

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE PROVOST MARSIAL CONCERNING THE WOUNDING OF HIS BUREAU.

Number who were Enlisted in the Armies of the United States—Casualties during the Rebellion.

WAR DEPARTMENT, PROVOST MARSIAL GENERAL'S OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C., 1866.—Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War:—Sir: The act of Congress creating the office of Provost Marshal General was approved March 3, 1863. It was appointed to it March 17, 1863. Within a few weeks from that date the network of the organization, adopted under the law, was extended over the loyal States and countries, and towns of the same; and the principal duties of the bureau, to wit: the arrest of deserters, enrollment of the national forces for draft, and the enlistment of volunteers had been commenced.

When the bureau was put in operation the strength of the army was deemed inadequate for offensive operations. Nearly 400,000 recruits were required to bring the regiments and companies then in service up to the legal and necessary standard. Disaster had been successively inflicted upon the safety of the country depended upon speedy and continued reinforcement of the army. The insufficiency of the system of recruitment was demonstrated, and the army was diminishing by the ordinary casualties of war, more rapidly by the expiration of the term of enlistment, and the consequent loss of the men engaged to serve. The general government, therefore, this bureau, assumed direct control of the business which had heretofore been transacted mainly by the State governments.

The provost marshals of the several congressional districts, aided by a commissioner and surgeon in each, were recruiting officers. Springs were opened to the people, and at the same time expressing the thought and representing the necessities and wishes of the Government, they reached the masses, and not only abating the requirements of the country, but to promote volunteering, and to examine, enlist, muster, clothe and forward recruits as fast as they could be obtained. The quotas of districts and sub-districts were made known, and each locality was advised of the number it was required to furnish, and in the event of failure that the draft would follow. This system, though administered by military officials and discouragements, further alighted in the full report met the wants of the service. Recruits were rapidly obtained by voluntary enlistment, and such strict regard was paid to their physical fitness before accepting them as to greatly reduce the enormous loss on account of discharges of the unfit, which had prevailed during the first two years of the war. The following is a condensed summary of the results of the operations of this bureau from its organization to the close of the war.

1. By means of a full and exact enrollment of all persons liable to conscription under the law of March 3, 1863, a list of 2,354,063, a complete exhibit of the military resources of the loyal States, in men, was made, showing an aggregate number of 2,354,063, not including 1,000,000 soldiers actually under arms when hostilities ceased.

2. One million one hundred and twenty thousand six hundred and twenty-one men were raised, at an average cost on account of recruitment, exclusive of bounties of \$9.84 per man, while the cost of recruiting of 1,336,893, raised prior to the organization of the bureau, was \$81.91 per man. A saving of over seventy cents on the cost of raising troops was thus effected under this bureau, notwithstanding the increase in the price of subsistence, transportation, rents, &c., during the last two years of the war. [Item—The number above given does not embrace the naval credits allowed under the eighth section of the act of July 4, 1864, nor credits for deserters, who paid commutation, the recruits for the regular army, nor the credits allowed by the Adjutant General subsequent to May 25, 1863, for men raised in the army.]

3. Seventy-six thousand five hundred and twenty-six deserters were arrested and returned to the army, the vigilance and energy of the officers of this bureau, in their line of business, put an effective check to the wide-spread evil of desertion, which, at one time, imperiled the seriousness of the national strength and efficiency of the army. 4. The quotas of men furnished by the various parts of the country were equalized, and a proportionate share of military service secured from each, thus removing the very serious inequality of requirements which had arisen during the first two years of the war, and which, when the bureau was organized, had become an almost insuperable obstacle to the further progress of raising troops.

5. Records were completed showing minutely the physical condition of 1,047,770 of the men examined, and tables of great scientific and professional value have been compiled from this data. 6. The casualties in the entire military force of the nation during the war, the rebellion, as shown by the official muster-rolls and monthly returns, have been completed with, in part, this result:

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