

THE CONSCRIPTION ACT.

1. The following regulations of the War Department in relation to the act of Congress known as the Conscription Act, are published by authority for the information of the public:

II. ENROLLMENT AND DISPOSITION OF RECRUITS.

1. An officer not below the rank of major will be detailed for each State to take charge of the enrollment, mustering in subsistence, transportation and disposition of the recruits raised under this act.

2. Application will be made immediately to the governors of the several States for permission to employ State officers for said enrollment; and in case such permission be not granted, officers of the army will be selected by the department to perform that duty under such regulations as may be prescribed. Where State officers are employed the regulations of the respective States in regard to military enrollment will be observed as far as applicable.

3. The enrolled men in each State will be collected in camps of instruction by the officers in command of the recruits, the said camps to be selected with reference to health and the facilities for obtaining subsistence and transportation. The number of these camps shall not exceed two in each State, without authority from the department, and to each will be allowed a quartermaster and a commissary.

4. The commandants of the camps of instruction in the several States will call upon the generals commanding the military departments, in which their camps may be situated, for competent drill officers to instruct the recruits, and will prepare them for the field as rapidly as possible. They will cause them to be promptly vaccinated, and, in ordering them to the field, will, as far as practicable, prefer those who have passed through the usual camp diseases. They will establish hospitals in connection with their camps, and make requisition for such medical attendance and stores as may be required.

5. The commandants of regiments, battalions, squadrons and unattached companies in service, on the 16th instant, will send copies of their muster rolls to the commandant of the proper camp of instruction in their respective States, with officers to take charge of such recruits as may be furnished to said corps. The said commandants will apportion the recruits among such corps in proportion to the deficiency of each, except when otherwise specially directed by the department, allotting, as far as practicable, to each such corps the men from the regions of country in which it has been raised. They will from time to time send off such bodies of recruits as are ready for the field; and will report on the first Monday of every month the number of recruits in camp, their condition, the number sent off during the month, and the regiments and corps to which they were sent.

6. The commandants of regiments and corps will distribute the recruits among their several companies, and in such as have not the number of companies allowed by law to a regiment, the said commandants may organize the required number of new companies, after first filling up the existing companies to the minimum numbers required by law; that is to say, for each company of infantry, sixty-four privates; of cavalry, sixty privates; of artillery, seventy privates.

7. The recruits will be apportioned among the several arms of service, according to their respective wants, consulting, as far as practicable, the preference of the men. Where a greater number offer for a particular arm than can be assigned to it, the distribution will be determined by lot; but recruits for the cavalry will only be taken from those who furnish their own horses.

III. VOLUNTEERS FOR EXISTING CORPS.

8. Persons liable to military service under the above act, not in service on the 16th of April, and wishing to volunteer in any particular company in the Confederate service, on the 16th day of April, may report themselves, prior to their enrollment, at a camp of instruction within their respective States, where they will be enrolled, prepared for the field, and sent to the said company, until the same shall be filled up.

9. Recruiting officers may be detailed, with the permission of the generals commanding military departments, by the commandants of regiments and corps, and sent to their respective States for the purpose of recruiting for such regiments and corps, in conformity with recruiting regulations heretofore adopted, (general order No. 6.) volunteers desiring to join them. Such volunteers may be assembled at the camps of instruction in their respective States, prepared for the field, and sent to their respective regiments and corps until the same shall be filled up, or if ready for the field, may be ordered directly to their corps by the officer so recruiting them.

IV. VOLUNTEER CORPS HERETOFORE AUTHORIZED.

10. Persons liable to military service under this act, and not in service on the 16th day of April, may, until the 17th day of May next, volunteer in corps heretofore authorized to be raised by the Secretary of War, or by the Executive of any State, as part of the quota thereof, in pursuance of a call made upon such State by the President. Persons authorized to receive such corps who may not on that day have the necessary number of men enrolled and mustered into service according to the terms of their authority, will proceed with their men to a camp of instruction in their respective States, and will deliver their muster rolls to the commandant thereof.

11. The commandants of such corps as are completed on or before the 17th day of May, and not otherwise ordered, will report to the commandants of their respective States, and, with their corps, will be placed by him in a camp of instruction, and reported immediately to the department. Such corps will be under the command of the commandants of recruits in their respective States, and will be prepared for the field in like manner with the recruits until removed from the camp. They will only be moved under orders from the department, from the commanding general of the army, or in urgent cases from the commanding general of the military department in which the camps may be situated; and in such cases report will immediately be made to the department by the officer in command of the camp.

V. ADDITIONAL CORPS GUERRILLA SERVICE.

12. Under the prohibition of this act against the organization of new corps, no further authority for that purpose can be given, except that specially provided for in the act of Congress, entitled "An act to organize bands of partisan rangers." For this latter purpose applications must be made through the commanding generals of the military departments in which the said corps are to be employed.

VI. RE-ORGANIZATION OF TWELVE MONTHS CORPS.

13. All regiments, battalions, squadrons and companies of twelve months volunteers will re-organize within forty days from the 16th of April, by electing all their officers which they had a right heretofore to elect, and on such days as the brigade commander may prescribe, and the said brigade commanders are hereby ordered to fix and announce the day for such re-organization as soon as practicable. No person who is to be discharged under the provisions of the act will take part in such election.

14. The form of holding and certifying the elections will be in conformity with the laws of the State from which the men, or the major part thereof, may come; and when the election of field officers is to be made by company officers, the latter will be first elected. All certificates of election will be returned to the Adjutant-General's office, and the officers will be commissioned by the President. They will, however, on receiving a copy of the certificate of election immediately enter upon duty. Officers not re-elected will be relieved from duty, and the brigade commander will return their names to the department.

VII. CORPS RAISED FOR LOCAL DEFENCE.

15. Corps raised for local defence will retain their organization during the term of such enlistment, unless previously disbanded, but members of such corps may volunteer into corps for general service, as hereinabove provided.

VIII. DISCHARGES.

16. When any company now in service for twelve months shall, before the 16th day of July next, attain the maximum numbers prescribed by this act, without including the men under eighteen and over thirty-five years of age, all such men may be discharged, and such of them as remain in service on the said day will, upon their application, be then discharged, whether such maximum be attained or not.

IX. TRANSFERS.

17. The right to change company or corps, in virtue of re-enlistment, ceases to exist by the repeal of all laws in regard to re-enlistment, but transfers of individuals or of companies may be made as heretofore, within the discretion of the department.

X. SUBSTITUTES.

18. When any person liable to military duty under this act, but not yet mustered into service in any company, desires to furnish a substitute, he shall report himself, with the substitute, to the commandant of a camp of instruction, and if the substitute be lawfully exempt from military duty, and, on examination by a surgeon or assistant surgeon, be pronounced sound and in all respects fit for military service, he may be accepted and enrolled, and the person furnishing such substitute may be discharged by the commandant of the camp; but no substitute shall be entitled to transportation or other allowance at the expense of the government until so accepted and enrolled.

XI. EXEMPTIONS.

19. Persons claiming exemption from military duty under this act shall be required by the enrolling officer to make oath that they are lawfully exempt under the act of Congress, and shall be furnished by him with a certificate of such exemption.

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING THE ELECTION OF GOVERNOR.

WHEREAS, By the construction which, in practice, has been given to the Constitution of the State, the Speaker of the Senate, in case of a vacancy in the office of Governor, shall exercise the powers of Governor by virtue of his office as Speaker, and without vacating the same; which said office of Speaker must cease and determine with that of the incumbent as a Senator, upon the election of his successor in the next succeeding Senate—and the same construction would apply to the succession of the Speaker of the House of Commons to the exercise of the powers of Governor; and, whereas, according to this construction, a vacancy will take place in the office of Governor from and after the day of the next election on the first Thursday in August next, until the first day of January, A. D., 1863, against which it is the duty of this Convention to provide; therefore,

1. Be it ordained, &c., That the person

who shall be elected Governor of this State at the next regular election on the first Thursday in August next, as now provided for by law, shall also fill the office and discharge the duties of Governor of this State from the 2d Monday of September, until his successor shall be qualified.

2. The proper returning officers of every county shall, as soon as the result of the election is known in his county, transmit to the Secretary of State a statement of the votes taken in his county for Governor, which statement shall be made up from the poll books of his county, as is now prescribed by law.

3. That the Secretary of State, the Treasurer and Comptroller, shall, on the 4th Thursday in August next, and in the presence of the Governor, proceed to examine said returns and ascertain and declare what person shall have received the greatest number of votes, whereupon the Governor shall issue his proclamation declaring such person duly elected Governor of this State from the 2d Monday of September, A. D., 1862, until his successor shall be qualified.

4. That the person so declared and proclaimed Governor, as aforesaid, shall, on the 2d Monday of September 1862, appear before some Judge of the Supreme Court or some one of the Judges of the Superior Courts of Law, and take and subscribe the oath now prescribed by law for the qualification of Governor of this State, and shall immediately enter upon the discharge of the duties of his office, which oath, so taken and subscribed, shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State.

5. That his Excellency Henry T. Clark shall continue to hold the office and discharge all the duties of Governor of this State from the first Thursday in August until the 2d Monday in September next, or until his successor shall be qualified, as fully to all intents and purposes as he has heretofore done, and shall receive the usual salary in proportion to his extended term of service.

NEW ORLEANS.

Mobile, April 29.—The following is the official correspondence which took place between the Yankee Naval Officer Farragut and Mayor Monroe, of New Orleans, upon the surrender of that city:

U. S. FLAG SHIP HARTFORD,
OFF NEW ORLEANS, April 26, 1862.

To His Excellency, the Mayor of the City of New Orleans:

SIR: Upon my arrival before your city, I had the honor to send to your Honor, Captain Bailey, of the U. S. Navy, second in command of the Expedition, to demand of you the surrender of New Orleans to me, as the Representative of the Government of the United States. Capt. Bailey reported the result of his interview with yourself and the military authorities.

It must occur to your Honor, that it is not within the province of a Naval Officer to assume the duties of military commandant. I come here to reduce New Orleans to obedience to the laws of the United States, and to vindicate the offended majesty of the Government of the United States. The rights of persons and property shall be secured.

I therefore demand of you, as the representative of the people of New Orleans, the unqualified surrender of the city, and that the emblem of the sovereignty of the United States be hoisted over the City Hall, Mint and Custom House, by meridian this day, and that all flags and other emblems of sovereignty other than those of the United States are to be removed from all public buildings by that hour.

I particularly request that you exercise your authority to quell disturbances, to restore order, and to call upon all the good people of New Orleans to return at once to their vocations; and I particularly demand that no person be molested in person or property for professing sentiments of loyalty to their government.

I shall speedily and severely punish any person or persons who shall commit such outrages as were witnessed yesterday, by armed men firing upon helpless women and children, for giving expression to their pleasure at witnessing the old flag.

I am, very respectfully, your ob't serv't,
(Signed) D. G. FARRAGUT,
Flag Officer Western Gulf Squadron.

MAYOR MONROE'S REPLY.

MAYORALTY, NEW ORLEANS,
CITY HALL, April 26, 1862.

To Flag Officer D. G. Farragut, U. S. Ship Hartford.

SIR: In pursuance of a resolution which he thought proper to take, out of regard for the lives of the women and children who still crowd our great metropolis, General Lovell has evacuated it with his troops, and restored to me the administration of its government, and the custody of its honor.

I have, in council with our city fathers, considered the demand you made of me yesterday, for an unconditional surrender of the city, coupled with a requisition to hoist the flag of the United States on all public offices, and haul down the flag that still floats to the breeze from the dome of this hall.

It becomes my duty to transmit to you an answer which is the universal sentiment of my constituents, no less than the promptings of my own heart, dictated to me on this sad and solemn occasion. The city is without means of defence, and utterly destitute of force and material that might enable it to resist the overpowering armament displayed in sight of it. I am no military man, and possess no authority beyond that of executing the municipal laws of the city of New Orleans.

It would be presumptuous in me to attempt

to lead an army to the field if I had one at command, and I know still less how to surrender an undefended place, held as this is at the mercy of your gunners and your mortars. To surrender such a place were an idle and unmeaning ceremony. The city is yours by power of mere brutal force—not by my choice, or by the consent of its inhabitants. It is for you to determine what will be the fate that awaits us here.

Sir, you have manifested sentiments which would become one engaged in a better cause than that to which you have devoted your sword. I doubt not but that they spring from noble thoughts, but a deluded nature, and I know how to appreciate the emotions which inspired them.

You will have gallant people to administer to during your occupation of this city, and a people sensitive to all that can, in the least, affect their dignity and self respect. Pray, sir, do not fail to regard their susceptibilities. The obligation which I shall assume in their name shall be religiously complied with. You may trust their honor, though you might not count on their submission to unmerited wrong.

As to hoisting any flag other than the flag of our own adoption and allegiance, let me say to you that the man lives not in our midst whose hand and heart would not be palsied at the mere thought of such an act, nor could I find in my entire constituency so wretched and desperate a renegade as would dare to profane with his hand the sacred emblem of our holiest aspirations.

In conclusion, I beg you to understand that the people of New Orleans, while unable to resist your force, will not allow themselves to be insulted by the interference of such as have rendered themselves odious and contemptible by the dastardly desertion of our cause in the mighty struggle in which we are engaged, or such as might remind them too painfully, that they are the conquered and you the conquerors.

Peace and order may be preserved without resort to measures which I could not at this moment prevent. Be assured that your occupancy of this city does not transfer their allegiance from the Government of their choice, to one they have deliberately repudiated, and that they yield simply that obedience to which the conquerors are entitled to extort from the conquered.

(Signed) Respectfully,
JOHN F. MONROE, Mayor.

CONCENTRATING OUR ARMIES.

It is painful to leave any portion of Virginia in the hands of the enemy, and nothing but the demands of necessity could induce the Government to make such a sacrifice. But it is impossible, with the means at its command, to defend all sections of its vast territory, and if it had an army of a million of men it could not accomplish this object. Washington, in the Revolution, made the attempt in the beginning to defend the seaboard and other exposed portions of the frontier, but was compelled to abandon the system as impracticable, and perilous to the general welfare. In our judgment, it would have been better for us at the beginning to have concentrated our forces around a few vital points, and then to make rapid and vigorous blows upon the vulnerable points of the enemy. The seaboard, at least, is of little importance to us at the present moment. The immense fleets of the North give it an advantage of attack which we cannot pretend to cope with. It is only by drawing the enemy on to the interior, where we shall increase his difficulties of transportation, and the expense and peril of his movements, that we can carry on the war with efficiency and success.

These considerations will be fully appreciated by the loyal people of the South, whose country may for a season be occupied by the enemy. We have no fear that their intercourse with the invaders will have any other effect than to animate and intensify their patriotism. They will keep alive in their hearts the hope of a better future. The day of their deliverance will ultimately come, and it will be all the more bright and beautiful for the temporary eclipse.

Richmond Dispatch.

MORE ARMS AND AMMUNITION.—We announced on Monday the arrival at a Confederate port of a valuable cargo of arms, ammunition, merchandise, &c. Another vessel has since arrived at another port with a still more valuable cargo of the same character.

THE WAR IN THE WEST.—Our special dispatch from Knoxville informs us, on the authority of an escaped prisoner, that a large force of Federals is concentrating at Lexington, Kentucky, to make a descent on Cumberland Gap. We are further informed that the cause of the South is gaining daily in Kentucky, in consequence of the war tax and the emancipation scheme.

The Yankees are fortifying Huntsville, Alabama, and apparently intend to hold the place if possible.

Richmond Dispatch.

The Arsenal at Asheville, we learn, is doing well in the manufacture of arms for the Confederate government.

The Louisville Journal reports that Stanton, Lincoln's Secretary of War, has resigned, on account of political differences with the administration.

Timothy Webster, who was convicted as a spy, in Richmond, was hung at Fort Lee, on the 29th.

A Federal steamer reached Fortress Monroe on Wednesday last, with fifteen bodies of officers and one hundred and fifty wounded soldiers. They are supposed to be the result of the battle at South Mills, N. C.

LATEST FROM NEW ORLEANS.

Richmond, May 2, P. M.—Authentic information from New Orleans by telegraph has been received here.

The Louisiana, iron clad, was at Fort St. Phillip, and received a broadside from the enemy at a distance of only thirty feet, without injury. Becoming unmanageable, she was blown up by Commander McIntosh, who had an arm and a leg blown off.

About thirteen of the enemy's war steamers came up before the surrender of the Forts. Among them, the Brooklyn, and three others of her class.

The enemy is believed to be in full possession of the city at this time.

The commander of the French frigate Militaire gave notice that it require sixty days before bombardment, to remove the French citizens. This was before the surrender.

There is still great excitement in the city, and the people are fully loyal to the Confederate government.

All the shipping and cotton at New Orleans and Baton Rouge, were burnt. The cotton destroyed amounted to about 32,000 bales.

Memphis, April 28.—The Appeal of today says, we hear from above that during the bombardment yesterday at Fort Pillow three of the enemy's mortar guns exploded.

At last accounts the invaders had not appeared at Carondelet, sixty miles above New Orleans.

The Memphis Argus says the enemy's gunboats above Memphis will soon be in our hands.

The Corinth correspondent of the Mobile Register says Colonel John Morgan, the famous scout, has taken command of a regiment of infantry. General Beauregard has dismounted several thousand cavalry, the country being unfavorable for the operations of cavalry.

CUMBERLAND GAP.—Richmond May 1.—A telegram from Knoxville states that an engagement occurred at Cumberland Gap, on Monday last, April 28th.

The enemy was repulsed with considerable loss. Confederate loss trifling.

The Federals have been reinforced by eight regiments, and have completed a floating bridge across Cumberland river. Gen. Morgan is commanding.

It is believed that they will attempt to make a flank movement, for which our forces are fully prepared.

FALL OF FORT MACON.

We have the following details of this event, which took place on Friday last, when the enemy opened fire from strong batteries of heavy Parrot and other rifled guns and mortars planted within 1,400 yards of the Fort, and behind very high sand-banks, which prevented their being seen by the garrison until the fire was opened. After ten hours fire of shot and shell the Fort was breached and completely torn to pieces. The fleet outside did no damage whatever to the Fort. Most of the guns in the Fort were disabled, including all that could have been brought to bear upon the enemy.

Under these circumstances Col. White surrendered the Fort with the honors of war, the officers retaining their side arms. All the baggage of the officers and men was saved. Col. White and 155 of his command were brought to the main Cape Fear Bar yesterday (Monday) afternoon, on board the U. S. gunboat Chippewa, where they were transferred to one of our transport steamers under a flag of truce. They reached town at 12 o'clock last night. The remainder of the men composing the garrison were sent through the Sound to Newbern, we presume. They are all on parole.

The loss on our side was seven killed and eighteen wounded, two of them mortally. The latter two were left in the Fort.

P. S.—We have just learned that fire upon the Fort was opened at a quarter before six on Friday morning, and that the engagement between the Fort and batteries was kept up until about 7 o'clock that evening, when the Fort became wholly untenable and was surrendered as above.

All the guns on the side of the Fort opposite to that attacked were dismounted. All but three of the guns bearing upon the enemy's batteries were dismounted. The enemy's central battery of breaching guns was within 1100 yards. The right and left flanking mortar batteries were more distant.

Winnington Journal.

John M. Botts, who was tried at Richmond on the charge of disloyalty, declared before the court martial that "he was a neutral in this war, taking sides with neither the North nor the South." Apart from Botts's own declaration, there was no evidence against him. The court decided that Mr. Botts was not worthy of being trusted at large, and recommended that he be confined on his own farm, or such other place as it may suit the Government, upon his parole to communicate with no one except the members of his own family.

CONFISCATION BILLS REJECTED.—The Yankee Congress has been earnestly engaged on several bills proposing to confiscate the property of Southern people. The Judiciary committee reported that it could not agree upon any one of the several bills before it, and recommended that they do not pass. The House thereupon tabled—rejected—the one before it, by a vote of 58 to 52.

The Texas papers say that salt is selling at Gregory's Lake at 28 to 30 cents per bushel, and plenty on hand.