

POLITICS IN RANKS OF THE O. N. G. HARMFUL; RECRUITING IS SLOW

During Incumbency of George
A. White Dissension With-
in Guard Was Common.

REGIMENT IS 800 SHORT

Troops Hurried to Border With Ranks
Depleted as Means of Checking Po-
litical Activities, It Is Declared.

The injection of politics into the conduct of the Oregon National Guard for the past two years, since the appointment of George A. White as adjutant general, has resulted in a woeful disorganization, and because of it the Third regiment is now on the border approximately 800 men short of the full war strength required by the federal regulations. The Oregon regiment is the only command of former state troops now on the border which is below the standard of the federal government.

General White, who when appointed by Governor Withycombe, did not have the qualifications for the position required by the military code of the state, has bred turmoil and dissension among both officers and men by his political activities, and by his recent effort to secure the removal of Colonel Clemens McLaughlin from command of the regiment, came near to disrupting the efficiency of the organization. Even now, while entirely removed from connection, official or otherwise, with the National Guard, he still assumes the authority of adjutant general, though as captain of Troop A he is in the federal service. It is contended both by regular army men and by those connected with the National Guard, that the appointment of General White was in contravention of the military code of the state, that when he was mustered in as captain of Troop A he ceased to be connected with the National Guard and ceased to be adjutant general, and that he could not now be reappointed to that position until after he has been mustered out of the federal service and serves for two years in the National Guard as a commissioned officer.

Section 3815 of Lord's Oregon Laws, being one section of the military code of the state, in fixing the qualifications of officers of the guard, says that "A major general or brigadier general, at the time of his appointment, must be an officer in active service in the National Guard of this state of the grade of field officer, and for two years immediately preceding his appointment he must have been in active service in said National Guard as a commissioned officer."

Appointment Not Authorized.
When he received his appointment as adjutant general in 1915, White held the rank of captain and was inspector of small arms practice. According to Major General L. Miles, "A major general or brigadier general, at the time of his appointment, must be an officer in active service in the National Guard of this state of the grade of field officer, and for two years immediately preceding his appointment he must have been in active service in said National Guard as a commissioned officer."

Politics entered into the conduct of the guard soon after White's appointment as adjutant general, when Major Charles F. Smith of Portland resigned and Captain Mosher of Woodburn, the ranking officer for promotion, was nearly shunted out of his place through White's influence. White wanted Captain W. F. Dougherty to be elevated to the majorship, though Mosher was entitled by seniority to the place. The attempt to boost Dougherty over the head of the Woodburn man caused so much dissension in the regiment that it was abandoned.

Arthur W. Orton was captain of Troop A, and during his race for the state senate prior to the primary election, he asked for a leave of absence until after the primaries, because of the fact that he had no time to devote to his duties. The day following his request, General White arbitrarily discharged him from the captaincy, and when the troop was mustered into the federal service secured his own appointment as captain of the troop.

Dissension Is Common.
Dr. George E. Houck of Roseburg was in Los Angeles when the call for the troops came. He went to San Francisco and telephoned General White at Portland that he was on his way home to report. The next day White discharged him. When Dr. Houck reached home and was presented with his discharge he took it to the governor's office and was finally put back in his position as captain of the medical corps.

Before the call came General White plotted the removal of Colonel McLaughlin from the command of the regiment, although the colonel had been sent here as a regular army officer to assume command.

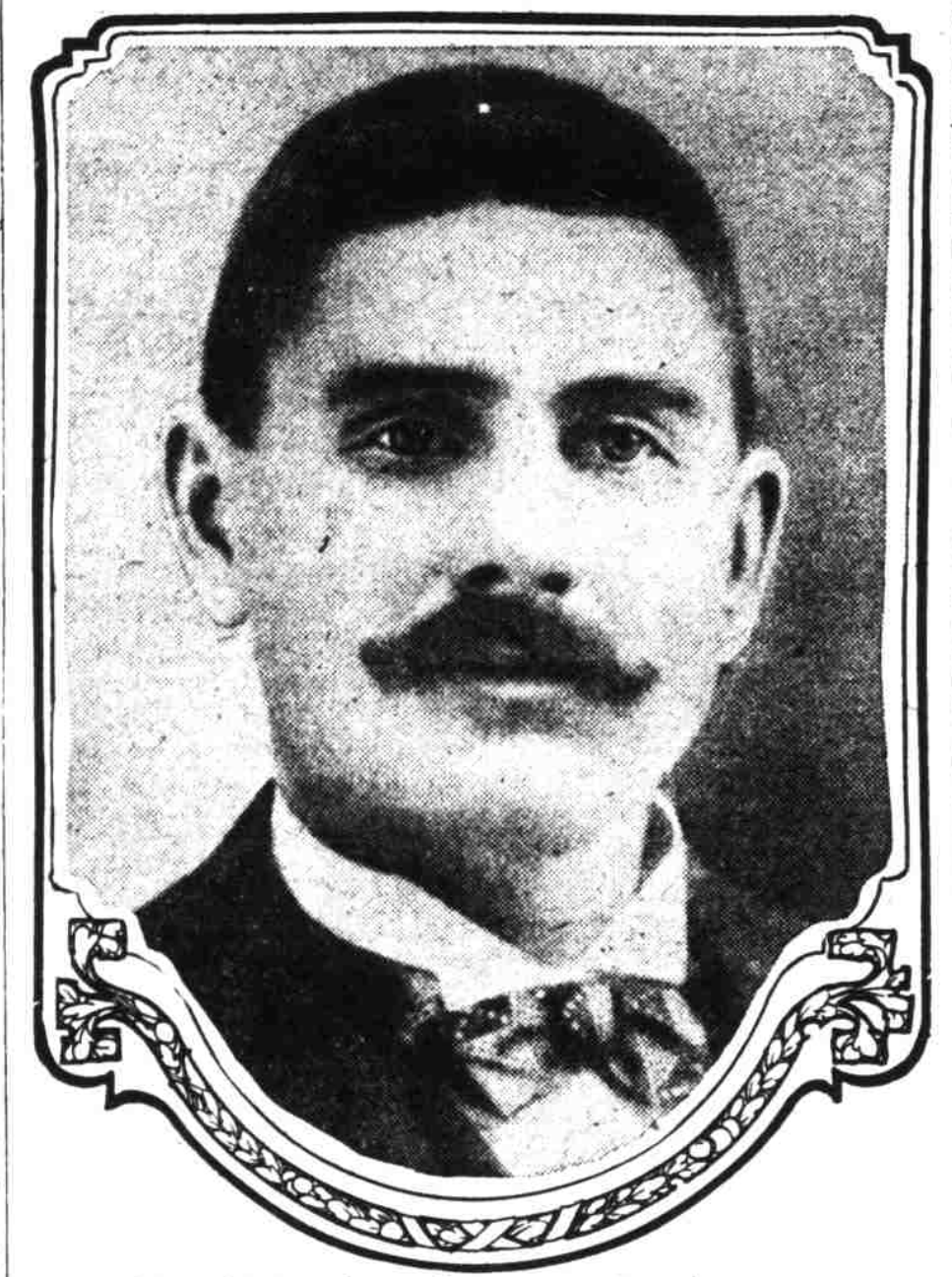
It is currently believed among army men that one reason the regiment was mustered in before examination by the federal authorities and sent to the border, was in order to put the regiment under federal authority and block the politics being played by the adjutant general, who was trying to secure the substitution of Major U. G. McAlexander of Corvallis for Colonel McLaughlin.

One direct result of sending the regiment to the border before it was recruited up to war strength has been the inability of the recruiting officers to secure additional men to fill the 800 vacancies in the ranks of the regiment.

Boy Kidnaped 45 Years Ago

Search Continued by Brother

James C. McKay, Special Policeman of Portland, Who Gives to the Journal for First Time Details of Kidnaping of His 5-Year-Old Brother From Father's Homestead West of Portland in 1871; The Disappearance Is Strikingly Similar to That of the Charley Ross Case in Which Country-Wide Search Was Made.



Local Man Makes Last Supreme Effort to Solve Mystery of Disappearance of His Brother When Portland Was but Straggling Town.

By Claude L. Simpson.

Sweeping aside family prejudices against newspaper notoriety which had been studiously observed for nearly half a century, James C. McKay, special policeman of Portland, has given The Journal the exclusive story of his long lost brother, a story which bears striking similarity to the sensational Charley Ross kidnaping.

Actuated by an overwhelming desire to find his missing kin, Mr. McKay decided to break the silence so religiously maintained in the hope that, through the means of the press, the brother may yet be located.

Silver hairs are now beginning to show in the raven locks of the surviving brother and the kindly face is beginning to show the trenches left by Father Time. But Mr. McKay, in all the watchful years which have passed, has never faltered in his determination to solve the deep mystery. He will continue the search so long as he is physically able.

Kidnaping Is Recalled.
Harking back to the dim ages of Oregon's history he recalls the bright boy of five years who was suddenly whisked away—no one knows where—by supposed friends to whom the lad had been entrusted. Kidnaped, torn from the family fireside, the boy must now be grown to manhood, or he may be dead.

From out the fir-clad hills and amid the beautiful Tualatin valley where the boy was wont to stroll in his childish glee, there has come no answer to the parental call which was sounded by the searchers 45 years ago.

Since those primitive days clearings have grown to cities and the locomotive's blast has apprised the pioneers of the steady march of time. But the secret is as impenetrable as ever.

Brother Relates Story.
James McKay resides at 6421 Ninth street, southeast. He is now 57 years of age. He is an Oregon pioneer, and his father, Charles R. McKay, is an Indian war veteran. His grandfather, Charles McKay, voted in favor of the organization of the provisional government at Champeze, May 2, 1843.

In relating the circumstances of the kidnaping of his brother, Mr. McKay displayed deep emotion. "My father died virtually of a broken heart, because he was unable to find his boy," said McKay. "Personally I have spent many a restless night. We have written many letters and our personal friends have aided us in the search. Every possible clue has been run down but without the slightest success. The boy dropped out of sight as if the earth had opened and swallowed him."

"The last I ever saw of Willie was when he left my father's homestead in the Tualatin valley to visit a neighbor named Scott, who was the lessee of the Dobbins flour mill located three miles distant from our house. I believe Mr. Scott took my brother away. Favor had asked that Willie be allowed to spend a few nights at the mill to be company for Mrs. Scott while the

husband was absent in Portland on a business trip.

"My father had occasion to go to Portland the day after Willie had left us. We met Mr. Scott on the street here and the two exchanged greetings. Mr. Scott was alone at the time. When my father returned to his home he visited the Scott place to see how Willie was getting on. We found that the Scotts had disappeared. Neighbors told him that they had left the country. Search for Willie was begun but he could not be found.

"When the Scotts departed they took with Willie, our big New Foundland dog, Rover. Rover was the family pet and the boy loved him dearly. The boy was always accompanied by his canine friend when making trips. "Some weeks after the kidnaping a man who knew father and remembered the dog, reported that a man and woman, accompanied by a little boy and a large New Foundland dog had disembarked from a river steamer at Astoria. The man was carrying a boy and the big dog was trotting by his side. This was the first and last positive clue we ever had.

Search Is Commenced.
"Newsletters were few in Oregon in those days and means of communication were not what they are today. We searched the country the best we could and had scouting parties aiding us. But we watched and searched in vain. Father had his own peculiar ideas about giving the disappearance the fullest publicity. Perhaps if we had inserted notice in the press of the country and offered a reward we might have found the boy. But now that father and mother are gone and my own hair is beginning to turn silver, a few days and the last ray of hope is through the public press. At least I feel relieved of a heavy burden, now that I have withdrawn the curtain and acquainted the world with the details of the story."

"If he is still alive there is a possibility that the publication of this narrative will reach the missing one's eyes. William would no doubt remember the big New Foundland dog. Recollection of the dog might refresh the memory of the days of the distant past; youth is impressionable and those things which cherished the heart of a boy will always be recalled in after life. If Will reads this story he will, I firmly believe, remember Rover, his boyhood pet. This is the one best means of finding him."

One strange coincidence features the search for the missing boy. Word was brought to Mr. McKay that a man named William McKay, living at Eureka, Cal., bore a striking resemblance to the Portland policeman. The man looks enough like you to be your brother," said the informant.

McKay at once wrote to William McKay of Eureka in the belief that possibly the solution to the mystery had at last been found. Hope turned to dismay when it was discovered that the Eureka McKay was no relation to the Oregon man. The Eureka McKay is chief of police of that place.

Charles McKay is well-known in Portland, where he has been a special policeman for many years. He was formerly a marshal at the King county fair track, near Seattle. He has five sons, Frank H. of Seattle; Joseph, aged 16, member of Company C, now with his regiment at Palm City, Cal.; Charles, aged 14, Elmer, 12 and John, 3, all of this city. His sister, Louisa Lyons, lives at Roy, Wash.

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Rittman to Attend Bakers' Convention

H. F. Rittman, manager of the Log Cabin Baking Co., left this week on an extended eastern trip. His first stop will be at Salt Lake for the purpose of attending the national convention of master bakers. In this connection his name is being mentioned throughout the west as one of the candidates for office, although he insists that he will not accept the nomination if tendered to him. After the convention he will visit all the large eastern cities for the purpose of delivering technical talks to employees of bakeries on sanitary production, as he is considered among the foremost men in research work along these lines.