

Article
for the Forum, August 1895.

Vol.6, No.7.

Subject,
"Army as a career".

H. S. HOWARD,

SOLE AGENT

SPELTERINE HOOF STUFFING.

WASHINGTON RED CEDAR SHINGLES.

GENERAL AGENT

BURKE PATENT FLEXIBLE STAMPS.

156 COLLEGE STREET.

BURLINGTON, VT., _____ 189 _____

Article

for the Forum, August 1898.

CORRESPONDENCE

Vol. 6, No. 7.

Subject,

"Army as a career."

Article written for
The Forum.
Aug. 29. 1895.

The Profession of Arms as a Career.

The writer of this article a short time ago opened a volume made up of "Military Gazettes" issued in New York in 1860 and 61, and turning over the leaves, while thinking of the Army, as affording a career to young men, caught sight of Carlyle's caricature of the Army's business.

After his soldiers, French and British, in a supposed battle, had "blown the souls out of each other", Carlisle asked significantly: "Had these men any quarrel? No. Busy as the Devil is, not the smallest. They lived far enough apart. Were they entirely strangers? Nay; in so wide a universe, there was even unconsciously, by commerce, some mutual helpfulness between them. How then? Simpleton. Their governors had fallen out; and instead of shooting one another, had the cunning to make these poor blockheads shoot."

This paragraph, which is an epitome in the concrete form, of the arguments of non-resistants, or as I like to call them "extreme peace men", determined me in the outset to attempt a brief discussion of the rightness of the career itself.

I. The Rightness of the Career.

(a) The object of our Army.

The object of an army with us is not necessarily, in the

Robert M. La Follette
 June 19, 1905

The Profession of Arms as a Career.

The writer of this article a short time ago opened a volume made up of "Military Careers" issued in New York in 1880 and 81, and turned over the leaves, while thinking of the Army, as affording a career to young men, taught him of Carlyle's caricature of the Army's business.

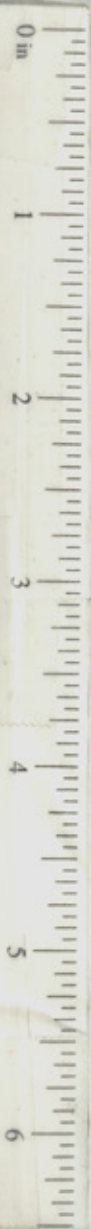
After his soldiers, French and British, in a supposed battle, had "blown the souls out of each other," Carlyle asked significantly: "Had there been any quarter? No. Nay as the Devil is not the smallest. They lived far enough apart. Were they not extremely? Nay, in so wide a universe, there was even unconsciously by courtesy, some mutual helpfulness between them. How then? Ah! their Governor had fallen out, and instead of shooting one another, had the cunning to make these poor beasts shoot."

This paragraph, which is an epitome in the concrete form of the arguments of non-resistance, or as I like to call them "extreme peace men," determined me in the outset to attempt a brief discussion of the rightness of the career itself.

I. The Rightness of the Career.

(a) The object of our duty.

The object of an army with us is not necessarily in the



main to conduct campaigns and fight battles, nor to take human life. As the city police must watch over the city and guard it against all sorts of danger, being ready with its weapons of offense or defense, to strike when other devices fail; so our army watches against certain dangers to the republic, giving nerve and strength to the Executive,- helping to restrain wild Indians, to capture mistaken herds of tramps, or to quiet mob-violence aimed against the common weal, or, with naval help, to hold back a public enemy; but ready, of course, like the effective city police to strike at command, when the Commander-in-chief, with the sovereign nation behind him, has come to the last resort of human expedients for guarding the Nation's life or its honor.

(b) Is War ever Right.?

A few months ago, in a large gathering of strong men and devout women, there was a public discussion of this question: "Is war itself ever right?" The argument of all those who answered "War is never right", took this positive form: War is wrong; wrong in itself; therefore the support given to it by praises of its deeds and peons to its heroes, by public reminders of its glory and its victories, and by enduring monuments raised in its honor, calculated as they are to beget and foster a wrong spirit in the minds of the people, especially of the young, is deceptive and injurious and tends

mean to conduct campaigns and fight battles, nor to take human life. As the city police must watch over the city and guard it against all sorts of danger, being ready with the weapons of offense or defense, to strike when other devices fail; so our army watches against certain dangers to the republic, giving nerve and strength to the executive, helping to restrain wild Indians, to correct mistaken heads of armies, or to quiet mob-violence aimed against the common weal, or, with naval help, to hold back a public enemy; but ready of course like the effective city police to strike at command, when the Commander-in-Chief, with the sovereign nation behind him, has come to the last resort of human expedients for saving the nation's life or its honor.

(d) Is war ever right?

A few months ago, in a large gathering of strong men and devout women, there was a public discussion of this question: "Is war itself ever right?" The argument of all those who answered "war is never right," took this positive form: War is wrong; wrong in itself; therefore the support given to it by praises of its deeds and poems to its heroes - by public reminders of its glory and its victories, and by enduring monuments raised in its honor, calculated as they are to foster a wrong belief in the minds of the people, especially of the young, is destructive and injurious and tends

to block the wheels of genuine progress. We will not hesitate to look this objection to war squarely in the face. Indeed, it will not do, even in self-justification, to uphold a wrong principle. Soon or late the right is bound to prevail.

(c) The Assertions of English Writers.

Jonathan Dymond, an English writer, long ago put his postulates against all war, with at least great clearness. "No one", he asserts, "pretends to applaud the morals of an army, and as for its religion, few think of it at all. A soldier is depraved, even to a proverb. The fact is too notorious to be insisted upon that thousands who had filled their stations in life with propriety, and been virtuous from principle, have lost, by a military career, both the practice and the regard of morality; and when they have become habituated to the vices of war, have laughed at their honest and plodding brethren who are still spiritless enough for virtue or stupid enough for piety." Even the dauntless John Knox condenses his censures thus: "It happens unfortunately, that profligacy, libertinism and infidelity are thought by weaker minds almost as necessary a part of a soldier's uniform as his shoulder knot. To hesitate at an oath, to decline intoxication, to profess a regard for religion would be almost as ignominious as to refuse a challenge."

to block the wheels of genuine progress. We will not
hesitate to look this question in the face. Indeed,
it will not be, even in self-justification, to avoid a wrong answer.
The fact is that the right is found to prevail.

(a) The Assertion of English Writers.

Jonathan Bayard, an English writer, long ago put his position
clearly against all war, with at least great clearness. "No one," he
asserts, "pretends to uphold the morals of humanity, and as for his
religion, few think of it at all. A soldier is deprived, even to a
degree, of the fact is too notorious to be insisted upon that
thousands who had filled their stations in life with probity, and
been virtuous from principle, have lost, by a military career, both the
practice and the regard of morality; and when they have become habit-
uated to the vices of war, have labored at their honest and pleasing
business who are still skillful enough for virtue or stupid enough
for vice." Even the damnable John Knox condensed his opinion thus:
"It begins unfortunately, that profligacy, libertinism and infidelity
are thought by weaker minds almost as necessary a part of a soldier's
uniform as his shoulder knot. To hesitate at an oath, to decline
excitation, to profess a regard for religion would be almost as
inconceivable as to refuse a challenge."

(d) Charles Sumner's Argument.

On our side of the Atlantic, fifty years ago in Boston on ~~the~~ the 4th of July, which he denominated the Sabbath of the Nation, Charles Sumner gave a public oration, subject, "The True Grandeur of Nations." Sumner said concerning this effort: "Men seldom make more than one exhaustive speech, the others become more or less modifications of it; that on 'The Grandeur of Nations' was my speech." Indeed, Clay has none recorded more ornate; and Webster does not excel some portions of this in strength of statement or grandeur of style. Were it not possible to appeal from Sumner's utterances made in peace times to Sumner himself when adding sinews to a gigantic war, we would hardly venture to quote him. Near the beginning of his oration he asked: "Can there be in our age any peace that is not honorable, any war that is not dishonorable?" He proceeded: "The true honor of a nation is conspicuous only in deeds of justice and beneficence, securing and advancing human happiness. In the clear eye of that Christian judgment, which must yet prevail, vain are the victories of war, infamous its spoils. He is the benefactor and worthy of honor, who carries comfort to wretchedness, dries the tears of sorrow, relieves the unfortunate, feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, does justice, enlightens the ignorant, unfastens the fetters of the slave, and finally by virtuous genius in art, literature, science, enlivens and exalts the hours of life; or by generous example inspires a love for God and man. This is the Christian hero; this is the man of

A review of the Address, fifty years ago in Boston
the day of July, which he denominated the Sabbath of the Nation.
Charles Sumner gave a public oration, subject, "The Free Government of
Mankind." Sumner said concerning this effort: "Men seldom make more
than one extensive speech, the others become more or less modified
from of it; that on 'The Government of Mankind' was my speech."
Indeed, it has none recorded more ornate; and Webster does not
exceed some portions of this in strength of statement or grandeur of
style. We are not assailed to appeal from Sumner's references made
in past times to Sumner himself when adding allude to a significant war,
we would hardly venture to quote him. Near the beginning of his or-
ation he asked: "Can there be in our age any peace that is not
safe, any war that is not dishonorable?" He proceeded: "The
honor of a nation is comprised only in deeds of justice and benefi-
cence, securing and advancing human happiness. In the choice of
that character judgment, which may yet prevail, vain are the vio-
lence of war, infamous its spoils. He is the benefactor and worthy of
honor, who carries comfort to wretchedness, drives the laws of sorrow,
relieves the unfortunate, feeds the hungry, clothes the naked, and
justice enlightens the ignorant, unlooses the fetters of the slave,
and finally by virtuous genius in art, literature, science, enlivens
and exalts the hours of life; or by generous exaltation inspires a love
for God and man. This is the Christian hero; this is the real of

in a christian land. He is no benefactor nor worthy of honor, whatever his worldly renown, whose life is absorbed in brute force, and who renounces the great law of Christian brotherhood, whose vocation is blood.

Well may old Sir Thomas Browne exclaim: " The world does not know its greatest men, for, thus far, it has chiefly honored the violent brood of battle, armed men springing up from the Dragon's teeth sown by Hate, and cared little for the truly good men, children of love, guiltless of their country's blood, whose steps on earth are noiseless as the angel's wing."

Sumner's picture of the social fostering of the war spirit is this: "The mother rocking the infant on her knee stamps the image of war upon his tender mind, at that age more tender than wax; she nurses his slumbers with its music; pleases his waking hours with its stories, and selects from his playthings the plume and the sword. ----- And when the youth becomes a man, his country invites his services and holds before his bewildered imagination the prizes of worldly honor."

Permit one more sketch: " Peaceful citizens volunteer to appear as soldiers, and affect in dress, arms and deportment what is called the pride, pomp and circumstance of Glorious War."

Now, the principle underlying Sumner's graphic phrases, the real basis of his argument against war, is thus stated: " If it is wrong and inglorious when individuals consent and agree to determine

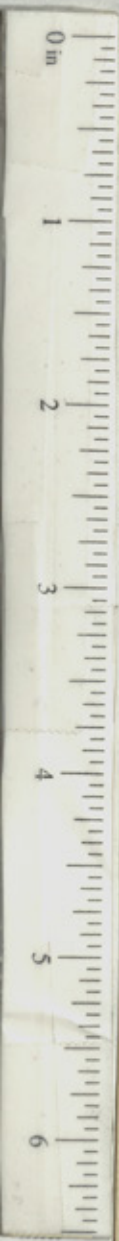
in a christian land. He is no benefactor nor worthy of honor
force, and who renounces the great law of Christian brotherhood, whose
vocation is blood.

Well, my old Sir Thomas Browne exclaims: "The world does not
know its greatest men, for, like far, it has chiefly honored the
violent crowd of battle, armed men spinning up from the dragon's
teeth down by hate, and cared little for the truly good men, children
of love, guileless of their country's blood, whose steps on earth are
notable as the angels' wing."

Shower, a picture of the social testimony to the war, is this:
The mother rocking the infant on her knee stamps the image of
war upon the tender mind, as that eye more tender than mine; she
passes his chambers with its music; glances his waking hours with
its stories, and reflects from his playthings the ghim and the world.
And when the youth becomes a man, his enemy twists his
swords and holds before his bewildered imagination the prizes of
worldly honor."

Let me one more sketch: "Fascinated nations volunteer to
appear as soldiers, and affect in dress, arms and deportment that is
called the pride, pomp and circumstance of glorious war."

Now, the pitiable misanthropic Gulliver's Travels through the
real basis of his argument against war as thus stated: "It is a
wrong and unjustifiable when individuals consent and agree to a future



their petty controversies by combat, it must be equally wrong and inglorious when nations consent and agree to determine their vaster controversies by combat."

(e) War is ^{times} ~~Sometimes~~ Right.

Notice that by this comparison, war is shown as the fault of Nations. Is all this true? Must the soldier blush to wear his uniform, hide his battle flag, and strive to forget the names of the engagements in which he in defense of his country's integrity participated? Must his halting gait and battle scarred body be regarded as a pitiable deformity and his children be taught to reckon him with robbers and assassins ^{as}? Unquestionably not. In opposition to peace at-any-price advocates, we are not necessitated to assert that war is right. War is a contest- the final arbitrament, according to the best existing national agreement - between nations or states, or between parts of the same nation or state, waged for various causes. It is sometimes right and sometimes wrong. One party to the controversy may be right and the other wrong; or each party may be partly right and partly wrong.

(f) When Life may be Taken.

The taking of human life is not necessarily opposed to Moses' law, which our Lord more strongly restated, viz: "Thou shalt

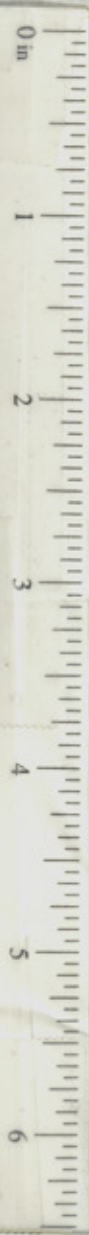
...by combat, it is not as if they were
indefinite when nations consent and agree to determine their war
...by combat."

(e) *War is Some-
thing*

Notice that in this comparison, war is shown as the fault
of Nations. Is it this time? But the soldier must be war his
uniform, hide his battle flag, and active to forget the names of the
enemies in which he is defense of his country's integrity and life-
spared? What the killing gift and battle severed body he regarded
as a pitiable detour and his children he taught to weaken him with
robbery and assault? Unquestionably not. In opposition to those
at-any-price advocates, we are not necessitated to accept that war
is right. War is a contest - the final settlement, according to
the best existing national agreement - between nations or states, or
between parts of the same nation or state, waged for various causes.
It is sometimes right and sometimes wrong. One party to the conflict
may be right and the other wrong; or each party may be partly
right and partly wrong.

(f) When life may be taken.

The taking of human life is not necessarily opposed to
moral law, when our moral more strongly resented, viz: "Thou shalt



not avenge or bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." The history of the Israelites in peace and war shows its interpretation. All the law and practice always justified the taking of life in self defense. A man without guilt might strike the might robber or assassin. To the government, life was forfeited for many crimes. To Joshua, a princely leader, the same Jehovah who gave the law entrusted a mighty army to seize and possess the land of promise. Behold his commission: "Be strong and of good courage: be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

(g) All Law presumes adequate force for Execution.

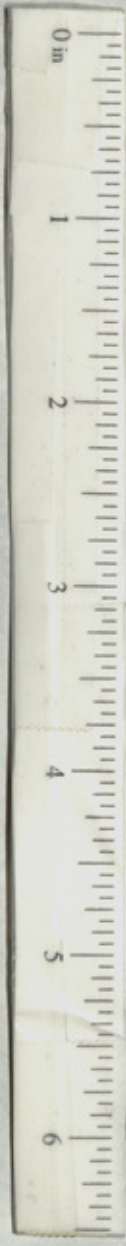
The rule is that law must have force behind it for its execution. It is common sense to see that a government, to defend its life, may institute a posse comitatus or police force, army, navy or militia. Criminal classes and nations influenced by gross ambition and greed can only be restrained by a proper force from crushing out the life of a government that stands in their way. Bring again Mr. Sumner to the witness stand in war time. May 19th, 1862 on the floor of the senate he said: "Harsh and repulsive as these rights (of war) unquestionably are, they are derived from the over-ruling , instinctive ~~instructive~~ laws of self-defense, common to nations as to individuals. Every community having the form and character of sovereignty has a

not average or poor any longer against the position of the people, but
then shall love his neighbor as himself. The history of the
institutions in peace and war shows the interpretation. All the law
and order always justified the taking of life in self defense. A
man without guilt might strike the right neighbor or assassin. To the
Government, this was forbidden for any crime. To Justice, a person
leader, the same removal who gave the law estimated a right to
strike and possess the land of crime. He held his commission. He
strong and of good courage: he not afraid, neither he then dismayed:
for the Lord God is with thee whatsoever thou doest.

(B) All law requires adequate force for execution.

The rule is that law must have force behind it for its
execution. It is common sense to see that a Government, to defend its
life, may institute a posse comitatus or police force, army, navy or
militia. Criminal classes and nations influenced by mass ambition
and greed can only be restrained by a proper force from running out
the life of a Government that stands in their way. Being again
Mr. Sumner to the witness stand in war time. May 19th, 1862 or 63
floor of the senate he said: "Hasty and repulsive as these rights
(of war) unquestionably are, they are derived from the over-riding
instinctive law of self-defense, common to nations as to individuals.

Every country having the form and character of government was a



right to national life, and in defense of such life, may put forth all its energies. Any other principle would leave it the wretched prey to wicked men abroad and at home." That was Charles Sumner's maturer thought, wrought out in the furnace of our fearful struggle for national existence. All lovers of their kind will say to him a glad amen as he adds, doubtless half in reminiscence, the following noble words: "I rejoice to believe that civilization has already done much to mitigate the rights of war, and it is among long cherished visions, which present events cannot make me renounce, that the time is coming when all these rights will be further softened to the mood of permanent peace."

(h) The Army as much a Necessity as the Criminal Court.

When Turks shall be effectually restrained from cruelty and barbarism, and when Japan and China shall be fully taken into the family of civilized nations, Sumner's vision of permanent peace will be nearer to fulfillment. Meanwhile, practical statesmen will consider our army and navy, including our national guard, as much a necessity as the courts of our land. When all men actually reach the plain of right doing, surely the criminal courts can be abolished. For the present then, let peace loving men, a priori give no dishonor to the public police, to army, navy or court.

right to national life, and in defense of such life we must fight.
 All the countries. Any other principle would leave it the weakened
 and weakened. That was Charles Sumner's
 brought out in the terms of our national struggle
 for national existence. All lovers of their land will say to him a
 gladman as he was, doubtless left in reminiscence, the following
 words: "I rejoice to believe that civilization has already
 done much to mitigate the rights of war, and it is among long cherish-
 ed visions, which present events cannot make us renounce, that the
 time is coming when all these rights will be further softened to the
 mood of permanent peace."

(ii) The Army as much a necessity as the Criminal Court.

When there shall be effectively restrained from entirely and
 barbarism, and when Japan and China shall be fully taken into the
 family of civilized nations, Sumner's vision of permanent peace will
 be nearer to fulfillment. Meanwhile, practical statesmen will
 consider our army and navy, including our national guard, as much a
 necessity as the courts of our land. When all can actually reach
 the state of right doing, surely the criminal courts can be abolished.
 For the criminal class, let peace-loving men, a priori give no authority
 to the public police, to army, navy or court.

II. THE ARMY AS IT IS.

(a) Organization.

Neither John Knox of Scotland, Jonathan Dymond of England, nor the extreme peace men of our own land have given fair portraiture of our American soldiers. What we call regulars are really bona fide volunteers. Should the reader be desirous of studying the organization of our small army as it is to-day of a peace establishment, he will find all desired information in the Revised Statutes of the United States, commencing " Title XIV the Army."

Section IIII5 declares: " There shall not be in the army at one time more than 30,000 enlisted men."

(Here insert Table marked A.)

III. THE ARMY AS IT IS.

(a) Organization.

Neither John Knox of Scotland, Jonathan Edwards of England,
nor the extreme peace men of our own land have given this performance
of our American soldiership that we call regular and truly some fine
efficiency. Should the regulars be the best of soldiers and the
most of our army as it is today of a peace establishment, we
will have all desired information in the revised statistics of the
United States, concerning "Title XIV the Army."
Section 1113 states: "There shall not be in the army
at one time more than 20,000 enlisted men."

(Here insert Table marked A.)

0 in

1

2

3

4

5

6

This number, 30,000 enlisted men, is varied from time to time by the appropriations of Congress. Able officers have often estimated the number of men that could be brought into the field from this force in case of sudden emergency, of course, to mobilize the force without injuring or sacrificing the public property which the army should protect; with an establishment of 20,000, they say, about one-half, 10,000 men, would be available; with 30,000, two-thirds could be called out.

(b) The Career exemplified by the Rank and File.

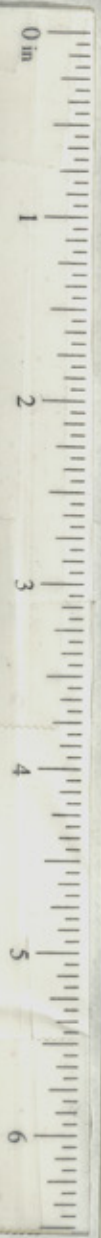
The main army career is found in what is usually styled the rank and file, i. e. with the soldiers who have come into the service by enlistment. The large proportion of our young men who desire to enter the military profession must come in by the door-way of enlistment; for, in the army, staff and line, less than 3,000. commissioned officers are allowed by law. Heretofore the term of service for the soldier has been five years. This rule was modified a few years ago, allowing him to purchase his discharge upon certain fixed conditions; but the last congress swept away all conditions and fixed the period of enlistment at the short term of three years.

A recruit must be "effective and able-bodied". He must be sixteen or over, but under thirty-five years of age. If under twenty-one he requires the consent of parents or guardians. Other prohibitions of law forbid the enlistment of minors under sixteen years of age; insane persons; deserters from the army; and persons

This number, 30,000 enlisted men, as varied from time to time by the appropriations of Congress. Able officers have often estimated the number of men that could be brought into the field from this force in case of sudden emergency, of course, to mobilize the force without injuring or sacrificing the public property which the army should protect; with an establishment of 30,000 they say, about one-half, 15,000 men, would be available; with 30,000, two-thirds would be called out.

(b) The Carpenters' exemption from the draft and title.

The main army career is found in what is usually divided into rank and file, i. e., with the soldiers who have come into the service by enlistment. The large proportion of our young men who desire to enter the military profession must come in by the door-way of enlistment; but, in the army, staff and line, less than 1,000 of occasional officers are allowed by law. Heretofore the term of service for the soldier has been five years. This rule was modified a few years ago, allowing him to purchase his discharge upon certain fixed conditions; but the last congress swept away all conditions and fixed the period of enlistment at the short term of three years. A recruit must be "effective and able-bodied". He must be sixteen or over, but under thirty-five years of age. If under twenty-one he requires the consent of parents or guardians. Other prohibitions of law forbid the enlistment of minors under sixteen years of age; insane persons; bankrupts from the army; and persons



II.

who have been convicted of "any criminal offense." Against a second ~~term~~ there is the requirement of "service during his last preceeding term of enlistment, ¹⁰² honest and faithful". As a matter of fact, in the recent regimental recruiting in the country near where the regiment has been stationed, certificates or other bona fide evidence of good character have been demanded of the applicant. Often as many as a hundred seekers have been turned away to get ten men who came up to present requirements to enter the lowest grade in our profession.

The pay of the "private" of cavalry, artillery, and infantry is \$13. per month. His allowances cover his quarters, clothing and rations. A private of the second class in the Engineer and Ordnance corps receives just the same as the above. Here is the starting point for every man who enlists.

(c) Some of his Privileges and Chances for Promotion.

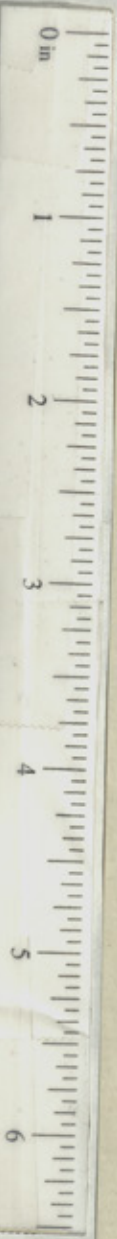
As more than ordinary knowledge is now sought, on account of modern ordnance, especially in the case of rifles and artillery, and more individual character and responsibility needed in the new methods of manoeuvring with extended lines, the recruit is subjected to more than three times the schooling and training of years gone by. Schools and gymnasiums are maintained at every army post. The soldier now very soon becomes an expert in the handling of his rifle,

who have been convicted of any criminal offense. Against a second offense is the requirement of service during his last preceding term of enlistment. As a matter of fact, in the recent regimental recruiting in the country near where the regiment has been stationed, convicted or other persons find a chance of good character have been furnished of the applicant. Often as many as a hundred seekers have been turned away to get far men who came up to present requirements to enter the lowest grade in the profession.

The pay of the "privates" of cavalry, artillery, and infantry is \$13. per month. His allowances cover his quarters, clothing and rations. A private of the second class in the Engineer and Ordnance Corps receives just the same as the above. Here is the starting point for every man who enlists.

(e) Some of his Privileges and Chances for Promotion.

As more than ordinary knowledge is now sought, an account of modern ordnance, especially in the case of rifles and artillery, and more individual character and responsibility needed in the new methods of manœuvring with extended lines, the recruit is subjected to more than three times the schooling and training of years gone by. Schools and gymnasiums are maintained at every army post. The soldier now very soon becomes an expert in the handling of his rifle.



his field piece, his heavy gun, his carbine and his horse. Whole troops of cavalry now show the quickness and elasticity of which a few years ago a class of West Point cadets would have been proud. If capable, industrious and obedient, the recruit will soon rise. In engineers and ordnance, privates of the first class receive \$17. a month with all the allowances. There are ordnance sergeants, first sergeants, sergeants, corporals, musicians, trumpeters, sadlers, blacksmiths, hospital stewards, hospital attendants and artificers of higher compensation, and men detailed to work which will entitle them to extra pay. Many, many are the openings to skill and good conduct. The pay itself grades from the \$13. up to that of the ordnance sergeant, which is primarily \$34. with the usual quarters, clothing and subsistence added; and from the third year there is an increase of one dollar a month.

(d) Can an Enlisted Man gain a Commission ?

With regard to gaining a commission, can an enlisted man do that ? Very many of our officers, especially during the Civil War came from the ranks of the Regular Army. Several reached the rank of field officers in both the line and staff.

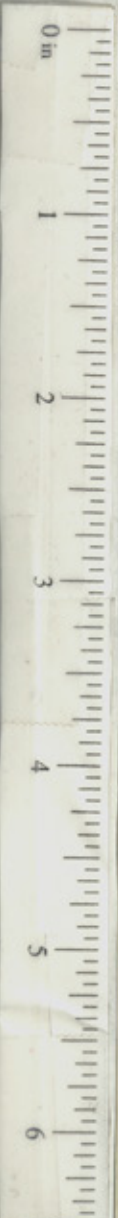
The rule of promotion is thus fixed by law, to wit:

"Non-commissioned officers may, under regulations established by the Secretary of War, be examined by a board of four officers as to their qualifications for the duties of commissioned officers in the

the field force, the heavy gun, the machine gun and his horse. While
 troops of cavalry now show the difference and elasticity of which a few
 years ago a class of West Point cadets would have been proud. It
 is evident, however, and obvious, that the report will soon rise
 in volume and evidence, of the first class men who will
 march with all the allowances. These are our own men, our
 sergeants, corporals, privates, musicians, engineers, soldiers,
 dismounted, mounted, hospital stewards, hospital attendants and all the
 other personnel, and men detailed to work which will entitle them
 to extra pay. They are the men who are to fill the gaps and
 The new field force from the 1st to the 10th of the division
 sergeant, which is approximately 350, and the usual number of
 and assistants added; and from the 11th year there is an increase
 of one dollar a month.

(4) Can an Enlisted Man Gain a Commission?

With regard to gaining a commission, can an enlisted man
 do that? Very many of our officers, especially during the Civil
 War came from the ranks of the regular army. Several reached the
 rank of field officers in both the line and staff.
 The rule of promotion is now fixed by law, so that
 non-commissioned officers may, under regulations established by the
 Secretary of War, be examined by a board of four officers as to
 their qualifications for the duties of commissioned officers in the



line of the army, and shall be eligible for appointment as second lieutenants in any corps of the line for which they may be found so qualified."

The number is, of course, limited by the number of vacancies which graduating cadets have failed to fill. Such second lieutenants from the ranks may, however, be attached as super-numeraries, provided the supernumeraries do not exceed one of each company.

III. THE CADET.

The West Point cadet holds the next grade above the enlistment. After his matriculation, he receives a Cadet Warrant from the War Department, in lieu of a commission. His original title was a letter of Appointment from the President. Each member of the House of Representatives had nominated one young man, a resident of his Congressional District, which nomination the President has confirmed by a formal appointment. The President himself is entitled to ten cadets yearly. No other youth can enter the Academy except by special Act of Congress. The cadet's compensation to cover all expenses, is "\$500. a year and one ration a day." As a rule the members of the upper sections of a class are, upon their entrance, already fairly well educated; many are graduates of college. Formerly only about one-third could master the course of study and get their diplomas. A larger proportion now get through the Academy. The class of 1854

Every territory and the District of Columbia are also entitled each to one cadet.

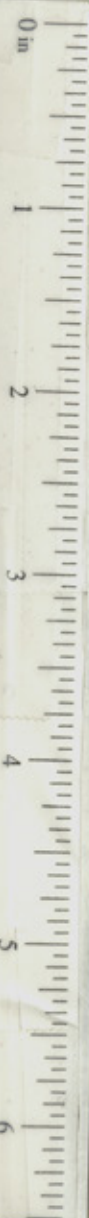
line of the army, and shall be eligible for appointment as second lieutenant in any corps of the line for which they may be found so qualified.

The number of, of course, limited by the number of vacancies which existing cadets have filled in 1911. Each second lieutenant upon the ranks may, however, be attached as adjutant-major, provided the adjutant-major is not exceed one of each company.

III. THE CADET.

The West Point cadet holds the next grade above the ensign rank. After his graduation, he receives a Cadet's Warrant from the War Department in lieu of a commission. His original title was a letter of appointment from the President. Each member of the House of Representatives has nominated one young man, a resident of his Congressional District, which nomination the President has confirmed by a formal appointment. The President himself is entitled to two cadets yearly. No other youth can enter the Academy except by special Act of Congress. The cadet's compensation is forty dollars a month, \$500 a year and one million a day. As a rule the members of the West Point class are, upon their entrance, already fairly well educated; many are graduates of college. Formerly only about one-third could master the course of study and get their diplomas. A larger and earlier now get through the Academy. The class of 1904

1904
1905
1906
1907
1908
1909
1910
1911
1912
1913
1914
1915
1916
1917
1918
1919
1920
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927
1928
1929
1930
1931
1932
1933
1934
1935
1936
1937
1938
1939
1940
1941
1942
1943
1944
1945
1946
1947
1948
1949
1950
1951
1952
1953
1954
1955
1956
1957
1958
1959
1960
1961
1962
1963
1964
1965
1966
1967
1968
1969
1970
1971
1972
1973
1974
1975
1976
1977
1978
1979
1980
1981
1982
1983
1984
1985
1986
1987
1988
1989
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022
2023
2024
2025
2026
2027
2028
2029
2030
2031
2032
2033
2034
2035
2036
2037
2038
2039
2040
2041
2042
2043
2044
2045
2046
2047
2048
2049
2050
2051
2052
2053
2054
2055
2056
2057
2058
2059
2060
2061
2062
2063
2064
2065
2066
2067
2068
2069
2070
2071
2072
2073
2074
2075
2076
2077
2078
2079
2080
2081
2082
2083
2084
2085
2086
2087
2088
2089
2090
2091
2092
2093
2094
2095
2096
2097
2098
2099
2100



I4.

entered 120 and graduated but 36; whereas the class of 1895 has sent out 52, probably but half of those who joined it four years ago.

IV. THE SECOND LIEUTENANT.

All these fifty-two have been commissioned and will report by September next for orders or assignment to duty to their corps or regiments. Except the Engineer Corps, the staff departments are usually filled from the officers of the army; for the ordnance corps, by a severe professional examination; for the others by selection to fill vacancies as they occur. The Engineer Corps fills directly from a few graduates near the head of each class. The medical department, however, replenishes from young physicians by a most trying examination, and frequently the judge advocates have been lawyers in civil practice, coming in by the President's nomination and confirmed by the senate.

Thus commences the commissioned officers' army career. The lowest pay, that of the second lieutenant of infantry is, \$1500 per year, with the common provision of medical attendance, fuel and quarters. Before the 2nd Lieut. are the grades of 1st Lieut., Captain, Major, Lieut. Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier General and Major General. But three Major-Generals are allowed by law. The pay is \$7,500 per annum with allowances for horses and fuel and provision for medical service and quarters. A second lieutenant on the peace footing can

Paymasters have frequently been appointed from civil life with the rank of Major.

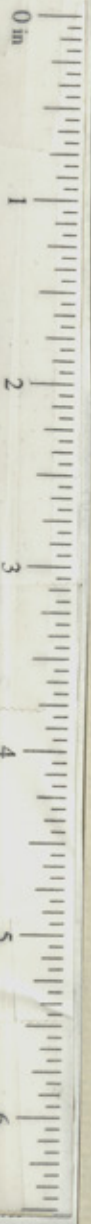
attended 100 and graduated but 38; whereas the class of 1898 has sent out 52, probably one half of those who joined in four years ago.

IV. THE SECOND ALIQUANT.

All these fifty-two have been so educated and will report by Government next for orders or assignment to duty to their corps or regiments. Except the Engineer Corps, the staff departments are usually filled from the officers of the army; for the Ordnance Corps, by a severe professional examination; for the others by selection to fill vacancies as they occur. The Engineer Corps fills directly from a few graduates near the head of each class. The medical department, however, furnishes from young physicians by a most severe examination, and frequently the judge advocates have been lawyers in civil practice, chosen in by the President's nomination and confirmed by the Senate.

Thus we have the commissioned officers and staff. The lowest pay, that of the second lieutenant of infantry is \$1500 per year, with the common provision of medical attendance, food and quarters. Before the war, the grades of 1st Lieut., Captain, Major, Lieut. Colonel, Colonel, Brigadier General and Major General. But Major-General is allowed by law. The pay is \$7,500 per annum with allowances for horses and food and provision for medical service and quarters. A second lieutenant of the same footing can

[Handwritten notes in right margin:]
 1898
 1899
 1900
 1901
 1902
 1903
 1904
 1905
 1906
 1907
 1908
 1909
 1910
 1911
 1912
 1913
 1914
 1915
 1916
 1917
 1918
 1919
 1920
 1921
 1922
 1923
 1924
 1925
 1926
 1927
 1928
 1929
 1930
 1931
 1932
 1933
 1934
 1935
 1936
 1937
 1938
 1939
 1940
 1941
 1942
 1943
 1944
 1945
 1946
 1947
 1948
 1949
 1950
 1951
 1952
 1953
 1954
 1955
 1956
 1957
 1958
 1959
 1960
 1961
 1962
 1963
 1964
 1965
 1966
 1967
 1968
 1969
 1970
 1971
 1972
 1973
 1974
 1975
 1976
 1977
 1978
 1979
 1980
 1981
 1982
 1983
 1984
 1985
 1986
 1987
 1988
 1989
 1990
 1991
 1992
 1993
 1994
 1995
 1996
 1997
 1998
 1999
 2000



hardly look for much promotion; in process of time a captaincy, possibly a majority in line or staff, before the sixty-four year law shall retire him.

Methinks, that an enterprising youth would hardly remain in the army simply for money or promotion.

V. WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF ARMY OFFICERS ?

The engineers are distributed over the land. They take care of the fort selections and constructions; together with the navy, the shore lighting and the coast survey. They have supervision of plans and expenditures for River and Harbor improvements. They stand with our best civil engineers in all pertaining to roads and bridges, mines torpedoes, shore batteries and what not in the line of the defense of cities are committed into their able hands. To pass from grade to grade as with all officers, rigid examinations are resorted to. The engineer officer is remarkable for his unflagging energy. The ordnance is both a scientific and practice corps and covers the furnishing of armament for forts, batteries and men. Its requirements under competition for entrance are difficult to meet. They have charge of the armories and arsenals of construction. They must and they do keep abreast of the world in their practical knowledge of their specialty, by hard study and constant experiment.

So we might take up the quartermaster's department, with

...look for much promotion; in process of time a...
...a... in mind or... before the...-...-...
...shall...
...that an... would...
...and... for... of...

V. WHAT ARE THE DUTIES OF ARMY OFFICERS?

The... are... over the... They...
of the... and... together with the...
...and the... They have... of...
...and... They...
...in all... to roads and...
...and what... in the... of the...
...their... to...
...and...
...the... and...
...of... and...
...of... and...
...for... They have...
...of... They...
...of the... and...
...of the... in...
...of... and...
...of... with...

its exacting and multifarious work, the subsistence with its administrative completeness, the artillery with its post-graduate school, its scientific knowledge, ^{or} practical applications to its various engines of warfare more or less complicated; the cavalry, intensely active in schools, in drill, in instruction mental and physical, so that modern demands of superiority may be met; and the infantry with its target practice, new guns, new tactics and gymnastic requirements.

One could go on to carry the reader through the establishment letting him see the busy surgeon, the hopeful chaplain, the studious judge-advocate, the conscientious paymasters, or the thorough, businesslike, administrative heads of Geographical Departments. He would find them all to compare favorably with other able and industrious men who are doing well the world's work.

This is but a nucleus? Yes, the nucleus, the frame-work if you please, of a large army: but it would be a mistake to impute idleness, or time ill spent to the majority of army officers. Except the mere campaign and battle, the peace-army has the same functions to perform as the war-army; and, in fact, as the school, Academy and College trials of mind and muscle are usually harder than the life work that follows, so are the trials of mind and muscle of the army men in the days of peace. The law requires the detail of many to the West Point, Fort Monroe, Leavenworth and Riley schools, and to the institutions of learning everywhere as instructors of the

military art. For one purpose and another Lieutenants are taken away from their batteries, troops and companies by order of their seniors. All this throws the duty of discipline, drill, instruction and command upon the few that are left with their organizations.

VI. CONCLUSION.

This is the summary; an honorable profession filled with patriotic men, devoted to duty, with hearts as warm and loyal to all the obligations of a true manhood as are found in other professions. To have a competency, to secure a good name, to defend the flag without fear and without reproach, and to discharge solemn obligations to God and to man during life, are objects above the securing of large wealth and luxurious living. This is the ambition of the best army men from the private soldier to the Major-General.

signed
William O. Howard
Major General
US Army
(Retired)

17
... for the purpose of ...
... their ...
... all ...
... the law ...

VI. CONCLUSION.

This is the summary; an ...
... devoted to ...
... the ...
... to have a ...
... without ...
... to God and to men ...
... large ...
... any ...

Wm. O. Johnson
Wm. O. Johnson
Wm. O. Johnson