

THE COLUMBIAN GUARD.

How Visitors to the World's Fair Will Be Protected.

The Irreproachable Body of Men Under Command of Col. Rice—The Most Intelligent Police Force Ever Organized.

[Special World's Fair Letter.] When the exposition buildings at the world's fair grounds are thrown open to the world on the first of May, it is estimated that materials valued at \$250,000,000 will be on exhibition. By an arrangement with the Underwriters National association the exposition company will place insurance to the amount of \$50,000,000 on the buildings and their contents. As the buildings stand to-day they are valued at \$20,000,000, including structures erected by the several states and to protect them from fire every possible precaution has been taken. In addition to the maintenance of a battalion of the Chicago fire department on the grounds, and a rigid enforcement of laws governing the use of lights, fires in buildings, smoking on the grounds, etc., the Columbian guard was formed, every member of which, in addition to police powers conferred

provided the applicant had reached twenty-one, and an old soldier in good physical condition was never rejected. As a result Col. Rice has under his command 600 men far above the average in intelligence, in appearance and in gentlemanly bearing. Erect, vigorous and handsomely uniformed, carefully drilled, imposing, polite, they are as unlike the ordinary policeman on guard as an old soldier is unlike a young man. At present there are but six companies, comprising 600 men. This number will be increased to 2,000, perhaps more if necessary, by the time the exposition opens. This is not to be construed to mean that Col. Rice has 1,500 or more places to fill, for most of them are already assigned to young men now hard at work over their books in colleges all over the land. This indirectly the exposition is an aid to education.

Appointment to a place in Col. Rice's command is of easier access than positions that police control. Any young man can apply in person or by letter to Col. Richard Rice, Service Building, Jackson park, and secure immediate hearing. Letters of introduction from members of state world's fair commissions or other public and well-known persons are naturally of assistance to the applicant, though not indispensable. The applicant in person will be ques-



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by the city of Chicago, is a member of a fire company and is drilled at regular intervals in the use of Babcock extinguishers, hose practice and ladder work. Should a fire occur in Jackson park today four engine companies stationed within the grounds, three from the city, two from and ladders, six hose carts and 600 Columbian guards could be relied upon to answer the first alarm.

The daily routine of a Columbian guard is dull enough now, but when the exposition is opened, and thousands of visitors, each of whom will ask numberless questions, and who must be protected from accidents as well as the depredations of pickpockets and sharpers who will find their richest harvest in the throngs inside the buildings, then will the guards have a busy time. Because of the peculiar requirements of the occasion directors of the exposition hesitated long before adopting the present system of policing Jackson park. The disadvantage of appointing patrolmen after the municipal system was at once recognized, and it was finally deemed best to make the Columbian guard semi-military in character, leaving the appointing power in the hands of a chief, to be selected for his fitness in handling and organizing military bodies. At the request of the exposition directors President Harrison ordered Capt. Edmund Rice, Fifth Infantry, U. S. A., to report to Director General Davis, and Capt. Rice submitted the plan of organization which led to the present organization. The Columbian guards was organized by the exposition company with Capt. Rice placed in command with the rank of colonel. The new commander called to his assistance other military men, some from the regular army, others from the state militia, and the first call for troops was issued last September. There were hundreds of applicants, of whom less than 50 were accepted. The exactions of military qualifications as to height, weight and physical conditions proved a bar to many applicants, while others were rejected for lack of moral and mental fitness.

Intelligence, good character, steady habits, and a physique that stands the test required of recruits entering Uncle Sam's service, soon drove the crowds of loafers and lazy fellows from the field. They found that political influence availed them nothing with Col. Rice, who was absolutely untrammelled and impartial in the selection of men for his guards. With this undesirable class off of the way, a better class of applicants came by hundreds; students from colleges, anxious to earn enough during the summer months to enable them to pursue their studies next year; ambitious young men from city and country who desired to avail themselves of the advantages they might derive during their hours of duty; applications even from clergymen, physicians and lawyers, from Europe as well as America, their object apparently being educational advantages, rather than for the modest salary paid the guards. There was no stipulation as to age, however,

tioned by Col. Rice as to his habits, morals and mental equipment, and if the interview be satisfactory—and Col. Rice has been a soldier all his life, handling troops in the civil war and many Indian campaigns, and reads faces as most men read a printed page—the applicant is referred to Dr. Younger, or some of his assistants in the Columbian medical bureau, for physical examination. Having stood this test the applicant is discharged to hold himself in readiness for summons for service.

When that summons comes the applicant presents himself before Quartermaster Hoppen, who is a lieutenant in Uncle Sam's Second cavalry, but ranks as captain in the Columbian guard. The applicant is measured for a uniform, consisting of cap, dark blue blouse, similar to the fatigue uniform worn by army officers, and trousers of the regular army blue—with a black and red sash on the side. A police whistle and brass armband on which the guard number is engraved, and a short two-pointed sword, in an ornamental scabbard at the hip, complete the equipment. If he chooses, the guard can also be provided with a storm coat, overcoat and rubber boots, the total outfit being furnished to him by the exposition company at a cost of about \$45. Each month \$3 is deducted from the guard's pay, until he has been in the service six months, when the money is refunded and the uniform becomes the property of the wearer. If the guard should leave the service before the expiration of six months Quartermaster Hoppen appraises the value of the uniform, which is returned by the guard, and pays the latter the difference held out of his pay.

From the quartermaster the new guard, after having taken the oath of office and sworn in with full police powers by a city official, is sent to the drill room, where he becomes a member of the awkward squad. Energetic drill masters soon give him grace and freedom of motion, the graceful military salute, and standing at "attention" when addressed by superior officer or civilian soon become easy and natural methods. He is assigned to service in one of the companies and may live outside the grounds on barracks provided in a roomy structure especially erected at Sixty-second street and Stony Island avenue. Eight hours each day he is on duty, the first week from 9 a. m. to 1 p. m. and from 9 p. m. until 1 a. m.; the second week from 1 a. m. until 5 a. m. The relief is so arranged that each guard gets a half-holiday each week. Careful attention to personal appearance, with neatly blackened shoes, clean linen, just showing above the closely-buttoned blouse, and the wearing of white cotton gloves, and of each pinned while on duty, it must be at all times respectful and attentive to the commanding officer, and must be a firm enforcer of everything concerning the grounds, buildings, locations of exhibits, etc. He must be alert as a police officer to protect visitors,

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prompt to respond to ambulance service as a member of the hospital corps, and making in vigilance as a fireman. He may use tobacco, off duty only, and shall times must maintain dignified and respectful attitudes toward the public as is employed to serve. In barracks he may read, play, or in any form of recreation, or indulge in any other occupation not disturbing to occupants of the dormitories. Lights are extinguished promptly at 9 o'clock each night in the dormitories, and the lone sentry is baited at regular intervals by an inspector of the guard whose duty it is to see that guards on the grounds and in the buildings are not sleeping at their posts or otherwise neglecting their duty. There is no appeal from the decision of Col. Rice when a guard has been found asleep at his post. Dismissal is prompt and irrevocable. The pay of the rank and file is \$20 per month, though there is a system of promotion which some of the present members will profit by when new companies are formed, whereby they will receive \$75 for a month's service.

The police system of the exposition is yet more intricate than the employment of good-looking and physically sound men for the guard. Capt. Horace Elliott, for many years a member of the Chicago police force, and recently retired on half pay for age, is in charge of the patrolmen. Photographed on Capt. Elliott's memory are the faces of thousands of noted criminals, and many of his assistants are old-time thief takers. Many a visitor to the fair will be "spotted" before he gets inside the grounds, and his every move will be shadowed by a detective. The secret service department, under Capt. Bonfield, will include detectives from every large city in America and Europe. Noted confidence men, pickpockets and ordinary criminals will be under strictest surveillance. It is to be expected that the exposition will attract thousands of the criminal classes, and unusual police precautions have already been taken to protect the public from their wiles. PAUL DE H. SWEENEY.

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CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Where and When Services Will Be Conducted Tomorrow. Trinity Reformed church, Rev. Robert D. Boyle, pastor. Services tomorrow at 10 a. m. and 6:30 p. m. Sunday school at 1:30 p. m. Everybody welcome.

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