

REPUBLICAN TICKET.

STATE. For Treasurer, HENRY K. BOYER, Philadelphia. COUNTY. For Associate Judge, JOHN H. WHITE, Barnet Township. For Treasurer, A. M. DOUTT, Tionesta Borough. For Coroner, Dr. J. W. MORROW, Tionesta Borough.

SERVICE PENSIONS.

An Able Article on the Much Discussed Question.

By THEODORE P. RYNDER.

IT NEED ADD NOTHING TO TAXATION.

In discussing the service pension subject, we ought to take into account every element of past patriotism and present and future policy. The chief charges against service pensions are by writers who personally knew nothing of army service, or the patriotism that risked family and life that liberty might live, and are that "it would largely benefit some who are not in actual need and the 'skulkers' and 'hospital bummers.'"

To the first charge the sufficient reply is that the men whose abilities like Generals Spicola and Alger, and Senator Manderson, have made them rich were young and poor when they volunteered their services when they were needed and rendered them; and only a demagogue of the deepest dye would endeavor to refuse justice to ninety-nine poor men because one rich man would be benefited thereby. The pittance the rich would get would be of little account to them, while the refusal of this act will practically pauperize a great number of needy and deserving men.

As to the "skulkers," they were scarce; their existence is a fancy of the men who were not there. As to the "hospital bummers," if such there were, it is well known that all who have a hospital record can and generally have received pensions.

WHO WOULD BE BENEFITED.

Much the largest number of men, nay, almost the whole number who will be benefited by a service pension law, are those who by reason of good luck escaped the death-missiles of the enemy and who, by reason of great personal health and strength, escaped the diseases incident to a soldier's experience.

The soldiers who did the Government most service and cost it least were those who escaped wounds and disease and fought clear through. They were the most effective and least costly of the soldiers who saved the Republic from dismemberment, and hence in their old age they need and deserve this recognition.

NERVOUS DISEASES.

Recent investigations into the diseases and the cause of death of the old soldiers who have died and are dying, show that so large a proportion of them as to make it almost a universal rule are suffering from nervous prostration and die from heart failure. This result is undoubtedly due to the intense strain on the nervous systems of the men who lived and marched and shot and slept with the danger of instant death always hanging over them.

The average age of the living soldier is fifty-one years. At this age those who came through safe are breaking down in such numbers as to show that some universal cause underlies it, and that their army service has broken them down nineteen years sooner than they would have failed in the ordinary course of nature.

THE GOVERNMENT'S PROMISE.

It was not the promise or the intention of the Government that any of the men who took the oath, wore the uniform or carried the arms of the Republic should ever die in the poor house or in want. A service pension has been granted to the soldiers of all our other wars, and the soldiers of the war of the rebellion now demand one, and they want it now, when they and their wives and children may be benefited by it, and patriotism and faith in the Republic be strengthened by it.

THE DEMAND.

Here, then, is the proposition of those who advocate a liberal service pension law, viz: "That no soldier of the Republic shall be forced to accept private or public charity for the means of life."

It is a well known fact that from ten to thirty thousand soldiers of the Republic are in the poor houses of the different states, and that a much larger

number are only kept out by the private charity of their relatives or of the Grand Army of the Republic; and it is further known that the limit of ability of the relatives and Grand Army of the Republic is nearly reached.

THE PROPOSED MEASURE.

To carry out the above demand we propose the following measure, viz:

That eight dollars per month be the basis (or minimum) of pensions for all soldiers, (eight dollars being the lowest food and clothing rate attained); that those who served the longest may receive the due reward of their (from their trained skill) longer and more valuable service to the Government, we adopt the per diem principle in addition to the eight dollars minimum. This means that one cent per month for each day served in the army shall be added to the minimum of \$8.00 per month. Thus a soldier who served one month would get a pension of \$8.30 per month, one year would get \$11.65; two years would get \$15.30; three years would get \$18.95, and four years would get \$22.60 per month.

In this article I shall not dwell at length on any of the results gained for the country and humanity. The soldiers gave to the country what was asked of them; and as a result they who came through safely are now rendered incapable of manual labor by reason of the diseases brought on by their services. They now ask that the Government's promise be fulfilled.

THE COST.

The cost of this act of justice would not be one half, if even one-fourth, of what its opponents charge. But if it were as great or twice as great it is a duty, and the Government is able and should do it. The wildest charge of its opponents is that a half-million of people would get a pension under it, and that the average would be about half way between the minimum \$8.30 and the maximum \$22.60—\$185.40 per year, say \$200, this would give the first cost at \$100,000,000—which would constantly diminish. All agree that there is now \$100,000,000 annual surplus revenue, and where could it be placed with so much of benefit and justice as among those who made any surplus revenue possible.

THE TAXPAYER'S SIDE.

But here is the farmer's and house owners' side of the question, and it is to this particular view of the case that I wish to invite the attention of the public.

HOW SHALL THE OLD SOLDIERS BE KEPT?

The old soldiers who cannot work longer must be kept. They cannot go naked or starve. Leaving out of account all sentiments of patriotism, the broad fact remains that they are failing in such numbers and so fast in the ability to earn a living by labor, that they must be kept by a service pension or they must be kept by local taxation.

THREE WAYS OF PAYMENT.

There is no escape from the dilemma, and the only horns from which to choose are whether the whole wealth of the whole country shall keep them by a service pension law through our present revenue system, or whether the North and West shall keep them by local taxation; or whether another system can be found which will do the work and avoid all taxation, and be also a measure of great and permanent public benefit.

(Concluded next week)

Peter-son's for September is already on our table. The steel engraving, "Pick a Back" is a charming picture; the wood illustration, "The Young Family" is exceedingly pretty. The illustrated article, gives a variety of head dresses and costumes, and describes them in a charming way. The short stories are exceptionally good and the fashion and household notes are complete as ever. Altogether this number thoroughly maintains "Peter-son's" high reputation. Terms, two dollars a year. Address Peterson's Magazine, 306 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

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Consumption Incurable?

Read the following: Mr. C. H. Morris, Newark, Ariz., says: "Was down with Abscess of Lung, and friends and physicians pronounced me an incurable Consumptive. Egan taking Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, saw how on my third bottle and able to oversee the work on my farm. It is the finest medicine ever made." Jesse Middleway, Decatur, Ga., says: "Had it not been for Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption I would have died of Lung Troubles. Was given up by doctors. Am now in good health. Try it. Sample bottles free at G. W. Boyard's Drug Store."

Motherhood.

Among crude nations maternity is simply an animal function; birth is of the body more than of the spirit. It is inevitably so. The race first needed numbers and strength. It had to battle against the winds and water, fire, famine and cold. Nature must be subdued and the soil cultivated. Who cares, then, for the weak women and pining babes? Vikings were needed, swart, brutal and strong. When masculinity ruled a premium was placed upon boys and with the birth of a daughter, to the mother there was also born shame and fear. The feeling of masculine superiority has not yet died out. It will not until the plow-share is beaten into the pruning-hook; until the finest and most exalted human powers are near their blossoming and the world at large recognizes that these belong to the feminine side of life.

During the change of war and greed she was most honored who produced those types which could best rule their fellows and dominate nature. Now that external forms of civilization have reached a high degree of refinement and beauty, when on the one hand enervating luxury causes the married man to shrink from the care and confinement of children and on the other poverty renders them incompetent to give offspring a decent rearing, they are not wanted. And the sun shines on no more pitiful sight than on an unwelcome child. Of such come the revengeful, the criminal and the depraved.

Naturally another reaction will take place and the balance finally be found. That will not come to pass till the true relation is established between intellect and intuition, Love and Wisdom. At present there are mothers who are not mothers. In the true sense they have never borne the children they rear to maturity. Such are not to blame; they have never learned what life means nor do they know themselves. Walking as in a dream they take the show of things for the reality. Unwillingly, but they flourish their feeble day and leave no impress upon their starved progeny.

On the other hand the unwedded or they who have never known a mother's friction, often stretch out the arm of their spirits to take in all the sad, sick and weary that desolately walk the earth. The mother instinct is then not narrowed selfishly to one family but grows broad as the heavens from which came a love so wonderful. It takes in whoever needs "mothering" to shelter on the great heart that was not for the human life before accepting that of the spirit. Is not this truly the highest and holiest motherhood to which woman can attain?

The true feeling of motherhood still exists in all its perfection, even though the usual exhibitions be generally external. Said a wise woman lately, "I never thanked the Great Mystery for years till I knew the exact of my first born. What was it floated in and cupped my consciousness but the subjective revelation of an inexpressible and holy love, the conscious throbbing of an infinity rooted in human veins. There is nothing so glorious and awful under the sun, the rejected woman-hand patiently lifting through the ages the supreme Humanity to its throne!" —Good Housekeeping.

A Curious Operation.

English surgeons have devised a new and beneficent operation by which the sheath of the optic nerve behind the eye is opened, and not only is the pressure upon the nerve removed, but the brain or almost blindness cured, but the brain itself is relieved. The membranes which invest the brain, and are continued down to the eye in the form of a sheath which surrounds the optic nerve, secrete a certain amount of fluid; and whenever there is an excess of this secretion, or by other means, as by the growth of a brain tumor, the pressure within the cavity of the skull is increased, a superabundance of fluid is apt to find its way down the nerve sheath to the level of the eye, subjecting the optic nerve to injurious pressure, and frequently destroying the sight. This blindness may be permanent, even though the pressure in the brain cavity which causes it be only temporary and be cured. Dr. de Wecker of Paris, sixteen or seventeen years ago, suggested that it might be possible to open the optic nerve sheath, and thus not only to relieve the nerve from pressure but also to drain the brain cavity and relieve the brain pressure there. He made two experiments in this line upon two nearly hopeless cases, but he tried to feel his way to the nerve without the aid of sight, and to cut the sheath by means of an instrument carrying a concealed knife, which was projected by a spring. Only one other attempt of this sort was made, and the result not being satisfactory the experiments were dropped.

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