

New Headquarters for Utah's National Guard

Is The
Promise
For The
Coming
Year



Elevation of Proposed Armory



Col. Chas. G. Plummer

It is probable that the legislature will be asked this session to grant the armory board power to build an armory in Salt Lake. The lease on the present building occupied by the guard in Salt Lake for that purpose will expire in July, 1910, which will necessitate a renewal of the lease or a change of quarters for the guard. No building, not specially constructed for armory purposes, is proper or suitable for such use and it is a handicap to the guard and of no profit to the state for the guard to be required to move from building to building every two or three years. It is believed that a proposition can be submitted to the legislature which will give the guard all that is to be desired in the way of a permanent home, one which will be theirs, and ample as to accommodations for at least 20 years at no expense to the state after the building is constructed, substantially in excess of the rent now paid for the present quarters.

Under the law passed in 1905, it is believed there are now funds on hand and in the custody of the state treasurer sufficient to purchase a plot of ground of the size required; and it is proposed to borrow the necessary funds for the erection thereon of a building adequate for present purposes with additions provided for in the plans adequate for 25 years. And the interest which will be paid thereon will not exceed the amount now paid for rental and the amount so paid as interest would be paid to the state for the use of state schools and other state institutions, so that all money disbursed as interest, or in other words rental, by the state for the benefit of the national guard, would inure to the benefit of other state institutions. It is believed that such a proposition upon its face is a demonstration of the advisability of building an armory independent of the benefits to be derived therefrom by the guard; and those interested in the guard will go before the legislature in the assurance that they are presenting to that body a proposition of benefit to the state at large. For the benefit to the guard and the cost to the state will be little or nothing over present expenses and the additional cost to the state will be solely the payment of rent and interest while the building is in the course of construction.

Two years ago an effort was made toward the construction of an armory. A piece of ground was in view for that purpose, which, if it had been purchased at that time, would today have a market value two and one-half times the amount asked at that time. Plans were prepared for a building to be erected on that ground and the elevation of the main building at that time planned is shown in the accompanying cut. This building would have been a great advance over the quarters now occupied but perhaps it is well that the building was not erected for the reason that since that time the United States has passed such legislation as greatly enhances the standing of the national guard, amplifying its sphere of usefulness and greatly adding to the requirements thereof expected. The United States now considers the national guard as a part of the present and ready force of the United States. It is expected from each state an efficiency of its guard and the handling of its military affairs as to create and maintain a force armed, equipped and disciplined to such a degree that it can within 24 hours in cases of emergency be assimilated as a force of the United States. Under these conditions in building armories and providing for the material affairs of the national guard, action should be taken upon a much broader plane than when the guard was merely a state force and so considered by the United States as a reserve which could be drawn upon for individuals more or less trained in military matters.

It is of course desired that an armory be built within a reasonable distance of the central and business portion of the town and a piece of ground of the size required will be harder to get with each succeeding year, and as the funds are now available for that purpose, there is every reason why immediate action should be taken, and if the armory can be built by funds borrowed from the state land board and maintained at a cost but slightly greater than that now paid for rental of the present quarters, there is every reason why the armory should be built and none against it.

Plans for such an armory are now being drawn by Adjutant General E. A. Wedgwood. After an inspection of many eastern armories while enroute to and from the Camp Perry competition, General Wedgwood returned to this city with a good idea of what this state needs in the way of an

armory. In none of the armories visited did he find a suitable building, but ideas were gathered from one and another of them and these ideas are being embodied in the plan he is now working upon. The plan will give a model armory building and in addition will furnish the state with an auditorium capable of accommodating the largest assemblages which this city may ever expect to entertain. The building would with the utmost convenience accommodate a national convention of the great political parties or other similar gatherings.

The plan is so arranged that the club rooms or parlors for each of eight companies open onto an oval promenade and into the main auditorium, or drill hall, and in using the armory for a convention or public reception 16 parlors and the monster auditorium would be practically thrown together providing for the assembly of the guests and for entertainment in the parlors. Equipment rooms and other strictly military features are isolated from this portion of the building, giving it an appearance of being especially constructed for the entertainment of conventions and other uses, hiding its show of arms, wagons and military paraphernalia.

The fact that this armory could be used for great conventions is just one other reason why the state should have such a building, for while it is an advantage to the city, it is no less a great advantage to the state, acting to bring here great gatherings and in effect display the state's resources to such great gatherings of persons from widely distributed sections of the state as could be found in no other way.

Marked Increase in Efficient Strength

In the year just ending there have occurred two events of marked importance to the National Guard of Utah, while, in the nation at large the year has been an eventful one for the first reserve of the regular army, which the national guard, or organized militia is now designated by the war department.

The two events of moment locally were the participation of the Utah rifle team in the competition at Camp Perry, Ohio, and the joint maneuver camp in southeastern Wyoming. Both of these out-of-the-state trips have been of more than passing importance to the militiamen. More so now than ever before, and these two events mark the truth of the statement, that the national guard is to be regarded as a national force rather than a mere force to be used within the state for the enforcement of law.

In the nation and in the state, constructive effort has been rewarded during the year by a marked increase in the strength of the militia from the viewpoint of numbers and efficiency. The last inspection of the state troops by an officer of the regular army showed the Utah troops to be in splendid shape and to be very near all requirements made of state troops by the national government. Legislation of the last few years has provided for the equipment and instruction of the militia in the same manner as regular troops are instructed and equipped. The participation of the state troops at joint maneuver camps with the troops

of all arms of the regular army has afforded the militiamen an opportunity to learn practical lessons and to apply his book knowledge to the field. Actual war conditions have been assumed and the maneuvering has progressed just as if in the presence of an enemy.

At these great maneuver camps, troops to the number of 15,000 are brought together, regular and militia. The militiaman in a camp with his own troops, but in operations is in direct contact with regulars and is afforded an opportunity to observe the conduct of the trained soldiers in action. From the office of a chief umpire orders are issued to the commanders of both the blue and the brown armies, assuming a general situation which is known to both sides. Special situations are assumed for the separate armies and of these the one army knows nothing of the intentions of its opponent. The conditions assumed are patterned after conditions which would confront troops in the field often being duplications of conditions obtaining in past wars. The troops maneuver as if in hostile country, taking as much precaution to be not observed by the enemy as if in actual war. Surprising as it may seem to the uninitiated, officers and men alike become as much enthused in these mimic conflicts as if they were taking part in a real fight.

GAME OF BLOODLESS WAR.

The study of military science, for a great part, involves the application of lessons learned in past wars. Officers trained in the lessons thus set before them are designated as umpires for these mimic wars and they are able by the application of principles which have been accepted in military science to rule upon the outcome of the conflict in much the same manner that a football game or a race is determined by athletic experts. The methods adopted by an officer in maneuvering his troops may be considered and his usefulness in the action determined in this way. Troops exposed to

fire under some conditions are ruled out of action and the opposing force credited with this result. In this way an approximate result on an entire maneuver is easily obtained. In large maneuvers there are sometimes as many as 20 or more umpires, who accompany the troops in maneuver and the chief umpire's summary decides the result of the action. Following the action, the officers meet with the umpires for a discussion of the problem, mistakes are commented upon and the lesson thus made one of profit to all concerned. Especially is there profit in these maneuvers for the militia officers who may not have taken part in conflicts, though many former members of the volunteer army are among the militia officers and their experiences in the war make them all the more valuable to the militia.

For the Utah troops, officers and men the last camp was a great school. Conditions were so much improved over the previous joint maneuver camps that no militiaman has uttered a complaint of treatment accorded him. This often occurs, even in state camps, for the militiaman is not trained to hardship like his professional brother and it is not possible to so train guardsmen in the limited time available for drill—usually one night a week, while it is the soldier's life during the time he is in the army.

UTAH'S FIRST RIFLE TEAM.

The rifle competition in Ohio was an experience that Utah guardsmen have not enjoyed before. The trip of itself was a great treat to the men and the participation in the great shoot was invaluable to the team. This is the first team of the sort Utah has ever sent to a national competition and the time at hand to prepare for the shoot was limited. It was consequently the best that could be secured under the circumstances. With the opening of the approaching spring season, preparation for next year's shoot will be made and the Utah team will no doubt make a good record in the competition.

As it was, Utah was not the last in the list of competitors. Three other states which have been sending teams to the national matches for several years stood lower than Utah, which held fourth place from the bottom of the list—even that is not a matter to feel chagrined about.

The plans of the administrative officials of the National Guard of Utah for the coming year are already laid. They include many things of marked importance to the guard. State target competitions, the stimulation of recruiting, the building of armories, enlarging the scope of instruction of officers and men, a state camp and many other matters are already being considered.

BOARD OF MILITIA OFFICERS.

The past year has seen the enactment of a law in the national congress which provides for a board of militia officers. This is composed of five leading national guard officers of high standing in the nation and they confer with the secretary of war upon matters relating to the welfare of the national guard, as viewed from the militiaman's standpoint. As a result of these conferences several important legislative programs have been drawn for consideration by the next Congress. Among one of the most important proposals to be made to Congress is for the enactment of a law providing for the appointment of national guard officers as additional second lieutenants in the regular army, their service to be for a period of one year, when they are returned to their state troops, consequently better fitted to instruct the volunteers in military matters as "done in the regular army."

make it possible for the United States to maintain a relatively small standing army. The experience of the nation in its last war has demonstrated that volunteer troops may be relied upon and that backed by an efficient reserve a small standing army is adequate in this nation of peace. Authorities are unanimous in the assertion that the military forces of a nation are more potent in preserving peace than in waging war. The agency of the army in the peace program is recognized as stable until conditions are such that the world shall lay down its arms. Even high advocates of disarming the nations admit that the time is not yet come and that armies strong and efficient are now necessary to preserve peace. It is for this reason that the national government is so much in earnest with regard to maintaining an efficient reserve and in training it as nearly as possible in a line with the training of the regular army. The expense of maintaining the militia, vast as it appears to the people of the nation, is not to be compared to the additional expense that would be made necessary even by a comparatively small increase in the strength of the standing army.

FROM LABOR'S VIEWPOINT.

The viewpoint of the masses is changing with regard to the militia. The laboring classes a few years ago considered the national guard as a force maintained only to oppress them. This attitude is being changed. The policy of the war department to make the militia a national reserve has played a large part in this change of opinion. The friendly attitude of union labor, which is now almost general throughout the United States, is in marked contrast to the spirit of a few years ago. There are still those who are antagonistic to the organized militia, but their viewpoint has been created largely by abuses which have crept in even when unusual care was exercised in keeping the militia within its scope as prescribed by law.

Utah, if in no other state, the militia has never been antagonistic to union labor, nor to corporations, nor to special classes of any sort. The forces of this state have been fortunate in this regard. Only twice in the history of the militia has its use been required in labor trouble. These occasions were during the Pullman strike and during the strike of miners in Carbon county. In both cases the treatment received by the national guard from all classes was fair, impartial and friendly. To a large degree the militia offer special privileges, to no class did it cater in any degree. The union miners on strike in Carbon county were friendly with the militia, but the friendship was not permitted to interfere with the carrying out of the purpose for which the troops were in the county—the preservation of order and the enforcement of law. The corporations were treated just the same as others were and no complaint was heard from either side in the controversy.

ROSTER OF UTAH GUARD.

The National Guard of Utah consists of the commander-in-chief and staff, headquarters and band First infantry, two battalions of infantry field battery, signal corps, hospital corps and the necessary complement of officers. The governor's staff consists of the following officers: Brig. Gen. E. A. Wedgwood, adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Samuel C. Park, commanding, Col. H. M. H. Lund, assistant adjutant general, Col. A. P. Kesler, quartermaster general, Col. George M. Hanson, commissary general, Col. S. Bower, surgeon general, Col. A. B. Irvine, judge advocate general, Col. J. Greenwald, inspector general, Col. George A. Seaman, inspector general target practice, Lieut. Col. Miles R. Taylor, aide-de-camp, Lieut. Col. J. J. Daynes, Jr., aide-de-camp.

Colonel Charles G. Plummer, commanding the First infantry, has the following staff officers: Capt. Carl Arns, adjutant, Capt. Freeman P. Bassett, commissary, Capt. Fred Barnes, quartermaster.

Maj. W. G. Williams commanding the First battalion has the following staff officers, Lieut. W. H. Barrett, adjutant, Lieut. W. E. Kneass, quartermaster.

Major Fred Kammerman, commanding the Second battalion has the following staff officers: Lieut. J. A. Hyde, adjutant, Lieut. N. P. Sorenson, quartermaster.

The first battalion consists of company H, Salt Lake, Capt. Fred Barnes, commanding, Lieut. Young; Company B, Ogden, Capt. A. W. Johnson, commanding, First Lieut. P. F. Freshaw, Second Lieut. O. H. Hassing; Company C, Salt Lake, Capt. H. K. Bakke, commanding, Lieut. Simpson. The second battalion consists of company A, Nephi, Capt. L. M. Pexton, commanding, Lieut. Udall; Company D, Mt. Pleasant, Capt. Thomas Brady, commanding, First Lieut. William Hansen, Second Lieut. A. W. Proctor; Company E, Richfield, Capt. A. S. Cain; Company F, Manti, Capt. Gideon Sidwell, commanding, First Lieut. James Anderson, Second Lieut. H. A. White. The first battery, field artillery, Capt. William C. Webb, commanding, First Lieut. Fred Smith and George Worthen, Second Lieut. A. R. Thomas and Max Brown. Signal Corps, Capt. E. LeRoy Bourne, commanding, First Lieut. H. V. Altroy and L. P. Wilcox. Hospital Corps, Lieut. Col. H. C. Deane, assistant surgeon general, Maj. W. R. Tyndale, Capt. J. Q. Evans.