

PROCEEDINGS

C.-IN-CHIEF

S. V., U. S. A.

1899-04



FRANK L. SHEPARD

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,

1898-1899

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
EIGHTEENTH
ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT
OF THE
COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF,
SONS OF VETERANS
U.S.A.

HELD IN
DETROIT, MICHIGAN,
September 7th, 8th and 9th,
1899.

BOSTON, MASS.:
E. B. STILLINGS & Co., 55 SUDBURY STREET.
1900.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY — AFTERNOON SESSION.

DETROIT, MICH., Sept. 7, 1899.

The Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., convened in Masonic Hall, at 2 o'clock P.M., Commander-in-Chief Frank L. Shepard in command.

The members having assembled, Commander-in-Chief Frank L. Shepard called the brothers to order and introduced Mayor Maybury, who, in flowery and cordial words, welcomed the Sons of Veterans to the city of Detroit.

Appropriate responses were made by Commander-in-Chief Shepard and Past Commander-in-Chief William E. Bundy, after which Mayor Maybury retired.

ENCAMPMENT CALLED TO ORDER.

The Commander-in-Chief: The officers and members of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., will now come to order.

The Adjutant-General will call the roll of the officers of this Encampment.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of officers and the following officers of the Commandery-in-Chief answered to their names:

Commander-in-Chief Frank L. Shepard, Chicago, Ill.
Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief George E. Cox, Hartford, Conn.
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Z. C. Green, White, S.D.
Council-in-Chief: H. H. Hammer, J. E. Hayercraft, J. D. Rowen.
Adjutant-General G. B. Abbott, Chicago, Ill.
Quartermaster-General Fred E. Bolton, Boston, Mass.
Judge Advocate-General James W. Noel, Indianapolis, Ind.
Surgeon-General F. H. B. McDowell, M.D., Racine, Wis.
Chaplain-in-Chief Rev. A. J. Morris, South Frankfort, Mich.

Commander-in-Chief: I will make the following appointments for this session of our Encampment: Officer of the Day, Adjutant F. E. Munger, and Officer of the Guard, Captain Walter L. Raynes. The brothers will assume their duties at once.

The Inspector-General is in the city but has not yet presented himself at the Encampment. I will ask Past Inspector-General J. Frank Durston to act as Inspector-General, *pro tem*.

Inspector-General, you will take up the password and countersign; ascertain if all present are in possession of the same, and are entitled

to remain, and that the Camp and Picket Guards are at their respective stations. The Surgeon-General will assist you upon my left.

The Inspector-General: Commander, upon due inspection we find the Camp and Picket Guards at their stations, and all present in possession of the password and countersign and entitled to remain.

Whereupon, the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., was opened in due form.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

The Commander-in-Chief: The first order of business is the announcement of the Committee on Credentials. The Chair will announce the appointment of the Committee on Credentials as follows:

Adjutant-General G. B. Abbott, *ex officio*, chairman of the committee.
 Division Commander J. Howard Heine of Nebraska.
 Division Commander George H. Bailey of New Jersey.
 Division Commander Ralph Sheldon of New York.
 Division Commander A. E. B. Stephens of Ohio.

The members of the committee will report to the chairman of the committee at once and proceed with their work. What is the pleasure of the Encampment while the Committee on Credentials is preparing its report?

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move you that the Encampment take recess for twenty minutes, in order to give the Committee on Credentials an opportunity to prepare a partial report.

Schulyer Tipton of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

Commander-in-Chief: It is moved and seconded that the Commandery-in-Chief take recess for twenty minutes in order to give the Committee on Credentials an opportunity to prepare a report on the credentials that have been submitted. If there is no objection that motion will be taken by consent. Is there objection? The Chair hears none, and the Encampment will be at ease until called to order by the Chair.

4.15 o'clock P.M.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Commandery-in-Chief will come to order. Inspector-General, are all present entitled to remain?

The Inspector-General: Commander, I find all present entitled to remain.

The Commander-in-Chief: We will now hear the report of the Committee on Credentials.

The Adjutant-General, Chairman, *ex officio*, of the Committee on Credentials submitted and read the following report:

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CREDENTIALS.

To the Officers and Members of the Eighteenth Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.:

Commander: Your Committee on Credentials would beg leave to report as follows:

We find the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief all present and entitled to vote and membership in the Encampment.

We find the following past officers and constitutional life members entitled to seats and votes in the Encampment. (See Roll of Encampment.)

The committee also examined the credentials of the following named members as delegates and alternates, and reports that they are entitled to a seat and vote in the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief as representatives of their respective Divisions. (Roll Call No. 1.)

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, I move that as the Adjutant-General reads the names of those the committee report accredited as delegates to the Encampment, those present answer to their names, that in this way the reading of the report of the committee will serve as the first roll call of this Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Chair thinks that is proper, and if there is no objection it will be taken as the sense of this Encampment. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and the Adjutant-General will proceed and record those answering to their names as present, and the reading of this part of the report will stand as the first roll call of this Encampment.

The Adjutant-General concluded the reading of the report.

(Roll Call No. 1.)

The Commander-in-Chief: That concludes the report of the Committee on Credentials, and also the first roll call of the Encampment. The chair will now entertain a motion to adopt the report of the committee and accord seats in this Encampment to those members whose credentials have been favorably reported upon by the committee.

James Lewis Rake of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move you that the report of the committee just read be received as a partial report of the Committee on Credentials and the delegates accorded seats in the Encampment, and the committee continued.

A. S. Moulthrop of Pennsylvania: Commander I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The Commander-in-Chief: The brothers whose credentials have been reported upon favorably by the committee will be accredited and seated as members of this Encampment, and the Committee on Credentials continued.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES.

In accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, I will announce the general committees as follows:

On Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

Judge Advocate-General James W. Noel of Indiana.
 Division Commander Frederic E. Carpenter of Rhode Island.
 Past Division Commander W. Scott Oberdorf of New York.
 Past Division Commander William T. Church of Illinois.
 Delegate-at-Large Henry G. Thomas of Maine.

On Rituals and Ceremonies.

Past Division Commander Newton J. McGuire of Indiana.
 Inspector-General Forrest W. Briggs of Pennsylvania.
 Division Commander Bernard Prack of Missouri.
 Division Commander George S. Whitmore of Maryland.
 Past Division Commander E. H. Archer of Ohio.

On Resolutions.

Past Division Commander William Y. Morgan of Kansas.
 Major R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania.
 Division Commander W. A. Morris of South Dakota.
 Division Commander Edson S. Bishop of Connecticut.
 Division Commander A. G. Braband of Wisconsin.

On Officers' Reports, Etc.

Past Commander-in-Chief Joseph B. Maccabe of Massachusetts.
 Past Commander-in-Chief William E. Bundy of Ohio.
 Past Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake of Pennsylvania.
 Past Commander-in-Chief Charles K. Darling of Massachusetts.
 Past Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief George E. Cogshall of Michigan.
 Past Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Charles T. Orner of Illinois.

The Commander-in-Chief: And I announce the following Special Committees: —

Committee on Fraternal Greetings to L. A. S.

Division Commander George N. Howard of Massachusetts.
 Rev. Otho Brandt of Pennsylvania.
 Past Division Commander C. G. Marsh of Illinois.
 Rev. S. W. Macurdy of Pennsylvania.
 Division Commander H. O. P. Cline of Indiana.

Press Committee.

Past Division Commander William G. Dustln of Illinois.
 Delegate-at-Large H. V. Speelman of Ohio.

*Committee on Fraternal Relations with the G. A. R.
as Announced in General Order No. 4.*

Past Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake of Pennsylvania, *Chairman.*
 Past Commander-in-Chief Charles K. Darling of Massachusetts.
 Past Commander-in-Chief Louis M. Wagner of Pennsylvania.
 Past Division Commander Theodore A. Barton of Rhode Island.
 Hon. Webster Davis of Washington, D.C.

On Military College.

The following committee was appointed in accordance with the Resolution adopted by the Sixteenth Annual Encampment at Indianapolis, but failed to report at the succeeding Encampment; it is a committee appointed to report upon the advisability of establishing a military college. The committee appointed by Commander-in-Chief Darling, was as follows: —

Past Division Commander A. I. Sortor of Iowa.
 Past Division Commander Manly Wren of Missouri.
 Past Division Commander Herbert O. Bixby of Vermont.
 Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief George E. Cox of Connecticut.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS.

W. E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I move that the roll of Divisions be called for communications, and that all communications be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work.

Commander-in-Chief: A motion is not necessary to do that. The next order of business is the reception and reference of communications from Divisions.

The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of Maryland was called: —

F. T. F. Johnson of Maryland: Commander, I have two communications to present from the Division of Maryland.

Commander-in-Chief: The communications from the Division of Maryland will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work.

When the Division of Massachusetts was called: —

J. B. Maccabe of Massachusetts: Commander, the Division of Massachusetts desires to present two communications that are not in writing: —

First, the Division of Massachusetts respectfully petitions the Commandery-in-Chief for a uniform uniform to be worn by each and every member throughout the Order.

Second, the Division of Massachusetts respectfully petitions the Commandery-in-Chief that power be delegated to Division Commanders to proceed against a Camp, if need be; and that the Commander of said Division may, if he consider it proper, transfer a member of the Camp proceeded against to another Camp so that the member transferred may retain his standing in the Order, and the incorrigibles in the Camp be suspended with the Camp itself.

The Commander-in-Chief: The communications from the Division of Massachusetts will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work.

When the Division of New York was called: —

Ralph Sheldon of New York: Commander, the Division of New York will present a communication later on.

The Commander-in-Chief: The communication from the Division of New York will be presented direct to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, the Division of Ohio has a resolution which it desires to present but unfortunately we have not it with us.

The Commander-in-Chief: You may hand it in to the committee later.

When the Division of Pennsylvania was called: —

The Adjutant-General: Commander, I will state that I have received a number of communications from the Division of Pennsylvania, and they will be submitted to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CAMPS AND INDIVIDUALS.

The Commander-in-Chief: The next order of business is the reception and reference of communications from Camps and individuals. Without calling the roll, are there any members who desire to offer resolutions or communications either on their own behalf, or on behalf of their Camps?

C. G. Marsh of Illinois: Commander, I would like to have that order of business passed over for the present. I do not know that I want to present anything myself, but I would like to have the privilege of doing it later on.

The Commander-in-Chief: I presume the Encampment will accord you that privilege.

C. J. Post of Michigan: Commander, I have a communication from Battle Creek Camp. They petition that they be allowed to use the Three Degree Ritual. They have all the paraphernalia to use it, are very much charmed with it, and think it a great hardship that they are not permitted to do so.

The Commander-in-Chief: The communication will go to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

RECESS UNTIL 9 O'CLOCK A.M.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I move that the Encampment now take recess until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

The motion was agreed to and the Encampment took recess until tomorrow, Friday, Sept. 8, 1899, at 9 o'clock A.M.

FRIDAY — MORNING SESSION.

FRIDAY, Sept. 8, 1899, 9 o'clock A.M.

The Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

The Commander-in-Chief: The first order of business this morning is the call of the roll. The Adjutant-General will call the roll.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of Encampment.

(Roll Call No. 2.)

Commander-in-Chief: Has the Committee on Credentials any further report to make?

The Adjutant-General: Commander, they have not just now.

The Commander-in-Chief: The next order of business is the reading of the reports of the officers of this Encampment. Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Cox will assume command of the Encampment.

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief: Brothers, we will now hear the report of the Commander-in-Chief.

Commander-in-Chief Shepard submitted and read the following report: —

REPORT OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

To the Officers and Members of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

Brothers: In rendering to you an account of the interests entrusted to my care one year ago, in this final report, I can but touch upon a few of the matters of moment to our Order, looking to the other officers of the Commandery-in-Chief for a detailed statement of the work of the year. It was with a love for the Order and the closest friendship for its officers and members that I entered upon the discharge of the duties imposed by the obligation I assumed at our altar, and if I have fallen far short of desired results, I shall hope to be credited with a continuation of that love and an earnest effort in behalf of this splendid fraternal organization of patriotic manhood — an Order born of precious memories and charged with solemn duties.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT.

It is hoped that the brothers of this Encampment will not be over critical in passing upon the hospitality which is placed at our disposal. It is a fact that our coming here was more the result of our own desire than by the urgent solicitation of the citizens and Sons of Veterans of Detroit. Our organization being not particularly strong in Detroit, it seemed advisable that some assistance and advice should be given by the Commandery-in-Chief. The Adjutant-General, therefore, at my request, made two visits to the city of Detroit; one, the latter part of December and the other in July. He found the brothers here few in number, yet anxious to do all they could for our entertainment. Heretofore it has been the experience at National Encampments that too much entertainment interfered with the business of our sessions and I therefore recommended to the brothers that no effort be made for a parade, a camp-fire or a banquet. I suggested that the members of the Encampment would undoubtedly enjoy a boat-ride upon the river and that probably would occupy as much time from our regular work as the Encampment would be disposed to give. So, any seeming lack of entertainment should not be charged to the citizens and brothers of Detroit, but rather to the suggestions of the Adjutant-General and myself. I feel that I cannot in justice leave this subject without commending most highly the efforts of Adjutant-General Abbott and Brother Chas. H. Fisk, upon whose shoulders has rested practically the entire labor of preparing for our Encampment. Nor should I omit to add that the brothers of the Division of Michigan have universally tendered their services for any purpose to which I might assign them.

DEATH OF MAJOR DAVIS.

On the 21st day of May this year, Maj. A. P. Davis, whose presence has been familiar at the national meetings of our Order since its organization, died at his home in Pittsburgh, Pa. For the first time we miss his kindly presence among us and at the roll call he answers

"present" to the Supreme Commander of us all. Mention of his death was made in General Order No. 3 and Camps were directed to drape their charters and altars in mourning for thirty days. Major Davis left by his will a bequest of five hundred dollars to the Commandery-in-Chief, with the request that the said sum be used in such manner and form as will best commemorate his connection with the Order, with a due regard for the wishes and views of his widow as to the use of this bequest. Major Davis also bequeathed to the Commandery-in-Chief such of his personal effects as relate to or have a bearing upon his life as a soldier or sailor, a list of which is attached to the will.

The will of Major Davis above referred to is being contested in the Orphan's Court of Pittsburgh by his son, Herbert A. Davis, and as it will be some time before the matter is finally determined, I recommend that the care of the interests of the Commandery-in-Chief be left to the incoming administration.

SUPPLIES FOR THE ORDER.

By the death of Major Davis the contract entered into with him for the manufacture and furnishing of decorations to our Order terminated. It thereupon became necessary to arrange for the transfer of the matter of decorations to another. Appreciating that a profit must be made, and properly so, in the manufacture and sale of supplies for our Order, a proposition to place the whole question of the manufacture, purchase and distribution of supplies in the department of the Quartermaster-General only was entertained. Major Davis left a considerable stock of decorations and material on hand and we have been negotiating for the purchase, on a proper basis, of such of these as could be used by the Order, including the purchase of the dies for the manufacture of the badges. After considerable discussion with Mrs. Davis, the residuary legatee and executrix of the last will of Major Davis, a portion of the supplies were purchased at one-half the price which the Order heretofore paid for them, and in this purchase the Order receives, without extra charge, the dies and hubs for the manufacture of the badges. I believe the Quartermaster-General hereafter can, to the best advantage of our Order, purchase its necessary supplies in the open market, and I recommend that this Encampment pass a resolution placing the whole matter of supplies for our Order in the department and under the direction of the Quartermaster-General, and that such resolution provide that he may also, if found desirable by both parties, furnish supplies for the Ladies' Aid Society, heretofore also purchased from Major Davis.

NEW RITUAL.

In accordance with the action of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, a new one-degree ritual, recommended by the committee reporting at that Encampment, was edited, published and distributed free to all Camps reporting in good standing for the December, 1898, quarter. This new ritual includes in its charges and lectures, those patriotic sentiments which naturally appeal to the sons of Union soldiers of our

great war, at the same time making the work in the Camp-room simple and consistent as well as dignified and rich in substance, and of such length as can be easily worked in one evening. Provision was also made for more elaborate work by a Camp in its muster ceremony, when desired.

This ritual met with the almost unanimous approval of the Divisions and Camps, so far as my observation and advices informed me, and it is, in my judgment, a proper and adequate ritual for our Order, and I believe and hope its merits will so commend it to this National body as to obviate the necessity of any change in this or the drafting of any other ritual for many years to come.

NEW EDITION OF COURT-MARTIAL BLANKS.

The Quartermaster-General having disposed of the supply of court-martial blanks on hand, it became necessary to have printed a new edition, and we availed ourselves of that opportunity of revising the court-martial blanks and instructions both in substance and form to conform to the present law of our Order and the best usage.

I am indebted to Past Commander William T. Church of Illinois for services rendered in the preparation of this new edition of our court-martial blanks.

NEW EDITION OF THE C., R. & R.

It also became necessary to publish a new edition of our Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and under the supervision of the Quartermaster-General a new edition was edited to include the changes made by the last several Encampments, and published.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARY COLLEGE.

The committee to investigate the advisability of establishing a military college as a memorial to the soldiers and members of the Grand Army of the Republic, announced in General Order No. 6, of Commander-in-Chief Darling, Dec. 18, 1897, failed to make its report at the following Encampment, held at Omaha last year, because of the absence in the war of Captains Sortor and Wren, both members and the former chairman of the committee. Since our last Encampment considerable work has been done by this committee, and I beg this Encampment to receive and consider its report.

DECORATION FOR SERVICE IN SPANISH WAR.

By the resolution of our last Encampment, the Commander-in-Chief was authorized to have prepared a medal of honor to be furnished by Divisions, through the Quartermaster-General's Department, to all members of the Order who served in the Spanish-American War. No data as to the number of medals required could be obtained, except through the sources adopted for the compilation of the "Roll of Honor," ordered also by the last Encampment. Efforts were made to secure a captured Spanish cannon for use in the manufacture of this medal, but the Secretary of War, while expressing his good wishes in the matter, informed us that an act of Congress was necessary for the

transfer of a cannon for our use. So far as possible the necessary information has now been obtained; a sample decoration has been prepared; and I recommend that this matter be placed in the hands of the Quartermaster-General and he be directed and authorized to proceed with the manufacture and distribution of the medal.

COURTS-MARTIAL AND DECISIONS.

There have been twenty-six decisions rendered during the year, fourteen of which were in courts-martial cases and the balance involving constitutional questions. An appeal has been taken from my decision sustaining the decision of Division Commander E. H. Archer of Ohio, suspending Camp 24 of that Division for non-payment of dues and failure to make reports. Reference is made to the papers in this matter, as well as the decisions in all other cases, which are attached hereto and made a part of this report.

RELATIONS WITH G.A.R.

We have experienced a continuation of the close fraternal relations existing between the Grand Army of the Republic, the Woman's Relief Corps, the Daughters of Veterans and the Ladies of the G.A.R. and our own Order, and felt a closer drawing together of these societies with ours, whose principles and objects and common interests make them all akin.

A Committee on Fraternal Relations was appointed to attend the annual meeting of the Grand Army and the other societies meeting at Philadelphia this week and convey the greetings of our Order, which committee will make its report at this Encampment.

LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

Under the splendid administrations of the Department and National Officers of the Ladies' Aid Society most excellent work has been done by that organization in carrying on the patriotic and charitable work which it contemplates, and also in assisting and encouraging many Camps of Sons of Veterans, where the subordinate bodies of the two organizations are located together. I am under obligations to the Ladies' Aid Society for the continuous courtesy and assistance received from its officers and members.

DIVISION OF WEST VIRGINIA.

Upon assuming command I found that the *per capita* tax of the Division of West Virginia for the June, 1898, quarter had not been paid. Efforts were made from time to time to secure the payment of this and the *per capita* tax for the subsequent September and December quarters. A. R. Jones had been elected Division Commander and had established headquarters at Elkins, W. Va. Further than taking his oath of office and assuming command of his Division nothing seems to have been done by Commander Jones. Not only did he fail to forward his reports to the Adjutant-General and pay the required *per capita* for the three quarters mentioned, but he totally neglected the Camps and membership under his charge. His resignation as Division Commander was tendered

and accepted on Feb. 24, 1899. It was impossible to call a meeting of the Division Council on account of the distance to be travelled by each of them and the expense of such meeting. Blanks were submitted to each of the members of the Division Council for the purpose of electing a successor to Commander Jones. The Council unaniously elected Past Commander R. F. Adams for the unexpired term. Member of the Council-in-Chief H. H. Hammer was appointed Assistant Inspector-General for the Division of West Virginia, and directed to proceed to Elkins, W. Va., and inspect and audit the accounts of Brother Jones, secure the Division property and forward the same to Commander Adams. For the manner in which Brother Hammer discharged this duty, and the loyalty and energy with which Commander Adams assumed charge of the affairs of this Division, I am deeply indebted and grateful to both.

FRATERNAL PAPERS.

We have been indebted during the past year for material assistance rendered by the publication of several fraternal papers, among which may be mentioned, *The Michigan Messenger*, *The Sunflower Picket*, *The Recruit*, *The Illinois Banner*, *The Grand Army Journal* and *The National Tribune*. Next to the editing of a paper, its usefulness must be measured by the number of individual members who receive and read it. Through the scheme adopted by Past Commander Wm. G. Dustin, editor and publisher of the *Illinois Banner*, that paper is mailed to and received by every member of the Illinois Division as well as many outside of the Division. While it might not be practical for the Commandery-in-Chief to adopt the plan followed, nevertheless, it is recommended to the consideration of the several Divisions as a means of reaching every member of the Order with a fraternal paper.

ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERSHIP.

I have always been a firm adherent to and believer in our present form of organization, including the Camp, Division and Commandery-in-Chief. I have observed the excellent and continuous work done by the subordinate Camps in carrying out the idea of charity, not only to the veteran soldier and his family, but also to and among the brothers of our Order. The Camps are more and more assuming and discharging the duties of Memorial Day, as contemplated by our laws, and in many cases during the past year the local Camps in their respective localities took entire charge and direction of the work of Memorial Day, and by their efforts discharged in the highest degree this sacred duty, and advanced the Order in the estimation of the public generally and received commendation from the Grand Army expressive of their gratitude. Many Camps are uniformed and drilled and maintain military organizations creditable to them and to the Order. In other Camps the social and patriotic features are most prominent.

We have long observed, however, that there is a large number of eligible sons of Union soldiers whom we have never been able to bring into membership. Various causes have contributed to the failure on

our part to enlist the services of these desirable recruits. In many towns, in which may be found one or more of their best citizens who are eligible to membership, no Camp exists. In other places Camps have been unable to secure the older eligible Sons of Veterans, because, perhaps, they have passed the years of life when drills or uniforms or the work of the local Camps had any attraction for them. This subject is not a new one and various suggestions have been made to this body from year to year for its solution. Some have advocated the repeal of our present system of organization, or the elimination of the ritualistic work entirely, or doing away with both. Others suggested the plans of the Sons of the American Revolution or the Loyal Legion, and others for a single Camp for each State. A great deal of time and work has been devoted to this during the past year, and we offer for the consideration of this Encampment our views upon this subject.

We believe that provision can be made in our laws for the organization of a Camp in each Division that will conform to the present plan of organization, and with only some modification as to the details of the work, which will attract to membership a great body of eligible sons of veterans who are not now members of the Order. At Indianapolis a resolution was adopted making it optional with Camps to muster recruits by simply giving the obligation and secret work if it was deemed best. By giving greater latitude to the Camp as to its time and place of meetings and the number of meetings to be held will tend greatly, in my opinion, to solve the difficulty. A Camp then can be organized in each Division, if desired, to include in its membership recruits from every point in the Division, imposing upon them none of the details of Camp work now assumed, at least by a recruit at his muster. Leave it optional with a Camp as to its time and place of meeting, and the number of meetings it shall hold. Such a membership drawn from the Division at large will attract many older and influential members and add strength to our Order and contribute to the work it contemplates. Provision should also be made for associate membership in this Camp by brothers of the Order who now belong to their local Camps, and who, if they sever such membership by transfer, injure their local Camps, but by retaining such active membership with the privilege of becoming an associate member of the State Camp would enable them to help carry on the work of the local Camp and at the same time affiliate with the State Camp composed of membership at large; compelling such associate members to pay dues in both Camps; and basing the representation of such Camp in the Division Encampments upon its active membership.

I am more than ever before convinced of the usefulness and grandeur and perpetuity of the organization of the Sons of Veterans, believing that not members alone, but that character and strength of membership, which we now have and to which every year we are adding, weigh most in carrying on the work of our Order, and make most for the advancement of those principles which it teaches. Satisfied more than ever that the Order of Sons of Veterans link the splendid achievements of the past with the eventful days in which we live, to perpetuate them in a glorious future for our country.

OFFICERS AND STAFF.

The officers and staff brought to their respective positions experience in the work of the Order, ability to perform their duties and a deep desire to so labor as to best advance its interests. I cannot close this report without making the just acknowledgment that to them is due whatever of good has been accomplished in this year's work, and to the Division officers and brothers everywhere I am indebted for the greatest kindness and assistance.

To Col. William G. Dustin and Surgeon-General McDowell, and others, I am obligated for special work and many courtesies.

The Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General have from the nature of their offices the most arduous and exacting work to perform, and we all know that Adjutant-General Abbott and Quartermaster General Bolton brought special qualifications and industry to the positions which they assumed, and in addition to their duties well performed, they have made my official year most happy and pleasant; and I may add that so long as these important positions are filled by such worthy brothers, the interests of the Order will always be advanced and safeguarded.

As there is no day without its nearness of evening shades, so with all the pleasant memories of this year's work, with the close friendships formed by daily contact, comes the regret of the severance of official relations. But I hand back to you, my brothers, this great trust placed with me, knowing that there is a common ground in the work for the Order where we can always meet, and seeing with profound faith a glorious future for the Sons of Veterans in carrying out the splendid mission for which it was established.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

DECISIONS AND OPINIONS.

Decision I.

CHICAGO, Oct. 20. 1898.

Col. LEONARD C. COUCH,

*Commander Mass. Division, S. V., U.S.A.,
Taunton, Mass..*

Dear Colonel Couch: I return to you herewith record of the court-martial proceedings in the case of Bro. P. O. Hardy of Commander George F. F. Wilde Camp, No. 117, your Division, together with Opinion No. 2 of the Judge Advocate-General attached thereto. I concur in the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, and approve the findings of the Court.

The sentence imposed by the Court should, in my judgment, be modified and reduced, as the evidence introduced on behalf of the prosecution does not justify so severe a sentence as that fixed by the Court, in view of the fact that the testimony given by the witnesses was very largely in the nature of an expression by them of their own conclusions, instead of being a full statement of the bare facts and nothing more on the part of the witnesses, then leaving the conclusions to be drawn by the Court; and, further, that the competent testimony introduced is scant in support of the charges and specifications against the accused.

The sentence is therefore modified and reduced, to the suspension of Bro. P. O. Hardy from membership in the Order of Sons of Veterans, and from all rights and privileges in the Order, for the period of one year, commencing on the 20th day of October, 1898.

You are charged with the duty of carrying out the sentence in this case in conformity with the above.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Opinion II.

In the matter of the court-martial of Parsons O. Hardy of Camp 177, Division of Massachusetts:

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Oct. 17, 1898.

TO THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF,
Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

The complete copy of the record now presented shows that notice was duly served and that he was presented with a copy of the charges. The record is therefore without defect in that particular.

It is the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General that the findings of guilty by the Court on the third specification of the first charge and on the first specification of the second charge are not sustained by the evidence; but it is apparent that there is support in the evidence for the findings on the first specification of the first charge. The Court found the facts and while the evidence is somewhat flimsy we do not feel that the findings should be disturbed.

It is recommended that the proceedings be approved, and the sentence affirmed.

Respectfully,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision No. II.—(J. A.-Gen. Op. III.)

CHICAGO, Oct. 28, 1898.

COL. WM. T. CHURCH,
Commander Illinois Division, S. V., U.S.A.,
The Tacoma, City.

Dear Colonel Church: The record in the court-martial proceedings against Charles D Henry, of Camp No. 28, Division of Illinois, together with Opinion No. III., of the Judge Advocate-General, attached thereto, is returned to you herewith.

I concur in the opinion and recommendations of the Judge Advocate-General, and hereby approve the finding of the Court and the sentence imposed.

You are hereby directed to carry the sentence into effect at once.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT
Adjutant-General.

Opinion III.

In the matter of the court-martial of Charles D. Henry of Camp No. 28, Division of Illinois, S.V., U.S.A.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Oct. 26, 1898.

The record in the above entitled case shows that the proceedings were in proper form and according to law and that the finding of the Court is sustained by the evidence. I, therefore, recommend that the Commander-in-Chief affirm the finding and approve the sentence.

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision III.—(J. A.-Gen. Op. IV.)

CHICAGO, Oct. 28, 1898.

Col. CHARLES L. PIERCE,
Commander California Division, S.V., U.S.A.,
13 Pine St., San Francisco, Cal.

Dear Colonel Pierce: I hand you herewith Opinion No. IV. of the Judge Advocate-General in answer to the questions raised in your communication of August 15.

I concur in the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General and adopt the same as my decision upon the questions raised.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Opinion IV.

In the matter of request of Charles L. Pierce, Commander, Division of California, for opinion.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Oct. 26, 1898.

It is plainly the law of the Order that one dropped because of arrearages may be reinstated by the Camp which dropped him upon the payment of one year's back dues. It has been held repeatedly that when he presents himself for muster or reinstatement to another Camp he must pay the one year's back dues to the Camp which dropped him, and the muster fee of the Camp which reinstates him. But the law does not intend that, when reinstated by his own Camp, he should pay more than the one year's arrearages. So that upon making his application therefor and applying the one year's arrearage the member may be reinstated, after being balloted on in the same manner as an original applicant. The Camp cannot demand more of him than the one year's dues and there can be no conditional reinstatement.

The law of the Order requires that the muster fee, or, in case of dropped member, the one year's dues be paid before the member is balloted on for muster or reinstatement. If the member has been reinstated without paying in advance, the officers have violated the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and may be court-martialed. In the absence of any showing to the contrary it is presumed that the officers complied with the law and that the members paid the one year's back dues before reinstatement. The quartermaster is liable on his bond to the Camp for the amount, whether paid to him or not, if he reported the amount paid, and such a report was necessary before reinstatement.

But even though the officers were derelict and permitted the record to show his reinstatement as a member, he is *particeps criminis* and cannot profit by a wrong in which he participated. Common honesty would not permit him to thus avoid his own obligation and if, as a matter of fact, the back dues are

not paid as required by the regulations of the Order, he is in arrears with the Camp which reinstated him and cannot demand a transfer from the Camp until he has paid all his debts to the Camp and no charges exist against him.

It is our opinion that in the case presented the member is not entitled to a transfer until he has paid the one year's arrearages, but that the Camp cannot require more of him. He is entitled to a transfer when he has complied with the law and then only.

The general questions asked are answered by the constitution itself. No Camp has a right to carry members on its rolls who are in arrearage more than one year. Irregularities committed by Camps, when clearly proven, and entirely inconsistent with the law of the Order, may be cause for suspension of the Camp or a revocation of its charter by the proper authorities.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision IV.

CHICAGO, Oct. 29, 1898.

Col. JOHN REDMOND,
Commander Kansas Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Wichita, Kan.

Dear Colonel Redmond: Your communication of October 25, asking "if it has ever been decided that Captains are not entitled to past rank, unless they have received commissions," is duly received, and in reply I beg to advise you that so far as I am aware, it has never been so decided.

The Constitution, Chapter III., Article II., Section 1 and paragraph 3, provides for membership in a Division Encampment of Past Captains who have served for a full term, or having been elected to fill a vacancy, shall have served to the end of the term, so long as they remain in good standing in their Camp. This, in my opinion, controls, and the fact that the Division Commander may not have provided a Camp Captain with a commission after he has been elected by his Camp to that office, cannot take from him his right to the rank of Past Captain, after he has fully complied with the foregoing.

It is the duty of the Division Commander to commission all such officers who have been duly elected and installed, and any neglect to do so cannot deprive the Captain of the honors of his office.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:
G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision V.

CHICAGO, Oct. 31, 1898.

Col. E. W. ESTES,
Commander New York Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Tweedle Building, Albany, N.Y.

Dear Colonel Estes: Your communication of the 29th inst., in which you state that a brother of one of the Camps of your Division was in the Camp report for the quarter ending June 30, reported suspended by his Camp for non-payment of dues; that the brother suspended was a delegate to and had a seat in your Division Encampment on June 30; that early in July the brother remitted to the Quartermaster-Sergeant of his Camp \$10.00, and received the Quartermaster-Sergeant's receipt, dated July 20, 1886, showing payment for dues to July 1, 1898, accompanied by letter from the Quartermaster, stating that "at the meeting of the 20th, the Camp decided to accept the money and reinstate you as a member . . . I enclose you receipt for \$7.25 for dues;" that the quarterly report for the quarter ending November 30 from the Camp

shows that the said brother has been dropped, and asking for my decision upon the following points:—

1st. Did the brother have any right to sit in the Division Encampment, as a delegate?

2d. Is the Captain negligent in his duty to permit a member of his Camp in the Division Encampment, who is nine months in arrears for dues?

3d. A brother having been suspended and having remitted more money than is necessary to pay his dues, and the Camp accepts the same, is it mandatory upon the Captain of that Camp to order the brother to be again placed in good standing in the Camp?

4th. Funds having been received by the Camp, what right has the Captain of that Camp in his succeeding report to ignore the acceptance of funds, and then drop the brother?

5th. If a member is suspended and payment of the dues is offered the Camp by the suspended member, must the Camp accept it?

In answer to the foregoing questions, based upon the statement of facts submitted in your communication, I beg to advise you that in my judgment, the first question is answered in the negative, by Section III. of Article IV., Chapter V. of the Constitution, Rules and Requirements, which provides that any member of a Camp who is six months in arrears in the payment of his dues shall be prohibited from voting and not permitted in the Camp room; is ineligible to office; shall be reported suspended, and shall not be counted in the representation of the Camp at the Division Encampment.

The answer to your second question is also contained in the same section, which provides: "he shall be reported suspended in the quarterly report to Division Headquarters until such dues are paid." And it is clearly the duty of the Captain to have him so reported and being so reported, he is disqualified to sit as a delegate in a Division Encampment.

In answer to your third question I have to advise you, that a suspended member may be reinstated by payment of back dues; and in this case the brother paid all back dues, and the same having been received by the Camp and the Quartermaster-Sergeant having given the brother a receipt showing the same, the brother is reinstated by operation of law, and it is the duty of the Captain and his Quartermaster-Sergeant to show such reinstatement.

Section III., Article IV., Chapter V., Constitution, Rules and Regulations.
Commander-in-Chief Bundy, Decision LXIV., 14th, p. 47, Gould's Digest, p. 53.
Judge Advocate-General Brown, Op. LXIII., Blue Book, p. 66, Gould's Digest, p. 54.

In answer to your fourth question, I have to say that in view of the foregoing, the Captain had no right to report the brother as dropped for non-payment of dues.

In answer to your fifth question it is my judgment that the Camp must accept money from a member who is suspended for the non-payment of dues tendered by the member for the payment of his dues.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision VI.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 9, 1898.

J. E. LOUGHMILLER,
Adjutant Oregon Division, S. V., U.S.A.
Silverton, Ore.

Dear Brother and Adjutant: Your communication of the 28th ult. was duly received, in which you state that a brother was mustered into Camp 15, of your Division, and afterwards sent by his Camp as a delegate to the Division Encampment, without having first paid his muster fee of \$1 50, but afterward paying one quarter's dues to the Camp for which he holds a proper receipt, the Camp afterwards by vote declaring him not a member of the Camp, and your request for my opinion as to whether or not he is a member.

In reply I beg to advise you that, in my judgment, the brother became a member of Camp 15 after having been mustered in in due form, that the muster fee of \$1.50 is a proper charge against him together with his dues,— but that the brother cannot be suspended by the Camp until he is in arrears for his dues or muster fee, or a portion thereof, for a period of six months, and that he cannot be dropped by the Camp until he is in arrears for the period of one year.

It is certainly a bad practice and in violation of the requirements of our constitution for a Camp to muster a member until he has paid the required muster fee, but in this case the brother having been informed by the Captain that the muster fee could be paid at a later date, the Camp having received the brother into full membership, he cannot now be dropped except in the manner above set forth.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision VII.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. V.)

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 27, 1898.

Col. WM. T. CHURCH,
Commanding Division of Illinois, S. V., U. S. A.,
Tacoma Bldg., City.

Dear Colonel Church: I return to you herewith record in the court-martial proceedings against Carlisle R. Clarke of Camp No. 26, Division of Illinois, with the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General attached thereto.

I concur in the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General and the recommendations of yourself and the Judge Advocate-General, and affirm the findings of the court and approve the sentence imposed.

You are hereby directed to carry the sentence into effect at once.

Fraternally yours,

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Opinion V.

In the matter of the court-martial of Carlisle R. Clark of Camp No. 26, Division of Illinois, S. V., U. S. A.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Dec. 22, 1898.

The record in the above entitled cause shows that the Court was properly organized, that the accused had notice and that all the proceedings were in proper form and according to the law and that the finding of the Court is sustained by the evidence. I, therefore, recommend that the Commander-in-Chief affirm the finding and approve the sentence.

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision VIII.

Col. JOHN REDMOND,
Commander Kansas Division, S. V., U. S. A.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan 12, 1899.

“Is a brother who is reported as ‘suspended’ on quarterly reports subject to trial by court-martial for offenses committed before being suspended?”

I am of the opinion and do so decide, that the brother is still within the jurisdiction of the Order of Sons of Veterans, and subject to its discipline and to court-martial proceedings, and liable to punishment thereunder.

To hold otherwise would permit a brother, after committing some offense, to allow himself to become suspended for the non-payment of dues, and in that manner avoid being brought to account for his acts and subjected to the proper punishment if guilty. It would also tend to impair the discipline of the Order, to defeat the ends of justice, and would allow the brother, by his own act, to place the Order at a disadvantage by depriving it of the authority to act.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Decision IX.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 25, 1899.

TO PAST CAPT. E. F. J. GOLDSMITH,
Of Pier Camp No. 35, S. V. U.S.A.

Through the Commander of the Division of Wisconsin.

In re the decision of Commander W. J. Patton of the Division of Wisconsin, rendered on the 19th of May, 1897, to the effect that all representatives of Pier Camp, No. 35, of said Division, were not entitled to a seat in the fourteenth annual Encampment of said Division, by reason of a failure to pay the sum of \$3.20, claimed to be due the Division of Wisconsin for fees of the inspector who inspected the various Camps in said Division for the past year, said amount being charged *per capita* on all members in good standing at the time of inspection and being based on the total expense for the full inspection. Passing over the questionable right of an individual member of a Camp to appeal from the decision of a Division Commander in a matter which pertains to the Camp as a whole, in its relation to the Division headquarters, when the Camp itself, by its proper officers and over the seal of the Camp, has taken no action in such matters, I am of the opinion and do so decide, that the decision of Commander Patton should stand.

The appeal does not state that the Past Commanders in good standing of Camp 35, of the Division of Wisconsin, were debarred from participating in the fourteenth annual Encampment of said Division, but that the representatives were thus debarred.

The matter of the inspection of Camps is clearly established in Section 1, Article V., of the general Rules and Regulations of the Order, and that the expenses of the same should be paid by the Camps inspected is clearly defined in Section 11 of the "Instructions to Inspecting Officers" found in the rules established by Inspector-General Abbott in 1887, authorized by Commander-in-Chief Payne, and accepted and approved by the following National Encampment at Des Moines, Iowa, and which has been continued as an established rule of the Order ever since that date. Said section provides that "Inspecting officers are not entitled to compensation for services ———— but each Camp is required to meet the actual expenses of its inspection, unless otherwise ordered by the Colonel commanding.

In evidence of the power of the Division to regulate and provide for the manner of meeting the expense for the inspection of Camps, many Divisions have adopted by-laws, and others have made provisions by resolution, that said expenses should be met by a *pro rata* charge upon each Camp inspected in proportion to the number of members of said Camp to the entire expenses of the inspection. The authority of Divisions to so do has been approved and has not been construed as contrary to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order. It thus being in the power of the Division to assess the Camps *pro rata* for the cost of the inspections, this charge becomes a legitimate tax levied by the Division, and Camps failing to comply therewith should be denied representation in the Division Encampment, in accordance with Section 2, Article IV., of the general Rules and Regulations of the Order, which provides that "Any Camp in arrears for reports or dues shall not be allowed any representation in the Division Encampment to which it is attached until the same are paid."

The question raised by the appellant that the disbursements of said inspection were not submitted to any Encampment of the Wisconsin Division for action or auditing is entirely foreign to the ruling of Commander Patton and has no bearing upon the case, these accounts being in the hands of the Division Council, to whom the Encampment usually delegates the power of auditing the accounts of Division officers. If the Division officers have failed to make an accounting of funds coming into their hands from the various Camps in a proper and legitimate manner, they are subject to discipline, and such a question is foreign to the case under consideration.

The further question raised by the appellant that no method of payment of the expenses of such inspection was provided for by the Division Encampment in adopting a resolution that the cost of inspections should be made by *pro rata* taxation is not material to the case for the reason that the provision for the inspection of Camps is established in Section I, Article V., Constitution, Rules and Regulations, above referred to, and the cost of the same made operative by virtue of the ruling of the Inspector General, all of which had previously been legally established by action of the Commandery-in-Chief, and no specific action by the Division itself was necessary.

The appellant makes no charge that the amount assessed in proportion to its membership was excessive or that the inspection was not made in accordance with the laws of the Order; and while the resolution adopted by the Division Encampment pertaining to the manner in which the inspections should be made did not specifically state the manner in which the expense of the inspection should be paid, it is in keeping with the rule established by the Inspector-General that the actual expense of the inspection should be paid by the Camp, unless otherwise ordered by the colonel commanding. Ample authority is thereby vested in the colonel for making the *pro rata* charge upon each Camp for the cost of inspection. The decision of Commander Patton becomes the act of the Division by virtue of having been sustained by the Division Encampment over the appeal of the appellant in this case.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Decision X.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 30, 1899.

Col. A. S. MOULTHROP,

Commander Pennsylvania Division, S. V. U.S.A.

In the matter of the court-martial proceedings against Harry T. Wheeler, of Lieut. John T. Greble Camp No. 10, Division of Pennsylvania, S. V. U.S.A., on the charge of "Conduct unbecoming a member in his relations to the Order," in which the brother was tried, found guilty and sentenced to be "dishonorably discharged and dismissed from the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.," the approval of which sentence is recommended by the Division Commander, I find that proper service was had upon the accused, the trial was regular in form, the evidence supports the specification that the said brother, Harry T. Wheeler, collected money belonging to the Camp and has failed and refused to turn the same over to the Camp, and I affirm the finding of the court and the sentence imposed, and approve the recommendation of the Division Commander and direct Division Commander A. S. Moulthrop to carry the same into effect.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Decision XI.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 30, 1899.

Col. A. S. MOULTHROP,

Commander Pennsylvania Division, S. V., U.S.A.

In the matter of court-martial proceedings against Reuben F. Schwartz of Thomas J. Stewart Camp, No. 72, Division of Pennsylvania, S. of V., U.S.A.,

on the charges of, first "Violation of the obligation taken at the time of assuming the office of Quartermaster Sergeant," second, "Misappropriating the funds of the Camp intrusted to his care," I find that proper service was had upon the said Reuben F. Schwartz that the proceedings in said court-martial were regular in form, that the evidence introduced appears to support the charges made and the sentence imposed, which finding and sentence of the Court are hereby affirmed, and the recommendation of the Division Commander is approved and in accordance therewith Brother Reuben F. Schwartz, of Camp 72, Division of Pennsylvania, is dishonorably discharged and dismissed from the Order of Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., and Division Commander A. S. Moulthrop is hereby directed to carry the same into effect.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XII.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 30, 1899.

Col. E. H. ARCHER,
Commander Ohio Division, S. V., U.S.A.

In the matter of the court-martial proceedings against Wm. A. Teetor, of Wm. Meade Camp, No. 46, Division of Ohio, S.V., U.S.A., who was tried on the charge of "Committing a scandalous crime against the laws of the land," found guilty, and sentenced to "be dishonorably discharged and dismissed from the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.," I find that proper service was had upon the accused, that the proceedings of the court-martial were in regular form, and the sentence justified by the evidence presented. I accordingly approve the same and direct Col. E. H. Archer, Commanding the Ohio Division, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., to carry the same into effect.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XIII.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 30, 1899.

Col. W. W. BISBY,
Commander Iowa Division, S. V., U.S.A.

In the matter of the reinstatement of Waterloo Camp, No. 19, Division of Iowa, and the members formerly upon its roll, including one Past Division Commander and several Past Captains, which Camp was dropped in 1895, the Camp not having reported nor paid any per capita tax since 1894, I am of the opinion and do so decide, that it is impossible to reinstate this Camp under our Constitution, Rules and Regulations; that the brothers mentioned have lost their past rank by allowing themselves to be dropped from the Order with the Camp to which they belonged, and it is beyond the power of a Division Commander or the Commander-in-Chief to reinstate them in the Order and to restore to them their past rank. They may become members of the Order again by complying with the Constitution in that regard, or they might have retained their rank by keeping up their membership, in keeping up their Camp or by taking a transfer at the time the Camp was dropped and placing it in some other Camp.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XIV.

In re court-martial of John A. Andrew Camp, No. 13, Division of Massachusetts, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

CHICAGO, ILL., Feb. 1, 1899.

Col. I. C. Couch,

Commanding Division of Massachusetts, S. V., U.S.A.

It appears from the record in this case that John A. Andrew Camp, No. 13, Division of Massachusetts, was suspended by the Division Commander on May 26, 1898, by his Special Order No. 17; that charges were preferred against the Camp by order of the Division Commander, and a court-martial appointed for the trial of the Camp by his Special Order No. 47, dated Nov. 8, 1898.

The first charge preferred was "conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline," and the first specification thereunder alleged that the "said brothers and others composing said John A. Andrew Camp, No. 13, Division of Massachusetts, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., did as an organized and chartered Camp of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., order, authorize, sanction, sustain, publish and promulgate the following: to wit," and including in such specification the circular alleged to have been authorized and published by the said Camp, and alleging that such action was prejudicial to good order and discipline and disrespectful to the Division Commander. There is a second specification under charge one, which is followed by charge two, with one specification, but as the court rendered a finding of "not guilty" as to the said second specification of the first charge and to first specification of the second charge, they will not be considered in this decision.

Service was had upon the accused Camp by serving four members of the Camp, who each entered his individual appearance.

Four members of the Court responded to the roll-call, and objection to proceeding with less than the full number of the Court having been waived by the counsel for Camp 13, the Court was sworn and proceeded with the trial. Objection was made by the counsel for Camp 13 to the time of day at which the Court convened and heard the case, it appearing from the record that the session was called to order at 8 35 o'clock P.M. on the first day, and at 8 o'clock P.M. on the second day, which objection was overruled by the Court. Counsel for the defendant Camp also objected to the trial by the Court appointed in this case on the ground that the charges had been preferred by the Division Commander, who appointed the Court, and who, if a finding of guilty was rendered, must review the case. Counsel further objected to the proceedings for want of jurisdiction on the part of the Court to try for any offense the defendant Camp, as a Camp.

The Court heard the evidence introduced and the arguments of the counsel, all of which appears in the record, and after consideration declared its findings as follows:—

"The Court finds John A. Andrew Camp No. 13, Sons of Veterans, guilty of the first specifications of the first charge, and sentences the said Camp to continue suspended until the first day of February, 1899."

"On the second specification of the first charge the finding is not guilty."

"On the first specification of the second charge the finding is not guilty."

After an examination of the record in this case, I am of the opinion that the trial of this case by four members of the Court, any objection thereto having been specifically waived by counsel for the defense, was not inconsistent with our practice.

Judge Advocate-General Russell, Op. XXXV., 13th, p. 163.

As to the objections made by the written protest of the four members of the accused Camp who were personally served in this case, and the objection of the counsel for the defendant Camp, that no court-martial shall convene earlier than 8 o'clock in the morning nor later than 3 o'clock in the afternoon, I am of the opinion that the Court properly overruled; that the policy of our Order requires as much for the benefit of the accused as for the prosecution in a court-martial proceeding, that the limitation imposed by the rules of the

Federal Courts relating to court-martial be not strictly applied to proceedings of courts-martial in our Order.

Judge Advocate-General Weeks, Op. XXIX., 11th, p. 42.

I am of the opinion that the third objection was properly overruled; that the Court was appointed and convened in accordance with the procedure of our Order.

The prosecution introduced in evidence a Circular Letter dated: "Headquarters of John A. Andrew Camp No. 13 Sons of Veterans, Stoughton, Mass., May 23, 1898," on which the names of C. D. Folsom, Geo. A. Nevins and E. M. Fullerton were printed as a committee for Camp 13, Sons of Veterans. The tone and substance of this circular is contrary to the fraternal feeling that should exist between the members of the Order, and especially objectionable as being directed against the Division Commander. It was disrespectful in the extreme and prejudicial to good order and discipline, and a reprehensible act on the part of the person or persons who were responsible for its publication, and calls for severe censure as to those who are presumed, by being members of the Order of Sons of Veterans, to have a finer sense of courtesy and of right and wrong, and a higher degree of loyalty to their superior officers. There is a proper remedy to correct any illegal act on the part of a superior officer and to compel such an officer to do his duty, but the publication of a Circular Letter, such as the one introduced in evidence in this case, was not the course to pursue and was in violation of the terms and spirit of our Constitution, Rules and Regulations and obligations. The evidence, however, fails to show, except by the admission of counsel for the accused, that the circular in question was adopted and published by the Camp, or that any committee or person was authorized to have it done for the Camp.

In reference to the objection of the counsel for Camp 13 that this Court had no jurisdiction to try under court-martial proceedings "John A. Andrew Camp No. 13," that the proceedings should have been brought against the individual members, naming them, and bringing them in by proper service, and not against the Camp as a whole and in the name of the Camp, which objection was overruled by the Court.—I am of the opinion that the Division Commander had no authority to issue his Special Order No. 47, ordering this court-martial "for the trial of John A. Andrew Camp, No. 13 of Stoughton," and that it was an error on the part of the Court to proceed with this trial against said Camp for want of jurisdiction. A charter cannot be proceeded against by court-martial. An organization such as "John A. Andrew Camp No. 13," cannot be charged with a crime or with a violation of our C., R. and R., court-martialed, tried and punished. While it is true that a Camp may be suspended and its charter revoked, and, in that manner, its life taken away under some circumstances, it can only be done as specifically provided by our C., R. and R. "The Constitution seems to be clear that a charter cannot be revoked, or a Camp suspended, except for a failure to make quarterly reports, pay *per capita* tax, or violation of the C., R. and R."

Commander-in-Chief Bundy, Decision XLVIII., 11th, p. 42.

If all or any of the officers or members of Camp No. 13 were guilty of the specifications and charges made in this proceeding, they should have been proceeded against as individuals, proper service had upon them, and tried as such. Court-martial can only be resorted to and proceeded within our Order as authorized by our C., R. and R., and by referring to it, we can find no authority for the court-martial trial and punishment of a Camp, as a Camp and as an organization, and applying it to this case I am of the opinion that it accords to every brother the right to appear and defend himself, and if innocent to prove it; and in this proceeding even had there been a minority in the Camp who voted against the circular in question and who had in no sense violated any rule or obligation of our Order, it would have been useless for him to appear at this trial, providing a majority of the Camp had adopted the circular, for this proceeding was directed against the Camp, as an organization, and not against the members of it as individuals.

Entertaining the views herein expressed, I am obliged to set aside and vacate the findings and sentence of the Court with instructions to the Division Commander to reinstate John A. Andrew Camp No. 13.

The proceedings in this case are returned to Division Commander Leonard C. Couch, with directions to proceed in conformity with the foregoing.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XV.

In the matter of the eligibility of a son of Martin V. Robbins, Sergeant of Captain Paro's Company F, Dallas County, H.G.

CHICAGO, ILL., Feb. 9, 1899.

Col. JOHN REDMOND,

Commander Division of Kansas, S. V., U.S.A.

In view of the official statement authorized by the Secretary of War that under the provisions of the Hawkins Taylor Commission "The claim of said Robbins for service between June 24, 1861, and Sept. 24, 1861, a period of one month and fifteen days, was allowed as actual military service under the United States," I am of the opinion and do so decide that a son of the said Robbins is duly eligible to membership in the Order of Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., so far as concerns the honorable record of his father in the service of the United States.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XVI.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. VI.—VIII.)

In the matter of the appeal of Daniel Ritter Camp No. 24, Division of Ohio.

CHICAGO, ILL. March 15, 1899.

The record in this appeal shows that a requisition upon the Ohio Division was issued on Aug. 9, 1894, by the Division Commander in favor of Geo. T. Crawford, amounting to \$49 50. There being no funds out of which the requisition could be paid by the Division, it was sold by Crawford to Daniel Ritter No. 24. At the Thirteenth Annual Encampment of the Ohio Division, held the following year, the requisition not having been paid, a resolution was adopted by the Encampment providing for the application of the *per capita* tax due from the Camp to the payment of the requisition, such application not to exceed \$15 00 per year. From July, 1895, to April, 1898, the *per capita* tax of Camp 24 amounted to \$33.89, which was allowed to be paid for the several quarters by applying it on the requisition held by the Camp. The Camp failed to send in reports for *per capita* tax for the July and October, 1898, quarters, but ask that the Division Commander credit the Camp with payments of *per capita* tax on the requisition held by it. This the Commander refused to do, and by his Division Order, No. 7, suspended Camp 24 for failure to forward reports and *per capita* tax for the two preceding quarters. From this order of suspension Camp 24 appeals to the Commander-in-Chief.

To maintain the organization of our Order the payment of dues is required of its members, which dues are divided into the *per capita* tax, amounting to sixteen cents *per capita* per year to the Commandery-in-Chief, the amount fixed by the various Divisions for the maintenance of the Division, and the balance for the support of the Camp to which the member belongs. The amount and manner of payment of the Commandery-in-Chief *per capita* tax is under the original and exclusive control of and is regulated by the Commandery-in-Chief, which is the supreme authority of our Order. The Commandery-in-Chief vests in the several Divisions and Camps the authority, within certain limitations, to fix the amount of Division *per capita* tax and Camp dues respectively

The amount of the Commandery-in-Chief *per capita* tax from each member, which is paid by him in the form of dues to the Camp, is received by the officers of his Camp for the purpose of remittance to the officers of his Division. They receive it for the purpose of remittance to the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief. Any excess, over and above the Commandery-in-Chief *per capita* tax and the Division *per capita* tax paid by the member in the form of dues, is under the control of the Camp to which he belongs. Likewise, any excess in the form of *per capita* tax paid by the officers of the Camp to the Division, above the four cents *per capita* tax per quarter due to the Commandery-in-Chief, is under the control of the Division. But it is not within the power of the Camp or the Division, or the officers of either, to remit the *per capita* tax due to the Commandery-in-Chief, or to divert it from the purpose for which every member of our organization is required to pay it by our Constitution. If a Division or the officers of a Division can remit the *per capita* tax required of a Camp to the Division, including the Commandery-in-Chief *per capita* tax, or provide for its application to the payment of a requisition held by a Camp against the Division, then the only way to keep the Camp and its members in good standing in the Order would be for the Division to pay the Commandery-in-Chief *per capita* tax out of funds received from other sources. The Division Commander, in this case, claims that he has not the funds to pay this tax. Furthermore, if the action of the Division Encampment in this case was valid with reference to Camp 24, it would be proper for a Division to take like action with every Camp, which might have a claim against the Division. Following this out, suppose this Division should be indebted to all of its Camps and should vote to allow each Camp to apply its *per capita* tax upon its claim against the Division. In such a case the Division would have absolutely no resources to meet the *per capita* tax, without considering the other expenses and fixed charges, and the Division, Camps and membership would necessarily lose life in the Order, and the Commandery-in-Chief be deprived of its tax for which it had provided and which had been paid by the members in accordance with such provision. Of course the Division would be liable to the Camps for the amount of their claims, as the Division is liable to Camp 24 in this case for the amount of the requisition, but the Division can pay the obligation only out of its own resources, and the Camp can subject to its payment only the property of the Division.

The principle invoked in this decision must have controlled in decision XXV. rendered by Commander-in-Chief Maccabe, p. 25, 13th.

Following the suggestions herein set forth, I am of the opinion that the action of the Division Encampment, in so far as it sought to specifically divert and apply the Commandery-in-Chief *per capita* tax to the payment of its Division debts, was void, and that the Camp should pay to the Division officers, for remittance to the Commandery-in-Chief officers, the Commandery-in-Chief *per capita* tax for the July and October, 1898, quarters and subsequent quarters; that the recommendation of the Judge Advocate-General is not approved; the appeal herein is dismissed; the order of Division Commander E. H. Archer is sustained, and he is hereby directed to proceed in accordance with the foregoing.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Opinion VI.

In the matter of the appeal of Daniel Ritter Camp No. 24, Sons of Veterans, Massillon, Ohio.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 9, 1899.

GEN. FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Sir: I have examined the record in the appeal of Daniel Ritter Camp No. 24, from the Order of Commander E. H. Archer, suspending said Camp, and submit the following:—

Section 4 of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations provides that Division Commanders may suspend delinquent Camps in their discretion, for failure to make quarterly reports or to perform any other duties required of them by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, etc. The record, which is not disputed, shows that this Camp for two quarters failed to make a report. In that case there is no doubt of the right of the Division Commander to suspend the Camp until such reports are made. If General Order No. 7 of the Ohio Division should have suspended said Camp on the separate ground of failure to make reports then this appeal would be of no avail.

However, paragraph 5 of the General Order suspends the Camp for "being in arrears for report and payment of *per capita* tax." The cause assigned is a double one and it does not appear that the Commander assumes to suspend the Camp for the single reason that there had been a failure of reports. It remains, therefore, for us to examine the record and ascertain whether or not the *per capita* tax was paid, in contemplation of law. If the Camp was in arrears for *per capita* tax, then the suspension for the cause assigned in paragraph 5, General Order No. 7, was right and proper. If the *per capita* tax was paid then the double assignment of cause fails and the camp was wrongly suspended.

An examination of the record seems to support a finding that Daniel Ritter Camp No. 24 was the rightful owner of the requisition against the Ohio Division and that the action was taken by the 1895 Encampment, allowing the requisition to be applied on the *per capita* tax of the camp not to exceed fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per year, and that said requisition was so accepted and honored by all Division Commanders, since, with the exception of Commander Archer, and it is not disputed that the balance of said requisition sufficient to meet the payments of *per capita* tax was still owing to said Camp. If such were not the fact evidence would be easily deducible to dispute the same.

The action of the Division Encampment in 1895 seems plainly to have been to the effect that the Division gave credit to the amount of the requisition to Daniel Ritter Camp No. 24. This there is no doubt it had the right to do, and such credit was properly applicable to the payment of indebtedness from the Camp to the Division. The Division seems by its own act to have so applied the debt, and it seems clear that the Camp had the right to have the debt so applied. At the time of the suspension the Camp then was not in arrears in the payment of *per capita* tax.

Thus it will be seen that the Camp was liable to suspension for failure to make reports, but not for "being in arrears with reports and payments of *per capita* tax." There is no question but the Division is entitled to reports from the Camps. Otherwise the commander could not ascertain how to apply the credit of the Camps on the books of the Division. The Camp should be held to strict accountability for its reports, and should be suspended in case of failure to make them, but we do not think this Camp can be suspended on the ground for non-payment of *per capita* tax.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Opinion VIII.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. March 17, 1899.

GEN. FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief, 84 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir: Yours of the 15th enclosing opinion in the matter of the appeal of Daniel Ritter Camp No. 24, Division of Ohio, received. I did not deem it necessary in the recent opinion rendered by me to argue the question which is argued in your opinion. Otherwise I would have set out some reasons which I think would have led you to a different conclusion. The matter, however, is now done and I suppose will not be recalled.

Upon the theory laid down in your opinion, if a member pays his dues to the Camp he thereby puts himself in good standing with the Commandery-in-Chief, whether the Camp pays or not, and if the proper portion of his dues do

not go to the Commandery-in-Chief, it would be by reason of some one's misappropriation. You will see by Article 3 of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations that the *per capita* tax is assessed by the Division against the Camp, and by the Commandery-in Chief against the Division. The language, I admit, is somewhat ambiguous, but I think the only construction which could be placed upon it is that the tax is assessed against the Camp or the Division, the amount of the tax being determined by the members in either.

You also see by another section of the Constitution that dues may be remitted by the Camp in certain cases. In that case then, what becomes of the *per capita* tax due the Commandery-in-Chief? On the principle laid down in your decision the Commandery-in-Chief would lose the *per capita* tax and the Camp would not be liable for it. This, however, is not the law, and the Camp must pay *per capita* tax to the Division on all of its members in good standing and the Division in turn must pay *per capita* tax to the Commandery-in-Chief on all members in good standing, whether the Camps have remitted dues to members or not. If the funds were kept separate and were required by law to be kept separate, and if the liability for *per capita* tax to the Division was against the member instead of the Camp, then I submit that the decision as rendered would be correct, but Article III. of the Constitution does not so state. It is well known that the *per capita* tax fund is not kept separate and that the *per capita* tax is paid both by the Camp and Division out of the general funds, and we know that the Division does not set aside the *per capita* tax as it is paid in. It loses its identity in the general funds from which all debts are paid.

It cannot be argued that the credit given to Camp No. 24 by reason of a debt recognized by the Division, amounted to the remission of *per capita* tax. It simply amounted to the prepayment of *per capita* tax. Of course it cannot be disputed that the payment of *per capita* tax is a primary liability and its payment should not be jeopardized, but it cannot be said in good conscience that the credit which was given three or four years ago must lose its priority, permit the running expenses of the Division to be paid and then be vacated by the General Order of the Commander of the Division upon the theory that, not having funds out of which to pay the *per capita* tax, having exhausted them in the running expenses of the Division, he can go back past the recent debts which have been paid and make a new charge against Camp 24 whose debt was liquidated and satisfied. Neither equity nor any principle of law would permit such a proceeding. Of course the Division cannot remit the *per capita* tax, and the decision of General Maccabe is not in point, either in fact or in principle. The proceeding in this case is not a remission of *per capita* tax, nor is it a remission of dues. It is the repudiation of the requisition drawn by the Division upon its general funds and accepted in payment of the debt due not to any special fund of the Division but to the general funds of the Division.

The remote contingency expressed in the opinion can have no bearing upon the case. It is a matter for the executive of the Division, to determine what debts shall be paid, or if necessary to withhold payment of some in order to reserve funds necessary for *per capita* tax, and the Commander of the Division should not lose sight of the fact that the *per capita* tax to the Commandery-in-Chief is a primary liability, but he cannot go back three or four years and disturb the settlement of the claim upon the theory that a portion of the Order was invalid for the reason that the *per capita* tax is a separate and sacred fund. It is not such, either by the law or the practise of the Order. The *per capita* tax is a liability of the Camp and not of the member, and according to the law and the practise of the Order, is paid out of the general funds. If the Division does not pay the *per capita* tax, who is suspended, the Division or simply the individual members who are delinquent? The answer to the question settles the controversy.

I request that this letter be spread upon the record in the case.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision XVII.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. VII.)

In re the court-martial of Folyard D. MacMenmony of Camp No. 10, Division of Pennsylvania, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 28, 1899.

Col. A. S. MOULTHROPE,
Commanding Division of Pa., S. V., U.S.A.

The records in the proceedings of court-martial of Folyard D. MacMenmony of Lt. John T. Groble Camp No. 10, Division of Pennsylvania, is returned herewith to the Division Commander.

The recommendation of the Judge Advocate-General in the case is approved for the reasons set forth in his opinion. The findings and sentence of the Court is set aside and a new trial granted.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Opinion No. VII.

In the matter of the court-martial of Folyard D. MacMenmony of Camp No. 10, Division of Pennsylvania, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 16, 1899.

GEN. FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Sir:—I submit herewith record in the case of the court-martial of Folyard D. MacMenmony of Camp No. 10, Division of Pennsylvania, U.S.A. This record has come to the hands of the Advocate-General directly from the headquarters of the Pennsylvania Division and not through the regular channel. I have examined the record, however, and forward it to the Commandery with the opinion, which I submit now so as to save extra transmission.

I have examined the record in the case and find that while a copy of the notice to the accused is set out, there is no proof in the record that such notice was ever served and the record therefore is defective and I would recommend that the proceedings on that ground be not approved.

The facts set out in the record are not very definite and it seems as if the evidence would not justify the finding, even if the record was not defective as to notice. It is charged that the accused commenced and conducted a prosecution without authority from the Camp. This is not a violation of either the rules of the Order or the law of the land, unless he fraudulently assumed to represent the Camp. Any citizen has the right to commence prosecution against any other citizen whenever a crime is committed and he sees fit to do so. He is, of course, at liberty to abandon that prosecution at any time and in his duties and rights as a citizen he need not answer to the Camp of the Sons of Veterans, unless his act is treasonable or in violation of the law.

There seems to be more foundation for the claim that the accused embezzled money, but the evidence is so indefinite that it does not seem, in the mind of the Judge Advocate-General, to justify the finding. If the facts existed it was certainly possible to prove them with explicit evidence. I recommend that the finding be not approved.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision XVIII.

C. H. E. MORAN,
Adjutant New York Division, S. V., U.S.A.,

CHICAGO, ILL., June 19, 1899.

In reference to the basis upon which the representation to which each Camp is entitled in the Division Encampment is determined, I am of the opinion,

and do so decide, that by Section 2 and Section 5, of Article II., Chapter III., Pages 23 and 24 of the C., R. and R., the number of representatives to which each Camp is entitled in the Division encampment is based upon and determined by the First Sergeant's report for the quarter ending September 30, next preceding the election, and therefore, the Camp mentioned by you would base its representation upon a membership of one hundred and fifty, notwithstanding the fact that its subsequent reports filed prior to the holding of the Division encampment show a loss in its membership.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XIX.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 19, 1899.

Col. GEO. S. WHITMORE,
Commander Maryland Division, S. V., U.S.A.

In the matter of the commission to the Quartermaster of the Maryland Division, S. V., U.S.A., I am of the opinion, and so decide, that the Quartermaster of the Maryland Division, being an elective officer, should be commissioned by the Commander-in-Chief.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XX.— (J. A.-Gen., Op. XIII.)

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 17, 1899.

Col. RALPH SHELDON,
Commander New York Division, S. V., U.S.A.

In the matter of the court-martial proceedings against John Abar, of R. J. Myers Camp No. 35, Division of New York, I herewith band you Opinion XIII., of the Judge Advocate General. I concur in the opinion and the recommendation of the Judge Advocate-General, and hereby approve the finding of the court and the sentence imposed. You are hereby directed to carry the same into effect at once.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Opinion XIII.

In the matter of the court-martial of John Abar, Camp No. 35, Division of New York, S.V., U.S.A.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Aug. 15, 1899.

Gen. FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Sir:—I have examined the record in the court-martial of John Abar, Camp 35, Division of New York, S.V., U.S.A., and find that the accused was duly served with notice of the charges and proceedings against him, and that the proceedings were in due form, and that the finding of the court is sustained by the evidence.

I, therefore, recommend that the finding and sentence of the court be approved.

Yours very respectfully,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision XXI.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. XIV.)

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 17, 1899.

Col. GEO. H. BAILEY,

Commander Division of New Jersey, S. V., U.S.A.

I herewith hand you Opinion XIV., of the Judge Advocate-General, in answer to your question submitted July 5, 1899, relative to the amount to be collected for the reinstatement of a dropped member arising in Dayton Camp, No. 5, of your Division. I concur in the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, and adopt the same as my decision upon the question raised.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Opinion XIV.

Opinion on the question of the payment of arrearages for reinstatement.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Aug. 15, 1899.

Gen. FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief.

Sir:—In response to your request of recent date for an opinion on the question as to whether the member dropped for more than one year shall in paying his dues for reinstatement, pay the year's dues last prior to his reinstatement, or shall pay the year's dues which accrued at the time of his delinquency, I have examined the question with some interest and find no precedent in the law of the Order. It would seem at first as if a decision of the question would be an arbitrary one without either position being supported by good reason, but we find that the C., R. and R. provides that after one year's delinquency in the payment of dues the member shall be dropped. There are, up to the time of dropping him, charges made against him on the books of the Camp. If he does not pay his arrearages before the expiration of the year he is dropped, but the year's delinquent dues remain on the books as a charge against him and the amount of his accrued indebtedness to the Camp. After one year there is no account kept by the Camp with him, neither does he derive any benefit from the Camp or his relations therewith.

It has been the policy of the Order to encourage membership, and to keep membership as far as possible from being burdensome, and it seems to us that the purpose of the law is that the member should be permitted to put himself in good standing by squaring his account with the Camp. His account with the Camp always shows him in arrears for the one year, for the non-payment of which he was dropped. This is a standing indebtedness to his Camp for which he is liable and which can be collected at law. It seems natural, therefore, that when he reinstates himself by the payment of one year's dues, it should be the year's dues which he owes and for which he is delinquent. It is a general rule of construction that the law will not be arbitrarily construed where there is good reason supporting the construction which is not arbitrary, and it seems to me, in constructing the section providing for the suspension and dropping of members with the section providing for the reinstatement of members, that we must conclude that the law intends that the delinquent member shall, before he can be reinstated, remove the cause for which he was dropped. Any other construction, it seems to me, would be arbitrary and without foundation in principle. I beg to remain,

Yours very respectfully,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision XXII.

In the matter of the court-martial of E. B. Rockwell of J. F. Reynolds Camp, No. 4, Division of Pennsylvania.

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 28, 1899.

Col. S. S. HORN,

Commander Pennsylvania Division, S. V., U.S.A.

In this case E. B. Rockwell is charged with assisting another member of the Camp in bringing action at law against the Camp, and acting as counsel for such member; and he is also further charged with "conduct unbecoming a member of the Order, in his relations with the Order," in that he used abusive and indecent language — specifying the terms used — towards the members of his Camp.

No law of the Order or by-law of Camp 4, Division of Pennsylvania, prohibits a member acting as counsel for, or advising, or assisting another who may bring suit against the Camp. That portion of Specification 1, Charge 1, and Specification 2, Charge 1, will therefore not support a conviction.

Specification 1 sets up the use of opprobrious epithets with reference to the members of the Camp. The evidence proves the use of all the objectionable language as charged. Such conduct is unbecoming a member in his relations to the Order, and the accused should receive the punishment imposed by the court-martial.

The finding and sentence in this case is therefore approved, and the said E. B. Rockwell is dishonorably discharged and dismissed from the Order of Sons of Veterans.

This case is returned and you are hereby directed to carry the sentence into effect at once.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XXIII.

In the matter of the court-martial of Frank Rockwell of J. F. Reynolds Camp, No. 4, Division of Pennsylvania.

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 28, 1899.

Col. S. S. HORN,

Commander Division of Pennsylvania, S. V., U.S.A.

Charge 1 contains but a single specification, viz.: That the accused violated a by-law of the Camp, which prohibited him bringing suit against the Camp, or its members, and to which he had subscribed at the time of his muster. The specification charges him with summoning certain members of the Camp, but the evidence shows that he brought suit against the Camp to recover sick benefits. It will therefore be assumed that the Camp was incorporated.

The Order of Sons of Veterans makes no provision in its laws for sick or death benefits to be paid to its members; and it is not essential to the good order and discipline of the Order, that any regulations not authorized by the Order, but which may be adopted by a Camp, shall be enforced by the disciplinary power of the Order.

The Camp, being a corporation, is amenable to the law of the land, applying to such organizations. The courts have always encouraged disputants to settle their differences by arbitration or by means other than litigation, when such parties can agree to do so; but no court has ever attempted to enforce any person to resort to a forum not provided by law, or to coerce such a one to waive his right as a citizen, to bring suit for a redress of what he believes

to be an injury to himself or his property. A by-law ousting the jurisdiction of the courts by punishing one who violates the provisions of that by-law with expulsion from the association has been held unlawful.

In the case of *Sweeney vs. Rev. Hugh McLaughlin Benefit Society*, 14 Weekly Notes of Cases, 466, tried in the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas, a case very similar to this. such a by-law was held a violation of the Constitution of the Commonwealth; and a mandamus was awarded, commanding the association to restore to membership the party expelled. A like decision was reached in State *ex rel. Merchants' Exchange*, 2 Mo. App., 96.

It is apparent that even if the by-law in question was authorized by the laws of the Order, the courts of the State in which Camp No. 4, Division of Pennsylvania, is located, would not permit it to be enforced against a member of the Camp.

The second charge having been withdrawn, the sentence of the court-martial should be, and is hereby set aside and vacated.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Decision XXIV.—(J. A.-Gen., Op. XI.)

In re the court-martial of J. Griffith Westbrook of Tappan Camp, No. 1, Division of New York

CHICAGO, ILL., April 5, 1899.

Col. E. W. ESTES,
Commander Division of New York.

The record in the court-martial proceedings against J. Griffith Westbrook of Tappan Camp, No. 1, Division of New York, together with the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General attached thereto, is returned to you herewith.

I concur in the opinion and recommendations of the Judge Advocate General, and hereby approve the findings of the Court and the sentence imposed; and you are hereby directed to carry the sentence into effect at once.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

Opinion XI.

In the matter of the court-martial of J. Griffith Westbrook, Camp No. 1, Division of New York, S. V., U. S. A.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 29, 1899.

Gen. FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Sir: I have examined the record in the court-martial of J. Griffith Westbrook of Camp No. 1, Division of New York. I find the record to be complete, and to show that the accused was duly served with notice, that the proceedings were in due form, and that the finding of the court was sustained by the evidence.

I therefore recommend that the finding and sentence of the court-martial be approved.

Very respectfully,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision XXV.— (J. A.-Gen., Op. XII.)

CHICAGO, ILL., June 6, 1899.

Col. GEORGE N. HOWARD,

Commanding Division of Massachusetts, S. V., U.S.A.

In the matter of the court-martial proceedings against C. E. Roots of John P. Lovell Camp (Saugus), No. 92, Division of Massachusetts, S.V., U.S.A., on the charge of violation of his pledge given at the time of his installation as quartermaster-sergeant of said Camp, the specification being "misappropriation of Camp funds and the failure to turn over the same to his successor," opinion No. 12 of Judge Advocate-General Noel is hereby approved. I affirm the finding of the court, the sentence imposed and approve the recommendation of the Division Commander, and direct that Division Commander George N. Howard carry the same into effect

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant-General.

Opinion XII.

In the matter of court-martial of C. E. Roots, Camp No. 92, Division of Massachusetts.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., June 5, 1899.

Gen. FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief

Sir: I have examined the record in the case of the court-martial of C. E. Roots of Camp No. 92, Division of Massachusetts. I find the record to be complete, that the proceedings were in due form, and that the finding of the Court was sustained by the evidence. I therefore recommend that the findings and sentence of the court be approved.

Yours very respectfully,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

Decision XXVI.

In the matter of the appeal from the decision of the Division Commander.

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 28, 1899.

Col. RALPH SHELDON,

Commander Division of New York S. V., U.S.A.

The Sixteenth Annual Encampment of the Division of New York passed a resolution providing that all stationery of the Division should bear the stamp of the International Typographical Union and be printed by printing establishments having the same. The Division Commander held the resolution to be unconstitutional, and from this decision the appeal is made.

At the Sixteenth National Encampment the following resolution was adopted by the Commandery-in-Chief:—

"That we recommend that the members of the Commandery-in-Chief, as individuals, use their influence to induce the members of the various Divisions to subscribe for and support the worthy organs now being published in our interests by brothers of the Order, and that the printing of the Order be given to the fraternal press in all instances where it can meet competition."

This resolution by the Commandery-in-Chief is binding upon the subordinate branches of the Order, and as the resolution adopted by the Division Encampment of New York contravenes the provisions of this resolution, it must be held to be unconstitutional and void, and it is so held, and the appeal is therefore dismissed and the decision of the Division Commander sustained.

FRANK L. SHEPARD
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant-General.

The Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief: The report of the Commander-in-Chief will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports under the rule.

The Commander-in-Chief (assuming command): Brothers, the next thing in order is the report of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Cox.

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Cox submitted and read the following report:—

REPORT OF SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

To the Commander-in-Chief and Members of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A. :—

Brothers :— I have the honor to submit the following as my report as Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

I have not been called upon to do any official work, during my term, except to inspect Headquarters of the Connecticut Division, which I found in excellent condition.

I desire to recommend to this Encampment the resolution presented by Past Captain F. G. Blakeslee of G. A. Stedman Camp, No. 6, Hartford, Conn. :—

WHEREAS, During the late war with Spain, a number of our brothers, emulating the example of their fathers, served their country by entering the military or naval service of the United States; and

WHEREAS, It is fitting that such patriotic service should be recognized by the order of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.; be it therefore

Resolved, That the Commander-in-Chief be directed to have prepared a suitable decoration to be known as the War Cross, and to present the same to each member of the Order in good standing, who served in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps, regular or volunteer, during the Spanish War and was honorably discharged therefrom.

DESIGN OF WAR CROSS.

The War Cross of the Order shall consist of a bronze cross of the same design as that worn by past captains, suspended by means of a specially designed ribbon from a bronze bar containing the words, "SPANISH WAR," said bar to be surmounted by the emblem of the rising sun, in the rays of which the word "VETERAN" shall appear.

Fraternally submitted,

GEO. E. COX,

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Commander-in-Chief: The report of the Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports; under the rule.

The next business in order is the report of the Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief. Have you a report to make, Brother Green?

The Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief: Commander, the Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief has no report to make.

The Commander-in-Chief: Then we will listen to the report of the Adjutant-General which is next in order.

Adjutant-General Abbott submitted and read the following report:—

REPORT OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

GEN. FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief, S. F., U. S. A.

The moment has arrived in our official relations when I am called upon to render an account of the important trust you reposed in me, in appointing me your Adjutant-General. The temptation for one who, in former years, was so closely identified with the building up of our organization, to digress from what should naturally be the limits and boundaries in a report of this character, is very great, and should I trespass therefrom, I trust you will overlook that, as you have so many times in the past overlooked my failings.

WASTE PAPER.

Among the supplies received from my predecessor were several hundred weight of old letters, records and books, etc., accumulated since the early days of the Order, which could be of no possible value in the future, and which would require valuable space, and call for expense of packing and freighting each year, with no hope of their ever again being serviceable to the Order. These were carefully sorted and those of any possible value retained and the balance destroyed.

RECORDS.

The several books of record appertaining to my department, which I received from my predecessor, have been maintained through the year.

There have been issued from the department of the Adjutant-General, twenty-three dispensations. There have also been issued eight General Orders, two circulars, and eighteen Special Orders, copies of which accompany this report. Charters for ninety-four Camps have also been issued; the table pertaining to the same also accompanies this report.

TABLES.

Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4, herewith attached, are the Adjutant-General's Consolidated Reports for the quarters ending September 30 and December 31, 1898, and March 21 and June 30, 1899.

Table No. 5 is the recapitulation showing gains and losses.

Table No. 6 is the Roster of Division Commanders, 1899-1900.

Table No. 7 is the table of applications for Camp charters by Divisions.

Table No. 8 is the inventory of property in Adjutant-General's headquarters.

RECEIPTS.

The cash book shows the receipts of the Adjutant-General's office to have been:

For <i>per capita</i> tax	\$4,858.21
For charter fees	182.00

CARD INDEX.

At a considerable expenditure of labor and some money, a card index system, providing for the complete record of a Camp from the approval of the application, to its standing at the end of every quarter, has been installed. Heretofore the records of individual Camps have been scattered through several volumes, and the quarterly standing could only be found by searching the Adjutant's consolidated reports. but now at a moment's notice the entire record of a Camp can be inspected at a glance, which will be a great saving of time to my successors and will keep the records much more complete. Colonel Archer of Ohio deserves credit for introducing this system to the Order, and each Division would do well to adopt it.

OFFICIAL QUESTIONS.

There has been but one official question submitted to the Council-in-Chief during your term of office, which was for the purpose of determining the date of holding this Encampment. The Council were unanimous in supporting the date recommended by you. The canvass of the vote will be submitted to the Council-in-Chief for verification.

DIVISION BY-LAWS.

The only by-laws submitted for the approval of the Commander-in-Chief were from the Divisions of California and Washington. Both were approved, the latter with some minor corrections to make them conform to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

CHANGES IN FORMS.

Several of my predecessors have recommended changes in Forms 37 and 49 to agree with the present usages of the Order. I earnestly add my recommendation to theirs, and admit my surprise that my immediate predecessor, who made these same recommendations, now having charge of the department where such alterations are made, has failed to carry out his own recommendations.

ROLL OF HONOR.

In pursuance of a resolution passed by the Seventeenth Annual Encampment, it was required that a roll of those members of the Order who served in the Spanish-American War should be published with the proceedings of that Encampment. It became evident that it would not be practical to delay the publishing of the proceedings until the names for the required roll could be obtained. It was, therefore, deemed advisable that the proceedings should be promulgated, and the Roll of



G. B. ABBOTT.

(PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF).

ADJUTANT-GENERAL.

1898-1899.

Honor be published subsequently in the form of a supplement, which has been done and it is now ready for distribution. Notwithstanding the earnest appeals made in several General Orders, it was with great difficulty that the names for this Roll of Honor have been obtained, and its publication was delayed until the last moment, hoping that some of the delinquent Divisions would furnish the necessary information. As it is, the Roll is very incomplete, but no blame should be attached to the Commandery-in-Chief officers. Many Camp officers were derelict in forwarding these reports, and many of those received were so meagre in data, and the handwriting so undecipherable, that the Roll, unfortunately, shows omissions, discrepancies and errors. However, deficient as it is, it is indeed a Roll of Honor, and gives great credit to our Order. Hereafter, it cannot be successfully maintained that the rank and file of our membership is deficient in true patriotism or unwilling to emulate the worthy example of our illustrious fathers. The flag for which they fought will never want for defenders. The fathers may peacefully sleep, for their boys are on guard.

OFFICIAL VISITS.

It has been my pleasure to visit the Division Encampments of Illinois, Pennsylvania and Indiana. My visit to the latter Division was more or less official in character, owing to the dereliction of the officers of that Division at that time. It is a satisfaction to state that the Division at this time is in the hands of competent officers who are earnest and thorough-going, and whose ambition is not personal, but for the good of the Order. I do not believe that it will be necessary for a Commandery-in-Chief officer to attend the next Encampment of that Division under the circumstances which seemed to demand such at the last one.

MILITARY SERVICE.

Practically the only source of controversy which has arisen between the headquarters of the Commandery-in-Chief and those of the several Divisions was caused by the change in the Constitution, effected at Omaha, remitting the dues of members of the Order in the United States service. While the law, in spirit, is commendable, the difficulty of honestly and justly complying therewith seems to cause more trouble than the benefit therefrom justifies. It is evidently the duty of an Adjutant-General to exact all the tax justly due to the Commandery-in-Chief. Naturally Division Commanders refuse to pay tax upon members which they have not received. Camp officers fail to supply accurate information as to who are entitled, in their respective Camps, to receive the benefit of this law, simply deducting from the amount of tax for a certain number of members, without specifying their names or where they may be in service. The Adjutant-General, not having the specific information, declines to accept this reduction unless specific information is forthcoming, and therein the trouble arises. The officers of the Divisions and the Commandery-in-Chief endeavor to perform their respective duties, but the negligent Camp officers cause the trouble. I am inclined to believe that this law should be stricken from our Constitution, and do so recommend.

BADGES FOR SPANISH WAR VETERANS.

A much vexed and unsettled question has also arisen concerning the badges for our brothers who served in the Spanish-American war. The resolution, as it passed the last Encampment, provided that the Commander-in-Chief should have such a badge prepared, and that it should be carried in stock by the Quartermaster-General. Many members of the Order, and some Division officers, labor under the impression that these badges should be furnished free of expense to Camps. Some further act of the Commandery-in-Chief should make this matter clear. My own opinion is that the expense should not be borne either by the Commandery-in-Chief or the Divisions. Even the meagre records that we have been able to secure show that fully 2,000 members would be entitled to these badges. A badge that would be appropriate, and that a member would be proud to wear, cannot be provided for less than about sixty cents, and it is easy to estimate that the present financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief would not warrant such an outlay. Concerning this badge, I am under the impression that it should be distributed with the greatest of care, that the more difficult it is to obtain, and the more importance we, as an organization, attach to it, the more will it be prized by the one who receives it. Each badge should be numbered, and a record should be kept, showing to whom each badge so numbered is given, and it should be accompanied by a certificate signed by the Commander-in-Chief, under the seal of the Commandery, setting forth the service of the brother and his affiliation in the Order of Sons of Veterans. The delay in preparing these badges heretofore, has been owing to the want of information as to the number which would probably be required. Furthermore, you desired that the material from which they should be made should be captured Spanish cannon, and as it was impossible to obtain any such without an act of Congress, final action was necessarily deferred.

REPORTS.

The bane of every Adjutant-General has been the consolidated reports as received from the various Division headquarters. It seems almost impossible for Division officers to prepare their reports correctly, and the many errors appearing therein are apparently due to pure carelessness. Not six Divisions in the roster have, during the past year, sent in reports which were correct in every particular. I do not mention this with the expectation that any law can be passed which will better this state of affairs, but with the hope that it may impress some of those present, who are Division Commanders, or expect to be, with the importance of seeing that their subordinates perform their duties more accurately.

MEMBERSHIP.

This brings me to the consideration of a condition of affairs which is evident in comparing my consolidated reports for the four quarters of the official year just closing. Judging from the falling off in the June quarter from the March quarter of this year, one would naturally pre-

sume that the membership had sustained a terrible loss. This, however, is more apparent than real. In fact, I do not believe that there has been any perceptible loss, but between the close of the March quarter and that of the June quarter there was a change of administration in nearly all of the Divisions. It is but natural that each retiring Commander should exert himself to the utmost to secure a report from every Camp in his Division at the close of his administration, that his final report may redound as much to his credit as it possibly can. His successor being equally ambitious to make a good showing at the close of his administration, immediately upon his assuming office proceeds to prune down the membership of his Division to the lowest point he conscientiously can, and during the following three quarters will labor gradually to get his negligent and delinquent Camps into line. He is, therefore, very prompt in closing up his consolidated report for his first quarter which, unfortunately for the showing of the Adjutant-General, is the latter's last quarter. It is a fact that, with the exception of three Divisions, not one Commander held open his June report to the limit of time given him by the Adjutant-General for getting in his report for this Encampment. In one large Division over a thousand members were suspended, and I am satisfied from outside information, and from what the Commander himself has written me, that fully eighty per cent, if not more, of that thousand will remain in the Order. If the Commanders of Divisions would exercise as much diligence in getting in their reports for the first quarter of their administrations as they do for the last, I am satisfied that the Adjutant-General's report for the last quarter of his term would show more correctly the strength of the Order than it does under the present conditions. You assumed command on Sept. 14, 1898, and the report for September 30 shows a membership of 28,946. The report for the quarter ending March 31, 1899, shows a membership of slightly over 30,000. June 30, 1899, the membership was a little less than 27,000. Owing to the early date of this Encampment, the reports from Divisions being sent in much earlier than usual, and for reasons which I have already assigned, the report for this quarter does not show the actual strength of the Order. It seems fair to presume that the September 30 report will show a membership equal to that of one year ago.

While these figures do not indicate as large a membership as we hoped they would, nor as we were justified in supposing they would, from the amount of work that has been expended by yourself and by an excellent Corps of Division Commanders, nevertheless, we should perhaps be satisfied. We have sustained a heavy loss through the western Divisions, owing to two reasons. A large percentage of our membership have been engaged in the Philippine war, and many eligible young men, from whom we naturally would expect to obtain recruits, have also been occupied there. Furthermore, a careful review of the history of the Order for the last ten years will impress any one with the fact, that as we have curtailed the military features of our organization and become more civic, the western Divisions have gradually shrunk in membership, as in those the military spirit has ever been more marked, and the military features of the Order, for-

merly so attractive to them, having been withdrawn, they cease to become enthusiastic workers in our organization.

NEGLECTED REPORTS.

There is one matter to which I desire to call the attention of the Commandery-in-Chief through you, which, while not pertaining entirely to the duties of my office, nevertheless, indirectly affects the success of maintaining it. I refer to the negligence of officers in forwarding the required reports. Not especially the consolidated Adjutant's and Quartermaster's reports from the Division headquarters, but the reports of other Division officers, and more especially of Camp officers to the Division officers. Our Constitution provides for but one manner of exercising discipline, and that is by way of court-martial. If our Order were exclusively and purely military, I would hesitate in suggesting a change in that matter; but as we are at present existing, we are more a civic organization than we are a military one, and I apprehend that it would not be absolutely incongruous for us to adopt, for minor offences, and more particularly for failure to perform necessary duties, some other manner of discipline than the tedious and unsatisfactory court-martial. There should be some means whereby a Division Commander could compel a Camp Commander to make his necessary reports, or relieve him from such command, and place some other officer in charge who would make the required reports, without the formality of a court-martial. I would not recommend degradation from office, for the first offence, at least, but I seriously commend to the consideration of this Encampment, the necessity of some means whereby a Division Commander can secure from his Camp officers the reports required by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations. If a Camp Commander is made to realize that, failing to perform his duties in this particular, the Division Commander has the power to place some one in his office, even temporarily, who *will* do it, I believe the effect would be beneficial.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Of recent years there has been much earnest inquiry and discussion, looking for the cause of the gradual shrinkage in our membership, and the difficulties of increasing it, or even maintaining it to its current standard. Many causes have been assigned, many remedies suggested, some of which have been adopted, but still the conditions remain the same. If I had one desire more than another, in accepting the position I am now about to relinquish, it was, if possible, by the intimate connection it would again give me with the Order, to ferret out the causes of our decadence, or, rather, the reasons for our lack of progress. So far as I am able to judge, the reasons are many, and are not the same in every locality, but it strikes me that the great remedy lies in earnest, loyal work. In former years our Division Commanders were fired with burning enthusiasm. They brought to their respective commands the very best business ability they possessed. They were unselfish in their devotion, unlimited in their time, and prodigal in the expenditure of their private purse, a condition which, unfortunately, does not prevail at this time, except in a few instances, and in these

cases the results justify this statement. It is a question whether we have the right to demand such a sacrifice. The fact that annually fewer brothers are coming forward offering to undertake our work under such burdens, demonstrates that we cannot depend upon maintaining our Order in this manner in the future. Such brothers becoming more scarce has left an opportunity for others less competent, and less willing to make such sacrifice to forge to the front, and Divisions have fallen off under the management of well meaning, but incompetent brothers.

In some instances, and I am pleased to note that they are very few, political ambition seems to have been the sole motive for securing honors in our Order. Invariably the results have been disastrous. We are unfortunate in being unable to command the services of those members competent to build up and maintain our organization. The ability required to build up, and manage successfully, Divisions like Pennsylvania, New York and Massachusetts, if employed by many organizations, would pay a good living salary; and in proportion to his success, good business judgment would demand that he be continued in his work so long as he met the requirements, but our Order is not so financially endowed that it may properly pay its officers for their labors, and the practice of changing each year would not justify a good business man in giving up his usual vocation and entering into a new one, for so short a time. Is it not possible that we are trying to maintain too cheap an organization? Are we not asking too much work for little or no pay, and may this not account for dwindling membership, and work not performed?

Is it not time that we should cease to be an organization of boys and assume the dignity of an organization of men? No organization can be successfully maintained without the "sinews of war." In an organization of pure sentiment, where there is no financial gain as a motive to induce persons to become members or to maintain a membership, there must come some force from without to keep interest from flagging and to promote a healthy growth. This work naturally should fall upon Division officers. We cannot expect them to bear the burden from their own purses, nor surrender their usual vocations for a work that pays them nothing. The result has been that in some Divisions it has been necessary to pay salaries out of all proportion to the Division's resources to get its clerical work performed. This has resulted in some instances in seriously crippling the effective work of the Division. Therefore the attention of the Encampment is urgently directed to the sums paid by Divisions for clerical services. By clerical services should be included the total sums paid by Divisions to their Adjutants and Quartermasters, or that may be allowed Division Commanders to expend for clerical services connected with the transaction of Division business.

Strange as it may seem, in many instances the largest percentage of payment is made by Divisions whose resources to meet the same are most limited. While the larger Divisions, like Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, with ample income, expend a small percentage of their resources for services, the Divisions numerically smaller oftentimes are compromised to pay relatively much larger salaries. In other words it

seems to be the rule that the less work required, and the less the ability to pay, the greater is the amount paid. Take, for example, the Division of Indiana, which has been allowing, up to this year, an aggregate amount for clerical services of \$500, with an annual income for *per capita* tax of \$550, while the Division of Massachusetts expends less than fifteen per cent of its income tax for salaries. The Division of Iowa expends nearly eighty-five per cent. True, some of the smaller Divisions are very conservative in their expenditures. Such Divisions as New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Michigan and Illinois are entirely within bounds. The Divisions of Alabama and Tennessee, South Dakota and Kansas certainly expend more than good business judgment would seem to justify, nor can it be said that the clerical work is any better performed in the Divisions paying the relatively higher salaries than where the relatively smaller salaries are paid.

The practical point in this lies in the fact that where so much is expended for salaries, there is so much less left for building up the Division by organizing new Camps and bringing into activity those which are moribund and lifeless. In one Division which I have named the salaries so completely devoured the resources that there has not been sufficient left to meet the *per capita* tax due the Commandery-in-Chief, or to even procure the necessary stationery, and I believe the Commandery-in-Chief should assume the responsibility of placing a limit on these expenditures, that the work of the Division may be better handled. I do not wish it understood that I undervalue the services of any brother, nor do I doubt but that in each instance the salary paid is earned, but the life of the Order and the Division is paramount to all other interests and should be conserved. To that end, I would recommend that an amendment be made to the Constitution whereby at no time shall more than fifty per cent of its current *per capita* tax received by a Division be expended for clerical services in transacting the Division business. There will then be an incentive created for Division officers to keep up their Camps and increase the membership. If by so doing their salaries will be increased in proportion therewith. In the Division of Ohio the clerical help receives a certain percentage of the gross receipts, and it seems to work in a satisfactory manner.

And now, sir, in closing this, my last official act, I beg that you will permit me, in a few words, though ever so inadequate, to express my deep appreciation for the continued kindness you have ever extended to me, and the unfailing confidence you have reposed in me. Our official and personal relations at headquarters could not have been more harmonious. Never once have I been made to feel, by any act of yours, that you were my superior officer. Had our positions been reversed, your courtesy to me at all times could not have been more marked; and the only sad thought that comes with this closing year of congenial labor is that which suggests that it is about to cease; and, though years may come and years may go, and the recollection of our happy days and nights together may be ever so strong and vivid, yet, they will never come again. We have lived them through; they are history; they are gone; and my earnest wish and prayer is that our Grand Commander above will ever guard you and direct you in all your undertakings.

G. B. ABBOTT, *Adjutant-General.*

TABLE No. 5.
RECAPITULATION OF QUARTERLY REPORTS.

GAIN.	By Muster.		By Transfer.		By Reinstatement.																												
	Camps.	Members.	Members		Camps.	Members.																											
September Quarter, 1898.	22	1,188	49		44	1,086																											
December Quarter, 1898.	19	1,430	76		79	1,084																											
March Quarter, 1899.	20	1,817	80		58	1,299																											
June Quarter, 1899.	14	1,498	60		20	761																											
Aggregate	83	5,963	274		201	4,930																											
LOSS.	By Disbanded.		By Death.		By Hon. Discharge.		By Suspension.		By Disch. Discharge.																								
	Camps.	Members.	Members.	Members.	Members.	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.																								
September Quarter, 1898.	5	55	81	62	153	4,032		1																									
December Quarter, 1898.	5	53	93	139	48	2,878		4																									
March Quarter, 1899.	15	261	39	84	64	2,665		6																									
June Quarter, 1899.	13	153	98	69	188	5,269		4																									
Aggregate	38	503	425	354	453	15,434		15																									
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;"></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Camps.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Members.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number in good standing June 30, 1898</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,136</td> <td style="text-align: right;">32,617</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Gain</td> <td style="text-align: right;">280</td> <td style="text-align: right;">11,167</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aggregate</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1,421</td> <td style="text-align: right;">43,784</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Loss</td> <td style="text-align: right;">491</td> <td style="text-align: right;">16,923</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number in good standing, June 30, 1899.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">930</td> <td style="text-align: right;">26,861</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number mustered since June 30, 1899 (new Camps).</td> <td style="text-align: right;">14</td> <td style="text-align: right;">249</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total membership, Sept. 4, 1899.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">944</td> <td style="text-align: right;">27,110</td> </tr> </table>											Camps.	Members.	Number in good standing June 30, 1898	1,136	32,617	Total Gain	280	11,167	Aggregate	1,421	43,784	Total Loss	491	16,923	Number in good standing, June 30, 1899.	930	26,861	Number mustered since June 30, 1899 (new Camps).	14	249	Total membership, Sept. 4, 1899.	944	27,110
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Division of the Gulf not represented in any of these reports.
Division of Alabama and Tennessee not represented in report of June 30, 1899.

Table No. 6.

**Roster of Division Commanders,
For the Year 1899-1900.**

DIVISION.	COMMANDER.	ADDRESS.
Ala. and Tenn.	W. F. BOLIN,	Birmingham, Ala.
California,	HARRY T. MOORE,	71 Stevenson St., San Francisco.
Colorado,	GEO. S. MILONE,	Colorado Springs.
Connecticut,	EDSON S. BISHOP,	Norwich.
Gulf,	C. W. DALE.	329 S. Liberty St., New Orleans, La.
Illinois,	WILL C. SCHNEIDER,	Kankakee.
Indiana,	H. O. P. CLINE,	Jonesboro.
Iowa,	WILL A. BROWN,	Marshalltown.
Kansas,	L. B. PRICE.	Mulvane.
Kentucky,	ALEX. HAMILTON,	Newport.
Maine,	EDWARD H. SMITH,	Westbrook.
Maryland,	GEO. S. WHITMORE,	807 First St., N.W., Washington.
Massachusetts,	GEO. N. HOWARD,	Melrose Highlands.
Michigan,	C. J. POST,	Lock Box 151, Grand Rapids.
Minnesota,	A. O. ALLEN,	Wells.
Missouri,	BEN. PRACK,	101 N. Broadway, St. Louis.
Nebraska,	J. HOWARD HEINE,	Hooper.
New Hampshire,	ERNEST B. FOLSOM,	Dover.
New Jersey,	GEO. H. BAILEY,	125 N. Penn'a Ave., Atlantic City.
New York,	RALPH SHELDON,	33 State St., Albany.
Ohio,	A. E. B. STEPHENS,	Lincoln Inn Court, Cincinnati, Ohio
Oregon,	ELMER HARDESTY,	Silverton.
Pennsylvania,	SAM'L S. HORN,	Easton.
Rhode Island,	FRED. E. CARPENTER,	47 Washington St., Providence.
So. Dakota,	W. A. MORRIS,	Redfield.
Vermont,	IRA E. MORSE,	Cambridge.
Washington,	CHARLES E. PLIMPTON,	Seattle.
W. Virglula,	JOHN W. MCCLUNG,	Grafton.
Wisconsin,	A. G. BRABAND,	306 Broadway, Milwaukee.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General,
Chicago, Ill.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U.S.A.
84 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

Table No. 7.

Showing Charter Applications Approved and Number of Applicants.

DIVISION.	Applications Approved.	
	No. of Camps.	No. of Applicants.
Alabama and Tennessee		
California	1	32
Colorado	1	20
Connecticut	1	15
Gulf		
Illinois	11	318
Indiana	8	167
Iowa	4	87
Kansas	6	142
Kentucky	1	17
Maine	2	35
Maryland		
Massachusetts	4	82
Michigan	2	87
Minnesota	1	17
Missouri	1	34
Nebraska	4	82
New Hampshire	3	64
New Jersey		
New York	15	380
Ohio	3	51
Oregon	2	43
Pennsylvania	12	244
Rhode Island	2	41
So. Dakota	3	50
Vermont	3	75
Washington		
W. Virginia	2	42
Wisconsin	2	37
Totals	94	2,152

Table No 8.

**List of Furniture Belonging to the Department of the
Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General.**

2 Cabinet Desks.	1 Typewriter Cabinet.
1 Letter File Case.	1 Office Stool.
2 Office Desk Chairs.	6 Office Chairs.
1 Typewriter Table.	1 Card Index Case.
1 Letter Press and Stand.	1 Yost Typewriter.
2 Seals.	1 Stand of Colors.
National Commandery Guidons, with Box.	1 Headquarters Trunk.
1 Charter Lithograph Stone.	1 High Bookkeeper's Desk.
1 Case Embroidered Corps Marks.	1 Document Filing Case and Base.
1 Book Case.	Books of Record.

Portraits of Merrill, Abbott, Griffn, Webb, Hall, Maccabe, Bundy,
Russell, Rake and Darling, and group of Past Commanders.

GENERAL ORDERS.

GENERAL ORDER,
No. 4

CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 20. 1898.

I. Having been duly elected and installed Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., for the ensuing year, by the action of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment held at Omaha, Neb., Sept 12 to 14, 1898. I hereby assume command and establish headquarters at Room No. 7, 84 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.

II The following officers were duly elected by the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, and installed, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly:—

Commander-in-Chief, Frank L. Shepard, 84 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.; Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, Geo. E. Cox, Hartford, Conn.; Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, Z. C. Green, White, S. Dak.; Council-in-Chief, H. H. Hammer, Reading, Pa.; J. E. Hayeraft, Madelia, Minn, and J. D. Rowen, Des Moines, Iowa; Quartermaster-General, Fred E. Bolton, 947 Tremont Bldg., Boston, Mass.

III. Pursuant to the action of the Commandery-in-Chief the next annual Encampment will be held at Detroit, Mich., the date thereof to be designated by the Council-in-Chief.

IV The following appointments as staff officers of the Commandery-in-Chief are hereby promulgated:—

Adjutant-General, Geo. B. Abbott, Room 7, 84 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.; Inspector-General, F. W. Briggs, Shickshinuy, Pa. Judge Advocate-General, James W. Noel, Indianapolis, Ind.

V. Past Division Commander William G. Dustin, Dwight, Ill., and Past Captain Clark J. Tisdell, Chicago, Ill., are hereby detailed as personal aides to the Commander-in-Chief.

VI. In order to properly carry on and expedite the transaction of official business the following should be carefully observed: Communications to the Commander-in-Chief or Adjutant-General to be addressed to Room 7, 84 La Salle St., Chicago, Ill.; all reports to be addressed to George B. Abbott, Adjutant-General; all remittances for charter fees and *per capita* tax must be sent to George B. Abbott, Adjutant-General, by draft on Chicago or New York or Chicago post-office or express money orders; all requisitions for supplies and remittances therefor must be sent to Quartermaster-General Fred E. Bolton, 947 Tremont Bldg., Boston, Mass., such remittances to be made payable to him and paid him by draft on Boston or New York or postoffice or express money orders.

VII. In compliance with a resolution adopted by the Commandery-in-Chief a special decoration is to be designed for members of the Order who enlisted and served in Spanish-American war of 1898; names of all such are also to be placed upon a roll of honor to be prepared by the Commander-in-Chief. To the end that the foregoing may be carried out at the earliest possible date the Camps are directed to prepare and forward through their respective Division Commanders a list of members showing record in the Order and date of enlistment and service in the war of our country. The glorious record of our army and navy has renewed the supreme confidence we have entertained in our government, and commanded the admiration of other countries in the strength, intelligence and loyalty of our people. The fact that our membership has taken no mean part in the splendid achievements of this eventful year is cause sufficient for our increasing pride in our government and in them, and should prompt us to welcome them back to the Camp and an active participation in its work.

VIII A new one-degree ritual, with long form to be used by the Camp when desired, was adopted by the Commandery-in-Chief, to go into effect on Jan. 1, 1899, and replace the three-degree ritual now in use. The arrangements for the exchange of rituals will be announced in a later order.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 28th, 1898.

GENERAL ORDER, }
No. 5. }

I. The following appointments as Staff officers of the Commandery-in-Chief are hereby promulgated:

- To be Surgeon-General, F. H. B. McDowell, M. D., Racine, Wis.
- To be Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. A. J. Morris, South Frankfort, Mich.
- To be Assistant-Adjutant-General, A. L. Guilford, Chicago, Ill.
- To be Assistant-Quartermaster-General, Thomas J. Hannon, Boston, Mass.

II. There were but two constitutional changes adopted at the recent Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief at Omaha, Article XXV. Sec. 1, page 78, C. R. & R., was amended to provide that the bond of the Quartermaster-General should be fixed at \$5,000.00, and should be an Assurance Company bond.

An additional section (5) was added to Article III, page 53, C. R. & R., as follows:

"SECTION 5. The dues of Brothers who serve in the army and navy of the United States in time of war, may be remitted by the camps of which they are members during the time they are in the service, and while so remitted, Camps and Divisions shall not be required to pay per capita tax on such members. The names of all Brothers whose dues are remitted shall be reported in the quarterly return, together with the time during which said remission is to continue."

The question of having this section retro-active, was raised at the time of its adoption but the encampment took no action to that effect. It is therefore promulgated to take effect with the quarter commencing October 1, 1898. The Commander-in-Chief decides that he is unauthorized to order this section effective prior to this date, as the Commandery-in-Chief itself failed to do so when its attention was called to it, and for the further reason that many Camps have already made their September reports and to secure the necessary information would cause delay and in some cases a suspension. In this connection it is ordered that Division Commanders shall require Camps to pay the usual per capita tax on all members in good standing for the Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1898, but thereafter shall remit the per capita tax on all members serving in the U. S. army or navy until discharged from said service, or peace is declared. To secure the remission, Division Commanders will require Camps to furnish the name, address, and date of muster into Camp; and the date of muster into the U. S. service, Company and Regiment or Ship; rank (if any) and location; and will require their Adjutants to carefully scrutinize such reports to see that brothers so reported were in good standing in the Order at the time of muster into the U. S. service. A copy of these lists must be furnished to the Adjutant-General before January 1, 1899, that all such names may be added to the Roll of Honor which is to be published in the proceedings of the recent National Encampment, and these lists should include also the names, etc., of those who have served in the recent Spanish-American war who may not now be in the service. The publication of the names, name and number of camp, rank in camp and rank in the service of the U. S. of every member of the order who volunteered in defence of our Country in the late war, is mandatory upon the Adjutant-General, and Division Commanders must forward the necessary information. These lists are required also for estimating the probable number of volunteers from our Order, for intelligently providing for the following, which was also adopted by the recent Encampment.

III. Having been authorized by the Seventeenth Annual Encampment "to have prepared a medal of honor to be placed upon the price list of supplies and furnished by the Divisions to the soldiers who have served in the U. S. army, and the sailors who have served in the navy in the late Spanish War, who are members of this Order," it is hoped that Division Commanders will furnish these headquarters with an approximation of the number of medals they will probably require.

IV. The headquarters of the Division of Connecticut have been removed from Wallingford to Room 25, Wilcox Block, Meriden, Conn.

V. The instructions printed on the inspection blanks, together with those issued by the last Administration, seemed quite sufficient for the present inspection without publishing additional ones at this time, especially in view of the fact that a new Ritual is soon to go into use.

VI. Division Commanders will see to it that Camps are prompt in sending in quarterly reports. Camps have become very negligent in this particular, and as reports will be expected promptly at these headquarters it will be necessary for Commanders to be very diligent in securing prompt returns from Camps.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant-General.

Since last publication, applications for charters have been approved, and camps mustered as follows:

DATE.	NO. CAMP.	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	NO. OF APPLICANTS.	DATE OF MUSTER.	NO. MUSTERED.
Aug. 29		Mitchell	So. Dakota	26		
Sept. 2		Peru	Nebraska	16		
" 3	29	Alcester	So. Dakota	16	Sept. 3	16
" 6	19	Leesburg	Ohio	16	" 6	16
" 7	6	Hamilton	Ohio		" 6	23
" 7	15	Blaine	Washington	20	" 7	20
" 7	18	Puyallup	"	15	" 7	15
" 17	400	Froopert	Illinois	62	" 23	62
" 17	116	Peru	"	19	Oct. 4	19
" 21	145	Rome	New York	43	Sept. 30	43
" 30	32	Carthage	"	15	Oct. 6	15
" 30	12	Presidio	California	32	" 6	32
ct. 7		Wilson	New York	42		
" 3	26	Greensprings	Ohio	19		
" 10	47	Geneseo	Illinois	25		
" 21		Roaring Springs	Pennsylvania	21		
" 21	5	Canandaigua	New York	36		
" 25		Newport	Kentucky	17		

Total applicants, 440; total mustered, 262; total camps approved, 17; total camps mustered, 10.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 24, 1898.

GENERAL ORDER, }
No. 6.

I. The following details and assignments as Assistant Inspectors General have been made by Inspector General Forrest W. Briggs and approved by the Commander-in-Chief. Instructions have been issued and faithful performance of the duty assigned is expected from each brother:

DIVISION.	ASST. INSPECTOR GEN.	RANK.	ADDRESS.
Ala. and Tenn.	W. B. Cooper	Past Division Com.	Knoxville, Tenn.
California	Frank V. Shipley	" " "	San Francisco, Cal.
Colorado	Harlan Thomas	" " "	Denver, Col.
Connecticut	George E. Cox	Sr. Vico C.-in-C.	Hartford, Conn.
Gulf	Josiah Gross	Past Div. Com.	New Orleans, La.
Illinois	James B. Ladders	Past Capt.	Rock Island, Ill.
Indiana:			
Q. M. Hdqrs.	Geo. C. Harvey	Past Div. Com.	Danville, Ind.
Comdrs. Hdqrs.	Frank L. Shepard	Com. in C.	Chicago, Ill.
Iowa	James D. Rowen	C'ncil-in-C.	Des Moines, Ia.
Kansas	W. Y. Morgan	Past Div. Com.	Hutchinson, Kas.
Kentucky	T. Z. Morrow, Jr.	" " "	Somersot, Ky.
Maine	Fred E. Bolton	Q. M. General	Boston, Mass.
Maryland	H. H. Hammer	C'ncil-in-Chief	Reading, Pa.
Massachusetts	Arthur B. Spink	Past Division Com.	Providence, R. I.
Michigan	G. B. Abbott	Adjutant General	Chicago, Ill.
Minnesota	J. E. Hayeraft	C'ncil-in-Chief	Madelia, Minn.
Missouri:			
Comdrs. Hdqrs.	Fred E. Ernst	Past Div. Com.	St. Joseph, Mo.
Q. M. Hdqrs.	R. Loobenstein	" " "	Warronsburg, Mo.
Nebraska	Moses P. O'Brien	" " "	Omaha, Nebraska
New Hampshire			
New Jersey	James Lewis Rako	Past C.-in-O.	Reading, Pa.
New York	Dr. L. H. Hendeo	Division Surgeon	Palmer, Mass.
Ohio	Don C. Cable	Past Div. Com.	Nelsonville, Ohio
Oregon			
Pennsylvania:			
Com. & Adj. Hdqrs.	F. W. Briggs	Inspector Gen.	Shickshinny, Pa.
Q. M. Hdqrs.	Jas. M. Mathews	Division Com.	Tronton, New Jersey
Rhode Island	Leonard C. Couch	" " "	Taunton, Mass.
South Dakota	Z. C. Green	Jr. Vico C.-in-C.	White, South Dakota
Vermont	E. T. Griswold	Past Division Com.	Bonnington, Vt.
Washington	Harry Rosenhaupt	" " "	Spokane, Wash.
West Virginia			
Wisconsin	Rev. W. J. Patton	Past Division Com.	Marinotte, Wis.

II. The new ritual authorized by the last Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief will be ready for distribution January 1, 1899, and will be furnished free in exchange for the present rituals to such camps as make reports and are in good standing for the quarter ending December 31, 1898. Each camp is permitted to have five rituals. Division Commanders will direct their Camp Commanders to forward to Division headquarters the five rituals which their respective camps have, sealed and with postage prepaid as first class matter, enclosing an equal amount of stamps for prepaying the postage on the new rituals. Division Commanders, upon receiving the old rituals from camps, will detach pages 35 and 37, and forward the same, sealed, to the Quartermaster General, and destroy the remainder of the ritual. Upon receipt by the Adjutant General of the consolidated reports and per capita tax from the several Division headquarters, the Quartermaster General will supply the Division Commanders with the requisite number of rituals for their respective Divisions, free, for only such camps as have promptly made reports and paid per capita tax and are in good standing for the quarter ending December 31, 1898.

III. The attention of Division Commanders is again earnestly directed to the following, especially to the manner of making remittances:

"Communications to the Commander-in-Chief or Adjutant General to be addressed to Room 7, 84 LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill., all reports to be addressed to G. B. Abbott, Adjutant General; all remittances for charter fees and per capita tax must be sent to G. B. Abbott, Adjutant-

General, by draft on Chicago or New York or Chicago postoffice or express money orders; all requisitions for supplies and remittances therefor must be sent to Quartermaster General, Fred E. Bolton, 947 Tremont Bldg., Boston, Mass., such remittances to be made payable to him and paid him by draft on Boston or New York or postoffice or express money orders."

IV. The attention of Division Commanders is earnestly directed to the supplies they should have on hand at headquarters. At this time of the year, when the organization of new camps should be in active operation, there should be enough supplies on hand at Division headquarters to make up camp packets promptly. The Quartermaster General is not required to provide camp packets. In view of the fact that at this time of the year the Quartermaster General is estimating and ordering supplies for the ensuing year Commanders are requested to send in their requisitions at once for such supplies as are believed will be required to last them through the remaining months of their respective administrations.

V. The bonds of the Quartermaster General and the Commander-in-Chief have been duly approved by the Council-in-Chief, and are now in the possession of the chairman thereof.

VI. Division Commanders will call the attention of camps to the necessity of commencing early preparations for the proper observance of Union Defenders' Day, February 12. Our order has been invited by the National Monument Committee, which is organized for the erection of a national memorial to the dead heroes of the Cuban battlefields and the Martyrs of the Maine, to hold special services in connection with that worthy and loyal cause, and your Commander-in-Chief believes it wise and fitting that these services should be observed in connection with Union Defenders' day, and to that end appropriate suggestions will be issued by the Chaplain-in-Chief through proper channels to the various camps of the order. It is hoped that the order will enter into the spirit of these memorial services with that true loyalty, fervor and enthusiasm, which has ever characterized the spirit of the organization in its efforts to pay tribute to our country's defenders. Mark well the date and prepare to make a record of which all may be justly proud.

VII. The attention of Division Commanders is again directed to the preparing of the roll of honor of those members of the order who served in the Spanish-American war, referred to in section 2, General Order No. 5, current series. Let these rolls be carefully and promptly prepared and forwarded to the Adjutant General.

VIII. Past Judge Advocate General E. K. Gould has prepared a digest of the opinions and decisions of the various Commanders-in-Chief and Judge Advocates General. This work, which costs but a nominal sum, was commended by the recent National Encampment as a creditable compilation and officers and members of the order were urged to procure it. With a copy of this digest in the camp room, many doubtful questions can be quickly and satisfactorily determined, many erroneous rulings avoided and much correspondence with the Division and Commandery-in-Chief headquarters concerning constitutional points will become unnecessary. These books can be procured through the Division Quartermaster from the Quartermaster General.

IX. Parsons O. Hardy, of Camp No. 117, Division of Massachusetts, was court-martialed on charges of "violation of obligation given at time of muster and at time of assuming office," of "disobedience to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the order," and of "conduct unbecoming a member of the order in his relations to the order." Found guilty and sentence of suspension from the order for one year from October 20, 1898, approved. Proper record will be made on black books.

Charles D. Henry, of Camp No. 28, Division of Illinois, was court-martialed on charges of "conduct unbecoming a member of the order in his relations to the order," and of "disobedience to the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the order." Found guilty and sentence of dishonorable discharge approved. Proper record will be made on black books.

X. Commanders of Divisions will require the several installing

officers to furnish duplicate reports of installations on Form 23 to the Adjutant General through the Division Adjutant. In case no duplicate is made at the time of the installation, the Division Adjutant should be required to make a duplicate report for the Adjutant General.

XI. Division Commanders will require mustering officers of camps, in making out their reports, to write the names of those mustered very legibly and accurately to guard against errors in the writing of charters. In every case the charter fee should accompany the application for approval, and the application should also be returned with the mustering officer's report to the Adjutant General after the camp has been mustered.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

Official:
G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant General.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 25, 1899.

GENERAL ORDER, {
No. 1.

I. Circular No. 1, of the Chaplain-in-Chief, is hereby authorized and promulgated.

II. There accompanies herewith suggestions for a memorial service from the National Monument Committee for the commemoration of the heroes who perished in the recent war with Spain and the martyrs of the Maine, together with a roll for the insertion of the names (and amounts) of those who may be disposed to contribute towards the advancement of this worthy cause. In case for want of time or any other reason, the camps may deem it advisable to hold a special service from that of Defenders' Day, the same will be entirely proper. However, what services may be held should be carefully recorded and prepared by some person selected by the camp competent to do so, and forwarded through the Division headquarters to the Adjutant General, together with the roll of contributors and amounts. Not only were a large percentage of the volunteers who recently responded for the defense of the country at the call of the president in our war with Spain sons of Union soldiers, but members of our organization, and it is to be hoped, and indeed it is urgently desired, that the order of the Sons of Veterans should make a prompt and vigorous response to the request of this committee. The objects of our order, the principles upon which it is founded, and the earnestness of our work in the cause of Loyalty, can be no more positively demonstrated or clearly impressed upon our countrymen than by a hearty and loyal response in commemorating the heroism of our brothers and their comrades. It is to be hoped that no Camp in the Order will fail to take some action or be placed upon record in this matter. Concerning any contributions made by brothers, while not called upon to contribute largely towards this monumental fund, they may secure help among their more favored friends and acquaintances, and the names of the contributors will be placed upon record and deposited in a proper receptacle with the tributes and record services held and preserved forever for posterity. Such contributions should be secured through the three elective officers of the camp, acting as a committee for that purpose, or by a committee of prominent and well known citizens who will act with them. The total amounts secured should be forwarded in one draft, express or postoffice order, made payable to the Division Commander, who will forward the same in bulk to the Quartermaster General, Fred E. Bolton, 947 Tremont Bldg., Boston, Mass. Owing to the brief time Division Commanders will realize the importance of forwarding this order, accompanied by the circulars of the National Monument Committee, immediately to the Camps of their respective Divisions.

III. The following Division Encampments are announced: That of Rhode Island at Woonsocket, Feb. 7; that of New Jersey at Camden, Feb. 15 and 16; that of Massachusetts at Boston, Feb. 21 and 22.

IV. The names of the Past Commanders-in-Chief, Grand Division Commanders and Division Commanders, as well as those delegates who attended the last National Encampment, have heretofore been upon the special mailing list of the Adjutant General. Accompanying the last General Order issued from these headquarters was a request for the correct address and the name, number and location of the Camps of which these respective brothers are members in good standing. Many responses have been received by the Adjutant General, and it is construed that those who failed to respond do not care to receive the Orders, circulars or official documents which may be issued from these headquarters. However, those acknowledging the receipt of the last Order or this one will be continued upon the mailing list.

V. Many camps have neglected to report the names of their members who served in the recent Spanish-American war to be placed upon the roll of honor soon to be issued from these headquarters. It is essential that the honor and reputation of the order shall be sustained and

no Camp Commander fulfills his obligation given at the time of his installation unless he sees to it that every member of his camp who is entitled to this honor should receive it, and every Division Commander must require each Camp Commander to report and at once, in compliance with the latter part of Sec. II, of General Order No. 5, series of 1898.

VI. Carlisle R. Clarke, of John A. Logan Camp, No. 25, Division of Illinois, and former Division Commander, was court-martialed on charges of "disobedience of the constitution, rules and regulations" and "Conduct unbecoming a member of the order in his relations to the order." Found guilty, and sentence of dishonorable discharge approved, Proper record will be made upon black books.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Official:

Commander-in-Chief

G. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant General

CHICAGO, ILL., May 10, 1899.

GENERAL ORDER }
 No. 2 }
 Series 1899. }

On February 5, 1899, Col. James A. Sexton, Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, died at Washington, D. C., while serving as a member of the War Investigating Committee appointed by the President of the United States.

Commander-in-Chief Sexton rendered faithful and distinguished service as a soldier during the great civil war, and during the intervening years has borne an honorable and prominent citizenship under the Government which he had helped to maintain. His exalted patriotism and fervent loyalty, his earnest heart, though genial and kind, were conspicuous among those rare qualities that made him near and dear to all.

Our Order mourns with the Grand Army which he so worthily led.

I. Circular No. 2, of the Chaplain-in-Chief, is hereby authorized and promulgated.

II. The following Commanders of Division have been elected since last General Orders:

Rhode Island, Frederic E. Carpenter, Providence.
 New Jersey, George H. Bailey, Atlantic City.
 Connecticut, Edson S. Bishop, Norwich.
 Massachusetts, Geo. N. Howard, Melrose Highlands.
 Nebraska, J. Howard Heine, Hooper.
 New Hampshire, Ernest B. Folsom, Dover.
 W. Virginia, Jno. W. McClung, Grafton.
 Kansas, L. B. Price, Mulvane.

III. The following Division Encampments are announced;

Alabama and Tenn. May 10 and 11, Rockwood, Tennessee.
 Missouri, May 11 and 12, Kirksville.
 Illinois, May 15, 16 and 17, Danville.
 Kentucky, May 15 and 16, Newport.
 Wisconsin, May 16, 17 and 18, Milwaukee.
 Maryland and D. C. May 22 and 23, Washington, D. C.
 California, June 5, San Francisco.
 South Dakota, June 7, 8 and 9, Hot Springs.
 Indiana, June 7, 8 and 9, Shelbyville.
 Pennsylvania, June 13, 14 and 15, Hazelton.
 Iowa, June 14 and 15, Waterloo.
 Maine, June 14 and 15, Bucksport.
 Oregon, June 21, 22 and 23.
 Washington, June 21, 22, 23 and 24, Seattle.
 New York, June 27 and 28, Utica.
 Ohio, July 6 and 7, Columbus.

IV. The Commanders of the following Divisions only have provided these headquarters with the Roll of Honor, (members of our Order who enlisted for the Spanish-American war,) of their respective Divisions, and in many instances, these are incomplete. Nothing can be done towards providing a "Service Badge," or publishing the Roll, until the delinquent Divisions furnish the necessary information: Connecticut, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin and Colorado.

V. The proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, (Omaha,) have been published and can be procured from the Quartermaster General, Fred E. Bolton, 947 Tremont

Building, Boston, Mass., through Division headquarters, forwarding ten cents each for postage. Members of the Omaha Encampment may order direct sending the requisite postage.

VI. Several Divisions are still delinquent in forwarding reports due the Adjutant General, the Inspector General and the Surgeon General. Division Councils and installing officers of Divisions, should see to it that ALL reports and the Roll of Honor have been forwarded to the Commandery-in-Chief officers before the retiring Commander and his staff are relieved from duty and the Commander elect installed.

VII. Such Divisions as have not yet adopted by-laws for the government of their respective Divisions, should not fail to do so at the coming Encampment, and submit the same for approval. The by-laws of the following Divisions only are on file at these headquarters: Connecticut, Kentucky, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Washington, Rhode Island and Nebraska.

VIII. The Commander of the Division of Oregon, (A. Q. Desart,) having left that Division without leave of absence, and his whereabouts being unknown, by special order from these headquarters, Junior Vice Commander, Walter Ross, of Eugene, Oregon, has been placed in full command until the meeting of the coming Division Encampment when the Division Council will elect a Commander to complete the official year.

IX. Reuben Schwarts, of Thomas J. Stewart Camp, No. 72, Division of Pennsylvania, was tried by Court Martial, on charges of "violation of obligation" and "misappropriating camp funds," found guilty, and sentence of dishonorable discharge approved.

Harry T. Wheeler, of Greble Camp No. 10, Division of Pennsylvania, was tried by Court-Martial, on the charge of "conduct unbecoming a member in his relations to the order," found guilty, and sentence of dishonorable discharge approved.

Wm. A. Teeter, of Meade Camp No. 46, Division of Ohio, was tried by Court-Martial on the charge of "committing a scandalous crime against the law of the land," found guilty, and sentence of dishonorable discharge approved.

J. Griffin Westbrook, of Tappen Camp No. 1, Division of New York, was tried by Court-Martial on the charge of "committing a scandalous crime against the law of the land," found guilty, and sentence of dishonorable discharge approved. Proper record of the foregoing will be made upon black books.

X. W. E. Clark, Camp No. 202, of Manistique, Division of Michigan, is hereby given honorable mention and the thanks of the Commander-in-Chief, for its contribution of \$10.84, in response to his request on behalf of the National Monumental Committee. This fund is for the purpose of erecting a monument to those who died for the honor of our country in the war for humanity against Spain and among whom were many members of our Order and it is the intention that the Sons of Veterans shall have a special tablet on which shall be either our badge or coat-of-arms. This Camp was the first—and so far as these headquarters are informed—the ONLY one to respond. It is anxiously hoped that this worthy example will soon be followed by others.

XI. Retiring Division Commanders will please call the attention of their respective successors to Sec. 7, Art. VII, Chapter V, Page 61, C. R. & R., and also inform them of the law which requires a 50-cent documentary revenue stamp attached to such bond to make it valid.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief

Official:

GEO. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant General.

Since last publication, applications for charters have been approved, and camps mustered as follows:

DATE.	CAMP NO	LOCATION.	DIVISION.	NO. OF APPLICANTS.	DATE OF MUSTER.	NO. MUSTERED.
1898						
Nov. 7	9	Shubert	Nebraska	16	Oct. 21	16
" 15	156	Sciota	Pennsylvania	22	Nov. 19	16
" 25	34	Coats	Kansas	19	Jan. 9	16
" 28	3	East Barro	Vermont	24	July 21	18
" 29	157	Ocoola Mills	Pennsylvania	15	Dec. 12	14
Dec. 2	65	Corning	New York	19	" 21	21
" 17	55	Waldon	Illinois	16	" 23	15
" 21	97	Coatesville	Pennsylvania	28	" 2	28
" 28	72	Centralia	Illinois	28	Feb. 15	58
" 28	10	Laconia	N. Hampshire	26	Jan. 2	17
" 28	28	Poy Sippi	Wisconsin	19	" 20	17
1899						
Jan. 2	305	Elwood	Indiana	25	" 15	22
" 19	20	Wells River	Vermont	19	" 21	19
" 7	29	Poughkeepsie	New York	19	Dec. 13	19
" 26	248	Camp McKinzie	(Georgia) Mich.	71	" 25	71
" 27	10	Flandreau	So. Dakota	29	Feb. 17	46
" 27	203	Manlius	New York	26	Jan. 18	22
" 28	16	Pascong	Rhodo Island	19	Feb. 4	16
Feb. 3	129	Haverhill	Massachusetts	15	Mar. 1	16
" 10	30	Nowton	Kansas	27	Apr. 4	20
" 17	86	Stonoham	Massachusetts	21	Jan. 24	21
" 18	11	Churchville	New York	16	Feb. 23	19
" 22	270	Elnora	Indiana	22	Mar. 9	18
Mar. 1	25	Clifton	Ohio	17	" 18	27
" 3	53	Canaan	Connecticut	15	" 30	15
" 4	27	Guilford	Maine	16	" 18	15
" 16	306	Osgood	Indiana	20	" 23	22
" 21	287	New Hartford	Iowa	15	Feb. 23	15
" 21	288	Waterloo	"	33	" 27	33
" 21	4	The Dalles	Oregon	23	May	23
" 21	308	Scipio	Indiana	16		
" 22	73	Findlay	Illinois	20	Mar. 25	17
" 22	182	Hamilton	Indiana	18		
" 23	309	Augusta	"	22	Apr. 15	18
" 27	76	Leigh	Nebraska	16	" 8	15
Apr. 7	153	Milford	Iowa	21	Mar. 4	21
" 8	62	Republic	Missouri	34	" 31	34
" 10	68	Cedar Vale	Kansas	29	Apr. 17	19
" 13	17	Monson	Maine	19		
" 15	326	Fairmount Sprngs	Pennsylvania	18		
" 18	249	Dowagiac	Michigan	16		
" 24	221	Little Falls	New York	41	Apr. 21	41
" 27	327	Williamsport	Pennsylvania	17		
" 27	31	Iola	Kansas	16	Apr. 22	16
" 27	38	Coldwater	"	30	" 29	20
" 27	14	Walnut Grove	Minnesota	17		
" 29	100	Chicago	Illinois	57	Apr. 29	57
May 4		Springfield	So. Dakota	16		
" 6	191	Dundee	New York	21		
" 8	79	Morrisville	"	17		
" 9	3	Danville	Illinois	32		
" 9	119	Hooper	Nebraska	16		
" 10	154	Horman	"	34		
" 10	3	Froemont	Wisconsin	18		

Total applicants, 1,241: total camps approved, 45.

Total mustered, including former approvals, 1,113.

Total camps mustered, including former approvals, 48.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 21, 1899.

GENERAL ORDER }
 NO. 3 }
 Series 1899 }

I. Death has once again invaded the ranks of the Commandery-in-Chief and taken from it a Past Commander-in-Chief and a Constitutional Life Member. With a profound sense of sorrow it is my sad duty to announce to the Order the death of its founder and most valued friend, Major A. P. Davis, of Pittsburg, Pa., which occurred at his home on May 21, 1899. The life of Father Davis, as he was familiarly known throughout the order, was typical in every sense of the true American patriot, descending through a line of ancestors, who were eminently identified with the establishment and progress of American independence and liberty, from the landing of the Pilgrim fathers, through every war and struggle to the close of the war of the rebellion. He himself served both in the army and navy, winning therein honor and distinction. He was a member of all the American patriotic societies; including the Grand Army of the Republic, and so anxious was he for the perpetuity and continuance of the principles of these associations that he successfully undertook the founding and promoting of the order of Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., and its welfare and success was ever the ambition of his heart. His life is worthy of example and by it we should each of us be encouraged to renew our work for liberty and humanity and the maintainance of our country and its free institutions. The order will deeply feel his loss, and its profound sympathy goes out to his wife, his family and his immediate friends, who feel his loss so keenly, and in token of our sorrow for his loss, it is ordered that for 30 days following the reading of this order in Camps, the charter and altar, when in session, shall be draped in mourning.

Maj. John E. Mills, a life member of the Commandery-in-Chief, and a member of Camp No. 129, Division of Massachusetts, died at his home in Bradford, on May 9, at the age of 83 years. He was without a doubt the oldest son of a veteran in our order. He had a father and four sons besides himself in the war of 1801-5, and was an active member of his Camp up to within a very short time of his death. The Division of Massachusetts was proud to honor this member of our order, and the Commandery-in-Chief was pleased to make him a life member of that body. The whole order joins in sympathy with the Division of Massachusetts for the loss of this distinguished and aged brother.

II. By a vote in the Council-in-Chief on the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, the 18th encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief will convene in the city of Detroit, September 7, 8 and 9, 1899. The location of headquarters and the place of holding the encampment and other important details will be announced later.

III. Since the publication of the last order Commanders of Divisions have been elected as follows:

Alabama and Tennessee, W. E. Bolin, Birmingham, Ala.
 Missouri, Ben Prack, 101 N. Broadway, St. Louis.
 Illinois, Will C. Schneider, Kankakee.
 Kentucky, Alexander Hamilton, Newport.
 Wisconsin, A. G. Braband, 306 Broadway, Milwaukee.
 Maryland, G. S. Whitmore, 807 First St., N. W., Washington,
 D. C.
 California, Harry T. Moore, 71 Stevenson St., San Francisco.
 Indiana, H. O. P. Kline, Jonesboro.
 Pennsylvania, S. S. Horn, Easton.
 Iowa, W. A. Brown, Marshalltown.
 Maine, Edward H. Smith, Westbrook.
 Michigan, C. J. Post, Grand Rapids.

IV. Division Commanders are reminded that pages 35 and 37 of the old three-degree ritual must be returned without delay to the Quartermaster General, by mail or express, prepaid, in equal number for the new rituals received. Failure to make return for these vouchers will cause the cost of all new rituals issued to Divisions be charged to their account on the books of the Quartermaster General, and will deprive the representatives of such Divisions of seats in the 18th Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, if such account is not settled in full prior to that time.

V. The committee of transportation for the Eighteenth Annual Encampment at Detroit is composed of the following: Adj. Gen. G. E. ... t. 84 La Salle St., Chicago. Q. M. Gen. Fred ... 917 Tremont Bldg., Boston. Col. R ... No. Co' ...

VI. C. ... No. 92, Division of Massachusetts, was ... in the charge of "Violation of his pledge taken at the ... office as Quartermaster Sergeant of his camp." found guilty, and sentence of dishonorable discharge approved. Proper record of the foregoing will be made on black books.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

GEO. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,

947 TREMONT BUILDING,

BOSTON, Mass., Feb. 1, 1899.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A.,
Chicago, Ill.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: I have the honor to submit my report for the term beginning on the 15th day of September, 1898, and ending on the 31st day of December, 1898:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

CASH RECEIVED FROM:		PAID FOR:	
Past Q. M. Genl. Lobenstein.....	\$ 890.88	Supplies (including cost of shipping).....	\$ 153.61
Received for supplies.....	696.00	Office expenses.....	391.12
Received for P. C. tax.....	1,125.70	General expenses.....	191.71
Received for charter fees....	39.50	General orders.....	20.00
		Salaries.....	800.00
		Seventeenth National Encampment.....	46.00
		Traveling expenses.....	7.00
		Miscellaneous.....	3.44
		Cash on hand.....	1,140.10
	<u>\$ 2,752.98</u>		<u>\$ 2,752.98</u>
December 31, 1898. Supplies on hand, as per inventory			\$ 980.07

GENERAL ACCOUNT, DECEMBER 31, 1899.

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Various Divisions.....	\$ 9.44	Various Divisions.....	\$ 34.67
Furniture.....	481.95	Surplus.....	2,573.89
Supplies.....	980.07		
Cash.....	1,140.10		
	<u>\$2,611.56</u>		<u>\$2,611.56</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS, DECEMBER 31, 1899.

LOSS:		PROFIT:	
General Orders.....	\$ 20.00	Charter fees.....	\$ 39.50
Salaries.....	800.00	P. C. tax.....	1,125.70
Traveling Expenses.....	7.00	Supplies Profit.....	149.23
Office expenses.....	391.12	Balance (net loss).....	141.40
General expenses.....	191.71		
Seventeenth National Encampment.....	46.00		
	<u>\$1,455.83</u>		<u>\$1,455.83</u>

FRED E. BOLTON,
Quartermaster-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,

947 TREMONT BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS., May 1, 1899.

GEN. FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A

Chicago, Ill.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: I have the honor to submit my report for the quarter ending March 31, 1899:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

CASH ON HAND:		PAID FOR:	
As per last report.....	\$ 1,140.10	Supplies, (including cost of shipping.....)	\$ 1,045.67
Received for supplies.....	858.02	Office expenses.....	220.80
Received for P. C. tax.....	1,232.87	General expenses.....	8.18
Received for charter fees...	50.00	Traveling expenses.....	132.51
Miscellaneous.....	8.27	Salaries.....	750.00
		General orders.....	13.50
		Miscellaneous.....	5.89
		Cash on hand.....	1,112.71
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$3,289.26		\$3,289.26

March 31, 1899. Supplies on hand as per inventory \$1,280.87.

GENERAL ACCOUNT, MARCH 31, 1899.

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Furniture.....	\$ 481.95	A. P. Davis.....	\$ 15.00
Supplies.....	1,280.87	E. B. Stillings & Co.....	5.25
Cash.....	1,112.71	Various Divisions.....	30.53
Various Divisions.....	94.42	Surplus.....	2,919.17
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$2,969.95		\$2,969.95

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, MARCH 31, 1899.

LOSSES:		GAINS:	
General orders.....	\$ 13.50	Charter fees.....	\$ 50.00
Salaries.....	750.00	Per capita tax.....	1,232.87
Traveling expenses.....	132.51	Supplies (profit).....	187.40
Office expenses.....	220.80		
General expenses.....	8.18		
Balance (gain).....	345.28		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$1,470.27		\$1,470.27

FRED E. BOLTON,

Quartermaster General.

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 10, 1899.

GENERAL ORDER,

No. 4,
Series 1899.

I. The Divisions of Alabama and Tennessee, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Gulf, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, South Dakota and Wisconsin are delinquent to the Chaplain-in-Chief for the consolidated reports of their respective Division Chaplains. The Division of the Gulf, Missouri, Oregon and West Virginia are delinquent to the Adjutant General's Headquarters for their respective Rolls of Honor. There are several Divisions likewise delinquent to the department of the Inspector General. In connection with the foregoing, the attention of Division Commanders is respectfully called to Sec. 1, Art. 4, Chap. 5, Page 53, C., R. and R.

II. The attention of Division Commanders is respectfully called to Sec. 3, Art. 2, Chap. 5, Page 51, C., R. and R. In this connection the Quartermaster General respectfully requests that where it is possible all business with his department should be closed by the 17th of the current month. No requisitions for supplies will be filled after that date until after the closing of the 18th Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief. The Quartermaster General is hereby instructed to exchange no more new rituals for old ones after that date in the manner hitherto observed for supplying new rituals to camps, and Division Commanders must make final settlement for all rituals received by them on or before that date.

III. Division Commanders will please see to it that their consolidated Adjutant's and Quartermaster's reports, together with the per capita tax, is forwarded in time to reach the Adjutant General's headquarters not later than the 20th day of the current month.

IV. In forwarding certificates for delegats and Past Division Commanders to the Adjutant General a number of errors have been made, one Commander certifying for a Past Commander who was deceased. In another instance a Past Commander was enumerated as entitled to representation from a given Division when he had transferred and was a member of another Division, and in many instances Past Commanders who belong to suspended camps were reported as in good standing. To correct these errors, each Division Commander is requested to immediately forward to the Adjutant General a list of the Past Division Commanders, Grand Division Commanders, and Past Commanders-in-Chief, if any there be, and certify to the good standing in the Order of each and every one. It is imperative that this should be attended to immediately, as the roster for the National Encampment is all ready to be printed, and only awaits verification and correction.

V. The following are hereby appointed as the committee on Fraternal Relations to attend the 33rd Annual Session of the National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic (and auxiliary associations) to be held at Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 4-7, 1899:

Past Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake, Chairman, Reading, Pa.

Past Commander-in-Chief Charles K. Darling, Boston, Mass.

Past Commander-in-Chief Louis M. Wagner, Philadelphia, Pa.

Past Division Commander Theodore A. Barton, Providence, R.I.

Hon. Webster Davis, Asst. Secy. Interior, Washington, D. C.

VI. During the 18th Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, headquarters will be established at the Hotel Cadillac, Detroit. The rates at this hotel, per day (American plan), are from \$2.50 to \$1.50, depending upon location and accommodations. The Adjutant General, having a plan of the Hotel and a list of rates, will be pleased to give his assistance to delegations in locating themselves in comfortable quarters. The Russell House offers the same rates. Very good accommodations can be had at the Hotel Griswold for \$2.00 and \$2.50 per day, American plan. The beautiful Auditorium in the Masonic Temple has been secured as a

convention hall during the Encampment. It is expected at this time that among the arrangements for the entertainment of visitors will be a delightful ride, involving an afternoon and evening, by steamer up the Detroit river, which will include a fish supper.

VII. The chairman of the Transportation Committee reports that the Michigan Passenger Association has given a rate of one fare for the round trip. The Trunk Line Association has given a rate of a fare and a third on the certificate plan. The other Associations have not yet been heard from, but the complete arrangements will be published in subsequent orders.

VIII. It is expected that the official train for Detroit will leave Chicago, probably via the Wabash, on Wednesday evening, September 6, at 11 o'clock. Those who can make it convenient so to do, are invited to join the party. The rendezvous in Chicago will be the Hotel Brevoort.

IX. Pursuant to the request of the Division of Maryland and the District of Columbia, the States of North and South Carolina are detached from that Division and placed under the jurisdiction of the Division of the Gulf. Louisiana Camp, No. 1, Division of the Gulf, is hereby detached from that Division and assigned to the jurisdiction of the Division of Alabama and Tennessee.

By Command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant General.

Since last publication, applications for charters have been approved, and camps mustered as follows:

DATE.	CAMP NO.	LOCATION.	DIVISION,	NO. OF APPLICANTS.
May 15	7	Sheridan	Oregon	20
" 15	30	Torro Alta	W. Virginia	23
" 20	39	Clearwater	Kansas	21
" 22	73	Vermontville	New York	20
" 23	401	Okawville	Illinois	19
" 24	402	Eflingham	"	20
" 24	20	Salida	Colorado	20
June 7	210	Fort Hill	Ohio	15
" 19	16	Blackstone	Massachusetts	19
" 19	289	Lacona	Iowa	18
" 28	41	Pottstown	Pennsylvania	15
July 3	23	Avondale	"	24
" 10	11	Philadelphia	"	15
" 13	7	South Chatham	Massachusetts	27
" 14	24	Pottstown	Pennsylvania	28
" 14	263	Clearfield	"	18
" 17	20	North Haverhill	N. Hampshire	20
" 17	38	Mitford	"	18
" 22	38	French Creek	W. Virginia	16
" 22	39	Frankstown	Pennsylvania	23
Aug. 1	90	Hoosic Falls	New York	18
" 1	15	Ashton	So. Dakota	15

Total Applicants, 436; total camps, 22.

CHICAGO, ILL., Aug. 25, 1899.

GENERAL ORDER,

No. 5,
Series 1899.

I. The Council-in-Chief is requested to convene for business in the temporary Headquarters of the Quartermaster General, Parlor G, Cadillac Hotel, Detroit, Michigan, 10 o'clock a. m. September 7, 1899.

II. The Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief will convene in the Auditorium of the Masonic Temple, Detroit, Michigan, 2 p. m. September 7, 1899.

III. It is with a deep sense of sadness that the announcement is made of the sudden death by drowning at Greensboro, Vermont, of the Reverend Harry L. Veazey, Past Chaplain-in-Chief, and Past Commander of the Division of Alabama and Tennessee. The sympathy of the whole order is extended to this bereaved Division which has sustained such a severe loss of a brother whose place can never be filled and whose loving, kind, loyal and noble character will long be revered and remembered by the many who knew him but to cherish him. Though gone before yet the light of his sublime life may be the beacon for us all to follow, an example worthy of emulation.

IV. John Abor of R. J. Myers Camp No. 35, Division of New York, was tried by court-martial on the charge of "conduct unbecoming a member in his relations to the order" (embezzlement of Camp funds,) found guilty and sentence of dishonorable discharge, approved. Proper record of which, will be made upon black books.

V. The transportation Committee submits the following information:

Railroad rates, for round trip, as follows:

New England Passenger Association—Territory: New England, States. Fare one and a third on certificate.

Trunk Line Association—Territory: Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Dunkirk and Salamanca, N. Y.; Erie and Pittsburg, Pa.; Bellaire, Ohio; Wheeling, Parkersburg and Huntington, W. Va., and points east thereof except New England. Fare and a third on certificate.

Central Passenger Association—Territory: Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and portions of Pennsylvania and New York. One first-class fare for round trip.

The Michigan Passenger Association the same.

The Western Passenger Association—Fare, one and a third, (possibly better) certificate plan.

Southern Passenger Association—Territory: South of the Ohio and Potomac Rivers and east of the Mississippi River. One fare and a third on certificate.

Three or four days before leaving home (if you are to travel on the certificate plan) see that your ticket agent is supplied with necessary certificates.

Delegates using the Certificate plan will pay full fare going and get a certificate filled in on one side by the agent of whom the ticket is purchased. If, however, the ticket agent at a local station is not supplied with certificates and through tickets to the place of meeting, he can inform the delegate of the nearest important station where they can be obtained. In such case the delegate should purchase a local ticket to such station and there take up his certificate and through ticket to Detroit. Tickets for going passage will be sold only within three days (not including Sunday) prior to the day of meeting. Have your certificate signed by Adjutant General Abbott as soon as you reach Detroit so that they can be vised by special agent of the R. R. On presentation of the certificate, duly filled on both sides, to the ticket agent at Detroit, within three days after adjournment (Sunday excepted) the holder will be furnished return ticket for one-third regular fare. No refund fare will be made on account of any person failing to obtain a certificate.

Delegates are requested to correspond with the members of the

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT,

947 TREMONT BUILDING,

BOSTON, MASS., August 1, 1899.

GEN. FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U. S. A.
Chicago, Ill.

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER: I have the honor to submit my report for the quarter ending June 30, 1899:

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

CASH ON HAND:		PAID FOR:	
As per last report	\$ 1,112.71	Supplies, (including cost of shipping)	\$ 849.41
Received for supplies	1,114.29	Office expenses	257.45
Received for P. C. tax	1,382.60	General expenses	18.75
Received for charter fees. . .	64.00	Traveling expenses	162.09
Miscellaneous .....	.14	Salaries	750.00
		General orders	33.50
		17th National Encampment. .	390.49
		Furniture	32.08
		Miscellaneous	8.94
		Cash on hand	1,170.13
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$3,673.74		\$3,673.74

June 30, 1899. Supplies on hand as per inventory \$1,279.19.

GENERAL ACCOUNT, JUNE 30, 1899.

ASSETS:		LIABILITIES:	
Furniture	\$ 514.93	Various Divisions	\$ 34.47
Supplies	1,279.19	Surplus	3,002.95
Cash	1,170.13		
Various Divisions	73.17		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$3,037.42		\$3,037.42

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, JUNE 30, 1899.

LOSSES:		GAINS:	
General orders	\$ 33.50	Charter fees	\$ 64.00
Salaries	750.00	Per capita tax	1,382.60
Traveling expenses	162.09	Supplies (profit)	149.46
Office expenses	257.45		
General expenses	18.75		
17th National Encampment. .	390.49		
Balance (gain)	83.78		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	\$1,696.06		\$1,696.06

FRED E. BOLTON,
Quartermaster-General.

transportation committee of their respective localities. The committee is as follows:

Adj. Gen. G. B. Abbott, 84 La Salle St., Chicago.

Q. M. Gen. Fred E. Bolton, 947 Tremont Bldg., Boston.

Col. R. Loebenstein, Warrensburg, Mo.

Col. E. H. Archer, Columbus, Ohio.

Col. R. M. J. Reed, 32 N. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The official train will leave Chicago 11 p. m., Sept. 6th, via the Wabash R. R. Round trip fare from Chicago, \$7.75. The train leaving St. Louis at 8:40 p. m. same night, will be attached to official train at Montpelier, O. Round trip from St. Louis, \$13.00. All who can are invited to join official train. For sleeping car accommodations from Chicago, apply early to the Adjutant General; from St. Louis, to Col. B. W. Frauenthal, Union Station, St. Louis.

VI. As this order will be the last issued by this administration, the Commander-in-Chief desires to convey his deep appreciation of the universal kindness and devotion with which he has been honored by the brotherhood throughout the Order. The fraternal regard has been so manifest, the charitable lenity overlooking the many shortcomings, so freely given, the unswerving efforts to advance the interests of the order, so deep that it seems scarcely possible that the relations could have been happier. Indulging in the hope that these marks of consideration will continue until the gavel falls upon the completed work of this administration—nay until time and memory shall be no more, we pray God speed us in all things to His glory and the honor of our beloved country.

By Command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

GEO. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS.

CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 30, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS NO. 1.

Leave of absence for three months, to date from Sept. 12, 1898, with permission to go beyond the limits of his Division, is hereby granted to the following-named officer, who will at the expiration thereof report in writing to these headquarters: S. A. Crane, Senior Vice-Commander Michigan Division.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To S. A. Crane, Senior Vice-Division Commander, S.V., U.S.A., Deerfield, Mich.

CHICAGO, ILL., 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS NO. 2.

The attached is a true and correct transcript from the proceedings of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

You will promulgate the same through the Division of New Jersey and furnish a certified copy to Gen. Joe Hooker Camp No. 45, at Mt. Holly in said Division.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Col. James M. Mathews, Commanding New Jersey Division, S.V., U.S.A.

CHICAGO, ILL., Oct. 22, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS NO. 3.

Leave of absence for four months, to date from Nov. 1, 1898, with permission to go beyond the limits of his Division, is hereby granted to the following-named officer, who will, at the expiration thereof, report in writing to these headquarters: W. Glenn Walker, Senior Vice-Commander, Division of California and Hawaiian Islands.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To W. Glenn Walker, Senior Vice-Commander, S.V., U.S.A., Los Gatos, Cal.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 3, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 4.

Leave of absence from date to Feb. 7, 1899, is hereby granted the following named officer, with permission to go beyond the limits of his Division, who will at the expiration thereof report in writing to these headquarters: M. P. O'Flaherty, Junior Vice-Commander, Division of Rhode Island, S.V., U.S.A.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To M. P. O'Flaherty, Junior Vice-Commander, Providence, R I.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 14, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 5.

The following named officer is hereby appointed Assistant Inspector General to inspect the Quartermaster's Department of the Division of Missouri, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A. This will be his authority for so doing and he will be respected and obeyed accordingly. He will report to the Inspector General: Past Col. Rudolph Loebenstein, Warrensburg, Mo.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Rudolph Loebenstein, Warrensburg, Mo.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 28, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 6.

The charter of the following named Camp is hereby annulled upon the recommendation of the Colonel commanding the Division, it appearing that the Camp has failed to make reports and pay *per capita* tax for three quarters, and the Camp shows a membership of less than the required number for maintaining a charter. The Colonel of the Division will proceed to secure the Camp and Division property in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order, issuing transfer cards to such members as may be in good standing on the records of the Camp, if any there be: Lincoln Camp No. 10, Division of California, located at Santa Cruz.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Col. Chas. L Pierce, Commanding California Division, S.V, U.S.A., 18 Pine St., San Francisco, Cal.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 30, 1898.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 7.

The charter of the following named Camp is hereby annulled upon the recommendation of the Commander of the Division, it appearing that the Camp has failed to make reports and pay *per capita* tax for six months.

The Commander of the Division will proceed to secure the Camp Charter, and the Camp and Division property, in accordance with the provisions of

the Constitution, Rules and Regulations governing this case, and will issue transfer cards to such members as may be in good standing on the records of the Camp, if any there be. Stetson Camp No 203, Division of New York, located at Plattsburg.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Col. E. W. Estes, Commanding Division of New York, S.V., U.S.A., Albany, N.Y.

CHICAGO, ILL., Feb. 10, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDER No. 8.

The resignation of A. R. Jones, Commander of the Division of West Virginia, is hereby accepted, and the members of the Division Council are hereby ordered to elect by ballot, on the form herewith attached, a successor, and forward the same to the Adjutant-General immediately, who will canvass the vote, and in case a choice is made, report the same to the Commander-in-Chief, otherwise to ask for a second ballot, and proceed in this manner until a choice is made.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

CHICAGO, ILL., Feb. 11, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDER No. 9.

The office of the Commander of the Division of West Virginia having become vacant by resignation, the following named officer of the Commandery-in-Chief will proceed to Elkins, W. Va., audit the accounts of the recent Commander, A. R. Jones, receive from him all moneys and all other property belonging to the Division of West Virginia, giving a receipt therefor and forward the same in accordance with instructions accompanying herewith.

He is authorized and empowered to represent the person of the Commander-in-Chief in his official capacity, and perform such acts as the Commander-in-Chief himself would be empowered to do in this case.

The travelling expenses incurred are necessary for the good of the service of the Sons of Veterans: Member of the Council-in-Chief H. H. Hammer, Reading, Pa.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

CHICAGO, ILL., March 22, 1899

SPECIAL ORDER No. 10.

It appearing that the Division Commander and the Senior Vice-Commander of the Division of Oregon having left said Division for more than thirty days, without leave of absence from these headquarters, and these headquarters being uninformed when, if ever, either will return to the confines of said Division, the following named officer is hereby ordered on duty, directed to assume command of said Division of Oregon, and is authorized and empowered to administer the affairs of said Division as acting commander, until otherwise ordered from these headquarters.

He is authorized to relieve from office and appoint such Division staff officers as in his judgment the best interests of the Division may require: Junior Vice Division Commander, Walter Ross, Eugene, Ore.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Walter Ross, Junior Vice-Commander, Division of Oregon, S.V., U.S.A., Eugene, Ore

CHICAGO, ILL., April 17, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDER No. 11.

Good and sufficient reasons appearing and for the good of the Order, you are hereby authorized and empowered to reinstate and place in good standing in the Division of Maryland and District of Columbia, Lincoln Camp No. 9 of Baltimore, upon the payment of the requisite tax; said Camp having been suspended and its charter revoked for the non-payment of *per capita* tax.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Col. Wm. B. King, Commanding Division of Md. and D C., S.V., U.S.A.

CHICAGO, ILL., May 24, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDER No. 12.

You are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to convene the Council of the Division of Oregon, S.V., U.S.A., at McMinnville, State of Oregon, June 21, 1899, for the purpose of electing a Commander for the unexpired term caused by the departure of A. Q. Desart from within the borders of his Division for more than thirty days without leave of absence or authority from the Commander-in-Chief. You are also authorized to install or cause to be installed the person there elected to fill the unexpired term. The Council is also authorized to fill such other vacancies as may legally exist in the elective Division offices at the same time.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Walter Ross, Junior Vice-Commander, Commanding Oregon Division, S.V., U.S.A., Eugene, Ore.

CHICAGO, ILL., May 26, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDER No. 13.

The following named officer is hereby detailed to install the officers elected at the Encampment of the Division of California and the Hawaiian Islands, which Encampment will be held at San Francisco, Cal., June 5, 1898. He will report to the Adjutant-General on Forms 49 and 50. This will be his authority for such installation: Past Division Commander Frank W. Bunnell, Los Angeles, Cal.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Frank W. Bunnell, Los Angeles, Cal.

CHICAGO, ILL., May 26, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDER No. 14.

The charter of the following named Camp is hereby annulled upon the recommendation of the Colonel commanding the Division, it appearing that the Camp has failed to make reports and pay *per capita* tax for three years. The Colonel of the Division will proceed to secure the Camp and Division property in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order, issuing transfer cards to such members as may be in good standing on the records of the Camp, if any there be. Captain Wiltz Camp No. 4, Division of California, located at Honolulu, H.I.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Col. Charles L. Pierce, Commanding California Division, S.V., U.S.A.,
13 Pine street, San Francisco, Cal.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 12, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDER No. 15.

The charter of the following named Camp is hereby annulled upon the recommendation of the Colonel commanding the Division, it appearing that the Camp has failed to make reports and pay *per capita* tax for three quarters, and the Camp shows a membership of less than the required number for maintaining a charter. The Colonel of the Division will proceed to secure the Camp and Division property in accordance with the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Order, issuing transfer cards to such members as may be in good standing on the records of the Camp, if any there be. Townsend Camp No. 1, Division of New York, located at Albany.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Col. E. W. Estes, Commanding New York Division, S.V., U.S.A.,
Albany, N.Y.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 12, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 16.

The following named officer is hereby detailed to install the officers elected at the Encampment of the Division of Vermont, which Encampment will be held at Bradford, Vermont, June 14 and 15, 1899. He will report to the Adjutant-General on Forms 49 and 50. This will be his authority for such installation: Division Commander W. W. Lapoint, Barre, Vt.

By command of

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Adjutant-General.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief.

To Col. W. W. Lapoint, Commanding Division of Vermont, S.V., U.S.A.,
Barre, Vt.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 20, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 17.

The resignation of the following named officer having been forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief with the endorsement of the Division Commander, the same is hereby accepted, and Commander Harry T. Moore of the Division of California is hereby directed, authorized and empowered to cause the Division Council of California to elect a successor to fill the vacancy hereby created, and report the result of the election to these headquarters: Frank R. Handley, Junior Vice Division Commander elect, Division of California, S.V., U.S.A., residing in San Francisco, Cal.

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant-General.

To Col. Harry T. Moore, Commanding California Division, S.V., U.S.A.,
San Francisco, Cal.

CHICAGO, ILL., June 22, 1899.

SPECIAL ORDERS No. 18.

Special Order No. 15 is hereby withdrawn on condition that Townsend Camp No. 1 of the Division of New York shall have liquidated all of its indebtedness to that Division before the convening of its Sixteenth Annual Encampment

By command of

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief.

Official:

G. B. ABBOTT,

Adjutant-General.

To Col. E. W. Estes, Albany, N.Y.

CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF,

Sons of Veterans, U. S. A.

CIRCULAR
No. 1.

SOUTH FRANKFORT, MICH., JAN. 25, 1899.

DEAR BROTHERS:

There are epochs in national history that stand out as stars in the galaxy of Heaven, more bright and interesting than others. There are lives that seem as suns amid stars as we read the biographies of men. There are these characters in national life that have reflected upon the world the brightest glory of the highest type of manhood. There are fixed stars—stars of the first magnitude—and in this class we place the name of Abraham Lincoln. Not strange is it that the birthday of such a character should be remembered by a nation he loved and served, and for which he lost his life. We love to think of Lincoln, for thoughts of him bring always holy ambitions and a greater love for that which is true. His birthday marks an epoch in history. He it was who called for "Union Defenders" at a time when disunion threatened the national life. He it was who so skillfully directed the ship of state during those stormy winds of unsettled opinion. He it was who became the victim of an assassin's rage, and breathed out upon the country's altar his life blood, so loyal and true to the best interests of our nation.

Brothers, remember our fathers responded to the call of Lincoln. Now, let us respond to the call to do honor again to the day which ushered this brilliant star into our satellite system—a star which so rapidly became the center, around which there clustered hundreds of thousands whose lives shone with heroic patriotism.

As February 12, 1899, falls upon Sunday, we advise that the program be given Saturday or Monday night, and that pastors of various churches be requested to preach appropriate sermons upon the day proper. Let interesting programs be prepared by every camp, consisting of patriotic songs, inspiring recitals, addresses, etc.

We call special attention to Sec. VI, of General Order No. 6. The National Monument Committee, organized for the erection of a national memorial to the dead heroes of the Cuban battlefields and the martyrs of the Maine, has invited our Order to hold special services in connection with that noble cause, and we endorse the recommendation of Commander-in-Chief Frank L. Shepard, that the services be held in connection with "Union Defenders' Day." Circulars in reference to this matter will be forwarded to each camp by the Commander-in-Chief.

The heroes who died for the cause of Cuban liberty deserve a warm place in memory. The noble boys who lost their lives in the shocking Maine disaster should have no less a favored place in memory's book. Many of them were our brothers, and their seats in the Camps are now vacant. Give them recognition in the program for "Union Defenders' Day." God bless the nation's brave. Let us rally to the standard. May memory never lose the influences stamped upon our lives by men like Lincoln. Let us thank God that they ever lived and brought into our national life so much of light, wisdom and patriotism.

Yours in F. C. and L.,

ARTHUR J. MORRIS,
Chaplain-in-Chief.

HEADQUARTERS

Chaplain-in-Chief.



FRANKFORT MICH., May 4, 1899.

CIRCULAR }
No. 2 }

DEAR BROTHERS: Memorial Day is close at hand. With it comes sacred duties. We are to stand by the side of our fathers in the Grand Army of the Republic and render to them any assistance they may need. They are the directors and we their associates in the work of Memorial Day. Rapidly are they falling into graves to be kept sacred with flowers of remembrance in the future of the Sons of Veterans.

Let us do honor, not alone to those who have passed away, but also to those living heroes in whose presence we have the exalted privilege of meeting. May we by our kindness bring a little more of sunshine into the closing years of their lives.

A nation like ours, could not well forget its brave, and thus a day we term "Memorial" has been dedicated to the expressed object of remembering the fallen, who once in the strength of young manhood faced death, starvation and suffering, if by this they might sustain the flag of the Union.

This is a holiday, yet of a far different character than other days we term such. Instead of thoughtless, irreverent deportment, we should by our example show to the Nation that we appreciate the honor the day brings to our fathers. There are responsibilities connected with the day and largely do they rest upon the Sons of Veterans order. Do not lead, however, in the preparation for Memorial Day. Submit to the wishes of the fathers, for whom the day has been consecrated. Lead only where this is their request. Stand by their side, ready to bring to them help and cheer.

May there be an observance of the Day in the absence of games and sports, as well as in the special program prepared for the occasion.

As you place a flower upon the grave of him, who in the years past gave his service and then his life for the Nation, remember that some one will place a flower soon upon the grave of your father or brother. Oh, let us in tenderness remember the two millions of men who saved the Nation from disunion.

Let Tuesday May 30, be duly observed as Memorial Day throughout our orders. May no soldier's grave be neglected. Remember also the brothers who during the last few months gave life and its brightest hopes for the Nation in the Spanish-American War.

Endeavor to have Memorial Sunday, May 28, duly observed in the churches by appropriate services. Where possible let our brothers in the camps march in a company to the church with the Grand Army comrades.

We trust every Camp Chaplain will be prompt in sending his report to the Chaplain of his Division, and also that each Division Chaplain will be able to consolidate reports promptly and forward to this office.

Yours in F. C. and I.,

Rev. A. J. MORRIS,

Chaplain-in-Chief.

Approved:

FRANK L. SHEPARD,

Commander-in-Chief.

The Commander-in-Chief: Next in the order of business is the reading of the report of the Quartermaster-General. We will listen to the report of the Quartermaster-General.

REPORT OF QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

Quartermaster-General: Commander, before I read my report I would like to say in connection with the little pleasantry on the part of the Adjutant-General, that my position may be consistent, if he will view it from the point that as the Adjutant-General I dealt with what I thought ought to be done, and as Quartermaster-General I again dealt with what I thought ought to be done. That is to say, as Adjutant-General, I saw a number of blanks that needed correction, and as Quartermaster-General, I found a considerable supply of such blanks that should be disposed of before we have any new ones printed. I now beg leave to submit the following report:

To FRANK L. SHEPARD, *Commander-in-Chief.*

Sir: I have the honor to submit my report of the business of the Quartermaster-General's department for the term ending Aug. 23, 1899.

REPORT SUPPLEMENTAL TO REPORT TO SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT.

Cash on hand, as shown by report	\$1,986 59	
Received for <i>per capita</i> tax	96 07	
" " charter fees	12 00	
" " miscellaneous	20 60	
		\$2,115 26
Paid for supplies	1 40	
" " office expenses	13 97	
" " general expenses	32 20	
" " gold star, Commander-in-Chief	150 00	
" " salaries	250 00	
" " charter fee (refunded)	2 00	
" " expenses Seventeenth Annual Encampment	774 81	
		1,224 38
Cash on hand at beginning of administration		\$890 88

RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES FROM SEPT. 14, 1898, TO AUG. 23, 1899.

RECEIPTS.

Cash received from Past Q M.-Gen. Loebenstein	\$890 88	
" " for supplies	\$3,263 83	
" " " <i>per capita</i> tax	4,854 21	
" " " charter fees	186 00	
" " " monument fund	20 00	
" " " miscellaneous	8 61	
		\$8,332 65
Total cash receipts		\$9,223 53

EXPENDITURES.

Expenses of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment in addition to those paid by preceding administration:—		
W. S. Garber	\$44 00	
Inspector-General Durston (bal. due)	2 00	
Proceedings	363 49	
Past Commander Courtney, account inspection Oregon Division	25 00	
		\$436 49
Amount carried forward		\$436 49

<i>Amount brought forward</i>		\$436 49	
Travelling expenses:			
Commander-in-Chief	175	47	
Adjutant-General	95	59	
H. H. Hammer, Council-in-Chief, account inspection, etc. West Virginia Division	30	54	
			301 60
Supplies:			
Badges and decorations	\$1,589	60	
Camp and division supplies	863	00	
Cost of shipping	93	11	
Wrapping paper, twine, etc.	7	14	
			2,552 85
Office expenses:			
Rent, Commandery	\$240	00	
" Quartermaster-General	240	*3	
Light and toilet supplies, Commandery	38	87	
" " " Q.M.-General	20	59	
Telegrams and Express, Commandery	40	38	
" " " Q.M.-General	12	07	
Postage	177	23	
" Q.M.-General	43	00	
Stationery, all National Officers	53	50	
" Commandery	55	98	
" Q.M.-General	20	94	
Record books, Q.M.-General	55	25	
Repairs, typewriting machines Commandery and Q.M.-General	13	55	
Clerical Services, (Commandery Card Index, Records, etc.)	88	00	
Miscellaneous	28	08	1,128 27
General Expenses:			
Moving Commandery headquarters	\$30	00	
" Q.M.-General	66	61	
Gold star, Commander-in-Chief	150	00	
Gold cross, Past Q.M.-Gen. Loebenstein	50	00	
Bond, Commander-in-Chief	25	00	
Blanks furnished free to Divisions	41	75	
Password and Countersign	5	63	
Insurance, Q.M.-General	16	20	
Blanks for Roster Spanish-American War	4	55	
Floral tribute funeral A. P. Davis	15	00	
Roster Division Commanders 1899, 1900	2	00	
Miscellaneous	4	90	411 64
Furniture			32 98
Salaries			2,800 00
General Orders			126 60
Eighteenth Annual Encampment			34 00
Miscellaneous			21 08
			<u>7,845 51</u>
Total Expenditures			1,378 02
Balace cash on hand			
Supplies on hand, inventoried at cost			\$1,119 62

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief on Aug. 31, 1898, was as follows:

GENERAL ACCOUNT, AUG. 31, 1898

<i>Assets.</i>		<i>Liabilities.</i>	
<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Furniture	\$481 95	Due to Divisions	\$ 19 62
Supplies	1,342 72	Surplus	3,821 60
Cash	1,986 59		
Due from Divisions	29 96		
	<u>\$3,841 22</u>		<u>\$3,841 22</u>

The financial condition of the Commandery-in-Chief at the close of business Aug. 23, 1899, is as follows:

GENERAL ACCOUNT, AUG. 23, 1899.

<i>Assets.</i>		<i>Liabilities.</i>	
<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Furniture	\$463 44	Due to Divisions	\$30 91
Supplies	1,119 82	Monument Fund	20 00
Cash	1,378 02	Surplus	2,917 91
Due from Divisions	7 54		
	<u>\$2,968 82</u>		<u>\$2,968 82</u>

The account of Profit and Loss from Sept. 14, 1898, to Aug. 23, 1899, is as follows:

PROFIT AND LOSS, SEPT. 14, 1898, TO AUG. 23, 1899.

<i>* Losses.</i>		<i>† Gains.</i>	
<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
Furniture (10% reduction),	\$51 49	Charter fees	\$186 00
Supplies	243 42	Per capita tax	4,869 01
Salaries	2,800 00	Supplies	706 12
General Orders	126 60		
Travelling expenses	301 60		
Office expenses	1,128 27		
General Expenses	411 64		
Seventeenth Annual Encampment	461 49		
Eighteenth Annual Encampment	34 00		
Balance (net gain)	202 62		
	<u>\$5,761 13</u>		<u>\$5,761 13</u>

* Of this amount \$213.50 account issue New Rituals (free).

† Of this amount \$14.80 account credit of \$25.00, extended by Seventeenth Encampment to Oregon Division.

While the balance of cash on hand is considerably less than one year ago, and the surplus account has been reduced, the financial showing for the year, taking everything into consideration, is not unsatisfactory. The efforts of Commander-in-Chief Shepard and Adjutant-General Abbott to administer to the affairs of the Order in a dignified and economical manner are worthy of your commendation.

The total cash receipts were \$2,475.73 less than those of last year, but on the other hand the expenditures were likewise in a lesser amount to the extent of \$1,686.33. Some of the expenditures may be properly termed extraordinary, from the fact that their recurrence for another year at least, is not probable. The replenishing of a reduced stock of supplies of the more expensive forms, and the publication of the new Ritual, represent a part of such expenditures. The free exchange of Rituals alone required an outlay of \$213.50.

In connection with the matter of printing I am pleased to say that the comparative cost of supplies purchased has been reduced about thirteen per cent (13%).

Divisions are indebted to the Commandery-in-Chief in the following amounts: Gulf, \$4.61; West Virginia, \$0.28.

The following Divisions have balances to their credit: California, \$3.33; Colorado, \$1.04; Connecticut, \$0.37; Illinois, \$0.20; Maine, \$0.40; Minnesota, \$0.45; Nebraska, \$0.60; New Hampshire, \$0.26; Oregon, \$9.76; Pennsylvania, \$12.41; Rhode Island, \$0.13; South Dakota, \$0.14; Vermont, \$0.68; Washington, \$0.36; Wisconsin, \$0.78.

At the date of this report the Divisions of Alabama and Tennessee and the Gulf are in arrears for *per capita* tax, for the quarter ending June 30, 1899.

I have received and filed the bonds, duly approved by the Commander-in-Chief, of the commanders of the Divisions of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The vote of the last Encampment providing for the free issuance of the new Ritual to those Camps in good standing on the quarter ending Dec. 31, 1898, has been carried into effect; the time required to accomplish this covering a period of six months from the date of issue.

With the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, a Circular Letter was promulgated to Division Commanders setting forth the rules to be observed and the conditions governing the exchange of Rituals. Each Camp returning pages 35-37 of an old Ritual received a new one free of charge. If the vouchers returned were less than the number of Rituals allowable to each Camp (5) it was required that the Divisions be paid for the missing Rituals, the Divisions in turn reimbursing the Commandery-in-Chief. In this manner 4,250 Rituals were issued free of charge to Camps at a cost of \$213.50 to the Commandery-in-Chief. The practicability of requiring payment for Rituals unaccounted for by Camps, is shown by the receipt of \$132.80 from this source. The issue to each Division is shown by the following table:—

Alabama and Tennessee	34
California	59
Colorado	16
Connecticut	112
Gulf	
Illinois	276

Indiana	170
Iowa	197
Kansas	208
Kentucky	34
Maine	188
Maryland	90
Massachusetts	548
Michigan	170
Minnesota	74
Missouri	135
Nebraska	50
New Hampshire	96
New Jersey	102
New York	486
Ohio	242
Oregon	19
Pennsylvania	570
Rhode Island	45
South Dakota	37
Vermont	152
Washington	46
West Virginia	9
Wisconsin	91
Total	4,250

During the year death has removed the founder of our Order, Maj. A. P. Davis, whose services for the organization are so well known to its members. The death of this worthy gentleman in addition to being a personal loss, affects to a great degree the vital interests of our finances. It is known to the delegates of this Encampment that Major Davis was for many years in charge of the badge and decoration department and supervised the manufacture of the same. By contract it was agreed that during his life he was to enjoy this privilege, and the purchase of all badges used by this organization made of him. At his death the patent rights, designs, etc., were to revert to the Commandery-in-chief, as I understand the conditions.

The sale of badges and decorations is one of the principal sources of our income, and heretofore the profits to the Commandery have been exceedingly small, the greater portion thereof being received by Major Davis. It is not necessary to indulge in speculation as to the amount these profits represented to him, that they represented what was practically an established business to him can be conservatively assumed.

Under these circumstances this Encampment must take some action that will provide for the continuance of the manufacture of the various badges and decorations heretofore provided. It would seem that the most consistent and businesslike action that can be taken would be to provide that hereafter this form of supplies be handled in the same manner as the other articles controlled by the Order, and the manufacture thereof be assumed through the proper officers whom you will designate. To do this, will be to subserve the interests of the Order and to materially increase its revenues.

An extended correspondence upon this subject has passed between the Commander-in-Chief and this department, and his able presentation of what has transpired and logical recommendations upon the matter

are in full accord with my individual views and need no further comment.

By an agreement between Mrs. A. P. Davis, widow of the deceased and executrix of his estate, a purchase of a considerable stock of badges, etc., has been made at prices advantageous to the Order. The stock includes 1,541 membership badges, 393 iron crosses, 100 enamel buttons, 100 enamel pins, 112 oxydized silver buttons, 100 oxydized silver pins, 386 bronze buttons, 100 bronze pins, 66 bar buttons, 2,000 tri-color ribbons, 1,000 blue ribbons, 896 red ribbons, 2 bolts yellow ribbon, 500 blind keeps for crosses, all dies, cutters, etc., for badges and crosses. The price to be paid for these goods aggregates \$341.99.

Attention is respectfully called to the item in the financial statement designated as "Monument Fund," which was received through the Adjutant-General and specified as a contribution from the Minnesota Division, for a monument for Maj. A. P. Davis.

In conclusion, I desire to thankfully acknowledge the invariable courtesy and kindness of the Division officers who have had official relations with this department. Assuming the office quite unfamiliar with the routine and system required to properly administer to its affairs, I feel that possibly many things have been left undone through lack of that technical knowledge that experience alone brings. It is therefore all the more reason why I appreciate the charitable and fraternal consideration of my shortcomings, which were, I assure you, not from the lack of good intentions.

Succeeding the peerless Loebenstein who gave six years of splendid service, I shall be content if this, my first report, with all of its imperfections, is acceptable to you.

To Commander-in-Chief Shepard, our loyal, zealous and capable leader, I am indebted for favors without number. The year that is now closing our official relations will be cherished for its pleasant memories. This intercourse, beyond being so agreeable, has but served to strengthen the bonds of personal friendship, and increase my admiration for one of the most honorable, manly men it has ever been my privilege to know, and for whom I sincerely wish the choicest of life's blessings for all future time.

The lion-hearted Abbott has brought to the position of Adjutant-General that experience gained by long and constant service for the Order from the lowest to the highest rank within the gift of the Order, and leaves me his debtor for marked courtesies and kindness.

Assistant Quartermaster-General Hannon, a most faithful friend and associate, has been a tower of strength and encouragement to me personally, and has rendered the most valuable of services. I desire to record herein my most grateful appreciation of his loyalty.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

FRED E. BOLTON,
Quartermaster-General.

The Commander-in-Chief: The report will go to the Committee on Officers' Reports under the rule. The Commandery will now listen to the report of the Inspector-General, Forrest W. Briggs.



FRED E. BOLTON.
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL.

Inspector-General Briggs submitted the following report: —

REPORT OF INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Gen. FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief and Brothers:

In submitting this my report to the inspection department of our Order I cannot but deplore the negligence of the many Inspectors who failed totally to send me their consolidated reports, thus depriving their respective Divisions of any credit for the work done during the past year.

DIVISION INSPECTIONS.

Regarding the inspections of Division headquarters, would say they are as necessary as a Camp inspection, since they show that in some Divisions the Commanders are very careless or are not careful readers of our Constitution, Rules and Regulations. This will be shown you by the following: —

1. Every Division has a charter.
2. All Divisions have a regularly adopted set of By-Laws, except Oregon, Colorado, Gulf and Iowa.
3. (a) All Divisions keep a record of their Division proceedings, and all possess the minutes of their Division Council meetings, except Washington and Illinois.
(b) All Divisions keep a register of members except Wisconsin.
(c) A roster of officers is kept by all Divisions except South Dakota.
(d) All Divisions keep a record of commissions except Ohio.
(e) A record of dispensations is not kept by Wisconsin and West Virginia.
(f) Ohio and Vermont are the only Divisions who do not possess a Black Book, properly kept.
(g) An Adjutant's cash book is kept by all Divisions except Kansas.
(h) The Quartermaster's cash book is not properly kept in the Division of West Virginia.
(i) All Divisions except Massachusetts and West Virginia keep a ledger.
4. The Quartermasters of Colorado, West Virginia and Wisconsin do not keep an account with each Camp as provided for.
6. Division accounts are properly kept in all Divisions except Colorado and West Virginia.
7. The Divisions reported in debt are Iowa, Kansas, Indiana, South Dakota, Ohio, Michigan, Nebraska, Illinois and New Hampshire, and Vermont; Vermont owing the least, \$20; Kansas the most, \$346. Total indebtedness \$936.54.
8. All Divisions except one have money in their treasury, the total cash balance being \$3,400, a decrease from last year of \$39.60. Massachusetts leads with the largest amount, \$633.53. Pennsylvania follows with \$526.48, and New York third with \$435.39. The smallest cash balance shown, West Virginia, \$5.92. Nebraska, 0.

9. All Divisions have supplies on hand, the total value being \$1,236.31.

10. All supplies in use are furnished by the Commandery-in-Chief and are current.

11. Each Division Commander has filed a bond as prescribed by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, except South Dakota, the average figure being \$2,000.

12. The Quartermasters in the Divisions of Oregon, West Virginia, Illinois and the Gulf, are reported as not having given bonds.

13. Four Divisions pay no salary and the remainder give compensation ranging from \$1.00 in California to the Division of Pennsylvania whose salary list amounts to \$1,000.00, while Ohio allows ten per cent gross receipts from Camps divided between the Adjutant and Quartermaster.

14. There are 29,801 members in good standing, average, 1,104. Pennsylvania leads with a membership of 6,825. West Virginia reports a membership of only 45.

15. 1,051 Camps were reported in good standing, an average of 36 to each Division.

16, 17, 18, 19. The total Camps organized is 4,936; the total number disbanded 3,007; the total suspended and not reinstated, 1,548. Total number Camps suspended during the last year 360.

20. 13 Divisions rendered the G.A.R. service the past year; 14 did not.

21. 3 Divisions held field days and 24 did not.

22. According to the reports of the Assistant Inspector-Generals all correspondence is promptly and thoroughly attended to except in West Virginia.

23. All orders of the Commander-in-Chief are promptly mailed.

24. Camp requisitions are filled by every Quartermaster, except West Virginia.

25. (a) All Division Commanders are familiar with the secret work except West Virginia.

(b) All but two Adjutants are familiar with the same work.

(c) All but nine Inspectors are familiar with the same.

(d) All but two Mustering Officers are familiar with the same.

26. 27 Division Commanders issue circulars to the G.A.R. officials regarding our Order and to the formation of new Camps; 2 do not.

27. Several Divisions report that the G.A.R. do not assist Camps to any extent, and others that they are in the heartiest sympathy at any and all times.

28. 29. The L.A.S. is established in all but 9 Divisions, and from the reports gleaned from various headquarters it appears that wherever an aid exists it is of material benefit to the Camp with which it is connected.

30. I find that in 13 Divisions the social feature predominates; 10 are military and 9 are divided.

31. 32. 14 Divisions charge \$15 for a charter; one, \$18; eleven, \$20; one, \$22, and one \$30. A charter and all Camp supplies are fur-

nished as prescribed in the Constitution, Rules and Regulations; some Divisions include a Camp seal and the expenses of the mustering officer.

33. The total expense or cost of the inspection of 27 Division headquarters amounted to \$49.30, a decrease of \$322.75 over last year; an average of \$1.80 to each Division.

CAMP INSPECTIONS.

Regarding Camp inspections would say that they have not been as full and as complete this year as we had hoped for. There are several reasons for this, the chief one being the Spanish-American war.

The following Divisions are not rated in the tables, they not having reported, although every effort was made to secure them, even to a personal order from General Shepard, but without avail: Colorado, Gulf, Indiana, Missouri and West Virginia.

The reports of some of the Division inspectors were models of neatness and accuracy, while others contained room for improvement; some were practically of no value whatever and caused considerable delay and annoyance, as it was necessary to thoroughly revise and correct them before they were of the slightest use. Some failed entirely to make out a consolidated report, merely sending in their blanks of Camp inspections; fully 75% of them contained errors of one kind or another and beside several reports were on old forms, and the fact that the questions and numbers did not correspond, entailed a vast amount of work upon this department.

A comparative statement of the results obtained from questions Nos. 1 to 20 inclusive are as follows:—

1. 374 Captains received a mark of excellent on this question, a loss from last year of 60; 163 were Good, 148 Fair and 88 Poor.

2. 218 Captains were marked Perfect on their degree work, a loss of 35; 157 were Good, 177 Fair and 222 Poor.

3. 276 1st Lieutenants were Perfect in their ritualistic work, a loss of 17; 160 were Good, 181 Fair and 147 Poor.

4. 268 2d Lieutenants have committed their degree work to memory, a loss of 19; 153 were Good, 189 Fair and 153 Poor.

5. 255 Chaplains were Perfect, a loss of 9; 127 were Good, 236 Fair and 175 Poor.

6. 290 Sergeants of the Guard were Perfect, a loss of 52; 260 were Good, 171 Fair and 141 Poor.

7. But 332 officers were regular in their attendance, a loss of 104; 239 were Good, 133 Fair and 60 Poor.

8. 332 Camps show a gain in membership since last year, a loss of 106; 117 were Good, 88 Fair and 226 Poor.

9. 611 Camp records were correctly kept, a loss of 134; 98 were Good, 41 Fair and 28 Poor.

10. But 625 Quartermasters have filed bonds, a decrease of 140; 60 were Good, 47 Fair and 52 Poor.

11. 436 Camp officers are reported as uniformed, a loss of 80; while 90 were nearly so, 78 in part and 149 have none at all.

12. 419 Officers wear rank straps and side arms, a loss of 20; 107 received a rating of Good on this question, 95 were Fair and 126 Poor.

13. 623 Camp rooms were properly equipped and marked Excellent, a loss of 112; 93 were Good, 33 Fair and 54 Poor.

14. 448 Staff officers are reported as being provided with proper chevrons, a loss of 49; 47 were Good, 43 Fair and 126 Poor.

15. 366 Camps are reported as fully uniformed, a loss of 106 as against a loss of 457 last year; 107 were partly uniformed, 101 made a fair showing, and 60 have none whatever.

16. 695 Camps present their recruits with a badge, a loss of 196; 20 were Good, 18 Fair and 37 omit it entirely.

17. General Orders are read in 779 Camps; 32 read them occasionally, 16 generally, 11 make no pretence of paying the slightest attention to the commands of their superior officers.

18. 793 of the Camps inspected observe Memorial Day; 20 were marked Good, 19 Fair and 28 disregarded the day altogether.

19. Reports and dues are forwarded promptly in 584 Camps; 88 are Good in this respect, 37 Fair and 35 Poor.

20. 578 Camps forwarded their Surgeons' and Chaplains' reports promptly; 38 received mark of Good, 48 Fair and 64 Poor.

The following information is gathered from replies to questions Nos. 21 to 37:—

21. Total members in good standing 23,911, average 854.

22. Number of members dropped during last year 25,553, average 91.

23. Number of special meetings held 828, average 30.

24. Total value of Camp property \$182,799.43, average \$6,527.55.

25. Amount of funds over total indebtedness \$60,828.68, average \$2,176.90.

26. Amount charged for annual dues \$2,389.97, average \$85.32.

27. Amount charged for muster fee \$1,389.75, average \$49.25.

28. (a) Number of members relieved 660, average 24.

(b) Amount expended \$9,796.83, average \$349.80.

29. Money spent for the relief of veterans and their families \$1,129.38, average \$40.33.

30. Number of Camps equipped, 555; 522 infantry, 17 cavalry, 14 artillery, 1 signal corps, 1 ambulance corps and 1 band.

31. Number of members equipped with arms and accoutrements \$6,804, average 207.

32. (a) Number of Camps who engage in regular drill 466, average 17.

(b) Number who do not 375, average 14.

33. (a) Number of Camps who have aided the local G.A.R. or W.R.C. 375, average 13.

(b) Number who do not 472, average 17.

34. (a) Number of Camps having a Ladies' Aid Society 259, average 9.

(b) Number who do not 454, average 16.

35. (a) Number of Camps where local G.A.R. attend meeting and encourage the Camp 431, average 15.

(b) Number who do not 354, average 13.

36. (a) Number of Camps who hold social gatherings 413, average 15.

(b) Number who do not 286, average 10.

37. Total cost of Camp inspection \$806.33, average \$28.80.

DIVISION.	Number of Camps in Division.	Number Inspected.	Number not Inspected.	Surrendered Charter since last inspection.
Alabama and Tennessee.....	12	9	2	7
California and H.I.....	17	14	2	10
Connecticut.....	26	25	1	1
Illinois.....	74	56	18	
Indiana.....				
Iowa.....	47	25	22	21
Kansas.....	54	42	12	
Kentucky.....	16	8	8	
Maine.....	48	48		
Maryland.....	24	17	7	
Massachusetts.....	123	121	2	
Michigan.....	38	18	20	2
Minnesota.....	21	10	11	
Nebraska.....	20	14	6	
New Hampshire.....	20	19	1	1
New Jersey.....	24	24		
New York.....	162	92	70	10
Ohio.....	107	35	72	
Oregon.....	6	4	2	
Pennsylvania.....	154	117	37	7
Rhode Island.....	9	7	2	2
South Dakota.....	14	9	5	1
Vermont.....	10	40		
Washington.....	15	8	7	6
Wisconsin.....	17	15	2	
Total.....	1,018	877	238	67

DIVISION INSPECTORS, 1898.

Alabama and Tennessee	Charles R. Barker	Anniston, Ala.
California	A. G. Bennet	San Jose, Cal.
Colorado	(none reported)	
Connecticut	M. M. Frisbie	Southington, Conn.
Gulf	(none reported)	
Illinois	Geo. H. Williams	Plainfield, Ill.
Indiana	(none reported)	
Iowa	B. Fisber	Creston, Ia.
Kansas	J. S. Alexander	Florence, Kan.
Kentucky	Henry F. Hoeger	Louisville, Ky.
Maine	Fred E. Hooper	Bath, Me.
Maryland and D.C.	Chas. R. Jacobs	Washington, D.C.
Minnesota	A. O. Allen	Wells, Minn.
Missouri	Frank R. Burns	Carthage, Mo.
Nebraska	John G. Kuhn	Omaha, Neb.
New Hampshire	D. H. McLinn	Plymouth, N.H.
New Jersey	Geo. S. Bogert	Bayonne, N.J.
New York	Chas. H. E. Moran	Albany, N.Y.
Ohio	A. B. L. Booth	Lockland, O.
Oregon	C. B. Orai	Prine, Ore.
Pennsylvania	Fred A. Demols	Wilkesbarre, Pa.
Rhode Island	Geo. W. Hoxie	Shannock, R.I.
*South Dakota	C. R. Fisher	Redfield, So. Dak.
Vermont (probably)	Ira Morse	Cambridge, Vt.
Washington	H. C. Phillips	Goldendale, Wash.

*No report.

DIVISION INSPECTORS — *Continued.*

West Virginia	W. H. Taylor	Wheeling, W. Va.
Wisconsin	W. E. Hitchcock	Antigo, Wis.
Michigan	Louis B. Kanitz, Jr.	Muskegan, Mich.
Massachusetts	William E. Jennings	New Bedford, Mass.

As will be seen by the report just read, there has not been the advancement in the Order that was expected. Of course every one will give you a reason for it, but in my estimation, there are various reasons, and I will not take up your valuable time reciting them. That our inspections do not produce the facts or benefits sought cannot be denied and the only remedy for this is the enforcing of a uniform inspection or abolishing the Division Inspection altogether; as they now are they seem to me more like a farce than a true inspection.

Why did Maine and Vermont succeed in inspecting all their Camps? Simply from the fact that they have systematized their work and when the time comes for inspection the Assistant Inspectors push their work with such vigor as to make a thorough and complete inspection of every Camp assigned them.

I would recommend that all Division Inspectors be compelled to return their consolidated reports to the Inspector-General not later than June 20, so that he may have a little time to do his work, and not be compelled as I have been this year, to make out the annual report the week before the Encampment, through delay in receiving reports and making out consolidated reports for the different Inspectors.

It is with great pleasure that at this time I can be permitted to thank publicly the various Inspectors who were prompt and efficient in performing the duties of their office. Every year the Inspector-General has called the attention of the Division Commanders to the importance of filling this office with careful workers, and it has no doubt borne fruit, but there is room for much improvement, and I trust it will be made, for the Inspector-General certainly should not be expected to make the averages, percentages, etc., for Division Inspectors. Yet I had to do this work on the reports of fifteen Divisions and that will be unnecessary when competent brothers are appointed in every Division.

I cannot close this, my annual report, without thanking the various members of the Order who have so kindly answered my every demand made upon them, and especially you, General Shepard, and your admirable assistants, Generals Abbott and Bolton; and to J. L. Rake for the uniform courtesy extended to me at all times in the performance of my duties and the excellent assistance rendered. Feeling, as I do, considerably put out regarding the poor showing made by me this year against my predecessor, but knowing in my own heart that I have done everything in my power to produce the best showing, I must lay the blame where it belongs, upon the Division Inspectors, who totally failed in their duties by not reporting at all, and any errors made by me were those of the heart and not intentional.

Thanking you one and all for your attention, I am

Fraternally yours,

FORREST W. BRIGGS, *Inspector-General.*

EXHIBIT "A."
Table Showing Totals for First Ten Questions.

DIVISION.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.
Ala. and Tenn.	3	1	5	7	3	2	1	1	2	6	2	1	4	2	1	6	4	1	6	3
Cal. and H.I.	5	6	4	4	4	5	3	3	4	6	2	3	5	6	1	4	1	10	2	1
Colorado	13	5	10	6	12	4	12	2	14	3	4	10	11	3	2	3	6	18	6	2
Connecticut	17	12	10	15	14	14	14	11	15	10	16	15	9	13	3	16	14	37	16	2
Gulf	7	11	5	3	6	10	6	5	4	4	10	7	3	5	2	3	2	14	8	2
Illinois	17	8	8	7	6	4	10	12	10	5	10	9	10	9	2	8	14	32	15	15
Iowa	23	5	13	10	8	5	17	8	6	10	5	17	9	12	15	20	20	35	9	3
Kansas	5	7	4	9	5	6	3	3	3	7	4	4	3	5	3	2	4	11	4	1
Kentucky	87	13	12	10	67	15	19	20	65	15	17	21	53	15	25	53	26	13	29	108
Maine	4	9	5	2	4	3	6	4	4	3	5	6	8	2	3	3	2	5	13	2
Maryland	4	2	3	1	4	1	2	4	4	4	1	1	6	1	3	1	1	5	13	1
Massachusetts	3	3	5	1	5	5	4	1	3	1	6	5	3	4	7	8	9	14	13	12
Michigan	9	4	5	4	6	10	6	3	11	7	3	4	10	5	10	10	10	30	10	9
Minnesota	3	3	5	1	5	5	4	4	3	1	6	5	3	4	2	6	8	9	14	13
Missouri	9	4	5	4	6	6	2	1	6	7	3	2	9	5	3	2	9	11	10	12
Nebraska	15	3	3	8	13	6	2	2	15	5	2	13	4	19	4	10	15	21	2	19
New Hampshire	57	12	9	14	35	19	26	40	21	16	15	32	25	18	19	44	33	80	4	6
New Jersey	19	3	5	12	10	10	13	8	13	9	16	1	9	12	17	12	16	1	1	28
New York	19	3	5	12	10	10	13	8	13	9	16	1	9	12	17	12	16	1	1	28
Ohio	61	21	28	7	33	39	36	19	40	30	20	12	37	40	28	33	11	69	31	18
Oregon	3	4	3	2	2	3	4	1	2	2	3	1	3	2	3	1	3	6	1	5
Pennsylvania	3	4	3	2	2	3	4	1	2	2	3	1	3	2	3	1	3	6	1	5
Rhode Island	12	11	11	5	2	4	11	23	12	2	13	13	12	2	13	13	6	15	29	1
South Dakota	6	1	6	2	5	3	4	3	5	1	5	4	6	1	3	2	6	16	1	13
Vermont	372	102	145	86	216	167	173	219	273	160	177	143	205	153	188	149	250	127	233	174
Washington	329	230	192	56	329	230	192	56	329	230	192	56	329	230	192	56	329	230	192	56
West Virginia	608	97	30	20	608	97	30	20	608	97	30	20	608	97	30	20	608	97	30	20
Wisconsin	371	117	158	258	371	117	158	258	371	117	158	258	371	117	158	258	371	117	158	258
Totals	621	60	45	62	621	60	45	62	621	60	45	62	621	60	45	62	621	60	45	62

EXHIBIT "A."—Continued.
Table Showing Totals of Second Ten Questions

DIVISION.	11			12			13			14			15			16			17			18			19			20		
	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.	Excellent.	Fair.	Poor.			
Ala and Tenn.....	2	1	0	2	1	0	7	2	2	2	1	3	3	0	9	2	2	1	7	1	1	5	4	1	1	1	3			
Cal. and H.I.....	3	4	7	3	4	1	6	3	1	4	3	3	1	1	3	2	10	2	10	2	2	6	2	1	1	1	3			
Colorado.....	18	3	2	17	4	3	21	2	2	4	15	2	2	4	25	21	3	35	3	1	25	2	25	25	2	1	3			
Connecticut.....	21	16	5	19	11	10	40	10	2	4	24	3	6	23	12	14	4	20	6	1	65	1	17	28	10	1	35			
Gulf.....	5	4	3	13	1	8	8	10	12	3	3	2	2	20	3	4	3	15	5	3	2	22	1	2	3	5	3			
Iowa.....	13	6	4	9	7	10	26	5	6	6	15	3	4	20	12	8	10	33	2	1	41	2	1	30	5	3	32			
Indiana.....	30	4	10	24	8	5	44	1	2	1	28	1	5	14	24	1	13	4	48	3	2	78	2	21	13	2	25			
Iowa.....	6	2	1	4	3	4	5	5	2	1	5	2	1	4	2	5	8	13	2	2	14	2	1	14	2	1	12			
Kansas.....	116	2	3	101	15	5	116	4	2	4	108	10	12	6	108	10	12	6	121	1	1	118	1	1	98	18	2	119		
Kentucky.....	9	2	3	3	3	4	11	3	2	7	8	7	8	9	4	1	5	9	2	1	5	14	1	1	1	1	1	3		
Maine.....	4	3	3	5	1	4	4	4	4	6	4	4	4	6	4	4	6	10	10	1	1	10	1	10	1	10	1	10		
Maryland.....	1	4	3	2	6	1	8	4	2	3	3	3	3	8	1	0	7	12	1	1	12	1	1	12	1	9	4	1		
Massachusetts.....	21	1	1	21	2	1	23	1	1	1	13	1	1	1	9	6	4	18	1	1	18	1	1	16	1	10	3	19		
Michigan.....	68	5	12	17	52	14	15	73	15	3	61	7	5	29	34	24	20	88	1	2	24	2	2	21	2	1	18	2		
Minnesota.....	18	2	4	11	16	6	4	9	26	4	20	2	1	12	11	6	11	34	1	1	31	1	3	2	6	1	27	1		
Missouri.....	81	12	16	9	81	12	103	7	2	4	87	13	4	13	63	21	15	9	115	1	2	110	3	4	116	1	56	3		
Nebraska.....	4	3	3	6	2	6	1	5	8	4	2	2	4	5	1	1	2	112	5	1	6	3	4	7	9	12	1	9		
New Hampshire.....	14	4	1	16	3	1	17	1	1	1	13	1	1	1	9	6	4	1	12	1	1	12	1	1	9	4	1	9		
New Jersey.....	21	1	1	21	2	1	23	1	1	1	13	1	1	1	19	2	2	1	1	1	18	1	1	16	1	3	19	3		
New York.....	68	5	12	17	52	14	15	73	15	3	61	7	5	29	34	24	20	88	1	2	24	2	2	21	2	1	18	2		
Ohio.....	18	2	4	11	16	6	4	9	26	4	20	2	1	12	11	6	11	34	1	1	31	1	3	2	6	1	27	1		
Oregon.....	81	12	16	9	81	12	103	7	2	4	87	13	4	13	63	21	15	9	115	1	2	110	3	4	116	1	56	3		
Pennsylvania.....	4	3	3	6	2	6	1	5	8	4	2	2	4	5	1	1	2	11	3	1	6	3	4	7	9	12	1	9		
Rhode Island.....	1	1	2	3	2	2	4	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	4	6	3	1	5	2	1	9	9	9	9		
South Dakota.....	25	2	3	10	11	6	10	13	28	6	22	2	16	18	1	1	4	11	40	1	28	4	8	31	9	23	8	9		
Vermont.....	7	1	1	7	2	1	13	1	1	6	6	2	1	6	6	2	7	15	15	1	15	1	15	15	1	15	15	15		
Washington.....	435	86	76	148	419	107	90	123	523	93	31	46	443	47	43	126	300	107	99	58	793	20	19	28	584	88	37	35		
West Virginia.....	7	1	1	6	7	2	1	5	13	1	6	2	1	6	6	2	7	15	15	1	15	1	15	15	1	15	15	15		
Wisconsin.....	435	86	76	148	419	107	90	123	523	93	31	46	443	47	43	126	300	107	99	58	793	20	19	28	584	88	37	35		
Totals.....	435	86	76	148	419	107	90	123	523	93	31	46	443	47	43	126	300	107	99	58	793	20	19	28	584	88	37	35		

EXHIBIT "B."
Table Showing Percentages of First Ten Questions.

DIVISION.	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9		10	
	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.	Excellent.	Poor.
Ala. and Tenn.....	25	8	16	25	8	8	16	25	8	8	16	25	8	8	16	25	8	8	16	25
Cal. and H.I.....	20	35	17	24	23	29	18	12	24	35	12	23	18	29	12	48	23	6	48	12
Colorado.....	50	19	12	15	46	15	19	15	51	12	15	4	38	42	4	50	8	12	48	12
Connecticut.....	23	23	16	14	19	19	19	15	19	23	16	12	19	20	11	24	50	22	55	12
Gulf.....	15	25	10	4	13	21	13	6	8	15	6	6	17	10	4	48	30	17	32	13
Iowa.....	32	15	17	14	26	14	17	10	19	19	17	17	8	17	15	39	15	4	56	13
Kansas.....	12	6	9	13	30	8	6	30	19	6	30	19	6	30	12	37	30	13	54	14
Kentucky.....	48	10	14	27	16	10	35	37	20	31	35	25	18	33	14	50	73	18	60	6
Maine.....	24	41	24	8	24	41	24	18	24	18	18	41	18	24	18	24	49	65	24	10
Maryland.....	68	10	9	8	48	18	16	53	12	16	16	53	12	16	16	24	49	65	24	12
Massachusetts.....	10	24	5	5	8	18	13	10	8	13	13	8	16	13	5	18	8	5	33	12
Michigan.....	20	15	5	5	25	5	10	20	5	10	20	5	15	10	40	5	10	35	5	8
Minnesota.....	15	15	15	25	25	20	5	25	15	5	25	25	15	20	10	30	10	6	60	5
Missouri.....	45	20	25	5	30	25	20	5	25	35	15	20	10	25	10	60	10	5	95	5
Nebraska.....	62	12	12	12	54	25	6	12	58	29	4	8	17	21	8	71	4	8	79	21
New Hampshire.....	59	18	5	2	42	22	17	15	33	26	19	18	38	19	18	42	10	33	83	4
New Jersey.....	18	8	11	9	12	7	6	12	4	8	16	11	6	11	4	14	11	6	70	7
New York.....	50	17	33	6	31	35	10	31	35	17	50	67	33	33	33	33	33	33	33	17
Ohio.....	52	19	23	6	20	33	31	35	26	28	9	59	26	11	16	26	6	33	26	5
Oregon.....	33	44	21	11	11	14	41	11	11	22	33	11	7	21	14	14	14	33	33	1
Pennsylvania.....	32	21	14	21	30	6	14	24	20	14	24	20	14	21	36	14	14	36	7	66
Rhode Island.....	38	27	12	6	30	5	37	27	30	13	32	20	12	32	15	47	20	17	67	2
South Dakota.....	12	20	13	13	6	20	13	13	6	20	13	6	20	13	6	26	6	26	20	6
Vermont.....	35	6	35	12	35	12	39	12	29	6	29	33	18	12	23	18	72	35	100	6
Washington.....	18	12	6	63	29	18	23	18	29	18	23	18	23	12	23	18	72	35	100	6
West Virginia.....	35	6	35	12	35	12	39	12	29	6	29	33	18	12	23	18	72	35	100	6
Wisconsin.....	35	6	35	12	35	12	39	12	29	6	29	33	18	12	23	18	72	35	100	6

The Commander-in-Chief: The report will go to the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work. We will now have the report of the Judge Advocate-General, Brother Noel.

Judge Advocate-General Noel submitted and read the following report: —

REPORT OF JUDGE ADVOCATE-GENERAL.

Gen. FRANK L. SHEPARD, *Commander-in-Chief S. V., U.S.A.*

Sir: I beg leave to submit herewith my report for the year ending Sept. 9, 1899, as Judge Advocate-General of the Order of Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.

I have submitted opinions upon such questions as have been presented to me by the Commander-in-Chief and by other officers of the Order and have reviewed the work of courts-martial during the past year and have submitted recommendations thereupon to the Commander-in-Chief. In this work I have endeavored to exercise the same care and research as in my private law practice. Aside from these my official duties have been practically nothing and I submit herewith copies of all the decisions I have rendered.

Thanking you for the cordial treatment received during your administration and wishing for yourself and the Order a splendid future, I remain,

Yours very respectfully,

JAMES W. NOEL,
Judge Advocate-General.

[The Opinions of the Judge Advocate-General will be found with the Decisions of the Commander-in-Chief.]

The Commander in-Chief: The report of the Judge Advocate-General will go to the Committee on Officers' Reports, as the others.

Next in order is the report of the Surgeon-General, Brother McDowell.

Surgeon-General McDowell submitted and read the following report: —

REPORT OF SURGEON-GENERAL.

Gen. FRANK L. SHEPARD, *Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U.S.A.*

Dear Sir and Brother: Herewith I submit my report as Surgeon-General for the term just closing.

Under any system of communication, as we are at present organized, between this department and the officers charged to collect and compile the returns necessary to make a complete report, only an approximate idea can be had of the physical, military and sociological characteristics which are evidenced in our membership. Then, too, the fact that the periods for the collection of the required statistics are very much like the movable feasts of some of our religious organizations, helps to render the task assigned to this department still more perplexing. The reports called for are supposed to be made by the Camp officers at the close of each calendar year. In the majority of cases they are; but in a large minority they do not come into the

hands of the Division surgeons until early in the summer of the succeeding year, and in some cases not at all.

Nearly complete reports have been received from the surgeons of 24 divisions. Out of a total of 939 Camps in these Divisions in good standing on the 31st of December, 1898, the consolidated reports show returns from 750 Camps, embracing a total of 23,736 members. The officers whose duty it has been to supervise this work have been in the main zealous and careful in performing it; but the dereliction and negligence of Camp captains are responsible for whatever failure has resulted in the attempts to compile the vital statistics of the Order.

The following table by States shows the status of the Order regarding the available military strength of its membership: —

DIVISIONS.	Adjutant-General's Report, Dec. 31, 1898.		Reporting to this Dept.		Members in good standing.	Members mustered since last report.	Members in State Militia.	Members in United States army.	Members in United States Navy.	Members who are Grand Army of the Republic.	Total number of drilled men.	Number of members able to bear arms.
	Camps.	Members.	Camps.	Members.								
Ala. and Tenn.	12	241	10	234	20	8	35	2	2	90	150	
California and H.I.	15	481	15	369	75	16	45	2	46	221	288	
Colo. ad.	5	133	4	114	49	6	16	1	5	79	113	
Connecticut	25	739	24	723	113	27	10	1	28	388	691	
Gulf	71	1,840	43	1,254	225	221	63	48	48	639	1,150	
Illinois	43	962	17	418	75	6	18	3	3	64	392	
Iowa	26	753	17	418	75	6	18	3	3	64	392	
Kansas	54	1,174	51	1,766	31	53	16	2	2	846	1,001	
Kentucky	16	312	46	1,237	150	46	16	2	24	346	1,032	
Maine	48	1,370	21	476	39	21	32	5	19	230	459	
Massachusetts	24	532	21	3,760	394	111	99	10	134	1,174	3,292	
Michigan	125	3,935	26	670	115	1	37	9	9	355	575	
Minnesota	44	1,096	26	670	115	1	37	9	9	355	575	
Missouri	17	464	15	325	77	6	7	1	1	96	200	
Missouri	30	635	18	411	40	4	7	1	1	187	301	
Nebraska	19	389	6	117	76	7	8	1	1	148	117	
New Hampshire	19	594	18	517	65	35	1	1	18	148	514	
New Jersey	27	826	24	780	110	56	45	2	12	660	763	
New York	106	3,523	64	2,345	356	33	47	7	70	918	2,087	
New York	56	1,373	25	717	148	11	10	10	26	403	683	
Ohio	8	133	108	0,271	1,112	245	171	10	94	2,569	3,807	
Oregon	151	6,225	9	292	28	8	19	2	3	139	216	
Pennsylvania	9	292	14	241	111	8	17	2	2	75	241	
Rhode Island	12	191	14	241	111	8	17	2	2	75	241	
South Dakota	31	680	10	207	15	19	16	1	22	94	173	
Vermont	13	257	6	103	31	4	2	1	2	83	100	
Washington	6	130	6	103	31	4	2	1	2	83	100	
West Virginia	18	413	16	343	60	4	13	1	53	83	371	
Wisconsin	18	413	16	343	60	4	13	1	53	83	371	
Totals	1,038	30,225	750	23,736	3,275	938	731	42	624	9,366	18,929	

The Divisions of the Gulf, Iowa, Kentucky, Oregon and Vermont have failed to report to this department.

Owing to the use of three different forms of blanks, issued to the Divisions at different times, the remainder of the information called for in form 48 of the Commandery-in-Chief blanks is not authoritative. Some of these issues contain 30 questions, another 41, while the last edition has 47. I would recommend that Division surgeons be furnished with and required to use the last printed form of blank prepared by my predecessor, and which contains the larger number of questions.

The Division of Michigan furnishes the oldest member of the Order, his age being seventy-nine. The average ages of the membership shows an increase over last year, an analysis of the reports showing it to be twenty-eight years and four months. The general health of the Order has been good, the average of disability from sickness being about 4.8 per 1000 men.

The Division of New York continues to lead in the number of Camps paying death and sick benefits to their membership. The Camps in the Division of New Jersey pays the largest amount of death benefits, maintaining her average at \$275.00. Maryland has the lowest average for sick benefits, the average of five Camps paying such being \$1.98.

I desire to thank the surgeons of the various Divisions for their uniform courtesy and my associates on the Commandery-in-Chief staff for their aid in conducting the work of this department. To Adjutant-General Abbott, especially, is this due.

Commander Shepard, I thank you for the honor conferred upon me, and its pleasant relations with the Order and yourself will be a lasting remembrance to me.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. B. McDOWELL, M.D.

Surgeon-General.

The Commander-in-Chief: The report will go to the committee under rule.

The report of the Chaplain-in-Chief is next in order, Brother Morris.

The Chaplain-in-Chief Morris submitted and read the following report:—

REPORT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

To FRANK L. SHEPARD, *Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U.S.A.*

Dear Sir and Brother: Another year has gone and with it opportunities never to return. The Grand Army is passing away and what we do must be done quickly. In the last year over 17,000 have dropped from the rolls. Since 1890 the membership of the Grand Army of the Republic has been decreasing. Our membership should be continually increasing.

While there is patriotism in many hearts, there is a lack of it in others. This is proven by the slackness of many Camp Chaplains.

While some are loyal many are officers only in name and we are of the opinion that men should be elected to office instead of names.

We are thankful for the earnest work of all Camp and Division Chaplains. There are but three Division Chaplains this year that failed in sending Memorial Day reports, namely, Colorado, Gulf and Kentucky. Last year there were five.

Some of the Division Chaplains deserve special honors for more than earnest work: Wm. T. Beale of Massachusetts, Rev. J. E. Zeiter of Connecticut, W. T. Hay of Pennsylvania, ————— of California, H. C. Dana of Rhode Island; Massachusetts, California and Rhode Island reporting all Camps reporting. Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania show great and increasing interest in the membership by the proper observance of Memorial Day.

May we not expect an increase in membership during the coming year? Our hearts are fired with new resolves, the flames of patriotism are burning brighter, and in contact with the membership of our Order we can spread the fire and reflect the light of our increasing interest.

In F., C. and L.,

I remain your brother,

REV. A. J. MORRIS,
Chaplain-in-Chief.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF CHAPLAIN-IN-CHIEF.

Divisions.	Camps in Division.	Members.	Members in Line Memorial Day.	Members Armed and in Line.	Members Uniformed in Line.	Firing Squads.	Addresses by Sons of Veterans.	Members attending Services Memorial Sunday.	Camps Observers' Day.	Deaths in last twelve months.	Funerals attended by Camps in a Body.		Burials conducted by Camps.		Camps using Memorial Ser- vices.		Camps Reporting.	Camps not Reporting.	Per cent of Camps Reporting.	Reports Received.	DIVISION CHAPLAINS.		
											G.A.R.	S.V.	G.A.R.	S.V.	"A"	"B"							
Ala. and Tenn.	11	313	34	15	15	2	3	54	0		4							6	15	100	Ang. 23	C. R. Barker	
California	15	369	280	63	223	7	6	160	15	3								6	15	100	Ang. 23		
Colorado	26	762	383	77	324	4	8	326	0	0	3							1	26	96	Aug. 5	Rev. J. E. Zetter	
Connecticut	76	1,411	803	381	497	13	10	731	25	9	9	48	3	8	3	8	7	44	32	77	Aug. 11	J. Henry Sidders	
Illinois	68	1,722	698	163	204	14	36	363	9	3	34	3	4	3	3	7	29	32	48	77	Aug. 17	D. E. Blankenship	
Iowa	42	716	276	6	3	13	13	219	9	8	1	1	1	1	1	16	16	16	38	38	June 27	A. J. Sartor, Jr.	
Kansas	59	1,104	709	187	238	21	22	646	9	8	18	7	1	5	6	13	51	7	38	38	July 13	O. R. Stevens	
Kentucky	46	1,133	596	122	161	6	14	520	13	11	2	7	3	3	3	20	10	30	10	78	June 16	H. J. Kott	
Maine	40	456	192	45	124	5	5	160	3	7	8	2	1	1	1	20	40	33	33	73	July 12	Cecil C. Hahn	
Maryland	60	1,456	800	150	196	10	23	2,006	39	31	21	26	8	8	11	15	30	40	100	100	July 13	Wm. T. Hule	
Massachusetts	121	3,729	2,632	445	2519	17	23	2,248	3	8	1	1	1	1	1	2	19	31	38	38	June 16	Bertram C. Turner	
Michigan	50	921	404	145	212	8	9	274	4	2	1	3	1	1	1	12	12	15	15	77	Aug. 22	G. L. Woodworth	
Minnesota	37	269	129	36	114	13	3	149	4	1	0	1	1	1	1	2	12	15	77	77	Aug. 22	Jno. C. Berthold	
Missouri	47	260	160	66	84	3	2	160	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	4	4	15	15	77	July 14	R. S. Kellogg	
Nebraska	18	200	100	68	392	11	7	357	11	16	3	3	3	2	2	18	4	4	82	82	Aug. 22	Eng. P. Schneider	
New Hampshire	22	788	470	297	463	10	16	582	11	16	25	6	6	6	6	22	15	15	87	87	Aug. 22	C. R. Sherman	
New Jersey	24	3,753	1,923	765	1,493	24	40	1,604	45	22	20	22	6	10	15	21	22	15	87	87	July 31	H. D. Ketchum	
New York	116	833	342	262	470	16	19	473	10	6	12	5	1	6	6	9	30	3	3	3	July 31	W. T. Bennett	
Ohio	63	63	34	8	6	2	2	43	6	6	12	5	1	1	1	3	3	3	3	3	June 23	W. T. Haly	
Oregon	156	2,620	3,215	1,656	2,014	76	111	1,757	63	41	176	4	11	33	8	16	114	42	114	100	Aug. 4	Frederic C. Dana	
Pennsylvania	9	205	92	127	303	3	3	175	3	2	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	June 21	C. R. V. Fuller	
Rhode Island	54	947	162	30	160	2	5	103	5	2	2	3	1	2	1	17	17	17	17	17	June 20	Fred W. Fuller	
South Dakota	34	377	228	30	160	3	4	122	5	2	3	1	1	1	3	17	1	1	94	94	July 4	Wm. S. Snillger	
Vermont	18	342	108	93	52	10	1	69	5	4	3	1				6	6	6	6	6	July 26	Wm. S. Snillger	
Washington	8	118	108	8	84	4	1	97	5	4	3	4				17	0	0	0	0	July 26	J. W. Ames	
West Virginia	8	118	108	8	84	4	1	97	5	4	3	4				17	0	0	0	0	Aug. 23	J. W. Ames	
Wisconsin	23	352	151	48	63	4	3	97	5	4	3	4				17	0	0	0	0	Aug. 23	J. W. Ames	
Totals	1,027	43,911	14,916	5,359	10,951	266	371	11,921	318	196	464	167	27	97	79	121	780	298	298	298			

The Commander-in-Chief: The report of the Chaplain-in-Chief will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports.

The next business in order is the report of the Council-in-Chief. Brother Hayercraft of the Council-in-Chief will read the report.

Brother J. E. Hayercraft, Secretary of the Council-in-Chief, submitted and read the following report: —

REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

To the Officers and Members of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., Greeting: —

Brothers: The Council-in-Chief begs leave herewith to present its report of its proceedings and transactions during the past year. Immediately upon adjournment of the Seventeenth Annual Encampment held at Omaha, Neb., the Council was organized by the election of H. H. Hammer of the Pennsylvania Division as chairman, and J. E. Hayercraft of the Minnesota Division as secretary.

The bond of Commander-in-Chief Frank L. Shepard was fixed to be in the sum of \$10,000, and the bond of Quartermaster-General Fred E. Bolton to be in the sum of \$5,000; both of which were subsequently approved by said Council after proper inquiry as to the sureties.

Under date of June 9, 1899, by a unanimous vote of this Council, the date of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment was fixed to be Sept. 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1899.

We have carefully audited the books and accounts of the Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, all of which we found correct, well and neatly kept, and have certified the same on the respective books thereof. The financial management of the Commandery-in-Chief has been conducted in a manner which is highly deserving of praise and commendation and we do herewith recommend the bestowal of the same. We deem it superfluous to refer to the excellent report and comparative statements of the Quartermaster-General, as they are self-explanatory.

We recommend that the *per capita* tax remain as it now is — four cents per quarter.

In the matter of badges, decorations and supplies for the Order, which is now a question of consideration for this Encampment, owing to the death of Maj. A. P. Davis, by which all contracts, either expressed or implied, for such badges, decorations and supplies, as filled by him, now cease. The interests of the Order, in our judgment, now demands that the Commandery-in-Chief deal direct in supplying the badges, decorations and such supplies as were previously furnished the Order by Major Davis. We feel that the profits, if any, should rightfully only be realized by the Order and in future by no one else. We therefore recommend that the badges and decorations be purchased by the Quartermaster-General; that proposals or bids be secured for the supplying, furnishing or manufacture of the same; that the lowest responsible bidder always be given the contract; that dies or cuts of our decoration badges and such other badges as may

be necessary, be procured by the Quartermaster-General, and that the price of supplying the same be at a fair profit.

We recommend that the incoming Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General be constituted a committee to design and supply a new buttonhole decoration for the Order, and that the same be more expressive and symbolic of the Order.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

H. H. HAMMER, *Chairman*,
 J. E. HAYCRAFT, *Secretary*,
 GEO. E. COX, *S. V.-Commander-in-Chief*,
 Z. C. GREEN, *J. V.-Commander-in-Chief*.

The Commander-in-Chief: The report of the Council-in-Chief will be referred to the Committee on Officers' Reports under the rule. What is the further pleasure of the Encampment?

RECESS TILL TWO O'CLOCK P.M.

A. S. Moulthrop of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move that the Encampment do now take recess until 2 o'clock P.M.

Schuyler Tipton of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to and the Commandery-in-Chief took recess until 2 o'clock P.M.

FRIDAY — AFTERNOON SESSION.

2 o'clock P.M.

Encampment met pursuant to adjournment.

Commander-in-Chief: The brothers will come to order. If it is your pleasure, we will receive the committee from the Ladies' Aid Society before the formal opening of the Encampment. Immediately after the reception of the committee from the Ladies' Aid Society, we will proceed with the opening of the Encampment and the business of the afternoon session. I will appoint as a committee to escort the ladies to the platform: Past Chaplain-in-Chief Patton of Wisconsin, Rev. Otho Brandt of Pennsylvania, Surgeon-General McDowell of Wisconsin, Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Cox, and Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Green. The committee will retire and escort the delegation from the Ladies' Aid Society to this platform.

RECEPTION OF COMMITTEE FROM LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

The committee retired and returned, escorting Mrs. Margaret Howey Coe, Miss Kate G. Raynor, Miss Jones and Mrs. Warren to the platform.

Past Chaplain-in-Chief Patton: Commander, I have the honor of presenting to you and to this Encampment a committee of ladies from our sister society, to tender to us their fraternal greetings: Mrs. Coe, Miss Raynor, Miss Jones and Mrs. Warren.

Mrs. Coe: Commander-in-Chief, we are a committee appointed by the Ladies' Aid Society to bring you the following message: —

DETROIT, MICH., Sept. 8, 1899.

To the Officers and Members of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., Greeting.

In accordance with time-honored custom, which makes our duty imperative, we appear before you this afternoon to extend to you some evidence of our fraternal regard. Notwithstanding the fact that year after year someone is called to perform this duty, we desire to assure you that we do not regard it in any sense as compulsory, but on the contrary, it is always performed with an increased sense of pleasure born of gratitude to you for the good cheer you always bring to these our annual gatherings.

More, perhaps, this year than ever before, do we feel the blessedness of your presence. Your hopeful faces to encourage, your merry laugh to enlighten and your conversation to entertain. But let it be understood, that our greeting has for its foundation a deeper stratum. Transitory, indeed, would be our love were it not more firmly laid than the mere pleasure of the hour. Erected as our Orders are upon the firm basis of the Union, we can but call you brothers and as brothers love you, and loving you, tender to you our most hearty support in carrying out the purposes and objects of your Order.

We wish you a profitable and harmonious Encampment, a prosperous future and all the pleasures consistent with the laws of our being, and as we continue to meet and greet each other in these Encampments, may our friendship grow stronger, our clarity broader and our loyalty more unflinching.

So once again we give you greeting,
And, lest we be misunderstood,
Repeat that we are with you, brothers,
For all that is loyal, grand and good.

[Applause.]

God bless you, boys! Accept our greetings. Your merits claim our good wishes and best love.

MARGARET HOWEY COE,
KATE G. RAYNOR,
Committee.

The Commander-in-Chief: Before we express our gratification at receiving this visit and the greetings from the Ladies' Aid Society, we would be delighted to hear from Miss Raynor.

The Commander-in-Chief also called upon Miss Jones and Mrs. Warren, who kindly responded.

The Commander-in-Chief: Ladies, it is an honor, indeed, for our organization to be associated with so worthy and so noble a society as the Ladies' Aid Society, a society that was organized, like our own, to preserve the institutions and keep green the memories of our fathers and our fathers' comrades, the boys in blue, who to heart beat and drum beat carried our glorious flag through the darkest days of the Republic. In order that the response to your generous greeting may be adequate, I will invite Past Chaplain-in-Chief Patton of Wisconsin to discharge that pleasant duty.

Past Chaplain-in-Chief Patton: Commander-in-Chief and Sisters of the Ladies' Aid Society, I scarcely know why our Commander-in-Chief has delegated to me so honorable a task, and perhaps he does not know — maybe he does — that I have always felt, and maybe I have been a little proud and self-conscious of the fact, that I have always been successful with the ladies, and a little incident which occurred early in my career may, perhaps, have made me conceited;

but the fact is, that the first woman I ever asked to marry me said yes. [Laughter.] I have always felt a little conceited since that time, though perhaps not correctly.

We are glad to greet you here and meet you here this afternoon. We are glad to listen to your words of warm and affectionate welcome and Godspeed. We have heard your voices before. We have seen your faces before, we know that you mean all that you say, and we know that, as you have been pleased to express it, so we may reciprocally express it, that we love you, and when we say that you know that we mean it in the highest and purest sense; and that we may say of you, our sisters of the Ladies' Aid Society, as one worthier than I has said: —

“ She isn't an angel, she isn't a goddess,
She isn't a lily, a rose or a pearl.
She is simply what's sweeter, completer and neater,
A dear little, queer little, sweet little girl.”

[Applause.]

So we bear to you our greetings, recognizing that you occupy this position relative to us. We look upon you as our sisters in a high sense, and feel that we are encouraged and made better by the cordial greetings which come to us year after year from your society and from your hearts. I remember a certain theologian and philosopher, St. Paul, said once upon a time that if a woman would learn anything, let her ask her husband at home. Brothers, would they learn much? [Laughter.] And besides, how would it be with those who have no husbands? [Laughter. A voice: “ Let her get one.”] You are learning in the practice of worldly affairs; you are learning, perhaps, something which your prospective husbands will wish you had not learned, when you come with them to Encampments in future years. Nevertheless, you are learning to be practical and it is the practical woman who is to control the future. We recognize the fact that the woman of today has a controlling hold upon the future of the race. We see her controlling influence in the schools; we see that she does control and mould the intellect and heart of the race there. We know that woman controls the race in the home. We see today in the business world that woman is taking her rightful place with the men of the world, and she is holding her own in this position. We learn that there are no less than 25,000 lady physicians practising medicine in this country and more than 3,000,000 women in this country are earning their own living entirely, and no less than 2,700 women are supporting their husbands in the city of New York; which is a blessed prospect for many bachelors, such as are on the front row in this room. [Laughter and applause.]

In all these things we see that woman is pushing her way to the front and controlling the future, and we recognize that woman has and does in a great degree control the heart and conscience of Christendom.

The heart and conscience of Christendom is in the hands of woman. It is right that it should be. We are glad that it is so; we feel safe in leaving it there, and we feel safe in leaving with you our goodwill and sympathy with reference to our Order. We believe that the heart and conscience of our Order are safe in your keeping and that you are

in sympathy with everything which is for the interest of the Order, for the propagation of patriotism, for the development of the patriotic spirit, just as much so as were your mothers and relatives in the days of the Rebellion, when they gave their husbands and their sons to go out and do battle against the enemy. I am convinced of this. And, brothers, when we are looking forward and considering the question as to who is to be the coming man, I am convinced that we are not looking in the right direction; for the coming man I am convinced, as I study this question and as I hear the greetings of these sisters year after year and see them and their sisters and the progress they are making in the ways of the world, I am convinced, as I say, that the coming man will not be a man, but a woman. [Laughter and applause.]

To you we extend our heartiest greeting and love and affection, and hand in hand and heart to heart we will press forward. If God spares us to meet another year we hope that we will see in both Orders that development and progress we each so earnestly desire and are so earnestly laboring to bring about.

May God bless you in all your labors! [Applause.]

Mrs. Coe: Commander-in-Chief, we have enjoyed our visit very much. We appreciate your very hospitable entertainment, but, as we have business and you have business to transact, if you will excuse us, we will retire.

The committee from the Ladies' Aid Society retired, escorted by the committee; and the Encampment was opened in due form.

Commander-in-Chief: The Adjutant-General will proceed with the call of the roll.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move that the calling of the roll be dispensed with.

C. J. Deckman of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to and the calling of the roll dispensed with.

The Commander-in-Chief: The first order of business this morning is the report of the Committee of Constitution, Rules and Regulations. Is the chairman of that committee present? He does not respond. Is the Committee on Rituals and Ceremonies ready to report, Past Division Commander McGuire?

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RITUALS AND CEREMONIES.

Past Division Commander McGuire, Chairman of the Committee on Rituals and Ceremonies, submitted and read the following report:—

To the Eighteenth Annual Encampment Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.:

We, your Committee on Rituals and Ceremonies, beg leave to make the following report:—

We recommend that no amendments or alterations whatever be made to the present Ritual.

NEWTON J. MCGUIRE,

B. PRACK,

E. H. ARCHER,

F. W. BRIGGS,

GEORGE S. WHITMORE,

Committee on Rituals.

S. S. Horn of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move that the report of the Committee on Rituals and Ceremonies be adopted as read.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion, adding to it that the committee be discharged with the thanks of this Encampment.

The motion was agreed to.

The Commander-in-Chief: Is General Bundy, Chairman of the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work, present? Brother Bundy does not seem to be here.

Brothers of the Encampment, while we have a few moments at this time it occurs to me that it would be well to avail ourselves of the opportunity thus afforded us of hearing from our Past Commander-in-Chief Charles K. Darling, who was absent from our last year's Encampment by reason of his services in the Spanish-American war. I will ask Inspector-General to escort Past Commander-in-Chief Darling to the platform. [Applause.]

The Inspector-General: Commander, Past Commander-in-Chief Darling does not seem to be in the hall.

The Commander-in-Chief: I think the Inspector-General can find him.

Geo. N. Howard of Massachusetts: Commander, while we are waiting I would like to make a report from the committee appointed to convey our greetings to the Ladies' Aid Society and ask for the discharge of that committee.

The Commander-in-Chief: While the Inspector-General is finding Past Commander-in-Chief Darling, we will hear the report from the Committee on Greetings to the Ladies' Aid Society, Commander Howard of Massachusetts, Chairman.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON GREETINGS TO LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

George N. Howard of Massachusetts: Commander, with becoming modesty and whatever tact we possess we performed the duty assigned to us which was, I assure you, an exceedingly pleasant one, and proceeded to the Encampment of the Ladies' Aid Society. We were warmly received and hospitably entertained, treated as only the Ladies' Aid knows how to treat Sons of Veterans. I conveyed to them your appreciation of their efforts in the past, your goodwill towards their Order as such, and also assured them of our confidence in them, of our respect for them and our desire that together we might co-operate in bringing the Orders to the position which they ought to attain.

I move you, sir, that the committee be now discharged.

The Commander-in-Chief: If there is no objection that order will be made as the order of this Encampment and the committee will be discharged with the thanks of this Encampment.

If the Encampment desires we will now hear from the committee appointed by direction of the 1896 Encampment to consider and report upon the advisability of founding a military college. The chairman of the committee, A. L. Sortor, Jr., of Iowa, is here, and if he is ready to report we will listen to the report of that committee.

A. L. Sortor, Jr., of Iowa, Chairman of the Committee on Military College, appointed by the order of the 1897 Encampment, submitted and read the following report: —

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MILITARY COLLEGE.

Gen. FRANK L. SHEPARD, *Commander-in-Chief, S. V., U.S.A.*

Sir: The Committee on Military College, appointed by order of the Indianapolis Encampment of 1896, has the honor to report as follows: —

First, we desire to express our appreciation of the favor shown in permitting us to report at this time because of the absence of Captain Wren and Captain Sortor from the Omaha Encampment, owing to military duties as officers in the volunteer army of the United States.

Previous to the declaration of war in 1898, we sent through Division headquarters a communication to each Camp in the Order, asking in substance this question: "Would you favor the founding of a National Military College by the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., as a memorial to the soldiers of the Union army in the Civil War, provided it was amply endowed and properly managed?"

This question was propounded in order to obtain an expression from the Camps and to ascertain the sentiment of the Order at large, provided the practicability of the proposition could be demonstrated.

At the same time press slips were sent through the same channels and the enterprise was commended by the leading papers in nearly every State.

Replies to the inquiry submitted to the Camps were numerous. None were hostile to the proposition, some asked for more information, while a vast majority unhesitatingly commended the idea as a worthy one and offered to assist, should the movement be approved by the Commandery-in-Chief.

In fact, from every source the same opinion was expressed and every one agreed that no greater or more lasting memorial could be reared. All agreed that this movement should be headed by the sons of men whose valor it was designated to recognize and whose memory it sought to perpetuate.

Cities offered to bonus the college in consideration of securing its location, the general public approved and wealthy men promised to assist it financially; kindred patriotic bodies suggested co-operation, and in the good State of Iowa the last half hour of the session of our legislature was consumed in passing a resolution commending the Order for its practical patriotism in proposing the founding of this institution, inviting us to locate in the State and saying in substance that a building should be erected as a memorial to Iowa's boys in the Civil War. Then a half million dollars were placed in the governor's hands to be used in sending us into the field, and the session adjourned.

We have failed to encounter any opposition to the founding of a great National military college, designed to inculcate the principles of patriotism for which our fathers fought, and to be a memorial to their valor.

For fear its practicability might be questioned before a fair investigation was made, the friends of the enterprise went to Indianapolis and simply asked the appointment of this committee to investigate its merits and report some feasible plan for the establishment of an institution worthy of this Order and the men it seeks to honor.

We asked this, too, that all might have ample time for reflection and that the combined wisdom of all might mature a plan so perfect that it could not fail of adoption. We believed then as now that this proposition meant so much for the Order that its ultimate consummation was to be desired and its success should not be imperiled by hasty action.

In submitting a plan for your consideration it is with a full realization of the immensity of the enterprise and of the responsibility attending the undertaking.

This report is not made without due consideration of all of the difficulties to be encountered in achieving so grand a result. It is made only after years of careful study, and of two years of official inquiry. The proposition has been viewed from every possible standpoint, historical, educational, financial, legal, military, moral, religious, fraternal, patriotic; viewing it from each of these standpoints, the best authorities in the land have been consulted, and all agree that a feasible plan can be presented.

All agree that the Order is capable of taking advantage of the desire of the American people to honor the memory of our soldier sires, and carry forward to success this great enterprise. We do not believe that so great a work can be accomplished without years of labor upon the part of men who are true to the vows of this Order.

But we do believe that the Order is now composed of men of discretion and ability, fully capable of founding and conducting the affairs of so grand an institution as has been proposed.

We therefore have the honor to recommend that this Order approve the suggestion that we found a National Military College, dedicated to the memory of the soldiers of the Union Army in the Civil War, and to the loyal women of war times.

That the present Commander-in-Chief be instructed to appoint a committee of five whose duties it shall be to receive propositions from localities desiring to secure the location of this institution, and to superintend the circulation of conditional pledges for financial support. That these pledges be made payable to the Quartermaster General of this Order on Oct. 1, 1900, provided a sufficient amount is pledged to warrant proceeding with the work.

That these conditional pledge blanks be circulated under the supervision of the committee, through the medium of the various Divisions and Camps, and same to be collected and produced at the time of making report, but that no funds be collected until after the incorporation of the necessary college association. That this committee consider location and report the propositions made by localities desiring to secure the College, and that the matter of location be determined by ballot at the next annual meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief.

That this committee serve without salary or expense to the

Order, but that it be allowed to state its probable needs, financially, to the Camps and various Divisions, and that the Quartermaster-General be authorized to receive voluntary contributions to an expense fund for the use of this committee.

That the reception of the report of this committee be made a special order of business at our next annual meeting, and if it shall appear that the committee have secured sufficient pledges of financial support to warrant proceeding with the work, that a location be selected and the necessary corporation be formed under the laws of the State wherein the college is to be located, for the purpose of owning the necessary property and conducting the affairs of the college.

That this college be under the direction of five regents, one of whom shall be the governor of the State in which it is located, one to be the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., and the other three to be chosen by ballot at the next annual meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, the first to serve three years, the second, two years, the third, one year, and that thereafter one elective regent be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief, to serve for the term of three years.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. & L.,

A. L. SORTOR, JR., Iowa,
 MANLY WREN, Missouri,
 GEO. E. COX, Connecticut,
 HERBERT O. BIXBY, Vermont,

Committee.

The Commander-in-Chief: Brothers, we have here the report of the committee. What is your pleasure?

George S. Whitmore of Maryland: Commander, I move that the report of the committee be adopted and the same committee be continued to pursue that work.

The motion was seconded.

Adjutant-General Abbott: Commander, I would move to amend that motion in one particular as I think some of the present committee are not *come-at-able*. I certainly would be in favor of Brother Sortor being continued as chairman of that committee, but I would suggest that possibly there might be some additions to it that would be more helpful to him in this work.

George S. Whitmore of Maryland: Commander, with the consent of the second to my motion, I will withdraw that part of it, and leave the appointment of the entire committee with the Encampment, as recommended by the committee.

The Commander-in-Chief: The second consents to the amendment, and the question is now upon the adoption of the report of the committee as read.

The motion was agreed to and the report of the committee adopted.

The Commander-in-Chief: Is there anything further to come before the Encampment?

[Cries of "Thurston," "Thurston," "Thurston."]

The Commander-in-Chief: Brothers of the Encampment, we have with us at this session of our Encampment our distinguished constitutional life member, Senator John M. Thurston of Nebraska. I will ask the Quartermaster-General to escort Senator Thurston to the platform that he may address us. [Applause.] Our constitutional life member and our brother needs no introduction to the membership of this Encampment, Senator Thurston. [Great applause.]

SENATOR THURSTON'S ADDRESS.

Senator Thurston: Commander-in-Chief and brothers, I am a most unfortunate member of this Order to-day. I have fallen in with some of my associates of the K.O.C., and I appear before you very much in line with the story that I heard of the old pastor of the Presbyterian Church. He had been married a great many years and was childless, and it happened that his church was very much in debt, and every Sunday morning he raised his voice in prayer and petitioned the Lord for two great blessings: one was that his blessed church might be placed out of debt, and the other was that his wife would bless him with a son. Well, years passed by and the petition went up regularly. Finally, as they met one Sunday morning the whole congregation heard the news that a rich parishioner had died and left a bequest that lifted the debt of the church, and also that the pastor's wife had blessed him with a son; and as they gathered in church there was great interest taken as to what the pastor would say. Some said, "He will thank God that the church has been relieved from debt." Others said, "He will thank God that his wife has given him a son." And the excitement became very intense, and the old elders got into a little betting down the aisles; and finally, the pastor arose and lifted his hands and said, "O God, we thank thee for the *succor* thou hast given us" and all bets were off. [Laughter.] So I have no doubt that you are thanking God for the "sucker" He has given you.

But, seriously, brothers, I am very glad to meet with you here to-day. Since you did me the honor of electing me as a life member of this splendid organization, I have registered a vow that as long as I live and have health I will be with you at every Encampment, [Applause] not for the purpose of making speeches, because I am tired of making speeches. I have to make speeches everywhere — but simply to be one of you, to get close to you, as the old fellow said, to get right up where we can put our arms around each other. I am not here to make a speech. Speechmaking is more or less out of place. You are here for business and for the work of the Order, and anything I can do to assist you in the work of the Order I will gladly do as an humble brother. I have not done much in the way of assisting this Order. I have been a busy man in outside affairs. The most I can give you is my best wishes, my help wherever it will be of any importance, and Godspeed in this splendid work.

We have a great heritage. We have inherited the valor of our ancestors, and whether in our lifetime we have an opportunity to emulate their example we will still carry forward to posterity the glory of their achievements. We live in a great time. We are a part of a

grand historical epoch in this republic, this republic that stands as the leader of the civilization and enlightenment of the world. Our fathers fought a great fight. They won great victories. They live in history. Their names are glorified and we are living in a great historical time. We have been making history, you and I; some of us in the field, some in the forum, some in private life; but we have all been working to one great end, the uplifting of humanity, the advancement of civilization, the downfall of tyranny and oppression.

I was wonderfully impressed the other day when our First Nebraska Regiment came back from the Philippines. [Applause.] I was wonderfully impressed because in my own lifetime I remember two historical events in which the boys came back from war, war for the flag that symbolizes liberty and enlightenment. Many of the sons of the fathers who transmitted to us the heritage of glory have gone out in this last year to fight as the fathers fought, under the flag, and thank God! they have brought back to us the same grand measure of achievement that our fathers brought back to us from Appomattox. [Applause.] Not all of them came back. Some of them were left on foreign shores. Some of them gave their lives as our fathers gave theirs, and as my father gave his, for the honor of the flag. Some of them are at rest forever; and, gentlemen we do not mourn. To live long neutral lives is nothing. To live a few glorious years and fearlessly face the Infinite, to calmly meet the Master in humanity's cause is sublime. [Applause.] And so when our boys, my boys—because Company L of the First Nebraska was named for me, the "Thurston Rifles,"—when they came home I said to them the other night, and I said it with all my heart, that in greeting them from victories won, the emotions were so strangely and wonderfully blended that for the heroic living there were tears in our cheers, and for the heroic dead there were cheers in our tears. [Applause.] And I said to them one other thing that I will repeat here today because this is a patriotic organization without politics in it [Applause], simply mindful of the welfare of our country, its honor and its glory—I said to them as I say now, that we welcomed them because they were brave, yes, but I said to them that all soldiers had been brave since the beginning of time. Those who fought against our fathers were brave and gave exhibitions of heroism that will live forever. The soldiers that have fought for tyranny and oppression and conquest and dominion have been brave ever since the world began, and it is not for that we honor them the most. Soldiers will live in history not for their valor but for the cause for which they fought. [Applause.] That is why our fathers live illustrious, undying, in the annals of fame, and that is why the soldier boys who have gone out from this organization and have fought in Cuba and in the Philippines will live in the glory of history. [Applause.] Because they have fought for a great cause. [Applause.] And I said to them as I say now, that any man, whoever he may be, who attempts to belittle or traduce the cause for which our brave boys have fought, robs them of a part of the glory that history will give them. [Great applause.]

The United States of America has never waged a war for conquest or dominion. [Applause, and cries of "Never."] It never fought except for some grand and glorious thing. [Applause.] Our grand-

fathers fought first for independence for the liberty of men. Then we waged the Mexican War, not for conquest, but that the people of the Lone Star State might have the God-given right to come in under the flag of the Union and participate in the liberty of the people of the United States. [Applause, and cries "That's right."] Before that we fought on the sea, from 1812 to 1814, simply for the right of American citizens; that the deck of an American ship might be American soil wherever it was. [Applause.] In 1861 to 1865 we fought that liberty, God-given, might come to all alike within the boundaries of the grand Republic of the new world. And then in 1898 we fought for a sublimer cause than ever yet was answered for by man; for the nation had never risen to the contemplation of a great national duty that should extend beyond the borders of their own dominion. But we had set the example of liberty for the new world. We had said that liberty was God-given; we by our example had set the pace for the other peoples of the new world; and when we saw them struggling for liberty against tyranny and oppression, tyranny and oppression unparalleled in the annals of civilization, we arose to the new duty and new obligation that nations had never before known, and that was, that a great free people might extend its blessings beyond its own territory and lift up its neighbors into the light of civilization and progress and liberty and advancement. [Applause.] And if there is any one heritage that I wish to transmit to my son it is that in spite of all costs I stood for giving the great power of the United States to the people of Cuba, to lift them up and bring them into liberty and civilization. [Applause.]

Well, when the war was on,—and it was a holy war, a God-sent war, a war for liberty, and liberty knows no boundaries, it knows no fences, the sea does not circumscribe it, it reaches and flows over and beyond us like the benediction of God—when we were at war with a foreign foe, we struck the enemy at a vital point, and Dewey sailed into the harbor of Manila and sank the Spanish fleet. I will not say a word of politics here. This is an American question. When Dewey sailed in there and sank that fleet, when we struck Spain at her weakest point,—there are those who say we should have retired. If we had, brothers, the Spanish War, in my judgment, would have been going on yet. [Cries of "Yes, it would."] That was Spain's great possession. It was the key to the citadel of her defence. Through war, for war, to accomplish the victory of our arms we remained there; and when peace came the duty of a great nation, in my judgment, required that we should not turn the Philippines back to the ruthless tyranny and oppression of the power against which we had fought for the liberty of Cuba [Applause]; and not of our own will, not for conquest, not for dominion, not for expansion; we were compelled by logic of events, by the broadening horizon of the nation's destiny to take that country from Spanish rule, and taking it, for any purpose whatever, we were compelled to take the sovereignty of it. If we had taken less we would have no rights there against foreign nations. If we had taken less we would have had no power left to control the destiny of that people; and having taken it, the sovereignty of the nation extended to these islands; and when

Aguinaldo and his band of guerrillas, representing not the Philippine population, but simply a minority bent upon plunder, rapine and pillage, when they fired on the American flag there was nothing for the United States to do except to suppress them and bring them to acknowledge its authority and supremacy. [Great applause.] And that is our foreign policy; not expansion, not dominion, not conquest. But the world is looking on, and we have a great duty to perform. That is to bring peace into those islands and then settle the policy of their future according to the best dictates of the American conscience. [Applause.] To do less is cowardly. I have no objection to hauling down the American flag when it can be done in honor, and under peaceful conditions. I have no objection to sailing away from foreign possessions when we can leave with honor. But, never, never will the American flag be hauled down, so long as the sons of our fathers live, until it can be hauled down in honor and with the integrity of the United States unimpaired.

And now while I am in Detroit, not to intrench upon your time, I wish to say one word for a citizen of this city, and that is General Alger; and what I say is not political; I wish to say it from the American standpoint. I have known General Alger for a great many years and I had an exceptional opportunity to watch his administration of the War Department. Our War Department at the opening of this war was unfortunate, not through any lack of patriotism on the part of the officers in charge, but our War Department was a red tape department, the growth of thirty-three years of peace, controlling an army of twenty-five thousand men, requiring seventeen reports on the purchase of a pail, with every head of that department supreme in his own line and absolutely not subordinate to the direction of the Secretary of War. I watched that man Alger in the War Department all the way through. Whatever a strong, brave, honest man could do, he did. [Applause.] I know it. I say it. Whatever shortcoming there was was the shortcoming of a condition for which he was not responsible, and for which no other man was responsible; and when he was the target of all attack and of all abuse, when all the shafts of malice were aimed at him it was because they did not dare strike at the head of this administration, and they picked him out as the object. [Applause, and cries of "That's right."] Everything honorable and commendable that mortal man could do, he did. Think of it! What do you expect? A War Department! Thirty-three years of peace! Red tape! Twenty-five thousand men! War declared! In ninety days — the most wonderful thing in the history of the world — in ninety days, we raised a great army, sprung from the body of the people north and south, the sons of our fathers, and the sons of the fathers who fought against our fathers, all joining equally in loyalty to the flag, and desire for the glory of their country; in ninety days we raised this great army, and with seventeen thousand men, landed on the coast of Cuba, we compelled the unconditional surrender of two hundred and twenty-five thousand men in arms. [Applause.]

And when public sentiment has settled, when history is written, side by side with the glory of the achievement of American arms, side

by side with the patriotism and statesmanship of this administration, side by side will stand the name of Russel A. Alger as the great Secretary of War. [Applause].

Now, boys. I have talked too long. God bless you. [Cries of "No," "No," "No," "Go on," "Go on."] No, I have talked too long. You have business to transact. [Cries of "This is good business."] Well, then, I shall venture a little prediction. War in the east, as we call it, the Philippines, depends upon seasons. Someone said we ought to have crushed that rebellion before this. That rebellion came to us unexpectedly. We could not anticipate it. We had no army there to meet it. The volunteers we had there did splendidly, wonderfully, but nature intervened, the rainy season, when all military operations practically cease, came on; but let me predict that the next fair season in the Philippines will see peace restored there, and the Army of the Union triumphant, the flag respected throughout the world, and then? What then? I do not know, but we will settle that question to suit ourselves [Applause]; whether it be annexation, whether it be the establishment of a government by those people under a protectorate, no man knows. One thing, however, is true, gentlemen. They talk about the rights of a people. In this advanced day civilization has the right of way over barbarism. [Applause.] We stand for civilization [Applause] and never in the history of the United States has American power deprived a man in any part of the world of a single scintilla of the liberty that belonged to him, and it never will. It never will. I do not know what the future may bring forth. No man does. I have been an arrant conservative. I protested even against the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands. I was somewhat of that past generation that thought the oceans bounded the destiny of the people of the United States. I am commencing to doubt the wisdom of my former view. [Applause.] God sets a pace for nations and men must follow [Applause]; and having the blessings which we enjoy, if the God of the universe has set upon us the task of bearing liberty and civilization to distant lands, I will be the last man to stand up and kick against God Almighty. [Applause.]

That is all I have to say now. We tackle these things as they come along [Cries of "That is right"] and there is no body of men on all this earth who will help do it with the same valor, with the same earnestness and the same honesty as the sons of the men who fought for the flag of the Union, and who brought liberty to a great race and union to the American people by the surrender at Appomattox. [Great applause, and prolonged cheering.]

THANKS TO SENATOR THURSTON.

J. D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, I move you sir, that the thanks of the Encampment be voted to our distinguished brother, Hon. John M. Thurston, for his eloquent and patriotic address, and that his brothers of this Encampment extend to him their sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the great affliction that was visited upon him when that noble woman from the State of Nebraska, his wife and companion, whose light went

out in yonder Cuba, was called from his side to cross the silent River of Death.

The motion was seconded.

Commander-in-Chief: It has been moved and seconded that we tender our sincere thanks to Senator Thurston for the splendid address he has given us, and express our tribute to the memory of his noble wife and companion. In putting this question I will ask for a rising vote. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by rising to their feet.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The Commander-in-Chief: Senator Thurston, we thank you for your presence here, and we thank you for the splendid address you have given us; and I know I voice the sentiment of every brother here when I say that we wish for you many, many years of life; and not only length of years do we wish for you, but that measurement of time in which you may most live and best for yourself and for this whole country of ours which claims you as its own. [Applause.]

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, I certainly think this Encampment would like to see Senator Thurston's address given to the press of this city, and trust that it may strike the Commander-in-Chief as a proper thing to instruct the Press Committee to see that that is done.

The Commander-in-Chief: The chairman of the Press Committee is here and he will confer with Senator Thurston. The Senator's remarks have been recorded by the reporter, and the chairman of the Press Committee will carry out the wishes of that committee. With the permission of Senator Thurston his address will be given to the public press.

Emery Coulter of Massachusetts: Commander, I think the motion of Brother Rowen was not understood by the Chair. I for one would like to have the Encampment pay some tribute to the memory of Mrs. Thurston.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Chair will state for the information of Brother Coulter that that was included in the motion. The Chair is informed that the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work is now ready to report. General Bundy, chairman of that committee, will submit the report.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS' REPORTS, ETC.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, before reading the report of the committee I would state that the committee has been in session altogether for seven hours and the members of the committee report that for that reason they have not been able to attend the sessions of the Commandery-in-Chief, and they ask that they may be recorded as present at each roll call inasmuch as they were only absent by reason of service upon this committee.

The Commander-in-Chief: It is so ordered. It is customary to credit members of committees present when they are out on committee duty.

General Bundy, chairman of the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work, submitted and read the following report:

To the Commander-in-Chief and Officers of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment, S. V., U.S.A.:

Your committee respectfully submits the following report:

We have examined carefully all the reports and recommendations of the Commander-in-Chief, the Council-in-Chief, and other officers, and find the same to be correct, complete, instructive and able; and the officers of the retiring administration deserve the commendation and gratitude of this body for their painstaking care and conscientious discharge of duty as made evident by their reports, which will become important records in the history of our Order.

We have distributed all resolutions and recommendations for changes in the ritual and amendments to the C., R. and R. to the respective committees properly having jurisdiction over the subject matter thereof.

We have examined the General and Special Orders issued and promulgated by Commander-in-Chief Shepard, and the same meet with the approval of the committee as subserving the best interests of the organization, and we recommend that such orders be concurred in and approved.

Your committee approves of all the official decisions of the Commander-in-Chief, with the exception of No. 16, in the matter of the appeal of Daniel Ritter Camp No. 24, Division of Ohio. In this case the committee supports the opinion of the Judge Advocate-General, with the recommendation that the Commandery-in-Chief amend Section 2, Article III., Chapter V., Page 52, C., R. and R., by adding thereto the following words: "It shall be unlawful for any Division or Camp, in anticipation of the collection of *per capita* tax, to offset the same against any Camp or Division indebtedness."

In arriving at our conclusion in regard to this case, which is based purely upon the judgment of the committee as to the technical and legal import of the questions involved, we have not considered any matters of fact or propositions of law, except those appearing upon the record. The question here raised is an isolated one and there are no precedents upon which to rely. The committee is of the opinion that the law of the Order is not sufficiently broad or explicit relative to the collection and application of *per capita* tax to justify Decision No. 16 of the Commander-in-Chief, although the principles therein enunciated convince your committee that any practice such as that in this case, wherein a brother sold to his Camp a voucher given to him for a personal indebtedness of the Division, and the succeeding Division Encampment assumed by resolution, and thereafter by partial performance, to pay such voucher by giving credit to said Camp for its *per capita* tax each quarter until the amount of the indebtedness should be liquidated in this manner, is subversive to the best interests of the Order and should be condemned. We have therefore recommended the adoption of the foregoing constitutional amendment in order that this action of the committee, if it should be affirmed by the Com-

mandery-in-Chief, may not become a dangerous precedent to govern any similar proceeding in the future.

(Signed)

WILLIAM E. BUNDY,
CHARLES K. DARLING,
J. L. RAKE,
GEORGE E. COGSHALL,
C. T. ORNER,
Committee.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I move the adoption of the report.

The motion was seconded.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I desire to move to amend that report in relation to the decision of the Commander-in-Chief in the case of the appeal of Daniel Ritter of Camp No. 24. I desire that that matter may be considered separately.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, with the consent of my second I will accept that amendment, and make my motion that the report of the committee, with the exception of so much thereof as refers to the appeal of Daniel Ritter of Camp No. 24, from the decision of the Commander-in-Chief, be adopted.

The motion as amended was agreed to, and the report of the committee adopted, with the exception of so much thereof as refers to the appeal of Daniel Ritter of Camp No. 24, from the decision of the Commander-in-Chief.

APPEAL OF DANIEL RITTER OF CAMP NO. 24.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move that the recommendation of the committee in relation to the appeal of Daniel Ritter of Camp No. 24, from the decision of the Commander-in-Chief be not concurred in; and that the decision of the Commander-in-Chief be approved by this Commandery-in-Chief.

Harry Rosenhaupt of Washington: Commander, I second the motion.

After discussion by Past Commander-in-Chief Rake, Past Commander-in-Chief Darling, E. H. Archer, and others:

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, I move the previous question, and on Brother Archer's motion. I think everybody understands this question, and in order to get it before the house, I move the previous question.

C. A. Bookwalter of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion for the previous question.

Commander-in-Chief: The question before the Encampment is on the motion of Brother Archer, that the recommendation of the committee in relation to the appeal of Daniel Ritter of Camp No. 24, be not concurred in, and that the decision of the Commander-in-Chief be approved by this Encampment. On that question Brother Oberdorf moves the previous question, and the question is, shall the main question be now put. Those in favor of the motion for the previous question will say "Aye." Those opposed "No." The ayes have

it, and the previous question is ordered. The question is now on Brother Archer's motion. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by the voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The noes seem to have it. The noes have it, and Brother Archer's motion is not agreed to.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CONCURRED IN.

C. A. Bookwalter of Indiana: Commander, I now move that the recommendation of the committee be concurred in, and the report adopted.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Do I understand now, Commander, that the constitutional amendment is adopted?

The Commander-in-Chief: We will take a separate vote upon that.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, in order that there may be no question as to the adoption of this amendment, I move now, that the amendment as offered by the committee be adopted, and made a part of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

James W. Noel of Indiana: Commander, I second the motion.

The Commander-in-Chief: It is moved and seconded that the Amendment offered by the committee be adopted and made a part of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by the voting sign of the Order. Those opposed the same sign. The ayes have it, and the amendment is adopted by the requisite majority of those present and entitled to vote.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON OFFICER'S REPORTS, ETC.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, the Committee on Officers' Reports and Distribution of Work desires to make a supplementary report. It is as follows:

To the Officers and Members of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.:

During its deliberations the committee received information that brothers of the Order have, in some cases, accepted or agreed to accept compensation in their professional capacity, to appear and present causes for their clients, arising before Division and Commandery Encampments, and the committee believes that such practice is generally dangerous, and should not be encouraged or permitted in the future.

(Signed)

WILLIAM E. BUNDY, *Chairman.*
CHARLES K. DARLING,
J. L. RAKE,
GEO. E. COGSHALL,
C. T. ORNER, *Committee.*

I move the adoption of the supplementary report.
The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Now, Commander, that disposes of all the work before the committee, and I would therefore move that the committee be discharged with thanks. [Laughter.]

The Commander-in-Chief: That motion will be taken by consent unless there is objection, and the committee discharged. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and it is so ordered. Is the Committee on Resolutions ready to report, W. Y. Morgan, Chairman?

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

W. Y. Morgan, Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, submitted and read the following report:

To the Commandery-in-Chief:

We your Committee on Resolutions beg leave to submit the following report on Resolutions:

We recommend concurrence in the following recommendation of the Illinois Division:

WHEREAS. The publication of the orders and official communications of the Commander-in-Chief in the *Illinois Banner* for the past year has been of benefit to the administration of the affairs of the Order, as well as useful to the many members reached by that paper; therefore be it

Resolved, That the *Illinois Banner* be and it is hereby made the official organ of the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., and that William G. Dustin, the publisher, do, in consideration thereof, publish in said paper all orders and official communications of the Commander-in-Chief.

William T. Church of Illinois: Commander, I move the adoption of the resolution offered by the Illinois Division and recommended by the Committee on Resolutions.

The motion was seconded.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I would suggest that as the report of the Committee on Resolutions proceed, as each resolution is read, if there is no objection, that resolution be considered adopted; and then when the reading of the report is concluded it can be adopted as a whole. That would save considerable time and I make that motion.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I made that motion as to the balance of the report. I now desire to second Brother Church's motion as to the resolution recommended by the Illinois Division.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Chair will apply the motion to the resolution already read. If there is no objection it will stand as adopted. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and the resolution reported by the committees is adopted. The chairman will continue the reading of the report, and as each resolution is read, if there is no objection, it will stand as adopted.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report:

PAST RANK OF DIVISION COMMANDER RESTORED TO JAMES E. PURDY.

We recommend concurrence in the following resolution presented by the New York delegation:

DETROIT, MICH., Sept. 8, 1899.

We, the representatives of the New York Division, Sons of Veterans, do respectfully petition the Eighteenth Annual Encampment to restore Brother James E. Purdy his past honors as Commander of New York Division in 1883.

(Signed) RALPH SHELDON, *Commander*.

E. V. ESTES, C. E. HOLMES, W. H. WYKER, W. S. OBERDORF, GEORGE ADDINGTON, Past Commanders, W. A. PERSONIUS, J. FRANK DURSTON, H. P. HOLLISTER, F. P. CONNELL, Delegates.

Commander-in-Chief: Is there objection to this recommendation of the committee? The Chair hears none and the recommendation of the committee is adopted.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report.

PLEDGING THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

We appreciate the friendship which has been shown our Order by the Grand Army of the Republic and we hope for a continuance of the same cordial relations. We hold in the highest regard this organization of our fathers, whose bravery and patriotism it is our fondest hope to keep alive. We pledge the Grand Army our co-operation in their work of charity and loyalty and promise them that the sacrifice they made and the results they accomplished will be held sacred so long as it is in our power.

The Commander-in-Chief: Is there any objection to the recommendation of the committee just read. The Chair hears none and it will stand adopted.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report:

CONCERNING THE LADIES' AID SOCIETY.

We commend the good work of our faithful auxiliary, the Ladies' Aid Society. During the years past it has been a companion and help-mate of the Sons of Veterans. We urge upon the Divisions and Camps of our Order that they do all in their power to encourage and stimulate the growth of the Ladies' Aid Society which brings help to us in time of adversity, and adds to the height of happiness that comes with prosperity.

The Commander-in-Chief: If there is no objection the recommendation of the committee will stand as adopted. The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report:

SONS OF VETERANS VOLUNTEERS IN SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

We congratulate our Order upon the response made by its membership when the call came for volunteers to uphold the honor of the

nation. We are proud of the Sons of Veterans who emulated the example of their fathers and offered their lives in defence of the flag. In doing so they followed the teachings of loyalty and patriotism inculcated by our Order and gave assurance to the world that the men who saved the nation have sons who will die to defend it.

The Commander-in-Chief: Is there objection? The Chair hears none and the recommendation of the committee stands.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report:

IN MEMORY OF MAJOR A. P. DAVIS.

Since our last meeting one of the founders of our Order has passed to the eternal camping ground beyond the river. We can but partially express our feeling of loss. As a citizen, as a soldier, and as a promoter of loyalty and patriotism Maj. A. P. Davis has left a record which still lives, a memory which will endure and a work which is a monument to his name.

The Commander-in-Chief: There being no objection, the resolution stands adopted.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report:

IN MEMORY OF HARRY L. VEAZEY.

Death has again entered the ranks of the Commandery-in-Chief and taken from us one of our most loved brothers, Harry L. Veazey, Past Chaplain-in-Chief. His earnest and loyal character endeared him to all who knew him and his memory will be held as a precious heritage in the Sons of Veterans.

The Commander-in-Chief: The resolution stands adopted by this Encampment, there being no objection.

Chairman Morgan resumed the reading of the report:

THE PERVERSION OF MEMORIAL DAY.

We deeply deplore the inclination evinced in many communities to pervert the proper objects of Memorial Day, and divest it of the associations which make it precious and ennobling. It is the duty of the Sons of Veterans, individually and as an organization, as well as that of all good citizens, to direct attention to these un-American and baneful abuses and their inevitable results, to the end that Memorial Day shall be sacredly kept, according to the intention of its originators, and its true spirit; so that it shall be, and forever remain, not a gala day, but a *holy* day.

The Commander-in-Chief: Is there any objection to this section of the report of the committee? If not it stands adopted as read.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report:

HOSPITALITY OF DETROIT.

The courteous hospitality of the Sons of Veterans of the Division of Michigan and the city of Detroit has been most heartily appreciated by the Commandery-in-Chief, and our stay in this beautiful city has

been thoroughly enjoyed. To these brothers, to the people of Detroit and to the newspapers which have given us fair and friendly reports we desire to extend our sincerest thanks.

The Commander-in-Chief: The resolution stands adopted if there is no objection, and the Chair hears none.

Chairman Morgan resumed the reading of the report:

CONCERNING MANUFACTURE OF BADGES AND DECORATIONS.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief we recommend that in the future all dies, stamps and hubs used in the manufacture of badges be the property of the Commandery-in-Chief, and that the matter of supplies for our Order be placed in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, the Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General, and that if found desirable by both parties the Quartermaster-General may furnish supplies for the Ladies' Aid Society heretofore purchased from Major Davis.

The Commander-in-Chief: There being no objection the resolution stands adopted.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report:

DECORATION FOR S.V. VOLUNTEERS OF SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

That the matter of a decoration for members of the Order who served in the Spanish-American War be placed in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant-General and Quartermaster-General, and they be authorized to proceed with the manufacture and distribution of the medals in accordance with the resolution of the Omaha Encampment.

The Commander-in-Chief: Brothers, I desire to state, without making any remarks upon this recommendation, that in my judgment, the resolution of the Omaha Encampment is somewhat ambiguous with reference to the cost of these medals, and as to who shall pay for the medals. If we simply adopt the resolution the next administration may be embarrassed. If the committee has considered the subject in that view and does not consider it ambiguous, I am willing to abide by their view.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move to amend the report by adding that the decorations be placed upon the list of supplies and furnished to Camps upon requisition upon the Commander of the Division.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

Harry Rosenhaupt of Washington: Commander, I move that the words "Quartermaster-General" be substituted for the words "Commander of the Division."

Harry D. Sisson of Massachusetts: Commander, I move as a substitute motion, that the matter be recommitted to the committee for further consideration.

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, I desire to second that motion, that the matter be recommitted to the committee for them to report the resolution again with the proper safeguard.

E. S. Bishop of Connecticut: Commander, on behalf of the committee I would state that a careful reading of the resolution will show that the whole matter is left in the hands of the Commander-in-Chief, Adjutant-General and the Quartermaster-General. The committee has given them the power to adopt all the necessary safeguards. I believe the matter may be left safely where the committee left it.

The Commander-in-Chief: That being so, brothers, the suggestion of the Chair was not necessary. However, the question is on the motion to recommit this matter to the Committee on Resolutions. All those in favor of the motion will so signify by the usual voting sign of the Order. Down hands. Those opposed the same sign. The motion seems to be lost. The motion is lost. The question now recurs on Brother Archer's motion that these decorations be placed upon the list of supplies and furnished to Camps upon the recommendation of the Commander of the Division.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, permit me to withdraw my motion.

The Commander-in-Chief: Brother Archer's motion is withdrawn, with the consent of his second.

E. W. Estes of New York: Now, Commander, I move that the report of the committee be adopted as read.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

The Chair put the question on the motion to adopt the report of the committee, and the motion was agreed to unanimously.

Chairman Morgan continued the reading of the report:

CONCERNING COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF FRANK L. SHEPARD.

This meeting of the Commandery-in-Chief expresses its satisfaction with the work of Frank L. Shepard, who has given the Order such splendid service during the past year as Commander-in-Chief. The Order owes much to the effective, unselfish and able labors of General Shepard and his staff, and they have earned the love and confidence which is in the heart of every brother of the Order.

The Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief: If there is no objection this section of the report of the committee will stand as adopted. Is there objection? The Chair hears none and it is so ordered.

Chairman Morgan: Commander, that concludes the report. It is signed by W. Y. Morgan, E. S. Bishop, A. G. Brabaud, W. A. Morris and R. M. J. Reed. I move the adoption of the report of the committee as a whole.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to, and the report of the committee adopted as a whole.

Adjutant-General Abbott: Commander, I move that the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

W. J. Patton of Wisconsin: Commander, I second the motion.

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, I hope that motion will be withdrawn for a few moments. A short time ago, during the present session, the Commander-in-Chief directed the Inspector-General

to find a brother whom we all love and bring him to this hall that we might hear whatever message he has to bring us. I think if the Inspector-General were to try to find him at this moment, he would be successful; and as we have a few moments of time now we would like to see that brother and hear him. I trust that the motion to take recess, now before the Commandery-in-Chief, may be held in abeyance for a moment.

Adjutant-General Abbott: Commander, I withdraw my motion for the specific purpose referred to by Brother Parkinson.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Inspector-General will conduct Past Commander-in-Chief Darling to the platform.

Brothers, when I directed the Inspector-General to look for and escort to this platform Past Commander-in-Chief Darling, and he failed to find him, it occurred to the Chair that perhaps Brother Darling had forgotten the password and countersign, and could not get into the hall; [Laughter] but he is here now and we shall keep him. I have the distinguished honor and pleasure of presenting Past Commander-in-Chief Charles K. Darling. [Applause.]

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING'S ADDRESS.

Past Commander-in-Chief Darling: Commander-in-Chief Shepard, and Brothers of the Encampment, I shall keep you but a moment, I assure you, because I know you all want to get away. I come to you from the grand Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Philadelphia, where I was for four days, with the noise of the bands still ringing in my ears, and the fact still in my mind, that forty years after the war, a parade of the veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic took something like six hours to pass a given point. Well, of course that army is moving toward the grand beyond, yet we must all bear in mind, that today there is still a great degree of activity left in its membership. When I come out here to this other Encampment of young men, of the vigorous, active men of this Order, I see, of course, a great difference between the two bodies; but I will not dwell upon that, because its contemplation brings to us all a feeling of sadness and sorrow, that the ranks of the old soldiers are thinning out so rapidly and that their step on the march is growing more feeble and infirm.

The thing which after all I wanted to say to you is this: As I sat in my tent about this time last summer, down in the mountains of Porto Rico, looking out upon a scene which, I am bound to say, was not very unlike the picture behind me, for nearly in front of my tent were three palms, almost identical with those which you see there, and the mountains in the background,—possibly the scene was painted for the occasion— as I sat there my thoughts were of this Order. I knew the Encampment was coming on. I knew I could not get away. I knew that I would not be at the Encampment. I had a half-written report which I hoped to send out by the next pack-mule train that started to the sea coast, fifty miles away. I knew it could probably not reach you in time, and later because it could not, it was not sent.

I ask you to believe that the tears ran down my cheeks as I thought of you boys at Omaha, and that perhaps you might have forgotten me, or think your Commander-in-Chief had forgotten you. So I sent by a first lieutenant of the 7th cavalry down the trail, over the mountains, twenty-five miles, a message to be telegraphed from there to Ponce, that it might be sent by cable to you, and when twenty-four hours later your greeting came up over the mountain trail, a little piece of paper about as large as that, I knew that what I feared was not true; and when I came here and looked one brother after another in the eye, and shook each by the hand, my heart thrilled with gladness, because I realized, more forcibly than ever, that the thing which I feared last summer might happen, had not happened, and never could happen. [Applause.]

I am going to tell you frankly and honestly that in the early part of last summer, I was face to face with a situation which kept me awake many a night, with a question that had to be decided, a question which I was more than anxious to decide rightly, and that was what was the proper thing for me to do; and I come to you today — although there may be some difference of opinion — I come to you today with the belief that after all the event has proved that the right thing was done in connection with the Sons of Veterans and the Spanish-American War. Because, however much we might have wished to raise a regiment, or a company, or a brigade, or an army corps, out of our membership, I believe it could not have been done, at least under the Commander-in-Chief whom you had elected. Possibly had you had some one else at the head of the Order, some one with more ability as an organizer, he might have rushed in and taken this Order in, as was done, you will remember, in the case of one particular organization with a man at its head who occupied at that time a high official and public position, and who was able to push that volunteer organization straight to the front, side by side with the regulars in Cuba. It might have been done, but I frankly admit that I could not do it, and in the orders which I gave out, you will remember, I turned the membership of this Order loose, so to speak, to rush in, to join such organizations as they saw fit. I believe that was the proper thing to do, although I know there are some here who may disagree with me.

Now, I have talked longer than I intended. I am glad I came out here. I assure you that my service at the front, such as it may have been, has only increased my love for this Order and for the Grand Army of the Republic, from the members of which we derive our rights and principles. I believe that we have a splendid Encampment here; that the Order is going forward and in the future it will be found, as it has been in the past, one of the grandest, one of the best, and one of the noblest institutions which make for patriotism in this country. [Applause.]

The Adjutant-General: I now renew my motion that the Commandery-in-Chief take recess until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

The motion was agreed to and the Commandery-in-Chief took recess until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

SATURDAY — MORNING SESSION.

SATURDAY, Sept. 9, 1899. 9 o'clock A.M.

The Commandery-in-Chief met pursuant to adjournment.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Commandery-in-Chief will come to order.

The Inspector-General reported all present entitled to remain.

The Commander-in-Chief: I will appoint Reverend Brother Macurdy to act as Chaplain-in-Chief, *pro tem*. The Adjutant-General will proceed with the call of the roll of this Encampment.

C. J. Deckman of Ohio: Commander, I move that the calling of the roll be dispensed with this morning.

Isaac Cutter of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAMS.

Commander-in-Chief: The Adjutant-General has several communications upon his desk which I will ask him to read at this time.

The Adjutant-General read the following communications:

COLORADO SPRINGS, COL., Sept. 8, 1899.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans,
Detroit, Mich.

Colorado Division sends greetings to the National Encampment

G. S. MILONE, *Commander*.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Sept. 8, 1899.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans,
Detroit, Mich.

Greetings duly extended to G.A.R. and W.R.C

T. A. BARTON, *for Committee*.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., Sept. 7, 1899.

GEN. FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Commander-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans,
Detroit, Mich.

California sends greeting, and pledges increase of membership.

HARRY T. MOORE, *Division Commander*.

S. OF V. AND G.A.R.

The Commander-in-Chief: While we are waiting for reports from the regular committees I will call upon Major Reed to report upon the work done by the Sons of Veterans for the Grand Army of the Republic.

MAJOR REED'S ADDRESS.

Major Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers, I am glad of the opportunity to place on record what was done by the Sons of Veterans at the Thirty-third Annual Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

When we first learned that the Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was to be held in our city, we determined to do what was possible to make their sojourn pleasant, and at the same time advertise the Order of Sons of Veterans. Several of the brothers, myself included, were appointed on the general committee of the G.A.R. At one of the early meetings of the committee, we made an application for a place in the line of parade. This proposition met with a very unexpected objection from some of the G.A.R. comrades, some saying: "This is a parade of the G.A.R. men, no boys are wanted." But by judicious management and persistent efforts on the part of some of the brothers, notably Brothers McNulty, Orr, Hughes, Tawney, Wagner, Curry and others, assisted by the kindly interest of General Wagner, General Beath and others, we finally secured an invitation for the First Regiment, Sons of Veterans Reserve, to escort the Department of Pennsylvania, provided the regiment would go into camp at Camp Sexton in Fairmount Park and guard the Camp during the time the G.A.R. were there. The invitation was accepted and the officers and men of the First Regiment, S.V.R., went to work with a will to make the necessary arrangements. The regiment is equipped according to the latest U.S. Army regulations, everything having been bought and paid for by the members. We paraded a strength of seven hundred and sixty-five men; the conduct, drill and appearance of the regiment was first class, as the handsome and deserved compliments of the President of the United States, officers of the regular army, G.A.R., committee and citizens, amply testify. We have had regular troops, national guards and other military organizations, encamped in the Park; and the citizens living in that vicinity and the thousands visiting the Camps during that time, testify that the First Regiment, Sons of Veterans Reserve, is the only organization of which no complaint was made. Never a woman was insulted, no private property destroyed, and no rude conduct to point the way to the "Guard House." [Applause.] Though the men composing the regiment were the most intimate friends, one being a private in the ranks, the other wearing the shoulder strap, no greater display of military discipline was ever shown. Past Commander-in-Chief Darling witnessed the parade: and I am sure he will agree with me, when I say, our regiment, on that September morning, on Broad St., received a more than flattering reception from the assembled thousands. We received congratulations on every hand, and men competent to judge of military merit, tell us that no better looking, more soldierly soldiers ever paraded in the honored uniform of the army. President McKinley told General Wagner that "they were a credit to their fathers and to the nation." I am glad of the opportunity to place on record these facts, facts that stand out as living testimonials to the worth and patriotic pride of the Sons of Veterans; facts that prove that we are no longer "boys," but men, men who understand and appreciate that glorious record of those men who by the greatest heroism and sacrifice, hallowed the close of the nation's century, as the fathers of the Revolution sanctified its dawn.

At the breaking out of the Spanish-American War, this regiment was the very first to offer its services to the President. [Applause.]

Governor Hastings ordered the regiment out for inspection by the Inspector-General: and twenty-four hours from the reception of said order, we paraded a full strength of 1,385 armed and equipped men ready for active service in the field. [Applause.] The war was too soon over, the National Guard more than filling the quota required from our State; we were therefore unable to see active service, but they stand as an example of what may be expected of this Order of Sons of Veterans, and should the time ever come that they be called upon to preserve the liberty which was preserved by our fathers' valor, they will answer, every man, "Here." [Applause.]

The Commander-in-Chief: On behalf of the Encampment I desire to say that we are very much obliged to Major Reed for his report.

Is the Chairman of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations present? Apparently not. Is the chairman of the Committee on Resolutions present?

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas: Yes, Commander.

The Commander-in-Chief: Has the committee any further report to make?

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas: Commander, we have a resolution which should properly go to the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. It does not belong with the Committee on Resolutions.

The Commander-in-Chief: It will be so referred. Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Cox will assume command.

The Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief: Past Commander Church of Illinois has something to say to the Encampment.

PRESENTATION OF PORTRAIT OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SHEPARD.

William T. Church of Illinois: Commander and Brothers of the Encampment: I suppose you have all learned by this time that we are liable to make mistakes, and in fact as sons of veterans we have to the fullest extent exercised that inalienable right of young America to make blunders as often as we choose; but I presume that we are also very well satisfied in our own minds that when we have made errors we are willing to acknowledge them and rectify them so far as lies in our power; and again there comes to us times when we realize that although we have, in exuberance, coasted the rainbow of youth and searched for the treasure that is supposed to lie hidden in its bright depths, still we have achieved results that have been highly gratifying to all of us; there have been times when fortune has enabled us to act with some wisdom, to direct our course with some knowledge of the requirements of the hour and the needs of the future, so that we can take to ourselves some satisfaction for some few actions in our career. It was the pleasure of the Illinois delegation at the Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief at Omaha to present for the highest office within the gift of this Order the name of one who had long been honored in our own Division, and at that time to make representations as to his character and qualifications which were known to most of you as well as to the members of that Division; and it is with great gratification today that we find, after the service of a year, a year which has been full of great

events both in this Order and in the affairs of the Government we love so well, a year that has added new glory to that flag which our fathers saved for a great united country, a year that has placed the American nation on record as the champion of the cause of humanity throughout the world, it is with great satisfaction I say, that we, the brothers of the Illinois Division, find today the brothers of this Encampment endorsing the sentiments which we expressed at that time in reference to the man whom we preferred for the office of Commander-in-Chief of this body.

There hang in the halls of memory many images and many objects, many portraits that are dear to us all. We are delighted at times to renew those incidents and places and scenes in which we have been active in the past, and in accordance with the custom, that opportunity may be given to those who shall serve this Order in the future to remember one who has served you long and faithfully, the Illinois Division at this time desires me to present to the Encampment the portrait of one whom it has delighted to honor, Commander-in-Chief Frank L. Shepard [Applause]; and on behalf of my Division I tender you this portrait of our present Commander-in-Chief. [Applause.]

ACCEPTANCE BY PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DARLING.

Charles K. Darling of Massachusetts: Commander-in-Chief, on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief I will say that we accept the portrait of Commander-in-Chief Shepard with great pleasure, and it will hang with the other illustrious Past Commanders-in-Chief in the office of the Adjutant-General or Quartermaster-General. I am sure I speak the mind of every brother here when I say that no Commander-in-Chief has ever gone out of office with the united support and best wishes of every member of the Commandery-in-Chief more completely than the present incumbent of office. It is a great thing to be Commander-in-Chief of this Order of the Sons of Veterans. It is a great thing to be Commander-in-Chief of an Order which could turn out, as I have heard reference made to it this morning as I came into the hall, which could turn out such a regiment as the Sons of Veterans did to march up Broad Street in Philadelphia in the Grand Army parade. [Applause.] I heartily endorse all that was said by our brother from Pennsylvania regarding that regiment, and not only was it possible to have that regiment but it was possible, I believe, in this Order to have had ten, fifteen or twenty such regiments; and the man who stands at the head of an Order capable of putting into the field or into the service a body of men like that, occupies one of the grandest and highest positions in this land. But not only that. When we consider the other features of the Order, the possibilities of this Order, the grand things which it has done in the past and the still grander things which it will do in the future, I say the position of Commander-in-Chief of such an Order is one of the proudest which any man could hold in this country, and Frank L. Shepard during the past year has filled the bill. That is all I need to say. We all wish him in future years health, prosperity and happiness. [Applause.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONS, RULES AND REGULATIONS.

James W. Noel, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutions, Rules and Regulations, submitted and read the following report: —

To the Officers and Members of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.: —

The Committee on C., R. and R. beg to submit the following report: —

We approve of the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief concerning the organization of State Camps having a membership coincident with the State or Division, and which will conserve the best interests of the Order, but we believe the law of the Order, without amendment, gives sufficient latitude for such organizations, so as to permit them to organize and govern themselves within the Constitutions, Rules and Regulations, and yet to take the rank of Camps in the organic body of our Order. While we agree with the Commander-in-Chief as to the results to be obtained, we do not believe that further legislation is necessary to bring about the result, but we do believe that such legislation might destroy the classification of the Order, and make too wide a departure from the original system.

We concur in the recommendation of the Adjutant-General, that if a Camp Captain permits his Camp to become suspended, and to remain suspended until the end of his term, he shall not be entitled to past rank, and we recommend that the C., R. and R. be amended, by the addition of a new section numbered Section 6 to Article IV., Chapter V., as follows: —

SECTION 6. If a Division Commander or a Camp Captain permits his Division or Camp to be suspended and remain suspended until the expiration of the term for which he is elected, he shall not be entitled to past rank.

We also approve the recommendation of the Adjutant-General that the expenditures of the Division in the payment of salaries and for clerical help of the Division should not exceed a certain per cent of the funds legitimately belonging to the Division, and we recommend that the Constitution, Rules and Regulations be amended by numbering the one section under Article VIII., of Chapter V., Section 1, and adding a new section, No. 2, as follows: —

SECTION 2. The expenses of a Division for salaries and clerical help shall not exceed fifty per cent of the total amount of *per capita* tax collected.

The petition from the Massachusetts Division that power be delegated to Division Commanders to proceed against a Camp and that the Commanders may transfer a brother to another Camp so that he may retain his standing and the incorrigibles of the Camp be suspended and go with the Camp itself, is concurred in, and the committee believe that the result can best be obtained by amending Section 4, Article IV., Chapter II., of the C., R. and R. by adding after the word "disbanded," in line one of that section, the words "or suspended," and by adding after the word "dissolution" in the third line, the words "or suspension."

The committee have received many applications for changes of the Constitution. They have examined these and considered them at much length, and with an eye single to the good of the Order, such recommendations have not been concurred in, and to conserve the time of this Encampment specific mention has not been made of them in this report. The action of the committee has in all of these cases been unanimous, and it has adhered to the belief that the organic law of the Order should receive only such amendment as great exigency may require.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) W. SCOTT OBERDORF,
WM. T. CHURCH,
JAMES W. NOEL,
FREDERIC E. CARPENTER,
HENRY G. THOMAS,

Committee.

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, I move the adoption of the report as a whole.

James Lewis Rake of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move that the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations be considered section by section.

George H. Bailey of New Jersey: Commander, I second the motion.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move an amendment to the motion that in the discussion all remarks be limited to two minutes for each speaker.

Harry Rosenhaupt of Washington: Commander, I second the amendment.

James Lewis Rake of Pennsylvania: I will, with the consent of my second, accept the amendment.

E. W. Estes of New York: Commander, I move as a substitute motion that the Commandery approve of the entire report of the committee with the exception of that part of it which pertains to Division expenses. I suppose we are united on the rest of the report.

The substitute motion was seconded.

The Chair put the question on the substitute motion and the substitute motion was agreed to.

The Commander-in-Chief: The chairman of the committee will now read the section in reference to Division expenses which was accepted in Brother Estes' substitute motion to adopt the report of the committee.

Chairman Noel read the section referred to as follows:—

“We also approve the recommendation of the Adjutant-General that the expenditures of the Division in the payment of salaries and for clerical help of the Division should not exceed a certain per cent of the funds legitimately belonging to the Division, and we recommend that the Constitution, Rules and Regulations be amended by numbering the one section under Article VIII, of Chapter V., Section 1, and adding a new Section No. 2, as follows:—

“SECTION 2. The expenses of a Division for salaries and clerical help shall not exceed fifty per cent of the total amount of *per capita* tax collected.”

H. H. Hammer of Pennsylvania: Commander, I move that that section of the report of the committee be not concurred in.

The motion was seconded.

After discussion:—

F. C. Stilson of Michigan: Commander, I move the previous question.

J. E. Haycraft of Minnesota: Commander, I second the motion.

Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief: (In command): The previous question has been moved and seconded. The question is, Shall the main question be now put? Those in favor of the motion will say "Aye." Those opposed "No." The ayes have it and the previous question is ordered. The question now is on the motion that the recommendation contained in the report of the committee be not concurred in. Those in favor of the motion will so signify by saying "Aye." Those opposed "No." The ayes have it. [Cries of "Division," "Division."] In the opinion of the Chair the ayes have it. [Cries of "Division," "Division."] A division is called for. Those in favor of the motion will please rise and stand until counted. The Adjutant-General will count. Be seated. Those opposed please rise.

The Adjutant-General reported sixty-seven voting in the affirmative and thirty-three in the negative.

The Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief: Sixty-seven members voting aye and thirty-three voting no. It is the opinion of the Chair that the ayes have it. The ayes have it and the recommendation of the committee is not concurred in.

CONCERNING BOND OF DIVISION COMMANDERS.

Edgar Allan Jr. of Maryland: Commander, the Division of Maryland had a resolution before the committee which I understand is not reported by the committee. The resolution from our Division is in the line along which this Encampment has been moving, and I understand it has been overruled by the committee. I would like to bring it before the Encampment and have the Encampment take some action upon it. It is a resolution making the bond of Division Commanders not less than five hundred dollars nor more than two thousand dollars, and giving the Division Council the right to fix it.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, as I understand it, Brother Allan offers this as an amendment to the report of the committee.

Edgar Allan of Maryland: Commander, we offer it that way, as an amendment to the report of the committee. I will read it. The resolution is as follows:—

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND SECTION 7, ARTICLE VII., CHAPTER V., C., R. AND R.

That the Commander of each Division shall within thirty days from the date of his installation give bond in the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) unless a greater sum," etc., Inasmuch as the Maryland Division shows this amount to be excessive, when taking into consideration the value of the properties and moneys in its possession; and

WHEREAS, The Division Quartermaster is by Section 3 of the same article, required to give bond to the Division Commander in the sum of one thousand

dollars (\$1,000) which bond is full and sufficient surety for the property belonging to and handled by the Maryland Division; be it therefore

Resolved, That the words "or lesser" be inserted after the word "greater" in the 4th line of Section 7, Article VII., Chapter V. Also after the word "bond" first used on the 8th line of said section, to insert the words "but in no case shall the said bond be less than the sum of five hundred dollars."

I move the adoption of that resolution, Commander, as an amendment to the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations.

The motion was seconded.

The Chair put the question on the amendment to the report of the committee moved by Brother Allan of Maryland and the amendment was rejected.

The Commander-in-Chief: The question is now on the adoption of the report of the committee as a whole with the exception of the clause rejected, in other words, as amended.

The Chair put the question on the adoption of the report of the committee as amended and the motion was agreed to and the report of the committee as amended adopted.

James W. Noel of Indiana: I move that the committee be discharged.

The Commander-in-Chief: With the thanks of the Commandery.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to and the committee discharged with the thanks of the Commandery.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I move the reconsideration of the vote by which the report of the Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations as amended was adopted.

E. B. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I second the motion.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move to lay that motion on the table.

J. D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, I second that motion.

The Chair put the question on the motion to lay on the table and the motion was agreed to.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Adjutant-General desires to speak of a matter of some interest to this Encampment.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, it is a matter that possibly should have been referred to in my report but I did not know just how to handle it and for that reason I did not put it in. Some time ago, you will remember, we were appealed to by a monument committee, a committee for the erection of a national monument, or something of that kind, in New York City; we were applied to for donations, and it was provided that the societies donating, or a list of the donors and the emblems of the society donating, should be placed in a conspicuous position on the monument. This movement was for the purpose of erecting a monument to the memory of the soldiers who died in the Spanish-American War, and as the Order of the Sons of Veterans lost some forty brothers in that war, the Commander-in-Chief applied to the Order, as you will recollect, and papers were sent out. For some reason or other there was very little response. In fact but two Camps, the

Camp at Manistique, in the Division of Michigan and Logan Camp of Colorado Springs, of Colorado. The Camp at Manistique contributed forty odd dollars and the other Camp I referred to contributed ten dollars, and the ten dollars in the form of a draft is in the strong box of the Adjutant-General in Chicago subject to the will of this Encampment. The forty-two dollars is left in the hands of the Commander of the Michigan Division, where it still remains. We have not determined whether we would call for it or not. The response was so small that it was a question whether we should take any action in regard to the matter. It is now presented to this Encampment for them to make some recommendation as to what disposition should be made of this money.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move that the donations be returned to the donors, with the thanks of the Commandery-in-Chief.

C. T. Orner of Illinois: Commander, I second the motion.

The Chair put the question on the motion, and the motion was agreed to.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON RESOLUTIONS.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Chair is informed that the Committee on Resolutions has a supplementary report to make on a resolution submitted by the Division of Maine.

Chairman Morgan of the Committee on Resolutions submitted the following supplementary report:—

CONCERNING FRANK P. MERRILL OF MAINE.

To the Eighteenth Annual Encampment Sons of Veterans, U.S.A.:

Your Committee on Resolutions begs to report recommending the adoption of the following resolution submitted by the Maine Division.

Resolved, That faithful and honorable service in the interests of our Order is worthy of the highest recognition. We therefore urge on the Commandery-in-Chief our desire to accord to a brother of the Maine Division, Past Commander-in-Chief Frank P. Merrill, the honors of Past Division Commander, as he relinquished the position to accept the higher and more responsible duties of Commander-in-Chief in the early days of our Order.

The committee concurs in the resolution, and moves its adoption.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to and the rank of Past Division Commander was accorded to Past Commander-in-Chief Frank P. Merrill of Maine.

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas: Now, Commander, I move that the Committee on Resolutions be discharged.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBERS ELECTED.

William T. Church of Illinois: Commander, I desire to move that the Commandery-in-Chief suspend Section 5, Article II, page 36 of the

Constitution, Rules and Regulations; and that Isaac Cutter of Camp 4 of the Division of Illinois be elected a constitutional life member of this body.

William G. Dustin of Illinois: Commander, I second the motion.

Leonard C. Couch of Massachusetts: Commander, I desire to make the point of order that we cannot constitutionally elect a constitutional life member in this manner.

The Commander-in-Chief: (Having resumed command) The Chair holds the point of order to be not well taken, the motion being to suspend the constitutional provision on the subject.

Isaac Cutter of Illinois, E. C. Parkinson of New York, Columbus Borin of Kansas and Harold C. Megrew of Indiana were nominated for constitutional life members of the Commandery-in-Chief. In each case the motion was made to suspend the Constitution, Rules and Regulations, and after much discussion they were severally elected, the constitution being suspended and the members elected by the required majorities of members of the Commandery-in-Chief accredited as present and entitled to vote.

RANK OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF CONFERRED UPON R. M. J. REED
OF PENNSYLVANIA.

H. H. Hammar of Pennsylvania: Commander-in-Chief, I desire to move that the rules be suspended and that the rank of Past Commander-in-Chief be conferred upon Maj. R. M. J. Reed of Philadelphia, Pa.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I second that motion.

James Lewis Rake of Pennsylvania: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers, it is not my intention to detain the Encampment more than a moment, but on behalf of the Pennsylvania Division and Brother Reed, I want to say just a word or two.

It has been generally stated and understood that our late brother Maj. A. P. Davis was the father of this Order. While Brother Davis was alive it was not necessary to correct that statement and that understanding, and now it is not desired to take one bit of credit from Major Davis in connection with his labors for this Order, but the truth of history is important, and it is now time that an error of history that has long been permitted to stand should be corrected, for Major Reed was active in the work of the Order at a time when no less than sixteen Camps existed in a regular way under the authority of a *bona fide* Division organization, all antedating the formation of Major Davis' Camp by various periods up to fourteen months.

I have in custody the records of the Adjutant and the Quartermaster of the Pennsylvania Division that conclusively prove this. There were sixteen Camps in the eastern Division of Pennsylvania doing business at regular stands, thoroughly equipped, and probably outnumbering in every respect any other Camps in existence. With Generals William E. W. Ross of Baltimore, Rodrigo Bangs and others, at the time consolidation was attempted he labored hard and earnestly to break the bone of contention. It is admitted by those who are familiar with the early history of this organization that the eastern Division of

Pennsylvania, to which I refer, was then in better condition in every respect than any one of the opposing forces. Major Reed sacrificed a position that was worth a great deal to him; he spent money and labored day and night to effect the agreement. I happen to be a living witness to the fact that through him, and through him alone, was the junction effected from which this organization sprung. We do not come here asking you to put an additional vote to the credit of the Pennsylvania Division. We do not come here asking you to do more than you did when you granted to Maj. A. P. Davis the same honors. Major Reed today is accredited upon the roll of this Encampment with a voice and a vote. We simply desire in the correction of history that justice may be done to Major Reed. For one, I am utterly opposed to permitting this action to serve as a precedent, for any other man who is alive today who might ask a similar favor. The only man who is alive today who might ask such a favor is General Ross, who is in an unfortunate position and physically unable to accept it; and if he were here he would say as much as I would for Major Reed. [Applause.]

The Chair put the question on Brother Hammer's motion, and the motion was agreed to.

SELECTION OF PLACE FOR HOLDING NEXT ENCAMPMENT.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I now move that we proceed to the selection of a place for holding our next Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

Adjutant-General Abbott: Commander, I move that nomination speeches be limited to two minutes.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of the Divisions for the purpose of nominating cities from which the place of holding our next annual Encampment will be chosen.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of Connecticut was called:

Edson S. Bishop of Connecticut: Commander, Connecticut yields her place to New York.

J. Frank Durston of New York: Commander, it is a well known fact so that it is probably unnecessary to state it again that the delegates from the eastern part of this country have been traveling westward for the past ten or twelve years. The brothers from the western Divisions have made the claim that they needed the Encampment, that they needed the encouragement and the stimulus that the National Encampment gave, and that the brothers of the eastern Divisions were much better able to pay their expenses going west than the brothers of the western Divisions were to pay theirs going east. This was conceded very cheerfully and we have put up time and money coming west. Now, the time has arrived when we ask you to come east. The Division of New York, after having passed, as I say, through many trials, is now in the position to offer you an ideal city in which to hold your Encampment, the city of Syracuse. The population is just

about right, 140,000. It is a city you will not be lost in and it occupies the exact geographical centre of the State. We had during the past year over forty conventions and they were all well taken care of and we have between forty and fifty booked for next year. We have New York City so close that the delegates from the West can take in that great metropolis. We have two Camps with an active membership of seventy-five each. We entertained the New York Division in 1890 and in 1894, and we had three or four times the number present that the Commandery-in-Chief represents, and there never was a convention better handled or delegates better satisfied. We have the two Relief Corps and a very nice Ladies' Aid Society. We have twelve fine hotels there, just as good as those here, and a hundred smaller ones. We have three thousand members of the New York Division that will rally to the convention in a way that will surprise you. I have a number of letters here extending a most cordial invitation, a telegram from the Chamber of Commerce, from Wood Post, from the Camps and from the Ladies' Aid Society. You all know that Syracuse wants the next Encampment, and we present Syracuse entirely on its merits. [Applause.]

Brother Durston here read invitations from Lilly Post No. 66, and Root Post No. 151 G.A.R. of Syracuse, from the Secretary of the Syracuse Chamber of Commerce, from James K. McGuire, Mayor of Syracuse, Lilly Post W.R.C., No. 172, L.A.S., No. 16, Merriam Camp No. 52, and Sniper Camp No. 166, Sons of Veterans, and Root Post W.R.C., No. 200.

The Adjutant-General continued the calling of the roll.

When the Division of Illinois was reached :

Will C. Schneider of Illinois: Commander, Illinois desires to give way to Wisconsin.

W. J. Patton of Wisconsin: Commander, I am privileged to bear the invitation of Milwaukee to this Encampment. I will not detain you in describing the beauties of our city, you all know it, or know something of it; our miles of well-lighted, well-paved streets, the beautiful parks surrounding it on three sides with the lake on the east of us, affording unequalled facilities for boating and pleasure riding. I might say that just nineteen miles west of us is that beautiful watering place Waukesha. I think if you will come next year, after attending the Encampment you will require a water cure. Come to Milwaukee and go out to the water cure at Waukesha at the close of the Encampment.

I have letters in my hand from T. J. Sullivan, secretary of the Business Men's League; also from David S. Rose, Mayor of the city of Milwaukee, most earnestly inviting your presence. I cannot say the many things I would like to say, descriptive of Milwaukee. It is in the centre of the country, convenient to Chicago; you can come around by the Lakes from Buffalo and cross Lake Michigan; you can come around the south end of Lake Michigan to Chicago from the south and from the west. You know that the lines of communication are all that you desire. One point I desire to emphasize is this: that next year the Grand Army of the Republic will meet in Chicago. Chicago is but two

hours distant from Milwaukee. Members can attend the Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Chicago and then come down to Milwaukee and transact the business of the Commandery-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans. We get a one-cent rate next year from all over the country. There will be no trouble about rates, and the question of rates is a very important one to all of us. Those who attended the Knoxville Encampment remember that the attendance upon our Encampment touched high-water mark that year; that we had governors, and ex-governors and lieutenant-governors galore, and generals and lieutenant-generals and everything we wanted. Every train brought in some visiting governors, or generals, from all over the country. We elbowed with those great men until we thought we were great ourselves, and we will have the same chance at Milwaukee next year. Come to Milwaukee, brothers. [Applause.]

The Adjutant-General continued the calling of the roll. When the Division of Ohio was called:

A. E. B. Stephens of Ohio: Commander, speaking for the representatives of the Division of Ohio I desire to second the nomination of Syracuse, New York.

The Adjutant continued the calling of the roll. When the Division of Washington was reached:

Harry Rosenhaupt of Washington: Commander, I desire to present the name of Spokane, Washington.

The Adjutant-General continued the calling of the roll. When the Division of Wisconsin was called:

E. T. Fairchild of Wisconsin: Commander, representing the Mayor of Milwaukee, I urge our claim for your next Encampment. We have never had it, you know. We want a chance to show you what Milwaukee hospitality is. There will be no police in the city during the convention. [Laughter.]

The Commander-in-Chief: The Adjutant will call the roll of Divisions and Division Commanders will announce the vote of their Division on place of holding our next meeting.

The Adjutant-General called the roll and announced the result, for Syracuse seventy-five; for Milwaukee forty-five, the vote by Divisions being as follows:—

	SYRACUSE.	MILWAUKEE.
Connecticut	4	
Illinois	8	4
Indiana		8
Iowa	1	1
Kansas	1	3
Maine	2	
Maryland	4	
Massachusetts	11	
Michigan		9
Minnesota		2
Missouri		2
Nebraska	1	1
New Jersey	1	1
New York	15	
Ohio	9	4
Pennsylvania	15	

	SYRACUSE.	MILWAUKEE.
Rhode Island	1	
South Dakota		2
Washington	1	
Wisconsin		8
Vermont	1	
	75	45

SYRACUSE CHOSEN.

A. G. Braband of Wisconsin: Commander, I move that the Adjutant-General cast the unanimous vote of this Encampment for Syracuse for the place of holding the National Encampment next year.

C. J. Post of Michigan: Commander, I second the motion.

The Chair put the question on the motion, and the motion was agreed to.

The Adjutant-General: In accordance with the action just taken by the Commandery I hereby cast one hundred and twenty votes for Syracuse, New York, as the place for holding the next annual Encampment.

The Commander-in-Chief: One hundred and twenty votes having been cast for Syracuse, the Chair declares Syracuse, New York, duly selected as the place for holding the next annual Encampment.

W. S. Oberdorf of New York: Commander, in behalf of the Division of New York I desire to thank the Commandery-in-Chief for its kindness. Syracuse is known in the Empire State as the City of Salt, and I am sure that you will go away from that beautiful place with the idea that not only is it a city of salt, but that the hospitality of the Sons of Veterans there is the salt of the earth. [Applause.]

REPORT OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF CONCURRED IN.

The Chair is informed that the report of the Council-in-Chief read yesterday was not passed upon. A motion to adopt the report of the Council-in-Chief would be in order.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move that the report of the Council-in-Chief as read yesterday be adopted, and that the recommendations contained therein be concurred in.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

W. J. Patton of Wisconsin: Commander, I move that we proceed to the nomination and election of officers.

F. C. Stillson of Michigan: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

George E. Cogshall of Michigan: Commander, I move you that nominating speeches be limited to two minutes.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions for nominations for Commander-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll.

When the Division of Illinois was reached:

Will C. Schneider of Illinois: Commander, Illinois gives way to Ohio.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander-in-Chief, on behalf of the Division of Ohio, as endorsed by the Encampment at Columbus, unanimously, I present for your consideration one who needs no encomium at my hand, one who is known throughout the Order as well as in the State where he lives outside of this organization for his ability, his strength of character, his honesty of purpose and for his fidelity to any duty that may be imposed upon him. It is scarcely necessary to mention his name; you all recognize him. I nominate Past Commander Asa W. Jones of Ohio for Commander-in-Chief. [Applause.]

ASA W. JONES OF OHIO ELECTED COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

James W. Noel of Indiana: Commander, I desire to move that the further call of the roll be dispensed with, the rules suspended and the Adjutant-General instructed to cast the unanimous ballot of this Encampment for Asa W. Jones of Ohio, for Commander-in-Chief.

S. S. Horn of Pennsylvania: Commander, the Pennsylvania Division wants to go on record as seconding that motion.

The Chair put the question on the motion, and it was agreed to, unanimously.

The Adjutant-General: In accordance with the action of the Encampment just taken I cast the one hundred and twenty-five votes of the Encampment for Asa W. Jones for Commander-in-Chief for the present year. [Cries of "Jones," "Jones."]

The Commander-in-Chief: Past Division Commander Asa W. Jones having received the unanimous vote of this Encampment for the office of Commander-in-Chief, is hereby declared to be duly elected to that office for the ensuing year. I take pleasure in requesting Past Commander-in-Chief Bundy and Past Commander-in-Chief Darling to escort the newly elected Commander-in-Chief to the platform.

The Commander-in-Chief elect was escorted to the platform by the committee appointed for that purpose.

The Commander-in-Chief: Brothers, it is my supreme pleasure to present to you our newly elected Commander-in-Chief, Asa W. Jones of the Division of Ohio.

ADDRESS OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ELECT JONES.

Commander-in-Chief elect Jones: Commander-in-Chief and Brothers, for this distinguished mark of your favor I thank you from the bottom of my heart. It is an honor that I appreciate and shall remember to my dying day; that here up in this beautiful city of Detroit, surrounded by my brothers, I have been unanimously elected to the highest office in your gift.

For a great many years I have been connected with associations of different kinds. I have belonged to other societies, my membership in which I prize highly. I belong to them because I believe that if there is anything good in this world we find it when we get together. I think that the great trouble with us Americans often when we get upon the rostrum and denounce somebody, is that we do not know that

somebody. Now, I am connected with the grand Masonic organization of this country and of the world, and I have found pleasant associations in that organization. I have enjoyed my connection with it, but I enjoy it as a social organization. As such I love it. But when I get among my brothers of the Sons of Veterans, I find all that is there is here too, and I find another thing. I find that I am with an organization that loves that old flag [Applause] and I find that I am with an organization that says they will stand as our fathers stood and defend that flag from foes without and foes within. I believe, I know, and I am glad to know, that I am with an organization that is perfectly willing that other nations shall understand, that when the map of the world is to be changed or affected, the United States is to be consulted upon the subject. [Applause.] I believe, too, that I am with an organization that says that where that old flag has been planted in its glory, by the might and power of the army and navy of the United States, it shall stand until the end of time. [Applause.]

My brothers, I will not stop to talk long upon these subjects. They are the ABC of this Order. Patriotism is written upon every page and on every breast and upon every heart in this Order, and we are standing for patriotism. [Applause.] I do not mean now to say an unkind word of those who met our fathers in battle array. I have in the past upon the rostrum spoken of them in terms that I never again shall repeat; never again shall those words escape my lips; and I shall cease to speak of them in that way because I find those grand old patriotic men of the Grand Army of the Republic, and their sons in the Sons of Veterans have said to me, "We have taken them back, and they are our brothers in this grand confederacy, and they are standing shoulder to shoulder with us." [Applause.]

I think the grandest thing that I have seen in a long time was when we said in the power, might and grandeur of this nation that the yoke of oppression should come off from the neck of Cuba. We raised up as one man and said "that shall be done." Ohio alone didn't say that. Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana alone didn't say that, nor were they clutching at the throat of Pennsylvania, and New York, and Illinois, and Ohio, and the other grand States of this Union. But every State stood shoulder to shoulder; man to man they stood up and said that old banner is our banner; it is our country and we will go with you as the Grand Army of the Republic. [Applause.]

Lee and Wheeler commanded Sons of Veterans, and Miles and Dewey and those other grand men commanded Sons of the Confederacy. Ah, they stood together as one man. [Applause.]

But the grandest thing that I have seen in all this time came to me from a Grand Army man I know down in the city of Pittsburg, in that grand old State of Pennsylvania — pardon me if I repeat this incident because I believe it contains it all. A few days ago, or rather a few months ago at the annual banquet of the American Republican Club in the city of Pittsburg, I had the honor as a member to be present. On that day our guests of honor were neither of them Republicans. They were Admiral Schley and Major-General Wheeler, formerly of the Confederate service. I take it that at that banquet Republicanism was

not the theme. It was patriotism. In the afternoon at the club room there was a reception not to hundreds, not to thousands, it was to tens of thousands. In the line of that reception was Admiral Schley first, General Wheeler next, and by good fortune, or rather the good fortune of some of my friends, I was permitted to stand in that line and receive those thousands that came up to do honor to those grand men, and as I saw that line being formed away back, I saw an old decrepit man, and upon his left breast was the honored emblem of the Grand Army of the Republic. He tottered as he came along down the line until he got hold of the hand of Admiral Schley and shook it with a warmth that said "I love you, my dear friend." He next grasped General Wheeler by the hand and shook it until you would have been willing to say General Wheeler was the best friend he had on earth; and then he came to me and grasping my hand, he said, "Jones, thirty-five years ago I tried to shoot that man," and the tears trickled down his face and he said, "I am glad I didn't shoot him, I am glad I didn't get the opportunity; I think he is a grand man; he loves the old flag now as you and I loved it then, and I love him for that love." That tells the whole story. It was the heart of the old soldier, the Grand Army man, that said, "We take you back into our communion, General Wheeler," and that great city of Pittsburg stood up to do honor to the man whose life twenty-five years ago would not have been safe upon the streets of Pittsburg. We are a united country, a grand country, the grandest in the world, and we stand today where we dare say to all nations "When you propose to change the map of the world, ask the United States."

Again, brothers and Commander-in-Chief, I thank you for the distinguished honor that you have conferred upon me, and while I cannot promise to discharge my duty as faithfully, as efficiently as has been done in the past, I will simply say, my brothers, that I will do my best. [Applause.]

E. C. Parkinson of New York: Commander, I move we give three cheers for our Commander-in-Chief elect, Asa W. Jones.

The Commander-in-Chief: It is not necessary to put that motion. [Cheers.]

J. D. Rowen of Iowa: Commander, I move that the Encampment do now take recess for an hour and thirty minutes.

The motion was not seconded.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Adjutant-General will now call the roll of Divisions for nominations for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll.

When the Division of Illinois was called:

Will C. Schneider of Illinois: Commander, Illinois desires to give way to Pennsylvania.

James Lewis Rake of Pennsylvania: Commander, Pennsylvania will not detain you but half a minute to say that all any one need do to be impressed with the merits of the brother whom we shall present to occupy the second place in this Commandery-in-Chief during the ensuing year is to scan the pages of the proceedings of the various Encampments of this Commandery-in-Chief; there will be found the

recommendation of the brother whom we shall nominate; he is by no means a stranger to you, but one who has impressed himself upon those who have attended the various Encampments of the Commandery-in-Chief by his earnestness and fidelity, and one who is entitled to our respect and esteem; Pennsylvania desires to place in nomination for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, the name of Brother A. L. Sortor of Iowa. [Applause.]

A. L. Sortor of Iowa: Commander, with all due regard for the splendid honor and with gratitude to my Past Commander-in-Chief, I desire at this time, for the best interests of the Order, to have my name withdrawn as a candidate for this high and exalted position. As I understand it, next year is to be a year of work. I understand that I am to be detailed to assist in bringing to a climax a most important proposition that is now being considered by this Order. It is argued by my friends who have proposed my name for this position that it is not a working position, but I contend that it should be a working position, and I would not accept it and be a fifth wheel in this great machine. I ask the brother from Pennsylvania to withdraw my name as a candidate for this position, and allow me to exert my best efforts along the line which I have suggested, and that he present the name of someone who is not only more worthy, but who has more time to devote to this work.

A. L. SORTOR OF IOWA ELECTED SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio: Commander, I move that a further call of the roll be dispensed with, the rules suspended and that the Adjutant-General of this Encampment instructed to cast the vote of the Encampment for A. L. Sortor of Iowa for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The Adjutant-General: Commander, in accordance with the action of the Commandery-in-Chief just taken I cast the one hundred and twenty-five ballots of the Encampment for A. L. Sortor of Iowa, for Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Commander-in-Chief: Brother Sortor having received the unanimous vote of the Encampment, I declare him duly elected Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief of our Order for the ensuing year.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE ON MILITARY COLLEGE.

Allow me at this time to make the announcement of the committee which by direction of this Encampment I was to announce some time ago. The Committee on Military College was today appointed, or rather, continued, and the personnel is to be made up by the Commander-in-Chief. I reappoint Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief elect A. L. Sortor as chairman of the committee, to be assisted by the following members: H. E. Cowdin of Michigan, George E. Cox of Connecticut, William T. Church of Illinois, W. A. Morris of South Dakota. The Adjutant-General will call the roll of Divisions for nominations for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General proceeded to call the roll of Divisions.

When the Division of Connecticut was called :

Edson S. Bishop of Connecticut : Commander, Connecticut desires to give way to the Division of Michigan.

F. C. Stillson of Michigan : Commander, the pleasant duty devolves upon me of placing in nomination a brother of this Division for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief. While the brother I shall name has not established a national reputation, yet the reputation he has gained in the Division of Michigan is a credit to himself and a credit to the Order. On behalf of the Michigan delegation I nominate Walter L. Raynes as a candidate for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

WALTER L. RAYNES ELECTED JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas : Commander, I move that a further call of the roll of Divisions be dispensed with, that the rules be suspended and the Adjutant-General be instructed to cast the ballot of this Encampment for Walter L. Raynes of Michigan for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to, unanimously.

The Adjutant-General : Commander, in obedience to the vote just taken I hereby cast one hundred and twenty-five votes of this Commandery-in-Chief for Walter L. Raynes of Michigan, for Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief.

The Commander-in-Chief : Walter L. Raynes having received the unanimous vote of the Encampment I hereby declare him duly elected Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

The next order of business is the election of Council-in-Chief.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

H. V. Speelman of Ohio : Commander, it affords me great pleasure at this time to present the name of a man who is well known to us all. On behalf of the Division of Ohio, I present the name of Past Chaplain-in-Chief, W. J. Pattou of Wisconsin, for election as a member of the Council-in-Chief.

The nomination was seconded.

Newton J. McGuire of Indiana : Commander, Indiana desires to place in nomination the name of James W. Noel of Indiana.

The nomination was seconded.

E. W. Estes of New York : Commander, I desire to place in nomination the name of George H. Bailey of New Jersey.

The nomination was seconded.

A. L. Sortor of Iowa : Commander, I desire to present the name of Gen. George B. Abbott.

The nomination was seconded.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL ABBOTT ELECTED A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL-IN-CHIEF.

William E. Bundy of Ohio : Commander, in accordance with precedent and realizing the necessity of having upon the Council-in-Chief one of experience and one who is familiar with the affairs of the Order,

I move that the rules be suspended and that the Quartermaster-General be instructed to cast the unanimous vote of this Encampment for Gen. George B. Abbott as a member of the Council-in-Chief. [Applause.]

F. C. Stillson of Michigan: Commander, I second that motion.

The motion was agreed to, unanimously.

The Quartermaster-General: Brothers, by your direction the Quartermaster-General casts the one hundred and twenty-five votes of this Encampment for the election of Past Commander-in-Chief and present Adjutant-General George B. Abbott as a member of the Council-in-Chief.

The Commander-in-Chief: Adjutant-General George B. Abbott having received the unanimous vote of the Encampment, I declare him duly elected a member of the Council-in-Chief for the ensuing year.

J. D. Swain of New York: Commander, I desire to place in nomination George B. Addington of New York.

The nomination was seconded.

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas: Commander, I desire to place in nomination the name of Brother A. H. Rawitzer of Nebraska.

The nomination was seconded.

The Commander-in-Chief: If there are no further nominations the Chair will declare nominations for Council-in-Chief closed. The Adjutant-General will proceed with the calling of the roll, and the Divisions will vote for two members of the Council-in-Chief.

The Adjutant-General called the roll of Divisions and the result was as follows:—

	Patton	Noel	Bailey	Addington	Rawitzer
Connecticut	4			4	
Illinois	12			12	
Indiana	2	2	2	2	2
Iowa	2				2
Kansas	3	2			2
Maine	2			2	
Maryland	4			4	
Massachusetts	11			11	
Michigan	9			9	
Minnesota	2			2	
Missouri	2	2			
Nebraska			2		2
New Jersey		1	1		2
New York	4	2	8	9	5
Ohio	12	1		13	
Pennsylvania	17	2		15	
Rhode Island		2		2	
South Dakota	2			2	
Vermont	1			1	
Washington	1				
Wisconsin	6	5		3	
Totals	96	25	13	91	16

The Commander-in-Chief: The vote stands, George H. Bailey of New Jersey, thirteen; A. H. Rawitzer of Nebraska, sixteen; James W. Noel of Indiana, twenty-five; George Addington of New York, ninety-one; W. J. Patton of Wisconsin, ninety-six. Brothers W. J. Patton and George Addington having received a majority of all the votes cast, are declared duly elected to serve as members of the Council-in-Chief for the ensuing year. That concludes the election of officers.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I move that the Commandery-in-Chief do now take recess until four o'clock p.m. to convene at that time for the installation of officers.

The motion was seconded.

The Commander-in-Chief: With the permission of the Encampment, as well as of the mover and seconder of that motion, before putting it I will call upon Brother McGuire, who has something to say to the Encampment.

PRESENTATION OF GAVEL.

Newton J. McGuire of Indiana: Commander, I want to present to the Commandery-in-Chief publicly what I have already presented to the Commander-in-Chief privately at the beginning of this Encampment. A few months ago, a very near friend and close neighbor of mine was honored with the position of Quartermaster of the depot at Santiago de Cuba. He was there at the time that the war vessel *Reina Mercedes* was sunk in the harbor. That is the only steamer, you know, that was saved out of the Spanish fleet that was sunk in Santiago harbor. This vessel was raised and sent to Newport News, and my very near friend, Harry B. Snyder of Indianapolis, was kind and thoughtful enough to get a piece of wood from that vessel for a souvenir. He had a couple of gavels made out of it and one of them he sent to the Department of Indiana of the Grand Army of the Republic, and one of them he presented to me because he knew I was identified with the Sons of Veterans. That gavel I presented to the Commander-in-Chief on the first day of our Encampment; but I want now to publicly acknowledge the gift and present it to the Encampment as evidencing the kindness and thoughtfulness of an old soldier, the hero of two wars, who has in his heart and soul the best interests of the Sons of Veterans; and who was kind enough to remember them when he was down in the Christo mountains and Santiago trying to escape the yellow fever. [Applause.]

The Commander-in-Chief: Past Commander McGuire, on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief I thank you for this gavel. The Order will appreciate it because of the interest that centres in it, and I beg you to express the thanks of the Commandery-in-Chief to the donor of the same.

General Abbott, I believe, has a statement to make.

PHILIPPINE BANNER AND SPANISH BOAT FLAG.

Adjutant-General Abbott; Commander, the Captain of McKinley Camp of the Division of California, located in the Philippine Islands,

was sent to the Commander of the Division of California, Col. Harry T. Moore, a Philippine banner and a Spanish boat flag. The boat flag had been captured by the Philipinos, and the banner, together with the flag captured by them, was captured by our brothers in the United States service and sent to the Sons of Veterans of California to be kept. You will find a letter from David F. Morris to Col. Harry T. Moore, in the introduction to the roll of honor, referring to this flag and this banner, and the manner of their capture. They were taken from the Church of the Parish of San Roque, a few miles out of Manila, and were captured by a company composed almost exclusively of sons of veterans. I simply asked leave of the Division of California to bring them here as a further evidence of the valor of our brothers who are now engaged in the Philippino War. [Applause.]

RECESS UNTIL 4 O'CLOCK P.M.

William E. Bundy of Ohio: Commander, I now renew my motion that the Commandery-in-Chief take recess until 4 o'clock p.m.

The motion was agreed to and the Commandery-in-Chief took recess until 4 o'clock p.m.

SATURDAY — AFTERNOON SESSION.

4 o'clock P.M.

The Commandery-in-Chief met pursuant to adjournment.

The Commander-in-Chief: The Commandery-in-Chief will come to order.

The Inspector-General does not seem to be present. I will ask the Surgeon-General to act as Inspector-General, and Colonel Archer to act as Assistant Inspector-General. Brother Davis, will you please assist at the door and take the password and countersign as the members come in, and report if you are satisfied that all present are entitled to remain.

Assistant Inspector-General Archer: Commander-in-Chief, I am satisfied that all present are entitled to remain.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS.

The Commander-in-Chief: The only further business before this Encampment is the installation of the newly elected officers. I have the honor to ask Past Commander-in-Chief James Lewis Rake to act as our installing officer. The Inspector-General will escort him to the chair.

Surgeon-General McDowell: Commander, I have the honor to present General Rake, who will act, under your appointment, as installing officer.

The Commander-in-Chief: General Rake, I have the honor to pass over to you this gavel, the emblem of authority.

Installing Officer Rake: Adjutant-General, you will call the roll of officers-elect, who, as their names are called, will rise, answer to their names and present themselves at the altar.

Whereupon, the newly elected officers, with the exception of the Commander-in-Chief elect, were installed in due form, and escorted to their several stations.

Installing Officer Rake: The Commander-in-Chief elect will please announce his staff.

Commander-in-Chief elect Jones: Installing Officer Rake, I am not prepared to name my staff completely to-day, but will have to ask brothers for a little indulgence as to time in the performance of that duty. The present Adjutant-General will continue to act as Adjutant-General until a further appointment is made. My Inspector-General will be Brother Alfred G. Loyd of Sharpsburg, Pa.; my Judge Advocate-General, F. T. F. Johnson of Maryland; Surgeon-General, C. W. Staples of Lyndonville, Vt. They are not present, and will be installed later.

Commander-in-Chief elect Jones was then duly installed and assumed command.

PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS.

W. Y. Morgan of Kansas: Commander, before proceeding any further I would here move that the usual precedent be followed and that the Quartermaster-General be instructed to have prepared for distribution, at as early a date as possible, the usual number of printed copies of the proceedings of this Encampment.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.

E. H. Archer of Ohio: Commander, I move that the minutes of this Commandery-in-Chief, as recorded by the official stenographer, be approved without reading.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to.

PRESENTATION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S BADGE.

The Commander-in-Chief: Commander, I will ask Past Commander-in-Chief Shepard to kindly come forward and receive, on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief, the Past Commander-in-Chief's badge. It will be presented by Adjutant-General Abbott.

GENERAL ABBOTT'S PRESENTATION SPEECH.

General Abbott: Brother Shepard, on behalf of the Commandery-in-Chief and on behalf of the members of this Order, a particularly pleasant duty falls to my lot; pleasant yet sad, for it marks the close of a year of most delightful official relation between you and me; yet it is a pleasure to present to you the badge that brings you into the family of Past Commanders-in-Chief, whose names have been so closely identified with the building up of this organization. You are welcome to

stand up in line with Maccabe and Bundy, Rake and Darling and other brothers who have done so much for this organization. I could pass a good deal of time in going over and rehearsing what you have done, for no one understands more thoroughly than myself how completely you have filled the position of Commander-in-Chief, how loyal and how devoted you have been at all times to the Order, and to the brothers of the Order; and as an emblem and a token of your duty well performed, it is my privilege at this time to present to you the badge of a Past Commander-in-Chief. You have earned it by faithful service, and every brother rejoices that you are thus honored, and I, particularly and personally, feel that it is most worthily bestowed. General Shepard, I welcome you into the ranks of Past Commanders-in-Chief. [Applause.]

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SHEPARD'S RESPONSE.

Past Commander-in-Chief Shepard: Commander-in-Chief, Brother Abbott and my Brothers of the Order, I had the presumption to assume that I would receive a decoration, the decoration of Past Commander-in-Chief, but I confess that I did not suppose the brothers were going to take from the sky the stars and set them in this circle of gold. To receive this emblem from this brotherhood would be a great honor to any one. It is certainly a very great honor to me. It is impossible for me to adequately express my appreciation of the honors conferred upon me, not only during the past year but during the previous years, and for this honor conferred upon me at this time. We have a friendship, I believe, in the Order of Sons of Veterans that is not like that in any other organization. Many of us belong to other societies and other orders, but there is a peculiar and lasting love and affection that belongs particularly to the Order of the Sons of Veterans. It is impossible for me, as I said, to adequately respond to this bestowal that has come to me from you, my brothers. I can only wish that the friendships we have formed through our efforts for the organization of the Sons of Veterans will last through life, that close friendship that I have referred to, that affection for the organization and for one another, that friendship which it seems to me is the only artist that can strew the weary walks of life with the flowers of joy and happiness; and it is my wish for all of us that when we reach the sundown side of our lives, that friendship may still be green and fair; and we may still feel that same love and affection for one another. I thank you, brothers, from the bottom of my heart. [Applause.]

Commander-in-Chief Jones: Brothers, before we proceed to close I want to say one word, and I do not propose to take your time but for a moment. I know that I am speaking now to the men who control, who govern, who make the Order of the Sons of Veterans in the United States. I know that your wish and your action will determine whether in the year that is coming the Order shall grow, or whether it shall diminish. I, for my part, am very anxious to make a record as we all are, of making something good for this Order in the year to come; and I beg of you, and I command my staff that they shall be working members of this Order this year. [Applause.]

And while I have the right to direct my staff I know they would do everything in their power without any order; and I want to ask every member of this Order to take hold and see if we cannot make the Order of the Sons of Veterans grow until we put it in a commanding position in these United States. I want to see it, in time, as it must be, the successor of that grand organization, the Grand Army of the Republic. The old ones are going. The roll-call is shortened every year. Pretty soon the Sons of Veterans must become the successors of that great organization. Let us make ourselves worthy to be successors of those grand men, our fathers who have gone before us.

Now I beg of you all let us make this a working year, and I want every member of this Order to be free, and not only want you to feel free to make suggestions, but I ask it as a favor to me that you will suggest to me, and suggest to my staff and suggest to your brothers anything that you think will make for the upbuilding and aid in strengthening this Order. It is a grand Order; it is next to the Grand Army of the Republic, the grandest Order that exists on this continent or any other. [Applause.]

Is there any further business to come before the Encampment before we proceed to close?

Dan S. Gardner of Ohio: Commander, before dispersing I suggest that we hear from our newly-made Past Commander-in-Chief Reed of Pennsylvania.

ADDRESS OF PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF R. M. J. REED.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander, I do not intend to make a speech. I am glad of the opportunity to thank the brothers of this Commandery-in-Chief for the honor they have this day bestowed upon me. My abiding and unalterable belief in the future of this Order adds very greatly, in my estimation, to its value. I believe, as the Commander-in-Chief has said: "When the Grand Army shall have been mustered out, this Order of Sons of Veterans must be its legitimate and natural successor." I hope that I shall live to see it become the great patriotic factor that shall forever keep alive the principles for which our fathers fought. Twenty years ago I helped rock the cradle of the organization, and so long as I shall be permitted to live, I shall continue to uphold and advocate its cause. [Applause.] I am naturally proud of my record as a soldier in the Union Army, and when I answer the last roll call that record will be the most priceless heritage I can leave to my children; and side by side with that record there will hang my record and commission as a Past Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Veterans. [Applause.] It is my wish that with the brothers, I shall always be "Dick." If, however, I must have a title, let it be that title which "Uncle Sam" gave me for years of faithful service; and so among the "boys" let it be "Dick." I thank you again and again. [Applause.]

A. E. B. Stephens of Ohio: Commander, I move that this Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Sons of Veterans now proceed to close in due form and then adjourn *sine die*.

PAST COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S BADGE FOR R. M. J. REED.

F. H. B. McDowell of Wisconsin: Commander, before that motion is put, I move you that the Council-in-Chief be directed to secure and confer upon Major Reed a Past Commander-in-Chief's badge.

Forrest W. Briggs of Pennsylvania: Commander, I second the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

R. M. J. Reed of Pennsylvania: Commander-in-Chief, I don't want the Commandery-in-Chief to go to that expense for me. Understand me, it is not because I would not appreciate it, because there is nothing I would love better to possess; but I do not want this Commandery-in-Chief to be at that expense. In the years gone by, when there was no money to spend, I paid my own expenses, and I do not want the Commandery to be at any expense now because they conferred this honor and distinction upon me. I thank you all the same.

ADJOURNMENT, *sine die*.

A. E. B. Stephens of Ohio: Commander, I now renew my motion that the Encampment proceed to close, and adjourn *sine die*.

The motion was seconded.

The motion was agreed to and the Encampment was closed in due form, and adjourned, *sine die*.

CHICAGO, ILL., Dec. 15, 1899.

The foregoing is a true and correct record and report of the Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, Sons of Veterans, U.S.A., held in the Masonic Auditorium, Detroit, Mich., Sept. 7, 8 and 9, A.D. 1899, as reported by the official stenographer.

FRANK L. SHEPARD,
Past Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:

G. B. ABBOTT,
Past Adjutant-General.

RECORD OF ROLL CALLS.

Eighteenth Annual Encampment

1899

OF THE

COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF, S.V., U.S.A.

The following shows those members of the Encampment answering roll calls:—

P, present;—A, accredited;—O, absent.

	Roll 1	Roll 2
COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF OFFICERS.		
Commander-in-Chief, Frank L. Shepard.....	A	P
Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, George E. Cox.....	A	P
Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, Z. C. Green.....	A	P
Council-in-Chief, {	H. H. Hammer.....	P
	J. E. Hayercraft.....	P
	J. D. Rowen.....	P
Adjutant-General, G. B. Abbott.....	A	P
Quartermaster-General, Fred E. Bolton.....	A	P
Inspector-General, Forrest W. Briggs.....	A	P
Judge Advocate-General, James W. Noel.....	A	P
Surgeon-General, F. H. B. McDowell.....	A	P
Chaplain-in-Chief, Rev. A. J. Morris.....	A	P
PAST COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF.		
Frank P. Merrill.....	A	
George W. Marks.....	A	
*Walter S. Payne.....		
Louis M. Wagner.....	A	
G. B. Abbott.....	A	P
Charles F. Griffin.....	A	P
Edwin Earp.....	A	
Bartow S. Weeks.....	A	
Joseph B. Maccabe.....	A	P
William E. Bundy.....	A	P
W. H. Russell.....	A	
James Lewis Rake.....	A	P
Charles K. Darling.....	A	P
PAST GRAND DIVISION COMMANDERS.		
Frank H. Challis.....	A	
I. S. Bangs.....	A	
W. E. W. Ross.....	A	
Raphael Tobias.....	A	
*Walter S. Payne.....		
R. M. J. Reed.....	A	O
E. Howard Gilkey.....		P
CONSTITUTIONAL LIFE MEMBERS.		
W. E. W. Ross.....	A	
I. S. Bangs.....	A	
J. A. Rodrigo.....	A	
William H. Pierpont.....	A	
John A. Thompson.....	A	
W. S. Eldredge.....	A	P
R. M. J. Reed.....	A	P
O. B. Brown.....	A	
William Luther Davis.....	A	
Charles A. Bookwalker.....	A	O
Hon. John M. Thurston.....	A	P

* Suspended.

The following named are entitled to a seat and vote in the Eighteenth Annual Encampment of the Commandery-in-Chief, as representatives of their respective Divisions, having been duly reported as such to the Adjutant-General, on Form No. 50, as required by the Constitution, Rules and Regulations: —

Roll 1 | Roll 2

ALABAMA AND TENNESSEE.

Commander, W. F. Bolin.....	J.....	A	
Past Commanders, {	M. D. Friedman.....	A	
	R. W. Biese.....	A	
	W. R. Cooper.....	A	
	W. D. Good.....	A	
	V. Gilb, Jr.....	A	
	J. W. V. R. Plummer.....	A	
	J. G. Crumbliss.....	A	
	E. R. Carter.....	A	
Delegate-at-Large, F. L. Holden.....	L. W. Friedman.....	A	
	H. T. Cooper.....	A	
Delegate, F. C. Reep.....		A	
Alternate-at-Large, R. M. Childress.....		A	
Alternate, S. R. Rambo.....		A	

CALIFORNIA.

Commander, Harry T. Moore.....		A	
Past Commanders, {	L. DeP. Callahan.....	A	
	C. J. Callahan.....	A	
	E. C. Robinson.....	A	
	Fred V. Wood.....	A	
	F. W. Bunnell.....	A	
	F. C. Shipley.....	A	
Delegate-at-Large, J. A. Wagener.....	Chas. L. Pierce.....	A	
	A. Wade.....	A	
Delegate, A. E. Ade.....		A	
Alternate-at-Large, Geo. A. Richardson.....		A	
Alternate, M. E. V. Bogart.....		A	

COLORADO.

Commander, Geo. S. Milone.....		A	
Past Commanders, {	F. C. McArthur.....	A	
	H. D. Kendig.....	A	
	L. W. Kennedy*.....	A	
	C. H. Anderson.....	A	
	Adam C. Patton*.....	A	
	B. G. Robbins.....	A	
	Harlan Thomas*.....	A	
Delegate-at-Large, Joseph H. Powell*.....		A	
Delegate, W. H. Tufford.....		A	
Alternate-at-Large, Charles Moberly.....		A	
Alternate, Ray S. Minton.....		A	

CONNECTICUT.

Commander, Edson S. Bishop.....		A	P	O
Past Commanders, {	W. H. Pierpont.....	A		
	G. B. Smith.....	A		
	H. W. Wessels.....	A		
	A. E. Chandler.....	A		
	B. R. Singleton.....	A		
	F. S. Valentine.....	A		

* Suspended June 30, 1899.

CONNECTICUT—Continued.

		Roll 1	Roll 2
Past Commanders,	W. N. Barber.....	A	
	W. J. Bissell.....	A	
	Geo. E. Cox.....	A	P P
	W. W. Wheeler.....	A	
	Leon L. Hall.....	A	
Delegate-at-Large,	William Parmelee.....	A	P P
Delegates,	Rev. J. E. Zeiter.....	A	P P
	C. F. Loomis, Jr.....	A	P P
Alternate-at-Large,	Geo. W. Fletcher.....	A	
Alternates,	Allen T. Pratt.....	A	
	E. C. Booth.....	A	

GULF.

(No Report.)

ILLINOIS.

Commander,	Will C. Schneider.....	A	P	P
Past Commanders,	R. V. Mallory.....	A		
	G. B. Abbott.....	A	P	P
	F. McCrillis.....	A		
	C. T. Orner.....	A	P	P
	Geo. B. Stadden.....	A		P
	Geo. H. Hurlbut.....	A		
	C. G. Marsh.....	A	P	P
	Jno. D. Hall.....	A		
	F. L. Shepard.....	A	P	P
	Wm. G. Dustin.....	A	P	P
	John R. Neeley.....	A		
Past Commanders,	S. E. Thomasson.....	A		
	William T. Church.....	A	P	P
Delegate-at-Large,	Isaac Cutter.....	A	P	P
Delegate,	John S. Simpson.....	A	P	P
Alternates appointed by Commander,	O. L. Day.....	A	P	P
	A. F. Brett.....	A	P	P
	F. J. Strong.....	A	P	P

INDIANA.

Commander,	H. O. P. Cline.....	A	P	P
Past Commanders,	J. W. Newton.....	A		
	George C. Harvey.....	A		
	Newton J. McGuire.....	A	P	P
	Frank Martin.....	A		
	R. B. Oglesbee.....	A		
	Jno. E. Edmonson†.....	A		
	Wm. H. Armstrong†.....	A		
Past Commanders,	R. R. Thompson.....	A	P	P
	Delegate-at-Large,	Harold C. Megrew.....	A	P P
Delegates,	Geo. F. Ogden.....	A	P	P
	Schuyler Tipton.....	A	P	P
	Harry Martin*.....	A		
Alternate-at-Large,	Frank Graham.....	A		
Alternates,	Lee C. Reed.....	A		
	E. E. Massey.....	A		
	T. E. Firgly.....	A		

* Division only entitled to two delegates besides Delegate-at-Large.
 † Past Provisional Commanders.

		Roll 1	Roll 2
IOWA.			
Commander, Will A. Brown	.....	A	
	{ J. D. Rowen	A	P O
	{ L. A. Dilley	A	
	{ A. L. Sortor, Jr.	A	P P
Past Commanders,	{ H. M. Hanson	A	
	{ E. E. Hawkes	A	
	{ John H. Pickett	A	
	{ A. T. Wilson	A	
	{ W. W. Bisby	A	
Delegate-at-Large, Guy R. Carson	.....	A	
Delegate, A. W. Buchanan	.....	A	
Alternate-at-Large, J. A. Hartman	.....	A	
Alternate, J. W. Petty	.....	A	
KANSAS.			
Commander, L. B. Price	.....	A	P P
	{ C. D. Jones	A	
	{ E. H. Madison	A	
	{ W. Y. Morgan	A	P
Past Commanders,	{ Grant W. Harrington	A	
	{ W. P. Feder	A	
	{ John Redmond	A	
	{ W. P. Wilcox	A	
Delegate-at-Large	.....	A	
Delegates, { C. Borin	.....	A	P P
	{ J. L. Papes	A	P P
Alternate, Lee Harrison	.....	A	
KENTUCKY.			
Commander, Alexander Hamilton	.....	A	
	{ George H. Capito	A	
	{ Fred G. Singleton	A	
	{ W. R. Heflin	A	
Past Commanders,	{ W. N. Evans	A	
	{ Will A. Field	A	
	{ B. F. McClelland	A	
	{ T. Z. Morrow, Jr.	A	
	{ E. H. Hansford	A	
Delegate-at-Large, Vola G. Trimble	.....	A	
Delegate, J. M. Mayfield	.....	A	
Alternate-at-Large, John Stebbins	.....	A	
Alternate, John P. Taylor	.....	A	
MAINE.			
Commander, Edward H. Smith	.....	A	
	{ A. S. Libby	A	
	{ Charles H. Rice	A	
	{ E. K. Gould	A	
	{ T. G. Libby	A	
	{ W. H. Perry	A	
	{ C. H. Hutchins	A	
	{ A. C. Cloudman	A	
Past Commanders,	{ E. C. Moran	A	
	{ C. E. Merrill	A	
	{ R. L. Whitcomb	A	
	{ H. C. Chatto	A	
	{ Fred E. Fairfield	A	
	{ L. L. Cooper	A	
	{ Arthur M. Soule	A	
	{ George E. Leighton	A	

MAINE—Continued.

	A	P	P
Delegate-at-Large, Henry G. Thomas	A	P	P
Delegates, {	L. O. Haskell.....	A	
	E. W. Crawford	A	
	C. H. Mills	A	
Alternate-at-Large, George W. Gray	A		
Alternates not chosen.			

MARYLAND.

Commander, Geo. S. Whitmore	A	P	P
Past Commanders, {	Miles W. Ross.....	A	
	E. R. Campbell	A	P
	Robt. W. Wilson	A	P
	Otto L. Suess	A	
	Frank A. White.....	A	
Past Commanders, {	Frank O. Peterson.....	A	
	Edward K. Del'Puy	A	
	William B. King.....	A	
	Edgar Allen, Jr.....	A	P
Delegate-at-Large, Edgar Allen, Jr.....	A	P	P
Delegate, F. T. F. Johnson.....	A	P	P
Alternate-at-Large, H. H. Henry.....	A		
Alternate, E. E. Vannorsdale.....	A		

MASSACHUSETTS.

Commander, Geo. N. Howard.....	A	P	P
Past Commanders, {	F. J. Bradford.....	A	
	J. B. Maccabe.....	A	P
	C. F. Sargent	A	O
	H. S. Crossman	A	
	J. H. Hinckley	A	
	N. C. Upham.....	A	
	D. B. Purbeck.....	A	
	C. K. Darling	A	P
	Wm. A. Stevens.....	A	P
	W. H. Delano.....	A	
	A. C. Blaisdell	A	
	D. F. Goulding.....	A	
	F. E. Bolton	A	P
	G. W. Knowlton.....	A	P
Harry D. Sisson.....	A	P	
Orange H. Cook.....	A	P	
Leonard C. Couch	A	P	
• Delegate-at-Large, Emery Coulter.....	A	P	P
Delegates, {	C. D. Rooney	A	P
	J. H. Fayerweather	A	P
	F. L. Kirchgassner	A	P
	P. L. Parker	A	P
	A. E. Leighton	A	P
	T. S. Bell.....	A	P
	B. F. Cook.....	A	P

MICHIGAN.

Commander, C. J. Post.....	A	P	P
Past Commanders, {	F. M. Williams	A	
	F. D. Eddy.....	A	P
	F. C. Stillson.....	A	P
	F. F. McMurtrie	A	P
	E. R. Henderson.....	A	P
	H. E. Cowdin.....	A	P
George E. Cogshall	A	P	P

		Roll 1	Roll 2
MICHIGAN — Continued.			
Delegate-at-Large, Carl A. Wagner	A	P	O
Delegates, {	H. O. Herrick	A	P
	L. E. Merchant	A	
	Walter L. Raynes	A	P
MINNESOTA.			
Commander, A. O. Allen	A		
Past Commanders, {	E. H. Milham	A	
	A. S. Morgan	A	
	George F. Kelley	A	
	George H. Sheire	A	
	Francis G. Drew	A	
	H. E. Stodleck, Jr.	A	
Delegate-at-Large, Wm. G. Young	A		
	Delegate, J. C. Carter	A	P
Alternate-at-Large, G. T. Drake	A		P
Alternate, J. J. Warner	A		
MISSOURI.			
Commander, B. Prack	A	P	P
Past Commanders, {	J. J. Speaker	A	
	A. H. Vandivert	A	
	E. R. Durham	A	
	R. Loebenstein	A	
	H. J. Klue	A	
	B. W. Frauenthal	A	
	F. E. Ernst	A	
	E. L. Gottschalk	A	
	W. J. Simmerschied	A	
	Manly Wren	A	
Delegate-at-Large, C. C. Behnke	A		P
	Delegate, A. P. Kelso	A	
NEBRASKA.			
Commander, J. H. Helne	A	P	O
Past Commanders, {	F. J. Coates	A	
	Geo. F. Wolz	A	
	F. A. Agnew	A	
	A. H. Rawitzer	A	P
	Moses P. O'Brien	A	O
	J. C. Elliott *	A	
Delegate-at-Large, W. F. Jacobs	A		
Delegate, C. C. Stull	A		
Alternate-at-Large, O. L. Solisbury	A		
Alternate, H. W. Rogers, Jr.	A	O	P
NEW HAMPSHIRE.			
Commander, E. B. Falsom	A		
Past Commanders, {	F. H. Challis	A	
	F. E. Libby	A	
	Michael Crowley	A	
	Ben O. Robey	A	
	Frank P. Perkins	A	
James H. Joyce	A		

* Suspended.

NEW HAMPSHIRE — *Continued.*

		Roll 1	Roll 2
Past Commanders,	Frank C. Smith.....	A	
	C. H. Little.....	A	
	John H. Twombly	A	
	W. S. Willy	A	
	H. E. Chamberlain.....	A	
Delegate-at-Large,	Harry A. Brown.....	A	
Delegate,	C. G. M. Nathan	A	
Alternate-at-Large,	Linwood B. Emery.....	A	
Alternate,	Leon W. Bilsborough.....	A	

NEW JERSEY.

Commander,	Geo. H. Bailey	A	P	P
Past Commanders,	Fred D. Morse	A		
	Andrew Derrom, Jr.....	A		
	T. H. Edmonds	A		
	A. L. Sparks.....	A		
	Geo. W. Pollitt	A		
	James E. Pierson	A		
	James B. Adams	A		
	Lewis L. Drake.....	A		
	Ed. C. White.....	A		
	Jas. M. Mathews.....	A		
Delegate-at-Large,	Fremont Tietze.....	A		
Delegates,	Harry A. Douglas.....	A		
	James W. Davis, Jr.....	A	P	P
Alternate-at-Large,	Frank M. Cunningham.....	A		
Alternates,	Zachariah Brogden	A		
	Henry Gundersdorf.....	A		

NEW YORK.

Commander,	Ralph Sheldon.....	A	P	P
Past Commanders,	M. J. Downing.....	A		
	E. W. Hatch.....	A		
	J. C. Sawyer	A		
	J. E. Hedges	A		
	George Addington.....	A	O	P
	W. H. Wyker.....	A		P
	A. Hoefling.....	A		
	C. E. Holmes	A	P	P
	W. S. Oberdorf.....	A	P	P
	L. J. Macy.....	A		
	W. K. West.....	A		
	A. G. Courtney.....	A		
	J. M. Diven.....	A		P
	W. H. Robertson	A		
	Burt E. Fisher.....	A		
E. W. Estes	A	P	P	
Delegate-at-Large,	J. G. Swan.....	A	P	P
Delegates,	W. McWhirter	A	P	P
	F. P. Connell	A	P	P
	H. P. Hollister.....	A	P	P
	J. Frank Dunton.....	A	P	P
	E. C. Parkinson.....	A	P	P
	H. H. Parker	A		P
	W. A. Personius	A	P	P
Alternate-at-Large,	.....	A		
Alternates,	Geo H. Pease	A		
	H. G. Morgan.....	A		
	L. J. Daubman	A		
	Chas. H. Heimsoth.....	A		

		Roll 1	Roll 2	
NEW YORK—Continued.				
Alternates,	{ Edward Harrigan.....	A		
	{ J. V. G. Bogart.....	A		
	{ Thomas Aitken.....	A		
OHIO.				
Commander, A. E. B.	Stephens.....	A	P P	
	{ E. H. Gilkey.....	A		
	{ H. R. Bacon.....	A	P P	
	{ Walter S. Payne*.....	A		
	{ W. C. Wyckoff.....	A		
	{ F. W. Myers.....	A	P P	
	{ George A. Ensign.....	A		
	{ Henry Frazee.....	A		
	{ George W. Leonard.....	A		
	Past Commanders,	{ William E. Bundy.....	A	P P
		{ C. J. Deckman.....	A	P
		{ J. V. Hilliard.....	A	
		{ Fillmore Musser.....	A	
{ Dan S. Gardner.....		A	P P	
{ Don C. Cable.....		A		
{ L. V. Williams.....		A		
{ D. Q. Morrow.....		A		
{ A. W. Jones.....		A	P P	
{ E. H. Archer.....		A	P P	
Delegate-at-Large, H. V.	Speelman.....	A	P P	
	{ J. E. Orr.....	A	P P	
Delegates,	{ H. S. Buckland.....	A		
	{ W. E. Baldwin.....	A	P P	
	{ R. L. Atchison.....	A	P	
Alternate-at-Large, H. D.	Ketcham.....	A		
	{ V. E. Price.....	A		
Alternates,	{ C. H. A. Palmer.....	A	P	
	{ A. C. Messenger.....	A		
	{ J. W. Swift.....	A		
OREGON.				
Commander, Elmer Hardesty.....	A			
Past Commanders, {	L. W. Oren.....	A		
	Walter Ross.....	A		
Delegate-at-Large, Walter Ross.....	A			
Delegate, L. W. Oren.....	A			
Alternate-at-Large, F. L. Littlefield.....	A			
Alternate, E. Hardesty.....	A			
PENNSYLVANIA.				
Commander, S. S. Horn.....	{ J. H. Closson.....	A	P P	
	{ L. M. Wagner.....	A		
	{ R. M. J. Reed.....	A	P	
	{ E. W. Alexander.....	A		
	{ Robt. E. Hopkins.....	A	P	
	{ W. H. Smith.....	A		
	Past Commanders,	{ H. H. Hammer.....	A	P P
		{ J. H. Seifert.....	A	
		{ H. M. Russell.....	A	
		{ C. J. Miller.....	A	
		{ J. L. Rake.....	A	P P
		{ W. B. McNulty.....	A	
		{ G. W. Gerhard.....	A	
{ H. M. Rebele.....	A	P		
{ Walter E. Smith.....	A			

* Suspended.

PENNSYLVANIA — *Continued.*

		Roll 1	Roll 2
Past Commanders,	Chas. L. John.....	A	
	C E. Diefenderfer.....	A	
	James H. Tawney.....	A	
	Wildun Scott.....	A	
	A. S. Moulthrop.....	A	P P
Delegate-at-Large, Rev Otto Braudt.....	A	P	P
Delegates,	Walter R. Ross.....	A	P
	J. W. C. Austin.....	A	P
	G. W. Dubbs.....	A	P
	John Whiteman.....	A	P
	J. M. Ruch.....	A	P
	S. W. Macurdy.....	A	P
	Fred Stark.....	A	P
	W. O. Foster.....	A	
	I. C. Brown.....	A	
	T. W. Blbighaus.....	A	
	J. M. Milligan.....	A	P
	S. D. Coldren.....	A	P
	W. L. Mathews.....	A	
	C. M. Dingle.....	A	
	John Bradley.....	A	
Gus Rhodes.....	A		
Alternates,	H. E. Custer.....	A	
	S. C. Steuber.....	A	
	James Mann.....	A	
	Edw. Newman.....	A	
	E. T. Kelly.....	A	
	Wm. Leber.....	A	
	Geo. Fritz.....	A	
	L. H. Stedje.....	A	
C. C. Morton.....	A		
H. R. Willhide.....	A		

RHODE ISLAND.

Commander, F. E. Carpenter.....	A	P	P
Past Commanders,	Chas. H. West.....	A	
	T. A. Barton.....	A	
	T. M. Sweetland.....	A	
	Wm. M. P. Bowen.....	A	
	R. H. Dexter.....	A	
	A. B. Spink.....	A	
	H. S. Thompson.....	A	
Chas. W. Abbott, Jr.....	A		
W. R. Williams.....	A		
Delegate-at-Large, R. L. Oatley.....	A		P
Delegate, Rev. H. C. Dana.....	A		
Alternate-at-Large, H. D. Gifford.....	A		
Alternate, C. E. Matteson.....	A		

SOUTH DAKOTA.

Commander, W. A. Morris.....	A	P	P
Past Commanders,	L. D. Lyon.....	A	
	Z. C. Green.....	A	P
	R. J. Courtney.....	A	
	C. C. Brass.....	A	
Delegate-at-Large, G. A. Drake.....	A	P	P
Delegate, M. E. North.....	A		
Alternate-at-Large, Walter Anderson.....	A		
Alternate, R. L. Hunsberger.....	A		

		Roll 1	Roll 2
VERMONT.			
Commander, Ira E. Morse	.....	A	
	{ C. F. R. Jenne	A	
	{ G. E. Terrill	A	
	{ John E. Fox	A	
	{ F. L. Eaton	A	
	{ E. T. Griswold	A	
	{ H. O. Bixby	A	
Past Commanders,	{ Geo. O. Webster	A	
	{ William M. Sargent	A	
	{ F. L. Green	A	
	{ H. S. Foster	A	
	{ E. T. Monahan	A	
	{ Arthur I. Howe	A	
	{ W. W. Lapoint	A	
Delegate-at-Large, Elmer E. Perry	.....	A	
Delegates, { Nelson F. Kelly	.....	A	P
	{ Geo. D. Van Steinberg	A	P
WASHINGTON.			
Commander, Chas. E. Plimpton	.....	A	
	{ B. W. Coiner	A	
	{ E. W. Young	A	
	{ Harry Rosenhaupt	A	P
	{ W. H. Fletcher	A	P
Past Commanders,	{ W. L. Jones	A	
	{ W. W. Sparks	A	
	{ W. F. Locks	A	
	{ C. V. Savidge	A	
	{ W. T. Cavanaugh	A	
Delegate-at-Large, H. H. Hubbard	.....	A	
Delegate, G. L. Hooker	.....	A	
WEST VIRGINIA.			
Commander, J. W. McClung	.....	A	
	{ H. B. Baguely*	A	
Past Commanders,	{ G. Ed. Sylvis*	A	
	{ R. F. Adams*	A	
	{ Harry W. Thurber*	A	
Delegate-at-Large, R. H. Powell	.....	A	
Delegate, W. R. Robison	.....	A	
Alternate-at-Large, J. G. Bollner	.....	A	
Alternate, A. Montgomery	.....	A	
WISCONSIN.			
Commander, A. G. Bruband	.....	A	P
	{ F. J. Walthers	A	
	{ H. S. Fuller	A	
	{ Thomas L. Jacobs	A	
	{ W. J. Patton	A	P
Past Commanders,	{ Charles C. Townsend	A	P
	{ J. P. Sheridan	A	
	{ C. H. Hudson	A	
	{ R. L. McCormick	A	
	{ R. M. Smith	A	P
Delegate-at-Large, H. J. Buchen	.....	A	
Delegate, G. O. Schorse	A	
Alternate-at-Large, E. T. Fairchild	A	P
Alternate, H. F. Breitung	A	

* Suspended.

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