

Henry A. Parsons, Jr., Editor
ENTERED AT THE POST-OFFICE AT RICHMOND, VA., AS SECOND CLASS MAIL MATTER.

Our National Guard.

The grand display of the Pennsylvania troops at the inauguration of President Garfield is already bearing good fruit. The Maryland authorities are making inquiries as to the means adopted to put the fine looking and well disciplined National Guard in the field, and New York is becoming decidedly envious of the superior military organization of Pennsylvania. The military authorities here have a good hope that the display at Washington will induce the national government to exchange more improved arms for those which the Pennsylvania troops are now carrying. One of the principal objects of the inauguration trip was to have such a result accomplished.—Harrisburg Patriot.

The National Guard of Pennsylvania.

(From a Washington dispatch to the New York Herald, March 5.)
The Second division of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, composed of young and well-trained men and commanded by officers of experience in the civil war. It was really a strictly military organization, its members numbered seven thousand men, armed with the Springfield breech-loading muskets, clad in the uniform of the United States Army, equipped with knapsacks, blankets, haversacks, and canteens of uniform pattern, provided with three days' rations. In short, it was a body of soldiers ready for real service in any direction. It took three quarters of an hour to pass the reviewing stand, and the monotony of its appearance, there being no variety save in the color of the blankets, and the numbers on the flags and knapsacks, was a disappointment to the ladies and those who were looking for a bright spectacle in a military eye. It had that very quality in which militia are usually deficient, viz: An air of reality. It was not so much of a show, but it was very much like business. The railroad riots of 1877 made a strong impression on Pennsylvania, and this division is the outcome of it. The National Guard of Pennsylvania has been entirely reorganized, or more properly organized since that date, and has had its uniforms only a few weeks since, obtained from the United States Government by the State at the cost price. Curiously enough, it is reported that the Pennsylvania railroad, which suffered so heavily in 1877, transported the whole division here without expense. The corporation appears to have had its eyes opened as to the value of a really efficient force in an emergency which may occur again at any moment, and it cultivates a good understanding with the protectors of order. * * * * *

Whatever of military interest there was in to-day's parade is found in the regulars, the Pennsylvania division and the three or four organized regiments and battalions from other States. The rest of the assemblage had no military value in its present form. As for the regulars it is their business to be soldiers and to devote their whole time to it. It is generally believed that they do not receive good pay, and in numbers they are surpassed by no army in the world in individual intelligence, education, and general military efficiency. Concerning the militia of the country at large, however, no such uniformity of opinion exists. By a large number of people, at least it is considered more for show than any useful purpose. But the Pennsylvania division, as it appeared to-day, is open to no such criticism whatever. It is devoid of some of the details, and other fancy nonsense in its uniform, and it showed in every point of detail the results of careful organization on strictly military principles. In drill the various regiments were unequal. The marching of some could not be surpassed. The marching of others was poor. The same variety was observable in the men. The faces in some of the regiments were more intelligent and the bodies more muscular and better set up than in others. Taken as a whole, however, the raw material in the men would bear favorable comparison with an equal number of the United States army or any other army, and the drill of those who were defective in any respect is improved. Proficiency in drill is not a difficult thing to obtain, nor is it in drill that the militia is ordinarily deficient. It is rather in discipline and in military habits and thoughts, in organization and subordination of self, that the citizen soldier needs improvement. In all these respects this Pennsylvania division showed to-day an entirely new departure from the old militia ideas, for it was thoroughly organized on the basis of accepted military principles. The arms, equipments, and equipments were uniform and of the pattern adopted by the General Government, whose officers are presumably capable of selecting the best for actual service. The officers and men were known to each other in their respective spheres of command, and it was all under one authority. Nothing but the experience of battle and the traditions of former achievements are needed to make these men trained soldiers, and even this is not wholly lacking, for although the men in the rank are too young to have seen service in the civil war, yet a large proportion of the officers were educated in that fiery school, the greatest school of war the world has seen since Napoleon's day.

If the present organization of the National Guard of Pennsylvania can be kept up for a few years longer, and constantly increase its efficiency in points of detail, as it naturally will if the organization is undisturbed, it bids fair to at last solve the militia problem in a satisfactory manner, i. e., to provide a body of soldiers really efficient in case of emergency, either for State or National purposes, and yet not wholly to abstract its members from the productive energies of peaceful occupations. From a population of about four and a quarter millions, Pennsylvania sent here to-day seven thousand well-equipped and organized soldiers, or about one in six hundred of the population. Could the great States of New York, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Virginia, and Kentucky, with their population of fifteen to sixteen millions, have an equally well-organized force in proportion to their numbers, we should then have in reality a National Guard, as well as a State Guard, in each State, greater in size than our regular army. Is it not worth while

for the larger and more thickly settled States to soberly consider whether such a force, organized on a uniform basis, would not more than repay its cost?

[Philadelphia Times, March 6, 1881.]
The National Guard of Pennsylvania, which appeared at Washington seven or eight thousand strong, and constituted one of the most imposing features of the inaugural procession appeared to have created a profound impression. The display was certainly creditable to Pennsylvania, not on account of the numbers of the militia, but because the men composing the regiments presented something more than the appearance of dress parade soldiers. They were not gaudily uniformed, and their soldierly bearing and excellence of drill have been favorable compared with the regular troops, who appeared in the same procession. The organization of the militia now has such well-organized militia as Pennsylvania, and the work has all been accomplished within the past three years. It is an honor and a credit to the State wherever it appears.

[Public Ledger, March 5, 1881.]
If it had not been for the magnificent display of Pennsylvania troops what would the Washington inauguration display have amounted to a parade and brilliant spectacle? Their visit was full of disappointments, but the Pennsylvania soldiers in the line for the State and the State has reason to be proud of them.

[Philadelphia Press, March 8, 1881.]
The Convention of the National Guard Association, composed of delegates from the militia of the various States, will be heartily welcomed to Philadelphia, where the military spirit never runs higher than it does at present. The primary object of the Association is to "promote military efficiency throughout the active militia of the United States," an object which has a nearly unanimous support, although there is a difference of opinion as to the means by which it can be best effected. The Association has pronounced in favor of congressional action and a national appropriation. Other individual members of the Guard and its friends favor State legislation and organization without a Federal appropriation. It is noteworthy, however, as the Constitution says in effect, if not in words, that a well-regulated militia is necessary to the security of a free State, and the discussion of the whole subject is likely to do good. In the meantime, it is to be noted that under stringent State regulations a militia can reach a high state of effectiveness. Since its recent reorganization after the Pittsburgh strike of 1877, the National Guard of Pennsylvania has developed into a military body whose efficiency is perhaps not equal to that of the regular army itself, and whose soldierly display at Washington on Friday last, was the highest praise from every spectator. It is a noteworthy fact that at this very time a bill is pending in the New York Legislature reorganizing the much-vaunted National Guard of that State upon precisely the basis of that of Pennsylvania, and notwithstanding the fact that less than three months ago the New York Times advised the people of Pennsylvania to adopt the New York system. This proposed New York law is an excellent one, in its repeal of State aid to rifle target practice.

Congratulating the Troops.

THE RECORD OF THE PENNSYLVANIA TROOPS AT WASHINGTON.
The following has been issued from the headquarters of the National Guard in Harrisburg, issues by Gov. Hoyt and adjutant General Latta:
Seven thousand six hundred of our citizen soldiery, were safely and promptly transported from their homes to the federal capital, thoroughly organized and completely equipped, ready for immediate field service. They marched with such precision, were so excellent in appearance, superior in deportment and effective in discipline as to win the just encomiums of the most experienced and the most critical. The best attainable results of a system seem, in many important senses, to have been reached. Achievements speak most, and supersede the need of praise.
Such was the record of the Pennsylvania division of National Guardsmen on the occasion of the inaugural ceremonies at the National Capital on the 4th day of March, 1881, and to them and for all this the commander-in-chief extends his congratulations.

Lets stimulate zealous efforts and further improvements.

Enphatic recognition is due to the railroad companies, to whose courtesies the National Guard is indebted for transportation from all parts of the State to Washington and return, and that without any casualty.
—The Senate passed the bill to return to Japan the amount of the indemnity which was exacted of the Imperial Government after the affair of the bombardment at Shimoneaki. The original amount paid by Japan was \$750,000, that being our share of the \$3,000,000 squeezed from the Japanese Government. This sum was judiciously invested by Secretary Seward, now amounts to \$1,463,224. It is provided by the bill which passed the Senate that \$248,000 of the fund shall be paid to the crews of the vessels employed in the fight at Shimoneaki, or their survivors, which would leave \$1,215,224 to be paid to Japan. Such a conclusion to this long-delayed and miserable business would have been a matter for congratulation among patriotic Americans. But it seems impossible that the House could find time (if it had the inclination) to pass the bill, necessary although it was to the preservation of the honorable reputation of the Republic.—New York Times.

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