

OUR HOME GUARDS.

The Citizen Soldiers of New York Compared with Their Brothers of Pennsylvania.

PEEKSKILL'S A CAMP OF LUXURY

When Called Out for the Annual Exercise in the Sun.

GOOD POINTS OF THE TWO SISTERS.

The Empire Leads Ahead in the Signal Service Branch But They Don't Rough It.

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)



Pick and Shovel versus Ruyter.

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THE BETTER PLAN.

There are arguments, of course, in favor of both these methods, and the method resolves itself into the question of which benefits the militia most, or whether or not there is a happy medium between the two which will save the labor of the Pennsylvania, yet continue to teach him the details of camp life which he could never learn at Peekskill. It is a significant fact that the States which have recently established camp patterns more nearly after the Peekskill than they have after the Pennsylvania plan.

MONG the citizen soldiers in this vicinity for several years past there has been a discussion of the relative merits of the system now in use in the National Guard of the two great States, New York and Pennsylvania. The subject of permanent encampments in Pennsylvania has been talked of for some time, and the merits and demerits of the well-known grounds at Peekskill have often been brought up. I was fortunate enough to be present for several days at the encampment of the famous Sixty-ninth Regiment, or "Irish Tigers," at Peekskill, a short time ago. In camp with them was a section of the First Artillery of New York City, and a Signal Corps which had lately been organized.

The spot where the military organizations camp is really a beautiful situation on an elevated stretch of ground overlooking the picturesque Hudson river for many miles. The ten company streets were as accurately laid out as compass would admit, and to the Pennsylvania Guardsman arriving on the scene, the general appearance presented was that of a perfect regimental camp.

GOING INTO CAMP.

When a New York regiment arrives on the ground each company is assigned to a street and two men to each tent. The tents are nicely floored and each contains two cots with mattresses and blankets complete. There is no bunk or worry, no policing to be done, no sticks to build or coochies to look after. Everything is ready in advance,

same, the commandant of the regiment is charged with the equipment of the entire organization, and consequently there is no incentive for the companies to steal from each other, a very discreditable but common occurrence in the Keystone State.

COMPANY MONEY EXPENDITURE.

In place of raising a regiment by its showing in camp, as in our own State, each organization is allowed to parade five times a year, at convenient periods, and on the average showing made in these parades the organization is allowed \$8 per man. By this scheme the compulsory attendance at camp is done away with, this fact being shown by the average strength of the guard at Peekskill during the season just closed, running under 80 per cent against an average of 96 per cent at the Pennsylvania camp last month.

In the matter of drill and discipline many of the New York regiments compare favorably with the best in our own State, although taking the Sixty-ninth as a fair representation of the guard in general, breaches of discipline and military courtesy are noticeable, at least in the organizations attached to the poorest Pennsylvania regiment, and examples of rigid punishment for serious offenses among the enlisted men are comparatively unknown.

One departure the New York Guard has taken which would be most commendable for other States to follow, is the organization of a SIGNAL SERVICE BRANCH.

Two corps under the charge of Captain Gallat are already at work, and excellent reports are being attained. All the appliances for perfect work have been purchased by the State, including flash lights, heliograph, telegraph, lines, etc., and some of the best young men in the Guard seem to be attached to this branch of the service. Since the adoption of the Morse code of signals it

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About 100 yards to the left of the camp proper is a large covered pavilion capable of seating 1,000 men, and here the State generally spends 80 cents per day to feed each man, while the brother soldier in Pennsylvania not only cooks his own dinner, but is allowed but 20 cents per day for the food supply. While the Pennsylvania militiaman is frequently compelled to visit the sutler quarters in order to appease his appetite on account of the short allowance issued by the State, his comrades at Peekskill are growing fat and lazy.

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The grounds at Peekskill are lighted by electricity, and sentry boxes are built at proper intervals, at least in the case of one of our regiments. The company and headquarters streets are smooth and regular, and it is said that before the camp opens next year they will be made asphalt. Immediately in the rear of the company streets are the parade and drill grounds, the latter also being models of perfection in their way.

On the left of the drill grounds are tennis courts and reading rooms where the boys may seek rest or light exercise after the fatigue of eating. In the face of this perfect camp, with every detail for comfort looked after in advance, one would imagine that a great deal of time would be devoted to other purposes, at least in the case of Pennsylvania troops devote. But from the printed schedule displayed in front of Adjutant Murphy's office, such is found not to be the case. The only business movement being drill early in the morning, and a dress parade at night. In fact, after 24 hours in camp, one comes to the conclusion that the New York Guardsman, if he be of a tired disposition, has much to be thankful for.

THE SYSTEMS COMPARED.

The comparison of the Peekskill camp with a regimental camp in Pennsylvania strikes a casual observer as being extremely odd, but on closer inspection and careful thought as to just what a tour of camp duty is designed for, he comes to the conclusion that Pennsylvania is far in the lead. Camping in Pennsylvania is not play; it is a business like preparation for the actual movements of a campaign in the field. In New York it is a luxurious outing. In Pennsylvania the soldier tells you he knows how to put up a tent, he knows how to make a bed, how to get a quartermaster's work, and that from force of necessity he has become acquainted with many little points most necessary to know in the case of an actual call to the field which the New Yorker says he can learn them all in a few hours' time and that there is no rea-

son why a man should endure hardships unless he has to.

In our own State the argument in favor of the permanent camps is that from the amount of hard work required at camp the personnel of the enlisted men is growing lower each year. This, to a certain extent, is true in many localities, but I have it from the lips of a well known attaché of one of the New York City Regiments that the personnel of the men in that State has decreased fully 50 per cent. in the last ten years.

THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE.

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FREAKS OF CLIMATE.

Pessimists Say These Mild Winters, Cyclones and Floods ARE GOING TO WIND US ALL UP.

Optimists Keep on Smiling and Scientists Have Nothing to Say.

TALES OF OLD-FASHIONED WEATHER

(WRITTEN FOR THE DISPATCH.)

There is a great deal of anxiety just now about our climate. The pessimists are saying that the more or less worried about it. They are compelled to uncomfortable reflections and to reticent admissions that things are not quite what might be desired and that future possibilities are less cheering than we could wish. The pessimistic ones growl openly and aggressively, and make the air heavy with predictions of disaster. The climate appears to be changing, says those of the one class, and the climate is changing, says those of the other. There is no room for doubt in the matter, these assert. We know what we know, don't we? Well, then, let us face the inevitable conclusions of logic. We cannot deny the premises; the conclusions are pretty sure to crop up as a result of the premises. We are going to make up our minds to that, for the climate is changing. Take the blizzard for a starting point, says these hopeless ones. Could we have a blizzard in this section of the country with the figures upon us now? We never used to have them. We had good old-fashioned winters, with plenty of snow and long "runs of sleighing," and January always and all that sort of thing, but we never had a blizzard. We never had whole systems of railroads blocked by one night's snowfall; we never had great numbers of people killed, and never had telegraphic communication made an impossibility; we never had to get news from Boston by way of London. None of those things were held under the old order of climatic events.

The Mellow Winters.

Then study the two winters since the blizzard. Wonderfully upsetting seasons those were; warm and wet, and such an extent that coal dealers and plumbers were driven wild with bankruptcy, and tin rosters reaped the harvests of wealth those others had expected, while ice men began to wear diamond crowns. The winter of 1887-88 was a winter of mellow weather, and the winter of 1888-89 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1889-90 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1890-91 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1891-92 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1892-93 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1893-94 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1894-95 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1895-96 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1896-97 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1897-98 was a winter of mellow weather. The winter of 1898-99 was a winter of mellow weather. 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