in the hills along the Illinois River. The history of this town is unique. The history of the town from the time that Joliet and Marquette first went down the Illinois river and settled upon its banks where the city of Peoria now stands reads like a romance from that time. How later Hennepin and other French explorers also went down there, and, struck with the beauty of the scenery, its beautiful hills and its great sweep of broad rich fertile fields, they concluded to locate there, and from the time that these French explorers came the city gradually grew from a little village until today it is a city of some eighty thousand inhabitants. We have there immense buildings of different kinds. We have broad streets, beautiful drives, and scenery that is unequalled west of the Hudson river. You may be surprised at that statement, but it is true, and so far as accommodations are concerned we are amply prepared to accommodate all the Brothers who may come. We have numerous hotels; we have fifteen railroads, and from the Union depot in our city eighty five trains leave and enter each day. So that there will be no trouble for the Brothers to come from the East to our city. Three trunk lines East, the Big Four and the Pennsylvania systems have direct lines into our city, and also the Lake Erie in connection with the Lake Shore. So that you will have no trouble in getting there. If you desire to visit the Memorial University at Mason City, we have a direct line there, and it is only a day's ride to go there. So we ask you to consider these propositions. Some speakers at different times in addressing conventions and asking for them say that the key is turned over and that we have unlocked the door, and so on. We don't have any key. The doors are always open. We want you to come there and we are going to show you a good time. And that reminds me, some one here today says "you Peoria men are awfully enthusiastic, and why is it that you are so strong for Peoria?" "Well" I said to the gentleman, "we are pretty well satisfied with Peoria. In fact we are like the Methodist preacher, who at one time was preaching to the members of his church, holding a revival, as it were, and he called upon all present who wanted to go to Heaven to rise up. Well of course everybody got up, but in this audience there was a gentleman from Peoria. He did not get up. And finally the preacher says "Now I want all the brethren who want to go to Hell to stand up." There wasn't anyone stood up. The preacher says "Why how is this, brother, you did not arise when they all stood up that wanted to go to Heaven, and you took no stand with those that wanted to go to Hell. Where do you stand on this question?" He says "I am perfectly satisfied, I live in Peoria." (Laughter) So, members of the order, if you will come to our city, we will show you one



of the best times that you have ever had. You will have a commodious hall to meet in, where you can transact your business, and you will be able to go away and say that you were satisfied with the treatment that the Illinois Division gave you. I thank you. (Applause)

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Commander, and Brothers: I live in the West. I have been out on those prairies for considerable over a quarter of a century and have tramped about all over the country. I think I have sampled all the hotels in Peoria. I can recommend all the hotels in that town, at which I have been a guest. I also wish to say one thing, which evident modesty on the part of the gentleman who has just left the floor, seems to have occasioned omission from his speech, and that is, that the goods they have down there, you will find fully up to the sample. (Laughter) Peoria is worthy of consideration at your hands, as one of the heavy tax payers of this country. I believe they pay one seventeenth part of the internal revenue, and they are great consumers of corn. I also wish to say that we are interested in seeing the Encampment come to the West, because while we recognize the superior culture of the East, and we like once in a while out of our rather wild environment to journey over here and mingle with you and absorb some of your culture and advancement; still we would like to have you come out among us occasionally and get some of our vigor and some of our enthusiasm. (Applause) Those of us who hail from Iowa feel as if we belonged to the same family as the boys from Illinois. I, personally, living very contiguous to St. Paul, have felt as if I would like to see this convention go there, but when I found that the boys from Illinois, who have always been our sponsors and helpers in this order always, wanted this convention, I am for what they want. That is my idea of discipline and good faith in politics. You possibly have realized that a few of us who have come here have our hearts in this Memorial University. We believe that the object lesson presented to you the other day after the speech of President Tucker, indicates that education as to this institution is all that the order of the Sons of Veterans needs to bring them up to a high standard of appreciation and enthusiasm in connection with this university. The Iowa Central Railroad runs from Peoria into Mason City. It is one night's run, and if the Brothers of the order feel that they would like to go to Mason City and view the institution, I believe that very satisfactory arrangements can be made with the Central, whereby you can be our guests for a day, and in that event, we will try to supplement the splendid hospitality with which you will be received in Peoria. (Applause) In view of these few reasons which I advance, I take pleasure in seconding the motion that the gentleman makes that Peoria be selected as the next place for the Annual Encampment.

Commander-in-Chief: I will read this telegram from Peoria at the request of the gentleman who spoke here, and then we will admit the Ladies Auxiliary, and I will name Brother Johnson of Maryland, Brother Friedman of Alabama and Brother Rudd of Connecticut to accompany them and escort them to the Encampment rooms.

The telegram is as follows: "Peoria, Illinois, September 19th, 1905. W. G. Dustin, Commander Sons of Veterans, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

The City of Peoria extends the most cordial invitation to hold your next convention in our city. We want you and promise every facility for your deliberation and the comfort of your representatives.—A. B. Tolson, Mayor."

At this point the Ladies Auxiliary committee were escorted to the Encampment.

F. T. F. Johnson of Maryland: Commander, and Brothers: I take pleasure in introducing to you Past National President Miss Addie M. Wallace of Indianapolis.

L. W. Friedman of Alabama: Mr. Commander, and Brothers of the Commandery: I take pleasure in introducing to you Miss Minnie Gintling of the Local Auxiliary of Gettysburg.

M. D. Rudd of Connecticut: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers: I take pleasure in introducing to you Miss Donaldson, President of the New Jersey Auxiliary.

Commander-in-Chief: Ladies, I assure you that we are very glad to welcome you to our meeting.

The ladies were escorted to seats on the platform.

Miss Addie M. Wallace: Brother Commander and Members of the Commandery: It is with very great pleasure this morning that this committee stands before you.

That is a characteristic phrase I know, but you must give the girls credit for saying it from the bottom of their hearts, as you know when girls tell you things it is so, whether it is so or not. In this case it is so.

We have a large Encampment of the Auxiliary here and we come with the greetings of every girl in that Encampment. Not only from the girls in this Encampment but from the several Auxiliaries they represent. It was said over in our Encampment when your Committee came to us and presented their greetings that sometimes it was thought almost useless to send greetings; that we knew we had the best wishes of each of the Brothers and Sisters, but you know in the home we all like the little pleasant greetings that we exchange, the pleasant good morning and good night, and so as we meet together each year, it seems to me it is fitting to assure you again and again of our best wishes.

If any member of this order or your Sister Auxiliary came here with faint hearts and with a feeling that it was not worth while to give their time and money, it seems to me after having taken that trip of yesterday over what has been called truly historic ground and hallowed ground, it seems to me we should all go home resolved to do whatever we do well and hold up our standard. So that those who have not the fire of patriotism burning quite as brightly as it should, could be told again and again of the things we saw and heard yesterday, and I think that the hearts of all of us were moved and touched as we stood on this historic place and looked over this wonderful battlefield. Those days have long gone by but the memory of them will ever be fresh in our minds, I think that during all the years we have been attending these National Encampments that we have been repaid

all we have ever given to the order by this trip to Gettysburg.

You are busy and I know we are and the time is precious and I know that you are anxious to get to your work, and I will say no more except to extend you the greetings of your loyal Sisters of the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary. (Applause.)

Miss Donaldson: Commander Dustin and Brothers of the Sons of Veterans: I have attended many National Conventions, but this is the first opportunity that I have had of speaking to the Sons of Veterans of the National body. Coming from a body of women whose loyalty is unquestioned we bring you greetings full of sympathy and full of hope for your future.

In thinking over the events of yesterday one can not but think that it devolves upon each and every one of us to pledge ourselves anew to our obligation and the principles of our order. Whatever else we may forget, let us not at any time forget the true and honored dead and the living war-scarred heroes of sixty-one and sixty-five, to whom we owe our existence and organization. You may receive greetings from many other friends and organizations, but I think I can safely say that none are offered with more sincerity than the greetings of the Sons of Veterans Auxiliary. The Sons of Veterans and the Auxiliary, in my estimation, are doing a great deal of work that the world never hears of. While the Grand Army is alive in such large numbers our abilities and efforts may not be rated at their whole value, but Brothers the time is surely coming when the world will see and know and appreciate the principles and objects of our order, and I sincerely trust that we all may be found following in the footsteps of the brave men and brave women of sixty-one and sixty-five. In all your undertakings, be they what they may, I wish you every possible success. (Applause.)

Commander-in-Chief: Again thanking you personally, and on behalf of the order, I will call on Brother George E. Hunt of Massachusetts to respond to your greeting.

George E. Hunt of Massachusetts: Commander, Brothers of the Encampment and our Sisters: I hardly know why I was called before this Encampment at this time, as I am a young and bashful man. Were I to meet the ladies outside I could undoubtedly thank them for their kindness to our order, but for me to stand in this Encampment hall and fittingly respond is certainly out of the question. However, as a son of a veteran, I have yet to fail to perform any duty that I have been able to do. Therefore in my humble way, in a few words, I shall endeavor to say to these ladies what I know is in the hearts of each one of you.

As we gather on Memorial Day to strew the flowers over the graves of the fallen veterans of the civil war, we as sons of veterans look at the graves and then at the flowers and think of the small token we are paying to those heroes. These ladies are banded together to assist us in this work, and I was thinking as I sat there of how sweet the flowers were; but to us as an organization, how sweet the ladies were in this work. Brothers, we are

proud of what they are doing for us. We have shown by a resolution passed today that we acknowledge and appreciate them, and I want them to feel, I want them to convey to their convention that we in National Encampment here assembled pledge them our earnest and loyal support, and we assure them that we are interested in everything they endeavor to do, because they are our Auxiliary and are banded together to do all that they can to help us in our work.

Now Sisters, as you return to your convention, may you feel that you have the loyal support of every true son of a veteran, and may God bless you in your work, and we offer this, Sisters, because we love you. (Applause.)

The ladies then retired and the Encampment proceeded with the nomination for place for holding the next National Encampment.

George S. Geis of California: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers of this Encampment: I came here from a place on the Pacific coast, a large Division, with the intention of extending an invitation to your Encampment. I have talked with a great many of our delegates here and many who have been in California, and many who hope to have an opportunity to come to California in the near future. The state of California is as large as the states of Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Delaware all combined. It is not represented as strongly as it might be, but I may say, as you know, we have many votes in our National Body, and we pay a large per capita tax and the West is entitled at some time to some consideration. I came to this Encampment with only this one matter in view, that of inviting this National body, at the request of the Sons of Veterans of Veterans of California, to meet with them in their state, but from the canvass that has been made, owing to the distance there, and in conversation with the many members assembled here I have thought and know that Peoria is the choice of the majority, and in order to hasten matters and not take up your time, I wish to say that before reading an invitation from California, I want to withdraw in favor of Peoria for the next National Encampment. (Applause.)

Brother Geis in a few well chosen words laid before the Encampment the advantages and beauties of California as a place of meeting for the National Encampment at some future time.

George T. Drake of Minnesota: Commander-in-Chief, and Members of this Commandery: St. Paul after hearing of the choice made at Denver to hold the Grand Army Encampment in Minneapolis next year, I as Commander of Minnesota Division, felt it incumbent upon me to call a meeting of the Division officers and other representative Sons of Veterans in the Twin Cities of Minnesota to present to this Encampment an invitation to meet at St. Paul at that time. I felt that a splendid opportunity of this kind was offered to us and that it would be a disgrace to the state of Minnesota and the Order of the Sons of Veterans if such invitation was not extended at this time.

Now I know we have a strong competitor in Peoria. Now I will not tell you about the men who in the early

days landed in the Mississippi Valley in Minnesota. I can assure you those men have all passed away. You need not expect to meet any of them now. We have live citizens there now; enthusiastic citizens.

As far as the trip to Mason City is concerned, satisfactory arrangements can be made to make a side trip there, or a main trip via Mason City on the way to St. Paul.

Now in regard to the rates there. I want to show you that the prevailing rates next year will be in favor of St. Paul. Peoria can get nothing better than four cents a mile, a fare and a third, while the St. Paul prevailing rates will be one cent a mile or two cents for your round trip. From Chicago to St. Paul would be eight dollars; from Chicago to Peoria six dollars and twenty cents, nearly as much as to St. Paul. From Indianapolis, Ind., to St. Paul, eleven dollars and thirty cents; to Peoria, eight dollars. From Pittsburg to St. Paul the fare would be seventeen dollars and forty cents, and to Peoria twenty-two dollars. From Philadelphia to St. Paul, twenty-six dollars; from Philadelphia to Peoria, thirty-six dollars. Washington to St. Paul, thirty-five dollars; Washington to Peoria, thirty dollars. New York City to St. Paul, twenty-six dollars; to Peoria, thirty dollars. Boston to St. Paul, thirty-two dollars and fifty cents; to Peoria, thirty-seven dollars. Thus you will see there will be a saving to all the Eastern delegations and a big saving to the Western delegations.

Not only that but we will have the opportunity of meeting with the Grand Army of the Republic. We are just ten miles away from Minneapolis. You will be just as well taken care of as you would be in Peoria. You will be just as independent of the other Encampment and arrangements can be made to allow you to view the great parade in Minneapolis. We have four electric lines with splendid service between the two cities and half a dozen steam lines. However, the entertainment at Minneapolis will not in any way conflict with the entertainment provided for at St. Paul.

I would like to say I am sorry I am the only representative of the Minnesota Division at this Encampment. This matter came up at a very late time and I could not persuade the members who attended the Boston Encampment to make the trip again.

I think that is all I will present at this time. I trust the members will not consider the small delegation sent here, but that you will consider the invitation in the same light that you do the others. I can assure you we can entertain you as well if not better than you have ever been entertained in any other city. You will be well taken care of. (Applause.)

Commander-in-Chief: There seems to be two places placed in nomination here, Peoria, Illinois, and St. Paul. I don't know of any other way to settle this except to call the roll.

It was moved and seconded that the nominations be closed. The motion was agreed to.

Commander-in-Chief: I will appoint as tellers Brother Davis of Maryland, Brother Head of Maine and Brother

Hanson of Kentucky. The assistant Secretary will call the roll of Divisions and as the different Divisions are announced the vote will stand up and the chairman will announce it.

The Assistant Secretary called the roll as follows: Peoria—Alabama and Tennessee, 1; Connecticut, 5; California, 1; Illinois, 11; Indiana, 4; Iowa, 2; Kentucky, 2; Maine, 5; Maryland, 8; Massachusetts, 12; Michigan, 1; Missouri, 3; New Hampshire, 4; New Jersey, 4; New York, 12; Ohio, 12; Pennsylvania, 33.

Minnesota, 1 vote for St. Paul.

George T. Drake of Minnesota: Commander: I would like to have the privilege at this time of making this vote unanimous and I move the National Secretary cast the vote of this Encampment for Peoria.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

The National Secretary then cast the entire vote of the Encampment for Peoria as the next place for holding the National Encampment for the year 1906.

Commander-in-Chief: The tellers report that they have received the unanimous vote of this Encampment cast by the National Secretary for Peoria, Illinois. I will announce that the next Encampment will be held at Peoria, Illinois, and the date to be selected by the Council-in-Chief.

Is the committee on constitution and laws ready to make a further report?

Frank L. Shepard of Illinois: Commander, following the action of the Encampment upon the silver wedding of our order at Peoria for the 25th Annual Encampment, the committee on constitution and laws proposes this with reference to the Military Reserves.

"Amend Art. 25, page 12, by striking out paragraph two thereof and substituting in place thereof the following:

Paragraph 2. That any Camp having an independent Company or guard not attached to the Reserve, or that may hereafter be organized, shall be permitted to maintain such independent company or guard, provided said company or guard shall not parade as a military company or guard, except on Memorial Day, the funeral of a comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic, a soldier or sailor of the Civil War, or a Brother of the order."

I move, Commander, the adoption of this amendment.

Sherman Arter of Ohio: Commander, I arise to a point of information. Is it now in order to amend and change the reading of one word of that resolution? My point is to have it read so they may be permitted to parade for a survivor of the Civil War as well as a member of the Grand Army.

Frank L. Shepard of Illinois: The committee accept that and incorporate it in this resolution.

Commander-in-Chief: The motion is on the adoption of the amendment. All in favor say aye, contrary no. It is adopted.

Edgar Allan of Maryland: In view of the fact that on investigation I find all resolution brought before the committee on resolutions have been passed upon, I move that the committee on resolutions be discharged.

The motion was seconded and agreed to and the committee discharged.

Commander-in-Chief: It might be well for General Reed to announce the order of the parade and the time of finishing the same, so that when we do adjourn we can take a recess to a certain time.

General Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander-in-Chief, we contemplate starting the parade at half past one. It will not last longer than an hour and a half. I presume we will be ready to come back here at four o'clock at the very latest.

Commander-in-Chief: Is the committee on officers' reports ready to report?

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Commander, your committee on officers' reports beg leave to submit the following partial report at this time.

"Concerning recommendation of your Commander relative to Reserves and Board of Control, in deference to the request of the Commander-in-Chief the same is passed without recommendation."

12. "Your committee sustain and fully concur with our Commander's action in matters of all courts-martial."

13. "Recommendation No. 1 of Chief-of-Staff, as to Commissions for Officers in the Reserves, your committee concur in the recommendation of the Chief-of-Staff, except that we recommend that all net revenue derived therefrom be applied to the support of the Reserves."

14. "Referring to recommendation No. 2 of the Chief-of-Staff, relative to striking out section 6, article 18, page 9, your committee ask that same be referred to the committee on constitution and laws."

15. "Recommendation No. 3 of Chief-of-Staff, relative to the maintaining of independent companies, we heartily concur in and approve."

16. "Referring to recommendation No. 4 of Chief-of-Staff, relative to the furnishing of stationery to the headquarters of state Commanders of the Reserves, we recommend that the same be so furnished."

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Commander, I move the adoption of this report and the continuance of the committee.

The motion is seconded and agreed to.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I move that we take a recess until three o'clock.

The motion was seconded and agreed to and the Commandery-in-Chief took a recess until three o'clock P. M.

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON SESSION.

3 o'clock P. M.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

Commander-in-Chief: The Inspector and Assistant Inspector will satisfy themselves that all present are entitled to remain.

Inspector: Commander, I find on due inspection all present entitled to remain.

Commander-in-Chief: Is the committee on officers' reports ready to report?

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Commander, the committee on officers' reports make the following reports:

"Your committee on officers' reports, to whom was referred the three appeals from the action of the Commander-in-Chief with reference to former Captain Philip R. Schuyler Camp No. 2, Division of Pennsylvania, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., respectfully reports:

Appeal No. 1 is made by John H. Schmidt and Joseph Lilly, members of former Captain Philip R. Schuyler Camp No. 2, Division of Pennsylvania from the sentence of the Commander-in-Chief, founded upon court-martial proceedings, and suspended them from all rights and privileges in the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. for a period of two years. (Circular No. 2 of 1905)

Appeal No. 2 is made by former Captain Philip R. Schuyler Camp No. 2, Division of Pennsylvania, from the order of the Commander-in-Chief of June 12, 1905, revoking the charter of said former Camp No. 2.

Appeal No. 3 is an appeal by certain members of former Captain Philip R. Schuyler Camp No. 2, Division of Pennsylvania, from an order of the Commander-in-Chief, promulgated in August, 1905, dishonorably discharging them.

All of these appeals have been carefully considered by your committee, who have listened to evidence and arguments presented on behalf of the same by the parties in interest, and after due consideration and reflection the committee respectfully recommends that the action of the Commander-in-Chief in suspending John H. Schmidt and Joseph Lilly from all rights and privileges in the Sons of Veterans, U. S. A. (Circular No. 2 of 1905), in revoking the charter of former Camp No. 2, (order of Commander-in-Chief of June 12, 1905) and in setting forth the list of names of disobedient and disloyal members of former Camp No. 2 as having been dropped from membership, be sustained and the appeals be dismissed."

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Commander, I move you the adoption of the report as read.

William A. Stevens of Massachusetts: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to and the report of the committee adopted.

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Commander, the committee on officers' reports submit the following:

"Your committee again referring to the Commander's recommendation in connection with the Memorial University in view of the late action of the Commandery embodying said recommendations, hereby heartily concur with said recommendations and the action of the Commander, and that we commend to the careful consideration of every member of the order the practical plan for assisting the university, and urge their hearty co-operation in order that the same may be productive of most gratifying results."

"The report of the Commander discloses that during the past year the official organ of the order has been widely distributed, not only to the order but among the allied patriotic societies. Your committee believes that The Banner has shown a marked improvement editorially, and as a medium for conveying to the membership pertaining to the order. This we commend in order that the Comm-



dery may express its appreciation of The Banner by the approval of this report."

"In concluding this report your committee would most respectfully recommend to the Commandery that our sincere thanks be tendered to Commander-in-Chief Dustin for the able, efficient and industrious conduct of his office during the past year, and especially we would commend the wise, considerate and comprehensive character of the address of the Commander, which discloses his thorough acquaintance with the needs of the order and his great wisdom in proffering recommendations.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

James B. Adams,  
E. F. Buck,  
W. A. Stevens,  
James E. Blythe,  
E. W. Estes.

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Mr. Commander, I would move you the adoption of this report as a whole.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief: Have I got to put that myself. You have all heard the motion. Are there any remarks. All those who favor the report as made say aye. Contra no. It is carried and the report is adopted.

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, and Brothers: I met Brother Cazeau down the street a few minutes ago and he informed me of the fact that he had been appointed a member of the committee on ritual in place of Brother Barton deceased. He is the only member of that committee present at this Encampment. Brother Cazeau is very much interested in the matter of our ritual. He brought it up at our Division Encampment and presented to a ritual committee of that Encampment some very good ideas regarding a new ritual, and it was on account of the activity in the matter that our committee of the New York Division made a report, a copy of which I hold in my hand, and which our delegates were instructed to bring to the attention of this Encampment. If there be no objection I would like to have it read.

Commander-in-Chief: Just read it Brother Estes.

E. W. Estes of New York, read the following communication:

Watertown, N. Y., June 16, 1905.

To the Officers and Members of the 22nd Annual Encampment of the New York Div. Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

Brothers: Your Committee upon Ceremonies and Ritual would respectfully make the following report:

One communication was received by us from T. C. Cazeau of Camp 6 to the effect that we recommend to the C. in C. the substitution of a three degree ritual for the one now in use which will use the principle events of the years of the Civil War and provide for specific discourses for each officer and staff from picket guard up, and to be illustrated by stereopticon views relative thereto.

Your committee also discussed our present ritual with a view to minor changes, but as a final result of our deliberation we believe that positive action by this Encampment along any particular line would be inadvisable.

The order is once more in a transition period; the Commandery-in-Chief has seemingly eliminated from the Camp, in adopting the new constitution, all things military, yet have made no change in the ritual. As a result we have what appears to be an anachronism in that Camp officers without military rank are made to give military commands, and floor evolution are performed by the detail in the muster ceremony as by a squad in a military manner.

Your committee does not like the present ritual; we believe it should be either completely changed or materially improved. If the camp is to teach any lesson in a military way to our recruits, the present ritual should be made much more impressive. If the military feature is to be eliminated entirely, then an entirely new ritual which shall inculcate our principles properly should be devised.

If, however, we are to err at all in devising our ceremonies, we must have them simple instead of too complicated. Let us not forget the experience of former years when the last three degree ritual was in use. We do not exaggerate when we say that not ten per cent of our camps used that ritual as was intended.

Your committee also remembers that it costs the Commandery-in-Chief about \$3000.00 every time the ritual is changed and that this expense was borne not seven years ago when the present form was adopted. We know that the National body will be loath to make changes again at this time.

Your committee recommends that a copy of this report be placed in the hands of each delegate from this division to the Gettysburg Encampment with a view to securing the appointment of a general committee which will sit during the following year. This committee would receive suggestions from the entire order and be in a position to make a report, based upon the needs and desires of the camps at large; this report would undoubtedly receive the careful consideration of the National Encampment of 1906.

Respectfully submitted,  
 E. W. Estes, Chairman,  
 M. K. Doty,  
 Frank D. Wood,  
 H. D. Schuyler,  
 H. A. P. Liddle.

Commander-in-Chief: What will the Encampment do in regard to this committee. Certainly something should be done. Is it the wish that the present committee be continued or is it the wish of the present Encampment that the incoming Commander-in-Chief appoint a committee?

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, I move that a committee of three be appointed on ritual by the incoming Commander-in-Chief.

James B. Adams of New Jersey: Commander, I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief: You have all heard the motion. Those who favor the motion say aye, contrary, no. It is carried.

I will now call to the chair Brother Bolton of Massachusetts. For fear that many of you will not know him I

have the great pleasure of introducing to you Brother Bolton of Massachusetts. (Applause)

Brother Fred E. Bolton then assumed the chair.

Fred E. Bolton of Massachusetts: The chair recognizes Brother Bruce H. Garrett of Illinois.

Bruce H. Garrett of Illinois: Brothers of the Commandery-in-Chief: The Commandery-in-Chief in the past has been very kind to the Division of Illinois, in having elected several of its Brothers to the office of Commander-in-Chief. This morning you also favored us by voting to come to our beautiful city of Peoria for your next Encampment. But I feel that I now have a pleasant duty to perform that will partially or wholly repay this Encampment for all favors that have been conferred upon the Division of Illinois, and I now take great pleasure in presenting to the members of the Twenty-fourth National Encampment, Sons of Veterans, this portrait of our beloved Commander-in-Chief William G. Dustin. (Applause)

Fred E. Bolton of Massachusetts: I am certain that the Commandery will be pleased to accept the picture, the likeness of the gentleman who has been our Commander-in-Chief for the past year; whose efforts and labors for the advancement of the organization have just been passed upon in such complimentary terms by the committee on officers reports. But to more fittingly express the gratification of the members and the acceptance of this gift, I will call upon Brother William B. Moynihan of New York.

William B. Moynihan of New York: Commander, and Brothers of the Commandery-in-Chief: It is certainly a distinction to be asked to reply to the committee who presented to this encampment the likeness of one who has served us so faithfully and well during the past year. It has been my good fortune to have fraternal and business relations with our Commander-in-Chief, and I have had an opportunity of learning the interest that he has taken in the welfare of our beloved order. Every request, every appeal, every call, from the Division of New York (I can speak more positive of that division) has been met cheerfully and promptly. I venture the opinion that if the Sons of Veterans of the Commandery-in-Chief will be fortunate enough in the future to select from their comrades one that possesses the zeal, the enthusiasm, the earnestness, the ability to further its interests, the time will not be far distant when the Sons of Veterans of the United States of America will occupy a place among the leading fraternal patriotic societies of our country. (Applause)

In conclusion I can only say that in addition to the qualities already described of our beloved Commander-in-Chief has displayed that patience, that amiability, that willingness to consider every interest, and a desire to lend his aid at all times. No sacrifice has been too great on his part to further the interests of the Sons of Veterans and I hope and trust that we will all hold in grateful remembrance the splendid, brilliant and successful administration of Commander-in-Chief William G. Dustin of Illinois. (Applause)

Fred E. Bolton of Massachusetts: The portrait of the Commander-in-Chief will be consigned to the Hall of

Fame of the Sons of Veterans. The Commander-in-Chief will kindly resume the chair.

The Commander-in-Chief resumes the chair.

Commander-in-Chief: Is there any further business to come before this Encampment before the election of officers?

E. M. Amies of Pennsylvania: Commander, I have a resolution to introduce, if there be no objections, I would like to be accorded the privilege of introducing it. It is as follows:

"Resolved, that this Encampment record its appreciation of the always earnest and loyal services of our retiring National Treasurer, Brother Fred E. Bolton, by tendering to him on behalf of the membership of our order a vote of thanks, and

Be it further Resolved, that the gold cross of our order be made and presented to Brother Bolton in further evidence of our appreciation."

I move the adoption of the resolution.

Isaac Cutter of Illinois: Commander, I second the motion.

Frank L. Shepard of Illinois: Commander, I also desire to second that motion and suggest that it be put to a rising vote.

Commander-in-Chief: I do not think it will be necessary to make any speeches in regard to this case and I will just ask every Brother in the room, who favors that resolution to stand up. The motion is carried unanimously.

(Cries for Bolton)

Fred E. Bolton of Massachusetts: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers: I can certainly say I am deeply sensible to the honor which you now pay me. I assure you of my appreciation, my devotion to the organization, and the gladness of my heart that my work for the order and as an officer in it apparently meets with your approbation. I thank you. (Applause)

M. D. Rudd of Connecticut: Commander, your committee on fraternal greetings to the Ladies Auxilliary would report that we have visited the Ladies Auxilliary, and to the best of our ability presented your greetings. We were informed that a delegation from the Auxilliary would visit this Encampment sometime before noon.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: Commander, I wish to make a motion to cover some ground over which the Board of Regents went at their meeting just after dinner. I move that the incoming Commander-in-Chief be authorized to appoint a committee of three to carry out the intention of the resolution introduced by the special committee on Memorial University and that the committee of three be empowered to appoint subsidiary committees in the Divisions.

E. F. Buck of Illinois: I second the motion.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I would like to amend that motion. I will ask the Senior Vice-Commander to put this motion, with due respect to the Commander-in-Chief. My motion is that that motion be amended to include Commander-in-Chief Dustin, because

he is more thoroughly familiar with that institution than any man, outside of those who are officers of the University, and I believe it would be very advantageous to the university to have him on the committee. I believe the Regents will be especially pleased to have him a member of that committee, and with his well known modesty he certainly would not appoint himself.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: In accepting the amendment most gratefully I would say that the motion provides that the appointment of this committee be made by the incoming Commander-in-Chief, and it was distinctly understood that the present Commander-in-Chief be the chairman.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: I will withdraw my motion.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, wouldn't it be well to have a committee of five? If two were absent you wouldn't have a quorum with a committee of three.

James E. Blythe of Iowa: I would accept the amendment, but my experience is that the smaller committee is the best. I will accept that amendment.

The motion that a committee of five be appointed was agreed to.

William B. Moynihan of New York: Commander and Brothers: The Division of New York desires to present a petition as follows:

Headquarters New York Division, S. V., U. S. A.

At the 22nd Annual Encampment of this Division the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

1. Resolved; that we petition the Commandery-in-Chief to accord Past Commanders Honors to the following Brothers who served as Captains of G. K. Warren Post S. V. which recently was mustered into the S. V., U. S. A. as G. K. Warren Camp No. 92 of New York Division: J. T. Boyce, W. S. Aickevans, T. W. Bolls.

2. Whereas; Upon proper investigation it being duly shown that the following four Brothers (names to be supplied) of Camp No. 96 Division of New York, formerly Goheen Camp No. 147 having lost their rights to past honors through the negligence of Division officers in failing to grant Division transfers upon the disbandment of Goheen Camp No. 147 New York, due application having been made, be it

Resolved; that we petition the Commandery-in-Chief to restore past honors to these four brothers.

W. B. Moynihan, Division Commander.  
G. E. Snyder, Division Secretary.

William B. Moynihan of New York: Commander, I move you that the petition be granted.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

E. W. Estes of New York: With reference to that motion we just passed, restoring honors to certain men in New York, I want to say that we still have a Post of the Post system within the limits of New York state. We are after that Post. I don't know as we will ever get them, but we got one here not long ago. I think that is the only sore spot in the nation.

E. F. Buck of Illinois: Commander and Brothers: I

expect the members of this Encampment think Peoria ought to be satisfied, but I still am interested in Peoria. I want to see a good Encampment there, and I would move you, Sir, that a committee of three on transportation be appointed looking to the success of the Peoria Encampment.

The motion was agreed to.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander, I move that the retiring administration be authorized to prepare edit, and publish the proceedings of this Encampment.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

Commander-in-Chief: Is there anything further, if not we will proceed under the head of election of officers.

#### Nomination and Election of Officers.

L. W. Friedman of Alabama: Commander, I move you that we proceed to the call of Divisions for the nomination for Commander-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

Commander-in-Chief: The Assistant Secretary will call the roll of Divisions.

The Assistant Secretary proceeded to call the roll. When the Division of Alabama and Tennessee was called:

L. W. Friedman of Alabama: I will state that the Division of Alabama and Tennessee gives way to Ohio.

A. E. P. Stephens of Ohio: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers: When the Civil War broke out there enlisted from Jackson county, Ohio, a soldier in the Army of the Tennessee. He served with Captain Thomas, came back in sixty-five, and resumed his daily toil as a farmer. A few years later there was born in his family a little boy. This little baby grew to boyhood. He was a nice tow-headed little fellow and his mother thought the world of him. As he grew up and got old enough to be sent to school they sent him to the little red brick school house on the hill, because Jackson county is a very hilly country, and there he began his early education. He was the pride of his mother, and as time passed on she thought as he grew older that she would have him study for the ministry. However, his ideas and tastes did not seem to run in that direction. He turned the grindstone when he was old enough, he dug the potatoes, he slopped the pigs and he drove the cows. As he grew older he got large enough to plow corn. After passing through the country school of that place, he had the advantage of going to high school. There it was that he concluded that he would start out to educate the young in that particular community and he began as a country school teacher.

Now Brothers with all of these qualifications I hardly think it is necessary to say much more in praise of the particular Brother that I intend to nominate. When he became old enough, in 1886, he organized a Sons of Veterans Camp. He became Captain of that Camp and the drill master of the Camp. He became known shortly throughout the state as a very energetic young man. I remember when I saw him first he was a light-headed youth, straight, well equipped in the ordinary use of the

English language, and we looked upon him as one of our young orators in the state of Ohio. Ever since he has attended every state Encampment in our Division. He has attended sixteen National Encampments, until all of the older members who have been attending these Encampments for years have become as well acquainted with him as I am myself. He developed from his Camp to a state officer. He has held the position of a member of the Division Council, Division Quartermaster, member of the National Council and Adjutant General under our lamented Colonel Bundy and has also served as Commander of the state of Ohio.

From the school he started in the newspaper business, another very laudable enterprise, and one which should surely speak well of his ability. He was successful as a country newspaper man. From that he has held positions of trust and honor in the state of Ohio, receiving appointments from our Governors and otherwise. Today, he holds a position in the United States Government. I have known him since 1888. I have known him to be a very energetic man. I have known him from boyhood and I have come here today to recommend to the Brothers of this Encampment his nomination and his election as Commander-in-Chief of the grand order of the Sons of Veterans. I think I have given you a short history of this tow-headed boy. I was told a story once concerning his youth, but I can't vouch for the truthfulness of it. He lived on a farm. He did all of the work that any farm boy does and one day when the minister of the church came to the house for dinner his father thought it was better that he should not eat at the first table, but wait until the minister and the deacons had had their dinner, because his father thought he perhaps was not up to the standard in table manners. He was a little tow-headed fellow that had been spending his time on the farm and fishing down in the creek below, but upon this occasion his mother said "he is getting big enough now to eat with company, and I insist upon his eating at the first table." So they sat down to their good country dinner. It began with chicken and all of the other delicacies of a farm dinner. One of the deacons was a dyspeptic and he could not eat chicken. He says no, he couldn't eat chicken. They passed him some ham. No, he couldn't eat that, he had to be very careful. They passed him some warm biscuit, and no, thank you, he couldn't eat that. All at once the tow-headed boy looked up and said "Ma, maybe the durn old duffer could suck a raw egg." (Laughter) So they saw that he was a very precautions youth and from that time on they gave him more attention. I will say however, that he has been successful in everything that he has undertaken. He made a good Division Commander. He is a type of progressive American manhood, and I think Brothers that you would make no mistake in electing him as your Commander-in-Chief for the next year. It is hardly necessary for me to tell you who he is, because you know we only have one candidate from Ohio. I have in my pocket letters that I have received since coming here from Brothers of different camps, from members of Grand Army Posts, from

I was going to say, all over the state of Ohio I have one that I received just recently from the Auxiliary of the Sons of Veterans of the state of Ohio, endorsing his candidacy. I received just at noon today one from Dayton from Charles B. Nevins, who perhaps could tell of the qualifications of our Brother a great deal better than I can, and if you will permit me I will read a little from this letter. I perhaps feel a little bit modest in giving praises to our candidate, because I have been so closely associated with him. It is therefore better for me to read to you the encomiums that have been heaped upon him by Brother Nevins of Dayton:

"Although unable to be with the Brothers at this convention, I must not refrain from expressing my sincere regret that I can not join them in the glorious work they are so nobly carrying on. Old historic Gettysburg, once the scene of countless dead, of wounded thousands of brave soldiers, now the theatre of peace and happiness, of truth and love; now the scene of loyal sons and grandsons who are assembled upon sacred soil to perpetuate the sacrifices of our fathers. Once the thrilling scene, when our first martyred President, the saviour of our country and flag, stood as the guide of wisdom and delivered that memorable speech, which today adorns the pages of history and stands out as one of the master pieces of modern eloquence. I am beyond measure disappointed that I can not meet with you, but those of us who remain at home are indeed with you in spirit and are deeply interested in the result of the election of our National Commander. May the choice of this convention be a worthy successor to our esteemed and honored Commander, Brother Dustin. I know Ohio has a son in the name of H. V. Speelman, who is qualified. (Applause) And it is my earnest prayer that loyal sons of other states may know to the same degree as we of the great qualifications and sturdy principles firmly inculcated in him. For twenty years he has labored and striven, not alone for his own Country, not alone for his own state, but he has ever upheld the great principles and ideas that are firmly implanted in the very heart and soul of every loyal Son throughout this glorious country of ours. He has ever been indefatigable in all his efforts. No task is too great for him to attempt. No labor too strenuous. His energy, vigor and candor of the past, are but an unquestionable index of those of the future. In him, we his Buckeye Brothers, have reposed the greatest confidence and the hour has yet to come for him to give us the slightest cause to retract that trust. If successful I know that when we shall have met next year in the National Encampment it may be said of him as our chief executive, as it has been said of our fathers upon the field of battle "well done, thou good and faithful servant." (Applause)

Brother Commander, I will not take the time to read the rest of them. I desire to nominate Colonel H. V. Speelman for Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, United States of America. (Applause)

J. W. C. Austin of Pennsylvania: Commander and Brother: As we have listened to the glowing remarks and the high standing of our proposed candidate for Com-



mander, I will not attempt to go into them, but as Brother Speelman is a member of the Knights of Pen and Scissors with which I am also connected, and without making a speech I desire to second the nomination of Brother Speelman, and move that the nominations be now closed.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander I have been requested by the Pennsylvania Division to second the nomination of Brother Speelman. (Applause) I desire to add to what has been said in regard to the letters received and say that I have received since coming here a letter from every camp in the Ohio Division, asking that we use our every effort for the election of Brother Speelman, who has just been nominated. I have received a letter from one Post in Marietta where Brother Speelman resided and where he was well known. I have received a letter from the Division of Ohio Ladies of Auxiliary Corps, something I never knew in the history of this organization. And it gives me great pleasure to second his nomination on behalf of the great state of Pennsylvania. You know him; I know him; and his co-workers from Ohio come here and tell us that he has served in every capacity in the Ohio Division. He is always present at the Division Encampments. As you know, I have been attending these encampments for twenty four years, and he is always present here, a willing, enthusiastic worker; always ready to extend a hand of fellowship and if a candidate for office and beaten he acquiesced in the will of the majority, and I believe no mistake will be made. I believe no mistake can be made by the unanimous election of Brother Speelman of Ohio, and therefore on behalf of the state of Pennsylvania, nearly one-third of all the membership of this order, we are willing, anxious to entrust to his hands the guidance of the ship of state of this order for next year. (Applause)

Edward R. Campbell of Maryland: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers: On behalf and by request of the Maryland Division I arise to second the nomination of Brother H. V. Speelman, to which I desire to add my personal high regard for the candidate. Long speeches are out of order. I thank you. (Applause)

William B. Moynihan of New York: Commander, if there are no other nominations I move you that the nominations be now closed, and the Secretary instructed to cast the unanimous vote of the Encampment for H. V. Speelman of Ohio for Commander-in-Chief.

Michael Crowley of New Hampshire: Commander and Brothers: Before that motion is put, I would say as one of the Brothers of the "old standbys" I can not let this opportunity go by without passing my word of praise and seconding this nomination on behalf of New Hampshire. We of New Hampshire are his admirers and glory in his nomination. May its success and happiness go with his election.

H. E. Cowdin of Michigan: Commander, and Brothers: I second the motion of the Commander of the New York Division.

The motion was then put and agreed to unanimously.

Commander-in-Chief: I will appoint Brother Stevens

of Massachusetts and Brother Campbell of Maryland as tellers.

The National Secretary then cast the unanimous vote of the Encampment for H. V. Speelman for Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief: The unanimous vote of this Encampment having been cast for H. V. Speelman for Commander-in-Chief. I hereby declare him elected for the ensuing year. (Applause)

Nominations for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief are now in order.

C. H. Cram of Maine: Commander and Brothers: This time Maine desires to place in nomination for the honorable position of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief a Brother from Maine; one who has served us long and faithfully; who has served as Camp Guard, Camp Commander and Division Commander; who has also attended the last six Annual Encampments of the Commandery-in-Chief. I am not going into details. We all know him and love him. A son of a veteran from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet. I take pleasure in nominating Arthur M. Soule of Portland, Maine. (Applause)

Michael Crowley of New Hampshire: Commander, in behalf of New Hampshire and of the New England Delegation, I second that nomination with pleasure.

Francis E. Cross of Maryland: Commander, I move the Secretary be instructed to cast the unanimous vote of this Encampment for Arthur M. Soule for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

Motion was seconded and agreed to.

The National Secretary cast the unanimous vote of the Encampment for Arthur M. Soule of Maine for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief: The unanimous vote of this Encampment having been cast for Arthur M. Soule for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief I hereby declare him elected to that office.

Nominations for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief are in order.

C. F. Hanson of Kentucky: Commander and Brothers: I am not very good at making speeches. This is my first attendance at a National Encampment. I would like to place in nomination in behalf of Kentucky Past Commander George H. Stebbins of Kentucky for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

L. W. Friedman of Alabama: Commander, Alabama and Tennessee wishes to second the nomination of Brother Stebbins of Kentucky.

A. E. B. Stephens of Ohio: Commander, as there seems to be no other nominations I move the nominations be now closed and the National Secretary instructed to cast the unanimous vote of this Encampment for George H. Stebbins for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

The National Secretary then cast the unanimous vote of the Encampment for George H. Stebbins for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief: The Secretary having cast the

unanimous vote of this Encampment for George H. Stebins of Kentucky for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief I hereby declare him duly elected for the ensuing year.

The next is the nomination for Council-in-Chief.

Bruce H. Garrett of Illinois: Commander, I desire at this time to place in nomination for one of the members of the Council-in-Chief the National Secretary, James E. Seabert of Illinois.

William B. Moynihan of New York: Commander and Brothers: After several years the delegation from New York depart from their modest attitude towards the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief and I take pleasure at this time in placing in nomination as one of the Council-in-Chief a loyal member of the New York Division, a Past Division Commander, who has served us well, an eminent physician of the city of Albany, one highly esteemed and respected by all who know him and thoroughly qualified to perform the important duties of a member of the Council-in-Chief. I therefore take pleasure in presenting the name of Dr. Ralph Sheldon of Albany, New York.

George E. Hunt of Massachusetts: Commander and Brothers: I arise to nominate as the third member of the Council-in-Chief, one who needs no introduction to this convention; one who has been among you for years; one who has served you in an official capacity so that you all know him as well as I do, and you know that he is fully capable of filling the position, and without any further remarks, it gives me pleasure at this time to place in nomination Thomas J. Hannon of Massachusetts. (Applause)

H. E. Cowdin of Michigan: Commander, I move that the nominations be now closed and that the National Secretary cast the unanimous vote of this Encampment for the Brothers named for the office of Council-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded and agreed to.

The National Secretary then cast the unanimous vote of the Encampment for James E. Seabert, Ralph Sheldon and Thomas J. Hannon for Council-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief: The unanimous vote of this Encampment having been cast for James E. Seabert, Ralph Sheldon and Thomas J. Hannon for Council-in-Chief I declare them duly elected for the ensuing year.

The next order of business is the nomination for Secretary for five years.

E. M. Amies of Pennsylvania: Commander and Brothers: In rising to place in nomination one to fill the office which has virtually been re-created, I do so realizing the importance of that office. I realize that since the amalgamation and the co-hesive putting together really of the office of secretary and treasurer that one eminently qualified to fill that position must at this moment be named. I realize that that office is the most important office which can be filled by any brother of this Commandery-in-Chief and in placing in nomination one to fill that office I realize that he who does so, or he who is to fill that office must be one who measures well to the capacity which is necessary, with which it should be filled. We realize now that this office is an office which is the real body of the organization; that it is the office which really controls

the safety of the organization, and he who does fill that office, must be the valve which is the safety valve of this organization.

Twenty-six years ago, before the organization of this very body, before this body was known, he whom I may be pleased to call also a tow-headed boy, organized in the city of Reading a Camp, which is today the largest Camp of the largest Division of the United States. Through his indefatigable work, to his wonderful ability, to his great executive ability, that Camp today is the banner Camp of the state of Pennsylvania. The Division of the state of Pennsylvania has grown to be your banner Division, and we the members of the Division of Pennsylvania appreciate our position and, in putting forth and suggesting a name for this present office, realize that we take upon ourselves, the responsibility of placing him whom we think is the one safe man at the present moment to fill that position. You all know him. From the oldest member of this Commandery-in-Chief to the latest incomer, you know him. Time after time he has been in your Councils; time after time every Commander-in-Chief has sought his advice; time after time every officer of this Commandery for the last twenty-four years has sought and asked and received his advice, and you have all abided by and put his advice into execution, and it has borne the fruit, which you see today. I am not a maker of long speeches on occasions of this kind, but in presenting the name of him whom I desire to place in nomination I do so, believing that it is to your benefit that he who is to be named is the one person who will ably, honestly and faithfully fill this position. I have the honor to present to you the name of Horace H. Hammer of Pennsylvania Division. (Applause)

Fred E. Bolton of Massachusetts: Commander and Brothers: It is my pleasure and a privilege to say, not in a sense of making a speech or attempting to make one, but to only mention a few practical things in reference to the position created. The man who is to occupy it must be familiar with the organization and have a thorough knowledge of its workings. The Brother who has been nominated it was my privilege to be associated with him during two administrations in the past. I know what he did then as Adjutant General. I appreciate his ability in other lines. I concur in everything that Brother Amies has said about him, and personally I take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Brother Horace H. Hammer.

Edgar Allan of Maryland: Commander and Brothers: In behalf of Maryland Division, I do not intend to make any apology. We are all speech makers, and I want to say that realizing that I was coming to this Encampment, in this historic city of the dead, some two or three months since I commenced to compile a speech, which I do not think will take over three quarters of an hour to deliver, and now Mr. Chairman, with your permission I will "cut it out," and proceed in behalf of Maryland to second the nomination of their friend and my friend, Horace H. Hammer for this position.

Newton J. McGuire of Indiana: Commander and Bro-

ther: On behalf of the Indiana Division I want to second the nomination of Horace H. Hammer. I believe this action today and this convention in sort of consolidating the two offices, at least putting the business end of this order in one office, and putting it in the hands of an experienced man like Horace Hammer, and giving it to him for a term of years so that he will not be thinking about political matters of the organization is the best effort that we have ever made. (Laughter) I mean by that, he won't be thinking about his work being interfered with. He will have the work for five years. He can plan it out for that time and execute it and get the business of the order on an absolutely business basis. We must come down to that in order to make a success of our organization.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Commander and Brothers: I want to second the nomination of Horace Hammer. Horace Hammer responded faithfully and loyally to the Pennsylvania Division in the most trying hour it ever had in its history. At that time I happened to be at the helm, and I can testify to his faithful service, and I doubt if even the Brothers of the Pennsylvania Division appreciate the grand service he did for the Division of Pennsylvania. And from what I have known of him since then I have every confidence that he will bring that same faithful service, that same power, that same ability to the good and for the furtherance of the Commandery-in-Chief.

James B. Adams of New Jersey: Commander and Brothers: Ordinarily the small state of New Jersey does not believe in taking up the time of the Commandery-in-Chief or any other gathering in piling up seconds to nominations, but we have taken such action here today which we believe is the beginning of the upbuilding of the order of Sons of Veterans, and we believe that the action we are about to take will be in that direction, and the Division of New Jersey desires to be placed on record as seconding the nomination of the man who will be "behind the gun," Horace Hammer.

L. W. Friedman of Alabama: Commander, I move you that the nominations be now closed and that the Secretary be instructed to cast the unanimous vote of this Encampment for Horace Hammer for National Secretary.

Michael Crowley of New Hampshire: I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The Secretary cast the unanimous vote of the Encampment for Horace H. Hammer for National Secretary.

Commander-in-Chief: Horace H. Hammer having received the unanimous vote of this Encampment for National Secretary of the Sons of Veterans for five years I hereby declare him elected, one of the greatest pleasures that I have had since I have been Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. Hammer was escorted to the rostrum and in a few well chosen words thanked the Brothers of the Encampment for the honor conferred upon him, and pledging them his best endeavors in the work he is about to assume.

Commander-in-Chief: We will now proceed with the installation of officers. I will appoint General R. M. J. Reed to act as installing officer.

The newly elected officers were obligated and installed in due form, and escorted to their several stations.

Commander-in-Chief Elect Speelman: General Reed, and Brothers of this Encampment: In assuming this position I assure you that I am deeply grateful for the honor which it confers, and I think that I fully appreciate the great duty that it imposes. It is neither my desire nor my disposition to delay you with anything that might be construed as a speech at this time. I want to thank you personally for this honor. I want to pledge you my best efforts towards the discharge of the duties of this high office during this coming year. I fully appreciate Brothers that I will need the assistance of all of you. I court that assistance, I court your help, and you may depend upon it that I will not hesitate at any time to call upon you.

Without further delaying the proceedings, knowing that you are all tired and anxious to get away, I now again thank you and we will proceed with the business of the Encampment. (Prolonged applause)

#### Presentation of Jewel.

Commander-in-Chief Speelman: I wish to invite Past Commander-in-Chief Dustin to the platform.

Past Commander-in-Chief Dustin was escorted to the platform amid prolonged applause.

George B. Abbott of Illinois: Brother Dustin, I well recall an occasion similar to this in the history of the Division of Illinois on your retirement as Division Commander. It was then my special pleasure to present to you the offering of your beloved Brothers of that Division, in appreciation of the grand work you did for us in Illinois.

On this occasion it is especially my privilege to respond in a like manner for the Brothers of the organization from California to Maine. It was my pleasure on that occasion to welcome you to the ranks of the Past Division Commanders of Illinois, a position to which you have always lent luster, strength and I may say prestige and glory, and in welcoming you to the ranks of the Past Commanders-in-Chief I can only guarantee to each Brother in the order that you will continue to lend luster and honor, that you will continue to work for this organization in the future, as you have in the past.

I will not delay this Encampment. I would like to say more of the grand things I might say of this beloved Brother. We who knew him so well—we have lived and worked with him so many years and we know that you are beginning to know him, that you do know him for his past year's work. As a simple token, which you will appreciate, not for its intrinsic value, but that it carries with it the love, the regard, and appreciation of thirty thousand Sons of Veterans throughout this broad land, and my Brother, it is with supreme satisfaction that I pin this over your heart that has beat so long for the Brothers, and I want to assure you that it has a re-echoing



## INDEX.

	PAGE
Committees Appointed.....	5
Credential Committee's Report.....	6, 51, 71, 79
Commander-in-Chief's Report.....	7
Chief of Staff's Report.....	35
Committee Officers' Report.....	73, 94
Council-in-Chief's Report.....	75
Committee C. & L. Report.....	79, 93
Chaplain's Report.....	48
Communications.....	71
Closed in due form.....	110
Donations to University.....	24
Encampment called to order.....	4
Grand Army of the Republic.....	9, 85
Greetings, Com. to S. of V. A. Report.....	99
Installation of Officers.....	109
J. V. Commander-in-Chief's Report.....	34
Location of Encampment, 1906.....	86
Ladies of the G. A. R., Greetings.....	27
Memorial University.....	19, 20, 59
Memorials.....	60
National Secretary's Report.....	38
National Treasurers Report.....	42
National Counselor's Report.....	47
National Inspector's Report.....	55
National Treasurer's Resignation.....	76
Nomination and Election of Officers.....	101
"Old Guard" Reception.....	77
Presentation of Portrait.....	93
Presentation of Jewel.....	109
Proceedings Approved.....	110
Ritual Report.....	96
Resolution.....	85, 99, 100
S. of V. Auxiliary Greetings.....	89
S. of V. C.-in-C's Report.....	30
Tuesday p. m. Session.....	30
Thursday a. m. Session.....	71
Thursday p. m. Session.....	94
Welcome to Gettysburg.....	3



