

Utah's Quota of the National Reserve



Col. Charles C. Plummer
Commanding First Infantry, M.I.

WHEN Congress shall have completed the work of the next session, the national guards of the various states will cease to be known as national guard organizations or militia and will be termed by act of the nation's lawmakers the "National Reserves," gathered by the federal government and almost entirely controlled from the war department in Washington. This action on the part of the national legislative body is assured. It comes as a natural consequence of the experience of war department officials in dealing with the national guard under the operation of the act commonly known as the "Dick bill," under the terms of which the national guard is the recognized reserve of the regular or standing army.

HALF PAY SCALE

Another thing that Congress is looking upon as likely to provide is a scale of half-pay for the officers and enlisted men of the army reserve. This will place every member of the national guard organizations or national reserves, on pay all the time and will place them more directly under actual federal control. In this way the men will be paid for the time they devote to drill and study of military books and the officers will receive pay for the time they must devote to their commands if they are to be kept up to the standards, numerically, in efficiency and discipline and drill. Persons unacquainted with the many and arduous duties of a national guardsman will not understand the great good this will do in the making of the national reserves a force upon which Uncle Sam may feel to rely—but to the volunteer soldier and national guard officer it will mean more than almost anything which has been done heretofore to increase the efficiency of the nation's only armed and drilled reserve.

THE YEARS RECORD

The national guard has done a great deal during the past year—though there has been no time to brag about nor rolling of drums in announcement of its achievements. What has been done is more along the line of architecture that is to be lasting. A firm foundation has been laid upon which the well planned superstructure that is in the minds of the executive and administrative officers of the state's body of citizen soldiers is in rest. The coming year will see provisions introduced into the National Guard of Utah that are looked to produce the effect that has been desired for some time in the body. Disposition in military ways among them is one which has found much favor in past times and which will be continued the coming year. Officers from the regular establishment stationed at Fort Douglas will be invited by the executive officers of the national guard to meet with the officers at frequent intervals to lecture to them upon pertinent professional subjects, of which it is difficult to have from books.

SCHOOL FOR OFFICERS

The officers from over the state are to be assembled in this city at least once every two months. When so gathered they will be put through a course of practical work in all the schools of the military curriculum—school of the soldier, school of the non-commissioned officer and school of the officer.

company, battalion and regiment. It is more than likely that the instruction will be in the hands of regular officers and entirely under their supervision. Following these gatherings of officers in the practical schools as indicated, it is for the following two months will be mapped out and the officers thoroughly acquainted with the work. In this way a systematic course of instruction will be in progress during the entire year. In this way, too, the officers from out of this city will have the benefit of association with regular army officers, and with their fellow officers, making of those acquaintanceships feelings of fraternity; that comes to bodies of men associated in a common cause.

FOR PERMANENT CAMP

There is a demand today greater than ever before for a permanent camping ground for the state's troops. This was emphasized at the last camp, which was held at American Fork. It was demonstrated that with a tract of level land suitable for camping purposes, as the last camp site was, properly drained and adjacent to a great variety of country possessing variations of contour suitable for the simulation of war conditions, the interest of the National Guard would be served better than in any other way. It is now hoped by officers of higher rank that this end may be attained before the next session of the legislature through its consideration of National Guard affairs. In the plans laid along this line is the improving of this position by having state rifle ranges at the same ground, which would be provided with a range modern in its every particular and suitable to all forms of military target practice.

TEAM TO SEA GIRT

In speaking of target practice, an officer of high rank declares that in spite of the fact that similar promises have been made before and not fulfilled, it is as sure as it already happened that this state will send a rifle team to the next annual gathering of marksmen of the United States in the national rifle contests under the supervision of the regular army to be held at Sea Girt, New Jersey. The reserve unit of the state is to be sent to this city in the interest of rifle practice added five miles to this movement, although it was well under way before he arrived here. Gen. Brain remarked among other things in his lecture to the officers of the state troops that Utah should feel shame in the realization that their state never sent a team to the national meets. His stands in the spotlight in this regard, he said, there being but three states which have not sent teams to the meet.

"We will have a team of 12 men, good men and with them the additional three men provided for by the regulations governing the meet," said Dr. Plummer a few days ago when speaking of National Guard affairs.

PLANS FOR A YEAR

Col. Plummer has made plans for the National Guard's next year's existence and intends to follow them consistently. He has mapped out his work according to a schedule and is taking personal charge of it. Among the plans he announces are the following: There will be a full regimental company of the regular number of companies; the organization known for years back as "battalion organization" will be strengthened and the entire regiment put into an efficient and well drilled organization; new companies will be organized in this city, Logan, Provo,

American Fork, Richfield and possibly some other southern cities. From the cities named applications have already been received for the number in companies of infantry and work is progressing along the line of recruiting.

The new battery for this city will be an organization unique in character. After organization a man will be working by means of which the battery will own its own horses and have the use of them for drills whenever they may be needed. The plan is to incorporate as a participating and share-holding organization. This organization will buy horses and control for their use by outside persons. In this way the cost of maintaining the battery and furnishing it with horses will be met by the compensation received for the use of the organization's mounts. This is a plan which has been formed for some time, but an opportune time has not before arrived. Now it has, and the battery promises to meet with success in its plans.

TO GET NEW RIFLES

Soon after the first of the year another change in armament will take place. The new model Springfield rifle as in use at this time by the regular army will be furnished the National Guard in this state. These new rifles have proven their merit in the regular army and the guardsmen look forward to the time they will be armed with them. The rifles are said to surpass any others the army has ever used in target range work.

NEW FACES IN GUARD

The past year has seen the introduction of new faces in the National Guard. General E. A. Wedgewood was appointed adjutant general upon the resignation of General R. C. Taylor. General Wedgewood is a soldier of some fame within his own state—fame won on a foreign field as one of the volunteer artillery, who was famous for their state by gallantry before Custer's in the far away Philippines. His record is well known to all people of the state and further remark is not necessary. Since his commission was awarded him, the records of the adjutant-general's office have been put into fine shape, and the conduct of official affairs has moved forward at a rate highly gratifying to the officers below, the enlisted men and the government officers who deal with the National Guard. Colonel Lund has been made assistant adjutant-general, a position provided for by the last legislature, and has rendered efficient work in the executive department, in which position his new office takes him. Colonel Charles C. Plummer succeeded Colonel Lund as the commanding officer of the first regiment. Colonel Plummer is a military man, having received training in college in military matters and in land and marine militia. He is well known to the athletic world and is a record of the university, taking an active interest in all matters for the advancement of the physical condition of the youth of the state. Under his guidance the National Guard has begun to the front and his well laid plans for the coming year already are being carried out.

ALSO MARKSMANSHIP

In the past year a feature has been added to the equipment of the National Guard that has meant much to the en-

listed men particularly. The state purchased what is termed a sub-target machine. This is a machine calculated to improve marksmanship. It is so arranged that the man learning the fundamental principles of rifle shooting should be thoroughly trained in these fundamentals before he goes on the range. The machine substitutes electricity for powder and leaden balls. The man "firing" a score with the machine takes his rifle in hand and conducts himself in a manner identical with that of a man shooting at a live or dead target. Instead of firing a cartridge, however, at the moment he pulls his trigger, mechanism is set in motion by electricity that records on a miniature target the result of his work. In this way the man learns his defects and under the instruction of a competent officer learns to avoid them and to correct them. The machine is said to have been most effective during the year. On account of certain unfavorable conditions, actual range practice was practically abandoned this summer, and the time devoted to work with the sub-target machine. The officers feel that the change was worth while and that the men will go onto the range next season with a better understanding of their rifles and that the results at the end of the season will be manifestly more satisfactory both to themselves, their officers and the war department at Washington.

PECULIAR OBSTACLE

In the attempts made to organize new companies in the National Guard this year, the officers having the matter in charge were confronted with a peculiar obstacle. It was opposition from organized labor of the state. The universal ground upon which the labor unions made their fight was in the fact, as they declared it to be, that the "militia" is a natural enemy to the laboring man. On this ground they fought the organization of new companies and forbade their members to join the proposed organizations. In speaking of this phase of National Guard work, a well known authority on military matters who does not desire his name to be used, declared:

"The laboring man is mistaken when he views the National Guard as an enemy. He is mistaken. The National Guard, coming as it does under federal control, is made the first reserve of our nation in case of war. The national guard has lost its identity as militia. It is not an organ-

ization to be used solely by the state for domestic purposes. Most of all it is an arm of the law. It protects the rights of all citizens—it recognizes all and plays no favorites. It will not take up the quarrel of the individual, of the corporation nor of any one side of any affair. It stands as a bulwark. It stands for the law. Nobody, employer, master of millions, corporation, workman or civilian will be given any more consideration than any other of the classes named. It stands for equality under the law, for the enforcement of the law and for the punishment of those who violate the law. Its every act is controlled by law, and no man who studies by the law has a right to consider the national guard an enemy. If he does so he is an enemy to himself for he will not permit himself to see the light. He wants to be ignorant and he is.

FOREIGN ELEMENT A FACTOR

"Another phase of the same question which the American laboring man should take note of is this: There are thousands upon thousands of low grade foreigners being imported into the United States to labor for the great corporations—the railroads, the mines and the other industry. Experience has taught us that this class of foreigner is not a good citizen generally. He is quarrelsome and the better trained men of our country find themselves in such ways that race trouble comes up. The foreigners are quarrelsome, they stick together and they will form as a faction against any one who may oppose one of their number. These traits have led to serious consequences in other states. I am glad they have not been so marked in this state. We must expect them however although I hope they will not come. The foreign element is just as sure to cause trouble in this country as the sun is likely to rise each morning in its greatness to the new day. The laboring man and the patriotic citizen must look first to the support of a larger army. The national guard alone is able to furnish a natural enemy to the laboring man. On this ground they fought the organization of new companies and forbade their members to join the proposed organizations. In speaking of this phase of National Guard work, a well known authority on military matters who does not desire his name to be used, declared:

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FRIEND TO LABORER

"This additional fact should serve to emphasize the laboring man that he is looked upon by the National Guard from a false position. Never in the history of the state when the National Guard was called into service was the laboring man oppressed. In Carbon county in 1903 when the coal miners went on strike there was not a man in any of the ranks of the national guard who was called into service. On the other hand the strikers made friends among the National guards. In summary there was a cordial and sustained friendship between the strikers and the heart of the town. On more than



E. A. Wedgewood
Adjutant
General
N. G. U.



Lieutenant
Arms
Company Officer in the
Guard



Just for Fun

Morning
Drill



The
Company
March



Port Arms of
Typical Soldiers of the Guard Field

one occasion the strikers took the state's soldiers into their houses and banqueting them. The citizen-soldiers did not forget these kindnesses and the striking miners in the county were sorry to see the men leave when the call came to them to catch their kits and make the return trip.

NATION'S SECURITY. "The nation's security rests with the National Guard. The policy of the general government is to maintain rather than oppose the National Guard as militia, as he calls it. He would get in the middle of the country no heavy tax for the support of a larger army. The nation will rely on the citizen soldier in the future. The national Congress has decreed that the nation shall look first to its standing army in time of war and next to its national guard organizations. The volunteers are a thing relegated to past years. They will probably never see small powder again. It will be the burden of the national guard to bear the brunt of the battle of the future. The fact that the nation supports a large, well equipped, efficient and well drilled and

VIEWPOINT IS WRONG. "The laboring man's viewpoint is wrong. If he knew the facts he would not oppose the National Guard as militia, as he calls it. He would get in the middle of the country no heavy tax for the support of a larger army. The nation will rely on the citizen soldier in the future. The national Congress has decreed that the nation shall look first to its standing army in time of war and next to its national guard organizations. The volunteers are a thing relegated to past years. They will probably never see small powder again. It will be the burden of the national guard to bear the brunt of the battle of the future. The fact that the nation supports a large, well equipped, efficient and well drilled and