



THE NATIONAL GUARD OF PENNSYLVANIA AND ITS ANTECEDENTS.

BY CAPTAIN C. A. BOOTH, 7TH INF., U. S. A.



MAJ.-GEN. GEO. R. SNOWDEN.

III.

FROM the year 1808 onwards to the Centennial year the interest in the militia continued to increase, and by that year the companies had risen to one hundred and sixty-seven. The name of "National Guard" had been given by law to the uniformed (active) portion of the State force in 1870, under which title it has continued. Through changes in its organization the divisions had been reduced to ten, but the enlisted strength had increased to 8,996 and it was able to make a creditable appearance at the opening of the International Exhibition. In an order issued upon that occasion the Adjutant - General said: "Your efforts have brought you to such efficiency that the organization, whose displays three years ago were sometimes unfavorably received, has now carried away the universal commendation of the press and public."

This was the first regular camp in which the National Guard, as such, had been collected. Prior to this time,

they had been assembled for only one day in each year, for muster and inspection, one or more regiments at a time, as was most convenient.

In July, 1871, a disturbance of the public peace occurred at Williamsport, which soon grew beyond the control of the civil authorities, but the Fifth Division of militia, temporarily under Gen. Jesse Merrill, was despatched to the scene, and the riotous element was soon put down. This affair became known as the "Saw-dust War," from the fact that the troops were ordered to protect the extensive lumber interests centered there, which were seriously threatened. The ringleaders of the riot were promptly arrested and put in jail, but the troops were kept at Williamsport for two weeks before being relieved.

The report of 1877 shows ten major-generals, three brigadier-generals, and a total enlisted of 9,495 in the National Guard, and an enrolled militia of 401,055. Labor disturbances made this a most eventful year for the Guard, 9,453 of whom (officers and men) were employed actively in the restoration of peace. Trouble began on the nineteenth of July, by the stoppage of freight trains on the Pennsylvania Railroad in and about Pittsburg. Early on the twentieth the riot had gone so far as to be beyond

the control of the sheriff, who asked for military assistance, and the Division under Major-General Pearson was ordered out. Ten hours of effort on his part, sufficed to gather only 230 of his men. Four other Divisions were then ordered under arms, as well as one Regiment of a fifth; one Division being ordered to Pittsburg the same evening. This force, united with the Pittsburg troops, became engaged in a conflict with the rioters, firing upon them with fatal effect, but was soon surrounded by a mob, numbering about 10,000 persons, and the men were ordered to occupy a round-house and adjacent shops; from these they were obliged to withdraw on the twenty-second, having been cut off from all supplies, and moved out of the city—declining to return until they were recuperated, on account of the inflamed condition of the mob. In the meantime four other Divisions were ordered to the scene, but all efforts at concentration were paralyzed through the refusal of engineers to haul trains.; the mob had full possession of the city, with no organized force to hold them in check. At this time the trouble began to spread throughout the State, 'till it involved all prominent railroad points. To meet this, a Division was ordered to Harrisburg, and a local company ("City Grays") was placed on duty in the State Arsenal.

The same evening all the remaining Divisions of the Guard were ordered to concentrate under arms. The fine railroad bridge at Reading was burned by a mob on July twenty-second, and troops were ordered to that point to restore order. This was only accomplished after a sharp street-fight on the twenty-third of July, in which several of the Guard were injured by stones, and eleven of the rioters were killed and fifty wounded.

Before any farther concentration at Pittsburg was possible, it became necessary to arrest engineers and firemen and place them under guard in their cabs, and to order the Guard to shoot them if they showed the slightest sign of insubordination. A gang of experienced trainmen was also organized, consisting of engineers, firemen, brakemen, and telegraph operators, with a body of sharpshooters to protect them, in order to render the Guard in some degree independent of the disaffected trainmen. Only on the twenty-eighth of July, when

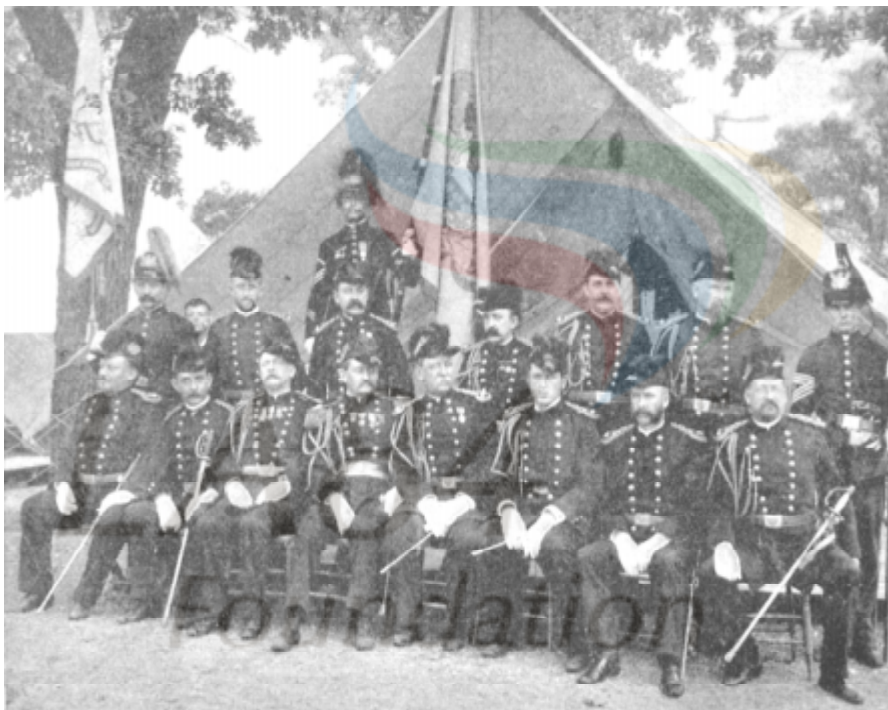
the State authorities were able to concentrate two thousand men near Pittsburg, was order once more restored.

Throughout the entire operations the want of properly organized supply departments interfered with prompt handling of the troops, and seriously impaired their usefulness. On account of the threatening condition of affairs the President was appealed to for aid on the twenty-third of July; and on the twenty-fourth all available troops in the Department of the Atlantic were en route to the scene, as well as the forces of the National Guard. Governor Hartranft, who was in the far West when the outbreak occurred, had been summoned by telegraph, and arrived in Pittsburg on the evening of the twenty-fourth, whence he proceeded to Philadelphia, and issued his General Order No. 3, the second paragraph of which is given entire. "All other means of quieting riot and restoring order having first been exhausted, the officer commanding the troops shall notify the rioters that they will be fired upon unless they promptly disperse. The order to fire will then be deliberately given, and every soldier will be expected to fire with effect. The firing will continue until the mob disperses." This order was widely circulated, and the effect produced by the combination of this order, the movements of the Guard and the arrival of United States troops was sufficient to prevent further collisions between mobs and the military, and the consequent effusion of blood.

While the disturbance in Pittsburg was at its height, offers of service from volunteers were received from various quarters, which were declined in all but two cases—the offers of regiments from the "Veteran Corps of the First Regiment," and the "Grand Army of the Republic." The regiment from the former was recruited in thirty-six hours, under Col. S. Bonnaffon, Jr., organized, armed, clothed, equipped and on duty in Pittsburg in fifty-six hours from the time recruiting began. This regiment was known as the "Twentieth Regiment, National Guard," and performed active service until September twentieth. The regiment offered by the Grand Army was recruited and ready to be mustered into service, but the imminent danger was past, and it

was disbanded. On August first, riots broke out at Scranton, attended with loss of life; three Divisions were at once sent to that vicinity, reopening the railroads to traffic, which had been almost completely stopped. The disbandment of the troops began on August fourth and was continued gradually till September twentieth, though six companies, selected from various regiments which had volunteered for further service, were continued until November fifteenth, in the Luzerne region.

However this may be, a thorough and complete reorganization of the Guard was at once begun in a most systematic manner, for the events of the riot had shown that as then organized it was cumbersome and unwieldy, with a disproportionate allotment of general officers to men, and the consequent uncertainty, as to responsibility. The reorganization was completed so that at the close of 1878 it had become a compact Division under one Major-General, with five Brigades,



STAFF OF GOVERNOR PATTISON.

Much adverse criticism was bestowed upon the Guard on account of their conduct at Pittsburg. Although the conduct of some portions was unquestionably open to severe censure, still the majority of its members remained faithful to their duties, and perhaps did as well under the circumstances as some of their critics would have done had they been similarly placed. The fact that their official head was thousands of miles away, and some of their leaders were unequal to their tasks, in a large measure accounts for the shortcomings of the rank and file.

including sixteen Regiments and three Battalions of Infantry, five Companies of Cavalry and four Batteries of Artillery, while a most noticeable improvement had taken place in the general character, tone and sentiment of the entire Guard. The act of the Legislature under which this was effected was approved on the twelfth of May, 1878.

Attention began to be turned, about this time, toward the necessity for rifle practice, which had hitherto been sadly neglected. A State rifle range was prepared at Mount Gretna in 1887-88, under the direction of the General

Inspector of rifle practice! possessing all the appliances and facilities for practice at distances from one hundred to one thousand yards. Here all the State matches are shot, and there are probably few more convenient or complete ranges in the country. At the close of the first year of systematic practice, the Inspector of rifle practice reported 154 qualified marksmen. The number of marksmen qualified each year has steadily increased from 705 in 1883 to 3,239 in 1888, and 6,507 in 1892, while the requisites for qualification have also been gradually increased. Under the target-practice requirements of 1892, companies which failed to qualify thirty-five men as marksmen, unless adequate cause could be shown, were to be disbanded. This year the number required to qualify has been again increased. In one regiment, at least, no man can enlist until he has shown his ability as a marksman.

In September of 1892 the Pennsylvania team at the International competition at Sea Girt, N. J., secured the Hilton Trophy and the Interstate Trophy—the latter by the highest score which has been made during the eighteen years of competition for its possession. The amount of ammunition allowed for target practice, 3,000 rounds per company, is not sufficient to permit as much of this most important exercise as could be profitably carried on, while the time devoted by most organizations to the no less important preliminary work of pointing-and-aiming drill and gallery practice, is far too little for the beneficial results which a more liberal expenditure of time for this purpose would undoubtedly develop on the rifle range.

The act of 1878 was modified as its defects became apparent, but in 1887 all former acts were repealed and the present law (with amendments in 1889) went into operation; under its provisions the Guard has continued steadily to improve, and has reached its present state of efficiency and discipline.

At the close of 1887, General Hartranft (who as Governor in 1877-'78 began the reorganization of the Guard, and later became its Major-General) writes: "The regular service makes the soldier and organizes; in the volunteer and militia service it is necessary to organize, to make soldiers. Pursuing this

course has brought the militia of Pennsylvania to its present state of efficiency; and now, when its organization is about complete, and its autonomy as a Division arrived at, it is possible to bring its units to a higher state of discipline and individual proficiency."

As this code of Pennsylvania has been used as a basis for much military legislation in other States, a somewhat extended resumé of it is given herewith. In time of peace, the Guard is limited to 150 companies of infantry, five troops of cavalry and five batteries of artillery, to be distributed in such localities as the Governor may direct; limiting the number of Major Generals to one, and of Brigadiers to five, and providing for a formation into Divisions and Brigades at any time at the discretion of the Commander-in-chief.

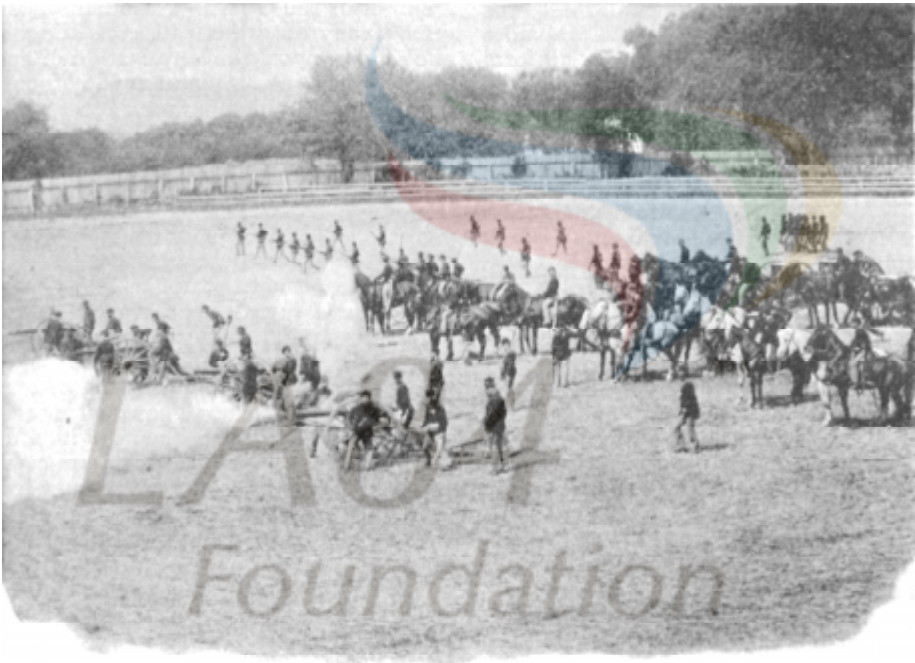
Each non-commissioned officer and private is required to sign regular enlistment papers upon entering the service, and must have successfully passed a rigid physical examination before some designated surgeon before being accented. The Commander-in-Chief (Governor) is allowed a staff of one Adjutant General (Brigadier General), Inspector General, Judge Advocate General, Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Surgeon General, General Inspector of rifle practice and Chief of Artillery Colonels), Assistant Adjutant General, assistant Quartermaster General, Assistant Commissary General, and twelve aides-de-camp (Lieutenant Colonels). The Major General is allowed Assistant Adjutant General, Division Inspector, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Commissary, Surgeon, Ordnance Officer and Inspector of rifle practice (Lieutenant Colonels), with three aides (Majors). To each Brigadier General an Assistant Adjutant General, Brigade Inspector, Judge Advocate, Quartermaster, Commissary, Surgeon and Ordnance Officer (Majors) and two aides with the rank of Captains.

The "Field and Staff" of each regiment of infantry consists of a Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, Major (not to exceed three), Surgeon (Major), Chaplain (Captain), Adjutant, Quartermaster, two Assistant Surgeons, and Inspector of rifle practice (1st Lieutenants). Companies of infantry have Captain, two Lieutenants and fifty to sixty enlisted men. Troops of cavalry have the same

organization, with the addition of a Surgeon (First Lieutenant) and Quartermaster (Second Lieut.); the Artillery have Captain, three Lieutenants, Surgeon (First Lieut.) and Quartermaster (Second Lieut.) and sixty-five to seventy-five enlisted men. General officers are appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Senate. Field officers of regiments and battalions are chosen by the officers of their respective organizations, and Company officers by the members of their companies; all staff officers are appointed by their respective chiefs. The Adjutant General,

to arrest on civil process while on military duty, or going to and from any place where they may have been ordered for such duty. Under certain circumstances the Governor has the power summarily to discharge officers, but under ordinary circumstances their commissions are for five years. Men are enlisted for three years, but may be discharged for cause by their commanding officer. Both officers and men are required upon entering the service to take a prescribed oath.

Companies may be disbanded by the Governor if they fail to comply with the



BATTERY "A" AND GRAY INVINCIBLES, N. G. P.—CAMP MUHLENBERG, 1885.

Quartermaster General, Assistant Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Assistant Commissary General, Regimental Quartermasters and Company commanders are all required to give bonds, in varying amounts, for the faithful discharge of the duties of their respective offices. Appointments of non-commissioned officers must be made from the organization to which they are attached. Ten days' notice must be given of any election for a commission, except while in active service, when forty-eight hours' notice must be given. Members of the Guard are not subject

law, or fall below the required standard in numbers or efficiency. The Adjutant General furnishes such blank forms for returns, etc., as may be necessary; he is also the general disbursing officer of the Guard, and his accounts as such, with vouchers, are passed upon by the Auditor General.

Officers are allowed, when on duty, the pay of officers of like grade in the United States Army; First Sergeants are paid three dollars per day, Sergeants two dollars, Corporals one dollar and seventy-five cents, and musicians and privates one dollar and fifty cents

per day. Enlisted men are allowed twenty-five cents per day additional for each completed term of enlistment. An encampment of the Guard is required to be held each year, during which an inspection is to be made; other inspections may be ordered when necessary or desirable. Every company of infantry found on examination of its rolls and reports to conform to the standard in numbers, drill, and discipline, is entitled to receive \$500 per annum for necessary expenses, for uniforms, equipments and military uses; to cavalry and artillery companies for like purpose, the annual allowance is \$1,000. The uniform prescribed is the undress uniform of the United States Army (though Companies and Regiments may provide any uniform for themselves), which alone is to be worn when on duty. Accounts against the State for military expenses, must be itemized, sworn to (or affirmed), and passed upon by the State Military Board; but the amount of expenditures must not exceed \$300,000 per annum. Each company receives an allowance for armory rent. Artillery companies are allowed necessary expenses for horsing their batteries, whenever called out for duty, and cavalry are allowed two dollars per day for each necessary horse.

Necessary expenses are allowed for various headquarters, not to exceed the following: Division, \$1,000; Brigade, \$500; Regiment, \$300; Battalion, \$150. Provision is made for pensioning the widow or children of any officer or soldier killed or disabled in actual service. The necessary expenses for prescribed target practice are provided for. A retired list is created for officers who have held continuous rank for ten years; who are entitled to wear their uniform on State occasions.

At each annual inspection, every company commander is required to present an itemized account of all his receipts and expenditures of State funds during the past year. Whenever public funds are invested in an armory, the title to the same must be taken in the name of the State. Whenever troops are under arms, the commanding officer is given authority to arrest all persons who trespass upon their camp, or attempt to interfere with their movements; also to regulate the sale of liquors (except by licensed houses) within one mile of the camp. A band of from twenty to thirty

pieces is enlisted and attached to each brigade. At all drills, ceremonies and encampments, as well as when ordered on active service, obedience must be rendered to all rules, regulations, usages, customs and requirements of the army of the United States, and of the code and regulations of the State. The Governor has authority to call out any portion (or all) of the National Guard, or of the enrolled militia, in case of insurrection, tumult or riot.

The sale of arms, clothing and equipments to any person is punishable by fine or imprisonment, as is also the purchase of any of these articles from any member of the Guard. "Courts of Inquiry" may be organized, consisting of one officer, upon the application of any officer, or upon complaint made of conduct regarding his character.

A system of Courts Martial is provided for, in most respects, similar to the system of the United States Army. General courts consist of five members (three constituting a quorum); Regimental or Battalion courts consist of a field officer, or a Captain. The General Courts have jurisdiction over all offences, and may inflict punishments of fine (not exceeding \$100), imprisonment for thirty days, discharge, reduction of non-commissioned officers, dismissal or suspension of officers. The Regimental Court has jurisdiction in minor cases with punishments of reprimand, forfeiture of pay, fine (not exceeding \$20), and five days' imprisonment. Courts must be ordered within thirty days of arrest, and a copy of this order as well as of all charges must be furnished the accused, ten days (at least) before his trial begins. The proceedings of Courts must be transmitted to the convening authority, who is required to take action on them within fifteen days of their receipt, and notify the Court and the accused of his action; the proceedings are then sent by him to the Adjutant General. Appeal from the finding or sentence of a General Court may be made to the Governor within twenty days after the decision appealed from is made known.

Appeal from Regimental or Battalion Courts may similarly be made to the convening authority. Fines imposed by Courts Martial are to be collected, on the Court's warrant, by the sheriff or constable of the county, in the same manner



GOV. R. E. PATTISON,
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF, N. G. P.

nies, etc., and officer them as provided for by law. While in service they are entitled to pay, and are provided with arms and accouterments by the State. Failure of any soldier to respond to a call for duty is punishable by Court Martial. No civil process is allowed to issue or be enforced against any person mustered into the service of the State, or of the United States, until thirty days after the expiration of his term of service: the statute of limitation being correspondingly suspended.

A Hospital department is also full provided for. No volunteer soldier is allowed to leave the State until his services have been regularly accepted, nor until he is fully armed and equipped for effective service.

As will be seen from the foregoing sketch of this act, provision is made for all the essential needs of a well regulated force. Under it the Guard forms a homogeneous body, which can be readily set in motion, and as readily controlled—

formed into one Division, with three Brigades, made up of fifteen Regiments, one Battalion and one Company of Infantry; with one troop of Cavalry and one battery of Artillery to each of the Brigades.

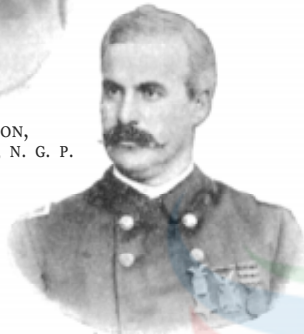
By the addition of a third Battalion to each of the present Regiments, and increasing the men of each Company to one hundred the present

force could, in case of need, be expanded to 20,000 men, without change in the organization of the Division or Brigades.

as in civil cases; keepers of all county jails are required to receive and confine military offenders, on a warrant from any Court Martial, during the term of their sentence. All fines imposed and collected are to be paid into the State Treasury. Courts are given power to compel the attendance of the accused for trial through the sheriff, as in civil cases; the presence of witnesses may also be secured in the same manner.

A witness who refuses to testify may be compelled to do so, as in civil courts; a witness who falls to appear in obedience to a subpoena may forfeit not less than ten dollars nor more than fifty dollars for each default. Judge Advocates and members of a Court Martial are allowed the pay of their grade, while on duty, and transportation to and from the meeting place of the Court.

Every able-bodied male citizen resident within the State (except the National Guard and others specially exempted), must be enrolled in the militia; this enrollment is made annually by the assessors of the several wards, etc., and, after correction, is reported to the Adjutant-General of the State. This militia is subject to no active duty, except in case of war, invasion or riot, and to aid civil officers in the execution of the law. In these cases the Governor may call out any necessary number, form them into compa-



BRIG.-GEN. JOHN A. WILEY.



MAJ.-GEN. JOHN F. HARTRANFT.



ADJ.-GEN. W. W. GREENLAND.



BRIG.-GEN. J. P. S. GOBIN.



Lieut.-Col. Cullinan, Div. O.-M., in Service Uniform worn previous to 1891.

—a soldiery which must popularize itself with the masses of the people, while at the same time commanding the respect and confidence of all classes of the community. The Division and Brigade

The Division is now commanded by Maj.-Gen. Geo. R. Snowden, and the Brigades by Brig.-Gens. R. P. Dechert (1st), J. A. Wiley (2d) and J. P. S. Gobin (3d). Under this organization, the troops are never at a loss regarding the source from whence the orders have come which they are called upon to execute, and the responsibility for failure can be readily fixed. The standard set for the personnel of officers is high, while that of the rank and file could not well be placed higher in a

volunteer citizen soldiery

commanders (as well as many of those in lower grades) are men who were taught their duties and responsibilities in the school of the Civil War, and have won their present positions through their recognized ability and exertions for the improvement of their commands. The same may justly be said of the heads of the several Staff Corps, while the staff officers and aides of the Brigades and Division have been selected for similar reasons. None of these are fancy positions; on the contrary, when on duty, they are places of hard work, which (so far at least as I have been able to judge) is honestly, thoroughly and in every way conscientiously performed—nor is the duty free from danger.



The late Capt. Edwards, in Service Uniform with great coat.

To be continued.



BRIG. GEN. (NOW MAJOR GEN.) GEO. R. SNOWDEN AND STAFF.