

OREGON'S SOLDIERS

GENERAL COMPTON'S FULL REPORT
ON THE STATE MILITIA.

Satisfactory Showing Made for Organization and Discipline—The Men Will Obey Orders.

THE leading centers of population in Oregon, including Portland, during the railroad strikes and other similar disturbances last year, enjoyed an entire freedom from what might properly be termed open breaches of the peace. This was in sharp contrast to the state of the militia in California and the states of the Middle West at the height of the dominating sentiment in Oregon has always been strongly in favor of preserving the public peace at any cost, and open defiance of the law has never been tolerated. This sentiment has resulted in the organization of an effective body of militia in the state. It has always been the proud claim of the officers of Oregon's militia that the men under their control would do just what they were ordered to do, even during any crisis that might arise, and it is this thorough discipline of the different companies composing the state militia that has earned for it the entire confidence and cordial support of the people of Oregon.

The following report, made by General Compton, brigadier-general in charge of the state troops, will show the strong footing on which the organization has been placed:

PORTLAND, Or., Dec. 1, 1894.
Adjutant-General, Oregon National Guard,
Salem, Or.:

Sir—I inclose herewith for the information of the commander-in-chief of the National Guard of the state, and have the honor to further report that, as it was deemed inadvisable, on account of the expense, to hold encampments this year, the National Guard of the state was inspected, by organization, at the station of each regiment and company. With the exception of one company, a general improvement was found throughout the force, the attention to drill, military drill and bearing better and administration much more correct than last year. The appropriation of \$20,000, made at the last session of the legislature for clothing and equipping the National Guard, has been judiciously and economically expended, and all the companies in existence are now well uniformed and sufficiently equipped to take the field in an emergency. Most of the money was spent in Oregon, and has helped to keep its mills running and its workmen employed. The brigade commander believes that, though needing further instruction and stricter discipline, the state force is an efficient and reliable body of troops, and can be depended upon to uphold the laws and protect society from the violence of its lawless elements; he believes that the present organization and strength of the force should be maintained and receive the best attention of the commander-in-chief and the legislature to improve its discipline, instruction and morale, that it may be what the constitution of the United States intended the militia should be, an efficient and reliable support to the civil authority when turbulence in the community requires the use of force, and that it may be what the constitution of the United States intended the militia should be, an efficient and reliable support to the civil authority when turbulence in the community requires the use of force.

The amount that the guard costs is a trifling insurance against the business and property interests of our people against the growing lawlessness of the times. If a sufficient number of our citizens are willing to give their time and contribute to their own and the state's protection, discipline and preparation necessary to protect society and hold themselves at all times in readiness to act, that the remainder of the community may trade in security and sleep in peace, there ought to be no question as to the necessary appropriation for their proper support and equipment. There is no higher citizenship, and there are no more reliable citizens than those enrolled in our National Guard.

If the people of Oregon only were to be considered or provided for, the state might possibly do with less force, for as a rule, they are a law-abiding people, but the state is liable to be visited in the future, as it was in the past year, by hordes of lawless men from other localities, who have no interest in our commonwealth, and regard for the reputation of the state, and intent only on the accomplishment of their selfish purposes; a few hours will throw into our state bodies of men repressed in, driven from their homes, and efficient National Guard is the only force that can be depended upon, under such circumstances, to enable the civil authorities to protect individual rights and property, and prevent municipalities from being mauled in heavy damages. The brigade commander has reliable information that the peace of the city of Portland and uninterrupted commerce within the state, during the troubles that recently convulsed other states, was due to the knowledge that our state militia would unhesitatingly support the civil authority whenever called upon to do so. No higher tribute than this can be paid to our state troops or to the wisdom of the legislature which made it possible for such a force to continue in existence.

The guard being now re-equipped, and provided with the necessary means for protection of state property, the appropriation of \$20,000 for its support, made by the last legislature, will be sufficient to keep it in good running order for the year, but will all be needed for that purpose.

It has been the policy of the military board to distribute the companies throughout the state, according to population, but to have them on or near the principal lines of communication so that their services could be made available at any time. Cavalry troops are stationed in the interior, where there are no lines of railway, to protect the people of the outlying districts, and it is believed they will do excellent service whenever called upon.

For the proper discipline of the state troops there is need of a better defined code than our present military law, which is general in terms and confers upon the military board the power and duty to provide regulations for the detailed work of the guard; this has been done, but some doubt has been expressed by state authority as to the legality of their action. If the regulations adopted and such others as experience has shown to be necessary can be enacted into a military code by the legislature it would greatly facilitate the discipline and administration of the guard. The present strength of the guard is as follows:

CLASSIFICATION.	Organized	Enlisted	Total
Commander-in-chief and staff	1	1	2
Brigadier-general and staff	1	1	2
Hospital corps	1	1	2
Light Battery A	1	1	2
Troop A, cavalry	1	1	2
First regiment, infantry	1	1	2
Second regiment, infantry	1	1	2
Third regiment, infantry	1	1	2
Separate battalion	1	1	2
Total	142	142	284

The infantry are armed with Springfield breech-loading rifles, caliber 4, an excellent weapon in every respect. The cavalry have sabers, pistols, and Spencer carbines; these carbines are old or of obsolete pattern and caliber, and not very serviceable.

It is expected that Springfield carbines can be obtained from the United States government when the new 30-caliber rifle has been supplied to the regular army. The brass guns now in possession of the battery are old and honey-combed, and have been bored out so as to change the caliber and make it difficult to procure or construct ammunition for them. An effort to procure a battery of 12-pounders, from Vancouver barracks, for the use of Light Battery A, failed of success. The galling guns are very effective weapons, but not a proper armament for a battery, and should be handled by a separate company of infantry or the flank company of an infantry battalion.

Very respectfully,
H. B. COMPTON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding O. N. G.

Sketch of Brig.-Gen. Compton.
Oregon has been particularly fortunate during the past two years in having at the head of the state militia an officer who has earned a prominent position among the great soldiers of the country. Brigadier-General H. B. Compton, commanding the Oregon National Guard, a man whose ability is shown by the statement that he ended the Union army in the great national conflict of



H.B. COMPTON.
Photo by McAlpin & Lamb.

the civil war as a private soldier and returned home after the war was over bearing the commission of colonel of his regiment. General Compton's record in the war was one of distinguished service and gallant conduct. He commanded his regiment at the battle of Gettysburg, where he encountered Jubal Early's army. He charged through the center of the forces opposed to him, cut off their retreat, and captured many prisoners, wagons, ambulances, battle flags and cannons. Among the remembrances of the war which he prizes highly is a medal of honor received from congress for distinguished service.

General Compton held every position in the army from private to colonel of his regiment. Among the great battles he engaged in were those of Chancellorsville, Fredericksburg, Antietam, Beaver Ford, Harper's Ferry, Gettysburg, Three Days, South Mountain, Winchester, Cedar Creek, Five Forks. He was also at Lee's surrender.

General Compton was appointed brigadier-general to command the Oregon National Guard, December 16, 1891. As the direct result of his faithful attention to duty, together with his recognized ability as a soldier, the state militia has been brought to that state of proficiency that has earned the recognition of being the best organized body of soldiers outside the regular forces of the United States army on the coast.

General Compton has filled many positions of trust and honor in civil and military life, and he has always been found on the side of law, order and justice, and he has always been an enemy to those who showed a disposition to be disloyal to the state or the country.

A TREATISE ON CIDER.
Its Use and Benefits to Mankind Considered.

The Pacific Vinegar Company, now located on East Alder and Ninth streets, Portland, Or., was first started in Salem in 1879, and was incorporated January 12, 1881. In 1891 the plant was moved to the metropolis and located at its present site. It is the largest plant on the North Pacific coast, and is using more acreage for its supplies than any other institution north of California, with the exception of the milling industry.

Take a few of its items of supply. For the year 1894 it required acreage as follows:
Cucumbers Acres 25
Tomatoes, for catsup 20
Cabbage 10
Cauliflower 10
Small onions 5
The above amounts were raised on 10,000 bushels of apples for 1894.

This material, and much more, which needs not enumeration, is drawn from the whole country from the Puget Sound to the Willamette valley, thus creating a cash market for tons of material that could find no paying demand from any other source.

Fire Boys Give a Dinner.
The members of truck company No. 1, of the fire department enjoyed their annual dinner last night at headquarters, and had a jolly good time of it. It has been their custom to have a spread on the last night of the year, and invite a few of their friends to join them in seeing the new year in. Among the invited guests last night were Chief Richter, assistant Chief Campbell, ex-Chiefs Morgan and Holman, and a few other personal friends of members. An elegant dinner was served in the banquet parlor, to which full justice was done by all present.

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TO CORRECT ABUSES

AIMS OF THE STRONG ORGANIZATION
OF THE COMMITTEE OF 100.

The Results Accomplished by This Body of Representative Citizens During the Past Year.

PORTLAND, like other important cities, has now reached an epoch in its history where the demand for the economical and businesslike management of its municipal affairs becomes an imperative one. With a large annual management of its municipal office-seeker, who recognizes no rights of his fellow-men that conflict with the demands of his own cupidity when allowed to fatten for any length of time at the public crib, the representative citizens of Portland who have long paid the price of their own folly to interest themselves in the matter of public expenditures by the municipal government. The important work done by the Committee of One Hundred since its organization has been in the line of perfecting a system governing public expenditures here that would leave open no loop-hole for the improper use of this money by the numerous over-holding class which has the responsibility of handling it.

The organization of the Committee of One Hundred was in no sense a reflection on the honesty or good intentions of the men elected to office by the people of the city. The committee, since it was first organized, has had the cordial support and encouragement of all the prominent officials of the city, and the results it has already accomplished have been no more in the interests of the taxpayers than they have been to the advantage of the conscientious office-holder, who is disposed at all times to study the interests of the people of the community in which he has prospered.

The representative members of the Committee of One Hundred are prominent taxpayers of Portland. The object of the organization of this body of representative citizens is to improve the administration of the city and county governments and to encourage retrenchment in the expenditure of public moneys without impairing the services of the city and county wherever possible.

The initiative in the organization of the Committee of One Hundred was taken in the monster mass meeting of leading citizens, which was held in the Portland tabernacle November 1, 1892. The object of the call for the meeting was the business depression which immediately followed the panic, a time when everybody felt that economy was necessary, not only in the management of business and household affairs, but also in conducting a municipal government for a city of nearly 100,000 people.

Previous to the organization of the Committee of One Hundred Portland affairs had been conducted in a manner which did not threaten disaster during good times, but which was not separated from the general depression of the country during the period of financial depression. Some of the city's money had been placed on deposit in banks that were not conservatively managed, and certain of the city's officials had not complied with the terms of the law in making regular reports of the condition of the offices over which they presided. It was to correct these irregularities that the Committee of One Hundred was organized, and it is the work of this committee which has been largely responsible for the management of Portland's municipal affairs being put on a business basis.

At the first meeting of the committee were appointed for the express purpose of inaugurating a system of investigation into the management of the affairs of the city by the committee several officials in charge of the different public offices. At a second meeting, held in the tabernacle, 13 days later, the reports of these several committees were read. From these reports the people became convinced that a permanent organization of Portland's leading taxpayers should be effected, for the purposes of insisting on a more economical management of the city and county governments.

On December 3 following, 100 citizens of Portland assembled at the Worcester building and organized the present committee. Hon. H. W. Corbett was elected chairman, Tyler Woodward vice-chairman, George Woodward treasurer, and W. T. Muir attorney. The plan of work laid out by the committee was very comprehensive, and it provided for the most rigid investigation of the management of the finances of the city and county.

Regular meetings of the committee have been held at frequent intervals since that time. Aside from the moral influence which such an influential body of citizens as the Committee of One Hundred have been enabled to exert, the direct results of the work of the committee have been readily recognized by the people of Portland. Through the effort of the committee, the system of the rigid economy has been inaugurated in the management of all the departments of the city and county governments, which has allowed a reduction in the tax levy of 25 mills for all purposes in 1893-94 to 20 1/2 mills for 1894-95. The committee is making every effort to still further reduce the rate of taxation, with every hope of ultimate success.

The Committee of One Hundred has prepared a bill which will be presented to the next legislature. This bill provides for the enactment of a law under which the governor must designate the depositaries of public funds. Such a depositary will be required by the terms of this act to deposit with the secretary of state securities covering the full amount of money that such a depositary may lawfully receive. Other needed laws of reform have also been prepared under the direction of the committee. The committee has had under advisement for some time past the preparation of a new city charter for Portland. The greatest care has been taken in forming this charter, and it is hoped that its passage will be favorably considered by the coming legislature.

The whole aim of the Committee of One Hundred has been to secure for Portland the advantage of businesslike methods in running the city government, and it has been this unselfish aim of the organization which has entitled it to the support of everybody interested in the continued prosperity of the city.

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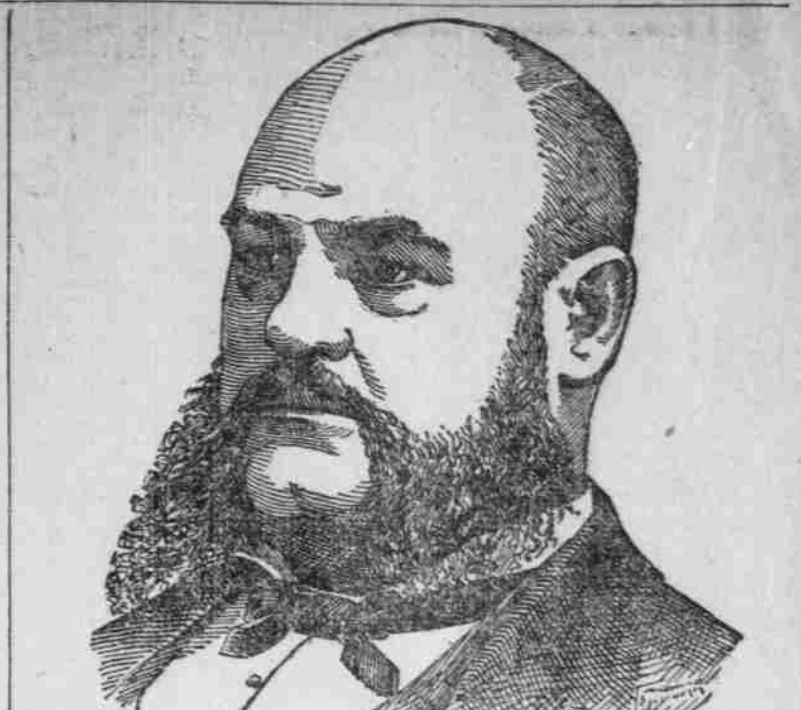
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