

STEWART IS CHIEF

G. A. R. Veterans Elect Principal Officers.

PENSION BUREAU GETS SCORING

Committee Characterizes Medical Rules as Adaptable to Criminal Instead of Equity Court-Report That Cost Evans' Head.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The Grand Army got down to business today and the encampment of the order, besides hearing an address from Commander-in-Chief Torrence, and reports from a number of officers and committees, elected a new head for the ensuing year. The new commander-in-chief of the G. A. R. is General T. J. Stewart, of Pennsylvania, who was a candidate for the honor a year ago. His competitors today were General John C. Black, of Illinois, ex-Commissioner of Pensions, and Colonel John McElroy, of Kentucky. The name of Daniel Sickles, of New York City, was presented, but he withdrew from the race. William M. Olin, of Massachusetts, was elected vice-commander-in-chief and James M. Averill, of Georgia, junior vice-commander-in-chief. The election of other officers went over until tomorrow. The three active candidates for the honor of entertaining the G. A. R. at the next annual encampment are Saratoga, Atlantic City and San Francisco. There seems to be quite a sentiment in favor of choosing a city between the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, and it is said that the encampment may go to neither of the three cities named if a city in the Middle West actively pushes its claims.

Aside from the election of these officers, the most interesting feature of the encampment was the report of the pension committee of the G. A. R. This committee severely scored the medical division of the Pension Bureau, declaring that it was a division where were executed the claims of veterans seeking pensions. It accused the personnel of this division of approaching the reports of the examining surgeons throughout the country with suspicion and distrust, and as made in bad faith. It denounced the reports that extensive frauds were practiced in pension claims as absolutely baseless.

Memorial Bridge Dedicated. Thousands of veterans and their wives not delegates to any of these organizations attended army corps reunions in the big tents on the White House lot or spent the beautiful October day in sight-seeing. A feature of the afternoon was the dedication of the corner-stone of the proposed memorial bridge to connect Washington with the National Mall at Arlington. Secretary Root was the orator of the occasion.

At the outset a resolution was adopted expressing the grief of the convention at the death of President Roosevelt and its regret over President Roosevelt's indisposition. The resolution was offered by General Edgar Allen, of Virginia, and was as follows:

Resolved, That while we still mourn our country's loss, it is a source of rejoicing that Theodore Roosevelt, as successor to our beloved and lamented comrade William McKinley, so magnificently in sympathy with all that tends to the preservation of the memories of our glorious past, and recognizes the claims of the veterans who fought for the preservation of the Union, and that while he cannot be of us, he is with us by the ties of comradeship which he won in our country's later examples of American valor.

Resolved, That we deeply deplore the inability of the President to join in our exercises and entertainments to the extent of his desire, and we hereby express our earnest solicitation that he may speedily be restored to full health and activity in working for the public good, and be ever protected by the Divine arm from every ill.

The greater part of the afternoon session was devoted to the election of National officers. There was a sharp contest over the election of a commander-in-chief, but it was concluded by the first ballot. Four candidates were placed in nomination: General Stewart, of Pennsylvania; General John C. Black, of New York; General Daniel Sickles, of New York; and General McElroy, of the District of Columbia. General Sickles withdrew before the vote was taken, and he himself seconded the nomination of General Black. The first ballot resulted in the election of General Stewart, the vote being as follows:

Stewart 47
Black 37
McElroy 23
For senior vice-commander, the only candidate in opposition to Mr. Olin was J. L. Smith, of Ohio. Mr. Olin's vote was 42 and Mr. Smith's 28.

Mr. Averill, for junior vice-commander, was opposed by L. C. Way, of Florida, and Mr. Shaw, of West Virginia. The vote resulted:

Averill 57
Way 27
Shaw 28

Reports of Officers. Commander-in-Chief Torrence's address was made this morning, and referred to the standing committee having in charge the reports of officers, after which the other reports of general officers were presented. Official reports were made by the senior vice-commander, the junior vice-commander, the surgeon-general, the chaplain-in-chief, the adjutant-general, the quartermaster-general, the inspector-general and the judge-advocate-general. In his report, Surgeon-General W. B. Threlkeld, of Cincinnati, recommended that the office of surgeon be made honorary, and that the mortuary and health features which the surgeon-general is expected to supply be furnished by the adjutant-general. This recommendation is made, Dr. Threlkeld says, because of the impossibility of getting complete statistics from the department medical directors. He makes no further recommendation, saying that there would be to palm off statistics which would be entirely unreliable.

Chaplain-in-Chief Thomas N. Boyle, of Pittsburg, also speaks of the futile attempts he has made to secure members of attendance at Memorial day services, but he attributes the neglect to supply the facts to the advanced age of many post chaplains and of their general inactivity. In his report, Inspector-General Wilfred A. Wetherbee, of Boston, says: "I find that our weakest departments, as well as our weakest posts, are those which do not have a woman's relief corps connected with them. It has been truly said that the success of all great undertakings has been largely due to the influence of woman. The Grand Army of the Republic can give testimony to the truth of that statement. I most earnestly recommend that every post that is not so best take steps at once for the formation of a corps. The smaller and more remotely situated the post, the more need of a corps."

The report of Adjutant-General Silas H. Towler, of Minneapolis, shows that on June 30 the muster roll of the Grand Army contained 252,747 members in good standing, and that there were 611 posts. The figures as to membership show a net loss since the preceding year

of 1894. The adjutant-general says that the high-water mark of membership was reached in 1896, when it numbered 406,483, and that there has been a gradual decline since that date. Commenting on this circumstance, he says: "It is indeed encouraging that notwithstanding the inevitable increased loss by death, the gains by muster-in and reinstatement overcome it. There are still living over 300,000 of the men who were a part of the Grand Army of the Republic of that number less than 7,000 are over 62 years of age. This suggests to me to say that if proper energy were put forth, the Grand Army of the Republic ought to increase in numbers instead of decreasing."

The death loss for the year as shown by the report is \$29, the percentage based on the number of members in good standing at the beginning of the year is 3.08, as against 3.02 per cent for the preceding year.

While the election of officers was in progress this afternoon the encampment received a visit from a delegation of women of the Woman's Relief Corps, consisting of Miss Clara Barton, Mrs. John A. Logan, Mrs. Torrance, Mrs. Black and Mrs. W. C. Jones. They were escorted to the platform and presented with complimentary cheers. Mrs. Jones made a report of the operations of the Relief Corps for the past year, showing that \$100,000 had been expended for the relief of the corps, while during its entire history more than \$2,347,000 had been thus spent. As the ladies filed down the aisle, in taking their departure, the delegates rose to their feet and sang "Auld Lang Syne."

At 6 o'clock the convention adjourned until tomorrow.

WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS MEETS.

Miss Clara Barton and Several Other Notable Members Honored.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The twentieth annual convention of the Woman's Relief Corps began its session at the Church of Our Father today. Mrs. Callista N. Jones, of Vermont, the National president, presided, and delivered her annual address. The order was shown to be in a flourishing condition. Over \$2,000 was expended during the year, leaving a fund of over \$11,000 on hand. Miss Clara Barton, of the National Red Cross Society, who is now the only surviving honorary member of the order, Her feeble health would not permit her to more than murmur her thanks. Mrs. John A. Logan, Mrs. John C. Black, of Illinois, and Mrs. Dison, wife of the late Senator of Alaska, who traveled 700 miles to be present, also were similarly honored.

The remainder of the day was occupied in listening to the reports of National officers and various executive boards. Officers will be elected tomorrow.

RECEPTION BY MRS. ROOSEVELT.

Members of Women's Branches of the G. A. R. Received.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—One of the largest receptions incidental to the G. A. R. encampment was given by Mrs. Roosevelt to the patriotic organizations during the encampment. It was held at the Corcoran Art Gallery from 4 to 6 o'clock this afternoon. From the time the doors were opened until the close of the reception, a constant stream of ladies, many of them colored, were introduced to Mrs. Roosevelt, by whom they were greeted with a cordial handshake. Mrs. Roosevelt was assisted in receiving by several ladies of the Cabinet.

Daughters of Veterans.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The Daughters of Veterans met today, the principal events of the morning being the reception of visiting delegates. In the afternoon, reports of committees were read.

Ladies of the G. A. R.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The convention of the Ladies of the G. A. R. opened today with the largest meeting in the history of the organization. Routine work and the seating of delegates occupied the time of the day's session.

THIS REPORT LOST EVANS' HEAD.

Facts Brought Out at Investigation of the Pension Office.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—Among the official documents presented to the encampment of the G. A. R. this morning was a report of the committee appointed last year to investigate the administration of the Pension Office by the then Commissioner of Pensions, Hon. H. Clay Evans, and to bring the result of its investigation to the attention of the President. The first name signed to the report was that of General Eli Torrence, commander-in-chief.

The investigation was conducted in Washington, and the commission began their report by saying that Commissioner Evans afforded them every opportunity to make it thorough. Speaking of the results of their inquiry into special complaints, they say that they were without merit, but that, on the other hand, many meritorious claims had been thrown out.

"From a personal investigation," they say, "we are convinced every day that should be allowed. The dead line or piece of execution of veterans' claims was found in the medical division of the bureau, where unlimited discretion seems to be used to ignore the reports and ratings of examining surgeons and to minimize the soldiers' disabilities."

Referring to the fact that according to the report of Commissioner Evans for the year of 1918 there were 57,642 pension claims rejected during that year on medical grounds, the report says:

"The Commissioner justifies the action of the bureau for the reason, as he claims, that such ratings were not in accordance with the pictures of the applicant; which were parts of the reports. It seems to us needless to suggest that the rating which the local examining board of surgeons had before it in the persons of the claimants undergoing close scrutiny, were much better ones from which to determine the disabilities than the so-called pen pictures reviewed at Washington."

The committee makes the point that owing to the advanced age of claimants their diseases grow more instead of better. "Such a condition," they continue, "we found apparent in many of the cases examined, and the logic thereof seems to have been disregarded by the medical referees and his subordinates in the bureau. Doubts that should have been raised in favor of the claimant were, in our opinion, raised against him. We find that the bureau has been exceedingly technical, narrow and harsh in the application of rules of evidence, even to the extent of requiring claimants to establish their right to a pension beyond all doubt, and to determine the disability by evidence applied to the rules exacted in the Pension Bureau find their salutory uses in criminal courts, not in courts of equity."

"In the matter of the proof of marriage required of widows, the evidence demanded both in quality and quantity is unreasonable, and in many cases burdensome and very vexatious. The usual presumptions in favor of lawful wedlock receive scant recognition in the Pension Bureau."

Reference is made to the charge that a great many ex-Union soldiers are making an effort to obtain pensions by fraud, the report saying: "That is a gratuitous insult to the defenders of the Union, and without justification, as shown by the Commission's report, in which the subject of fraud is extensively dealt with. An analysis of the facts show that of the 159 persons convicted last year, only ten were soldiers of the Civil War, two of whom were deserters, or one to every 73,778 soldiers and sailors on the pension rolls. We challenge any other depart-

ment to make as favorable a showing."

The committee indorses the suggestion that "those entrusted with disbursing the government's bounty should be defenders of the honor of those who receive it." The pension attorneys are also defended against the charge of fraudulent practices.

The report closes as follows: "We respectfully submit that it cannot reasonably be expected that the pension laws will be fairly construed and justly administered in accordance with their spirit and intention by those who treat every applicant for a pension with distrust, regard his attorney a fraud and brand the examining surgeons as incompetent and dishonest. We contend that such an attitude on the part of those entrusted with the breaking of the alabaster box of the nation's joy disqualifies them to administer so sacred a trust."

"Hailing from widely separated states of the Union, and familiar with the views of our comrades, we deem it our duty in making this report to declare that among the survivors of the War of the Rebellion there is an irremovable belief and conviction that the present Commissioner of Pensions is not qualified to administer the duties of his office in that spirit of equity and justice to applicants for pensions which they have a right to expect, and while we are actuated by no feeling of unkindness toward the honorable Commissioner of Pensions we are convinced that justice to the soldier is impossible of attainment under the present administration of the Pension Bureau."

TARIFFS SUIT TRANSVAAL

Revised Rates Will Greatly Reduce the Cost of Living.

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 9.—The revised customs tariff gives general satisfaction. By it the cost of living will be reduced, and the mining and agricultural industries will be materially benefited. The special duties of 6 cents each on poles, 2 cents a pound on sulphuric acid, 6 cents a pound on lead and 12 cents a pound on copper wire have been repealed. All iron and steel is admitted free, and the cost of building will be greatly reduced by the reduction of the rates on cement and timber. The alteration in the duties on cigars and cigarettes from \$2 75 per 100 cigars, without distinction as to size, to \$1 50 a pound, and from \$5 75 per 1000 cigarettes to \$1 a pound is considered equitable. The special duty on jams and confectionery of 10 per 100 pounds will be reduced to 5 cents a pound. The special duties of \$2 50 on oats and \$1 25 on oat hay will be repealed. Anomalous duties have been amended.

Most of the changes have been agitated for years. This is especially so with regard to matches, which were taxed 1 per gross for the benefit of the concession. This has now been reduced to 50 cents per gross.

The Gazette says the new customs tariff will take effect a fortnight hence. The existing duty on dynamite is left unaltered, owing to the fact that the questions bearing upon the conditions regulating the manufacture and importation of the explosive into the Transvaal Colony are under discussion. The duty, says the Gazette, will be dealt with separately, however, as soon as possible.

Tariffs Are Only Provisional.

PRETORIA, Oct. 9.—An extraordinary issue of the Gazette says: The amended tariffs are only provisional, the government desiring ultimately to enter the customs union on a basis which will not sacrifice the vital interests of the Transvaal. Negotiations thus far have been unavailing because the Transvaal does not feel justified in increasing the duties on certain foodstuffs to the extent which the other colonies require, consider necessary for the protection of their products. Meanwhile the conditions in the Transvaal preclude further delay in adjusting the unjustifiably high duties on the duties ordinarily reasonable, but excessive in a country which practically has to be refitted. The duties, therefore, are abolished on machinery, building materials, metals and agricultural implements.

BOLD TALK BY CHAMBERLAIN.

Warns Constituents That Educational Bill Will Not Be Withdrawn.

BIRMINGHAM, England, Oct. 9.—The much-discussed conference of the Liberal Unionists, which was called by Colonial Secretary Chamberlain to formulate the attitude of the Birmingham Liberal Unionists toward the educational bill, was held here today. Mr. Chamberlain presided at the meeting and enunciated his views in a lengthy address. He acknowledged that the bill was not perfect, but said the Liberal Unionists must not split on that point. He said he had always been in favor of the government providing only secular education, but, rightly or wrongly, the majority of the country required that religious instruction of some kind be given. If the country could not get what it wanted from a unionist government it would not follow the government it might smash.

Plan to Capture Coal Markets.

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct. 9.—The Russians are planning to capture the Japanese and Chinese coal markets by facilitating the shipment of supplies from Manchuria. It is said that the local coal company to acquire all the Russian concessions of gold and coal mines and begin operations on a large scale backed by the political and financial support of the government.

CUBA SLOW TO ACT.

Delay in Ratifying Platt Amendment Causes Much Concern.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The situation as to Cuba is such at present as to give officials here great concern. It is feared that Cuba is drifting away, and evidence is multiplying day by day to mark the growth of a spirit of indifference toward the cultivation of friendly commercial relations.

Redmond Starts for America.

LONDON, Oct. 9.—John Redmond, chairman of the United Irish League, accompanied by John Dillon, today went to Liverpool, whence they will sail for Boston to attend the National convention of the United Irish League, which is to be opened in that city October 12.

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New Plaid Stocks 50c
New White Taffeta Stocks with check and plaid ties \$1.35
New Colored Turn-overs, with white taffeta ties 60c
New Four-in-Hands 50c

Sale of Petticoats

Ladies' Petticoats, of good quality black sateen, made in new umbrella shape, with deep accordion ruffle and dust ruffle, special \$1.25

Ladies' Petticoats, of fine quality black mercerized sateen, made in new umbrella shape, with deep knife-plaited ruffle and dust ruffle, and finished at top of ruffle with two stitched bands, special \$1.50

Ladies' Petticoats, of extra fine black, mercerized sateen, made with double knife-plaited ruffles and finished with cords, special \$1.75

Sale of Walking Skirts

Ladies' Walking Skirts of gray and navy blue melton, made with deep flounce and eight rows of stitching, at \$3.00

Ladies' Walking Skirts, of heavy melton cloth, in black, navy and oxford, made in the new seven-gore flare shape, with slot seams, and eight rows of stitching at bottom, at \$3.50

Today Only
The \$1.25 President Kid Gloves \$1.09

These favorite ladies' kid gloves, the 2-lap President pique kid gloves, in all shades, Paris point embroidery, \$1.09 today only.

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| 26c each | \$3.00 per dozen | Real value, \$4.20 per dozen |
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ations with the United States that all most borders on hostility. The treaty which, by the terms of the Platt amendment, might be entered into between the two governments, is now awaiting the approval of the Cuban Government, which approval is withheld, not with any expressed intention of rejecting the convention, but through what is regarded here as the natural inertia of the Cubans in diplomatic matters. This treaty includes provisions for a considerable measure of reciprocity between the United States and Cuba, and, while it is true that

the Cubans believe that the United States has been rather niggardly in the arrangement of the reciprocity schedules, these objections are not regarded as sufficient to account for the great delay in concluding the treaty. However, there is no intention, it is said, to resort to any undue pressure on the Cubans.

Texas Republican for Congress.
MINNEOLA, Tex., Oct. 8.—J. W. Yates, of Gregg County, has been nominated for Congress by the Republicans of the Third District.

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Dr. Tullar's Vaginal Spray, regular \$3.60, special \$2.98
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