

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE NATIONAL GUARD.

By George H. Moses.

[CONTINUED.]*



CAPTAIN S. S. PIPER,
1ST LIGHT BATTERY.

JUST as the second period of suspension was terminating, it dawned on the people of New Hampshire that they would do well to be less capricious in their dealings with "the proper, natural and sure defense of the State," and the legislature of 1878 enacted a new military law, which went into effect April 1, 1879, and which created the present military organization—The New Hampshire National Guard.

The new organization started off under the most pleasing auspices. The legislature and the people of the State were distinctly friendly toward a creditable military establishment, and almost simultaneously with the organization of the brigade came General Natt Head to the gubernatorial chair.

General Head had been adjutant-general of the State from 1864 to 1870, and had a thorough knowledge of the needs of the new organization. The new National Guard benefited by every one of Governor Head's official acts, but from no one thing has it gained more, through the entire fifteen years of its existence, than from the appointment of Adjutant-General Augustus D. Ayling, in 1879. This officer was selected by Governor Head, and has remained in office ever since.

General Ayling served through the war as a member of a Massachusetts regiment, and at one time he was attached to the person of General Benjamin F. Butler, as orderly. After the conclusion of peace he was engaged in business pursuits in Lowell, and while in that city he became a member of the Massachusetts militia, rising to the adjutantcy of the Twenty-fourth Regiment, and later becoming aide-de-camp and judge-advocate on the staff of General R. S. Foster. For thirteen years he was a resident of Nashua, N. H., and in 1877 he was elected first lieutenant of Company F, Second Regiment, N. H. S. M., succeeded to the command of the company, and from that position was taken, by Governor Head, and made adjutant-general. He is now the ranking State adjutant-general in the United States.

What General Ayling has done for the New Hampshire National Guard could not be told within the limits of this article. When he took charge of the military department he found nothing but a plan. Now there is a brigade, small it is true, yet equal to any in point of efficiency and discipline. Upon a beggarly salary, and with appropriations pitifully small, he has accomplished wonders. He has scrutinized accounts, concluded leases, kept the books, received and disbursed stores, instructed officers and coached governors' staffs. Besides this there have been the purely ornamental functions of the office. And, in addition to all these, with the aid of only one clerk, and that for only temporary periods, he has completed and has just now published a most complete record of the services of New Hampshire soldiers in the last war—a record which for minuteness and correctness of detail transcends anything ever attempted.

The New Hampshire National Guard of 1879 was organized as a brigade of three regiments, with a maximum strength of eight companies to a regiment, and fifty-eight officers and men

*Since this article was written the new military code has been completed and adopted by the legislature. The strength of the brigade is increased by the addition of a hospital and a signal corps; to each regimental staff are added an inspector of rifle practice (first lieutenant) and a chief trumpeter (sergeant); the maximum of the artillery and the cavalry is increased; it establishes a pay-table graduated according to rank; it changes the title of the brigade sergeant-major to that of sergeant-clerk, compels officers to submit themselves to an examination as to their physical, mental and military attainments before being commissioned, and provides specific instructions for calling out the Guard in case of riot, insurrection or invasion.

to a company. With artillery and cavalry, the total strength of the brigade was 1779 officers and men.

sometimes sought shelter with the Second Regiment, and one troop invariably encamped by itself. The artillery



CHAPLAIN G. E. HALL, D. D., 1ST REGT.
CAPT. JAMES MILLER, 2D INFT. U.S.A.
COL. R. H. ROLF, 3D REGT.

LIEUT.-COL. W. W. SCOTT, 1ST REGT.
CAPT JOHN J. COLONY, 2D REGT.
CAPT. H. B. BROWN, 3D REGT.

THE LATE COL. M. G. FRYE, 1ST REGT.
COL. J. E. TOLLES, 2D REGT.
MAJOR WM TUTHERLY, 3D REGT.

The brigade organization went for but little in those days. The troops were never brought together. The three regiments encamped separately and at different times. The cavalry

shared quarters with the First Regiment, or encamped on its own hook, as it saw fit. Under these circumstances the brigade organization was of little value, having, in fact, only a nominal existence.

For two years this independence of the organizations comprising the brigade was maintained, and, in the fall of 1881, the New Hampshire National Guard was first brought together as a military unit. The fall encampment that year was by brigade, and was held at Concord, on the old fair grounds.

This field is situated on a high bluff, a mile east of the city and across the Merrimack river, and is historic soil. There the First New Hampshire Regiment was rendezvoused, twenty years before, and from there a majority of the State volunteers set out for the battle-fields of the South. There the United States set up its recruiting station, and there every regiment returned for final discharge, after returning into the hands of the governor of the State the flags they had followed so faithfully.

This field was the property of the Merrimack County Agricultural Society, and, after the war, was given over once more to the peaceful arts of the county fair, with whose bucolic attractions, as late certainly as 1882, the guardsmen shared the inadequate accommodations of its enclosure.

For four years the State occupied the grounds on a temporary engagement; but, in 1886, a lease was executed for ninety-nine years, and the State began at once to improve the field. Its area was at once increased several acres (and has since been materially enlarged also), the old fair buildings were removed, the field was plowed, seeded and rolled, a substantial fire-proof arsenal and guard-house of brick was built, cook-houses and stables were erected, permanent sinks were constructed, and the city water-service was introduced.

Almost every year since, General Ayling has managed to secure some part of his niggardly appropriation for the improvement of the camp-ground, and it now stands complete, upon the word of no less an authority than Major-General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., as fine a camp-ground as there is in the country. This judgment was passed by General Miles in June, 1894, when he visited camp after the troops had been paraded in the city in honor of him and the other distinguished mem-

bers of the Society of the Army of the Potomac, who were holding their annual meeting here. The genial influences of the occasion may have mellowed General Miles's opinion, but he always weighs his words.

The soil of the camp-ground is light and sandy, draining rapidly after the heaviest rains, and throwing out but little dust in dry weather. A beautiful hard-pine grove adorns the southwest corner of the enclosure, and here are established brigade headquarters. A few noble pines are also scattered through the area where the tents are pitched. The enclosure contains something rising forty acres, and the main entrance is at the northwest corner, where stands the guard-house and arsenal. From here a roadway leads, in one direction, to brigade headquarters, and another, at right angles, and both following the high fence which surrounds the field, runs to that portion of the field, along the eastern fence-line, where the body of the troops encamp. In the rear of the company streets, which open directly upon the drill field, are the regimental headquarters, and back of these are the mess-tents. Still further to the rear are the cook-houses, one to each company, band and staff; next come the stables, and in the rear of the whole runs the high fence through which the sinks are reached.

The brigade line stretches away from the extreme north of the enclosure to the south, and below the infantry are quartered the cavalry and artillery, in close proximity to their stables. The parade ground occupies the rest of the area; and what a parade ground it is! Level as a billiard table, and as green, it affords room for a force twice as great as New Hampshire's tiny army to be manœuvred at ease. On its sward, the military ceremonies which attract the civilian eye take on new splendor from its lovely background.

To the west rolls the Merrimack, a half mile below, flowing peacefully by the fertile meadows, which stretch away from the foot of the majestic bluff, which is crowned by the white tents of the guardsmen. Away on the east spread sandy fields, besprinkled with a scrubby growth of pine, where,

in extended order, the mimic foe is met and conquered. It is among these delightful surroundings that the New Hampshire National Guard learns the art of war, which may be rudely paraphrased from Rudyard Kipling thus:

"Fear God, shoot straight, keep clean, and honor the state."

The New Hampshire National Guard, as at present organized, consists of one brigade of three regiments, one troop of cavalry, and one battery of light artillery (4-gun). The regiments contain two battalions of four companies each, and the command is officered as follows:

The governor is the titular commander-in-chief, and, as such, is surrounded by a personal staff, comprising an adjutant-general (major-general), inspector-generals, quartermaster-general, surgeon-general, judge-advocate-general, commissary-general (brigadier-general), and four aides-de-camp (colonels). All of these are appointed by the governor and hold office during his pleasure or incumbency, except the commissary-general, who, by constitutional provision, is chosen by the legislature for a term of two years. Inasmuch as the legislature always chooses the commissary-general whom the governor names to them, it amounts to the same thing in the end. Formerly, and until 1891, the adjutant-general held office during good behavior, but, by a late enactment, it was changed as indicated. The life tenure has been, practically, of no effect during the incumbency of Adjutant-general Ayling, however, as it was always his custom to tender his resignation to each governor as he entered upon his term of office. The salary of the adjutant-general is \$1,500 a year. No other members of the governor's staff receive compensation, except the commissary-general, who is rewarded with the munificent sum of \$10 a year. Of the salaried members of the staff, only the adjutant-general gives bonds, and he in the sum of \$20,000.

The brigade is commanded *de facto* by a brigadier-general, who appoints the following staff, who hold office during his pleasure or incumbency: an assistant adjutant-general, a medical inspector (lieutenant-colonels); assistant

inspector-general, inspector of rifle practice, and judge-advocate (majors); quartermaster, commissary, and two aides-de-camp (captains). The non-commissioned brigade staff comprises a sergeant-major, a quartermaster-sergeant, a commissary-sergeant, a color-sergeant, a hospital steward, and a brigade bugler. Members of the brigade staff may be selected from any source. The entire brigade staff is mounted.

Each regiment is officered by a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, two majors, an adjutant (first lieutenant), a quartermaster (first lieutenant), a paymaster (captain), a surgeon (major), an assistant surgeon (captain), a chaplain (captain). The non-commissioned staff comprises a sergeant-major, a quartermaster-sergeant, a commissary-sergeant, and a hospital steward.

To each regiment is attached a regimental band with a bandmaster and a drum-major.

The colonel, lieutenant-colonel and majors are elected by the line officers of the regiments, and are commissioned by the governor, upon confirmation by the executive council, for five years. Commissioned and non-commissioned staff officers are appointed by the colonel, and hold office during his pleasure or incumbency. Each battalion has a major, enumerated above, and he appoints an acting adjutant and sergeant-major from the battalion.

Company officers are elected by the company, nominated by the field officers to the governor, and are commissioned for five years.

The companies contain (authorized strength) three commissioned officers and fifty-five men. The battery, four commissioned officers and seventy-six enlisted men. The cavalry, three commissioned officers and sixty-four enlisted men. The total authorized strength of the command is 128 commissioned officers and 1,552 enlisted men, an aggregate of 1,690. The actual strength of the command is 128 commissioned officers and 1,137 enlisted men, an aggregate of 1,265, distributed as follows: First Regiment, thirty-three commissioned officers and 354 enlisted men; Second Regiment, thirty-four commissioned officers and 324 enlisted men;

Third Regiment, thirty-four commissioned officers and 334 enlisted men; First Battery, four commissioned officers and sixty-six enlisted men; Troop A, cavalry, three commissioned officers and fifty-four enlisted men.

The pay and allowances of the brigade are as follows: Brigadier-general, \$7 per day; colonel, \$6; lieutenant-colonels, \$5; majors, \$4.50; captains (mounted), \$4; captains (not mounted), \$3.50; lieutenants (mounted), \$3.50; lieutenants (not mounted), \$3; non-commissioned staff officers, \$2.50; first sergeants, \$2.50; band musicians, \$2.50; sergeants and corporals, \$2; musicians and privates, \$2. In addition, mounted officers receive \$3 per day for horse hire; and \$2 per day is allowed for each horse required by the cavalry, artillery, and mounted non-commissioned officers and orderlies. Forage for horses is allowed at its actual cost. In case of actual service in time of war, insurrection, riot, or immediate danger, the pay and allowances of the brigade are those established for the United States Army.

Suitable clothing, after the pattern of the United States army, is furnished to each enlisted man. The officers furnish their own, the State providing nothing but a sword, belt and shoulder knots. The brigade is now uniformed the same, under a former dispensation the three regiments having worn facings of a distinctive color. The full dress of the brigade is the regulation dress coat with

white facings, blue trousers, and black helmet, a forage cap, an undress blouse, and an army overcoat. White helmets have also been issued to the brigade.

The brigade is armed with Springfield breech-loading rifles of .45 calibre. They are in good condition and will serve until the new arms can be obtained in sufficient number for the entire force. The cavalry are armed with sabres and have no fire-arms. The artillery have four twelve-pounder, muzzle-loading, smooth bore, brass guns, and the men and officers have sabres.

The equipment of the brigade is in good order. The artillery harnesses are old, but they have recently been thoroughly repaired, so that they are good for several years yet. The cavalry equipment is not of a superior character, nor is it altogether suitable in amount and diversity. The artillery horses are hired for use in camp, and nearly every member of the cavalry owns his own. Few of them, says an eminent student of the New Hampshire National Guard, are fit for actual service.

Nevertheless the efficiency of the artillery and cavalry, so far as may be judged, cannot be called in question. With the admitted inferiority of their equipment, its scantiness, and its old-fashion, in spite of their hired and ignorant horses, it is doubtful if there are two similar military organizations in the country which can make so good a showing.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

