CONDITION OF THE STATE GUARD

in His Official Report

An official statement of the condition and efficiency for service of the organized militia of North Carolina has just been issued by the government. In it is a most interesting and valuable statement of the condition of the North Carolina State Guard in 1896, by Major E. M. Hayes, of the Seventh Cavalry, United States Army.

In summing up this statement, Major

Hayes says: "The only change in the organization and the acceptance of three new companies, which has increased the numerofficers and men. The condition of the guard has been very much improved, and is now better than at any time since its organization in 1876. The supply department has been organized and to a great extent contributed to the present excellent condition of the guard. I wish to call attention to be successful practice march by the Fourth Regiment, from Statesville to Charlotte, September 11 to 17, distance | by a magnetic separator. about 53 miles. This is the first instance that a march of this kind has been unthat officers and men had to furnish all their own supplies and voluntarily give up their respective business occupations for the time, it shows an earnest patriotic spirit, and ambition that is highly to be commended. It has excited the ambition of the other regiments to do similar work, and it is belleved that practice marches will take the place of all forms of encampments of love of the State, and the personal sacrifice made by both officers and men so willingly and liberally, it is true, without question, that it is the duty of the State to increase its meagre apportionment to the State guard at least sufficient to provide subsistance for the troops on practice marches and encampments and thus make some remuneration for the time taken from teir and talk afterward. business. I can personally testify as to the soldiery conduct and cheerful spirit of the regiment on the march, being present with them, and of the gradual improvement from day to day in the It gives me pleasure to acknowledge the State guard, and to testify to the most gratifying harmony and cooperation existing throughout all departments of the State guard to me in

A Sepctator at the Convention

the exercise of my duties."

(Eufala, (Fla.), Times.) Wilmington, the tar-heel city by the sea, is unbounded in her hospitality. We went there expecting to pay our way but if all were as fortunate as the spectator the entertainment was not only free but effectionately charmingly cordial. It was apprehended that so small a city could not entertain the great body of delegates and visitors, but all were' most royally and delightfully cared for. Some of us will never forget the friendships, the real Christian friendships, there formed. And not last nor least appreciated was the cordial reception and constant attention given the body and delegates by that sterling newspaper, The Wilmington Messenger. It was unceasing in its at-

tentions and they were most highly

appreciated by all.

The Spectator was peculiarly fortunate in his temporary home and home companions. Accidently meeting Mr. B. G. Worth, of Wilmington, he very kindly and cordially invited me home with him. As I told him afterwards, I was a stranger and he took me in. And no man was ever taken into a more delightful home or into the midst of more pleasant companionship. There were four of us visitors. First and least was Professor Thomas Hume, of the University of North Carolina, an elegant gentleman and probably the most scholarly delegate to the convention. He was full of quiet humor and a most charming companion. Second, and-next to the least was my friend Dr. Pickard, of Louisville, Ky.

Indecent Salaries. (Nashville Sun.)

The population of the three states of Tennessee, Georgia and North Carolina is practically the same in number, character and situation, and there is no reason why there should be more litigation in Tennessee than in the other two. The comparative population (Federal census of 1890) and aggregate annually paid to the judges in each of the three states will more clearly appear from the follow-

North Carolina-Population, 1,617,947; number of judges, 17: salary aggregate, Georgia-Population, 1,837,353: number of judges, 26; salary aggregate, \$55,000. Tennessee-Population, 1,767,518; num-

ber of judges, 46; salary aggregate, \$123,-

Georgia, with a larger population and more wealth than Tennessee, pays \$68,000 a year less in the way of judicial salaries. while North Carolina, with a little less population, pays \$76,250 less. Yea, if our figures and information are correct, the unfortunate taxpayers of Tennessee, under the separate law and equit are forced every year to pay judicial salaries exceeding the combined amounts paid for the same purpose by the people of both the states of Georgia and North Carolina, by the neat sum of \$21,250, an amount nearly equal the alleged expense of the constitutional convention of 1876.

How One Boy Struck a High Note

He is a little curly-haired, rosy cheeked member of a boy choir. He high note, but on this occasion sang it | mate. out with a clearness and vigor which surprised and delighted all his family. "That was splendid," said the leader of the choir. "You have been taking

my advice and practicing." "I don't understand how else you accomplished it.'

"Well, I'll tell you. Just before I came to that note I shut my eyes and made believe I was at a ball game and ington Star.

An Introduction.

A clergyman who had travelled much ception in a large negro church down that way. The doctor was prominent throughout the whole church, so the pastor thought he was telling the truth when he introduced the stranger as follows: "Breddern and sisters, I now hab de honnah ob intriuding to yoh de Rebberend Doctor Dashiel, who am de sounding brass and de tinking cymbal ob de Metodist church."-Buffalo THOMAS EDISON A MINER NOW

Major Hayes Pays It a Great Compliment | Leaves His Laboratory in Search of "the It Will Probably Increase to \$175.000.000

From the New York Press. He is "Thomas A. Edison, miner," now. His general address is neither Llewellyn Park nor the laboratory at Orange, but the iron ore mines at the place which used to be called "Ogden." but which has been rechristened "Edison." N. J.

"Oh, yes," he said the other day, "I get home once in awhile. As a rule I come Mondays." It must be said that Orange and the laboratory are feeling the effects of Mr. Edison's change of base of activity. The old laboratory, the scene of so

many triumphs, is a lonesome spot nowof the guard since my last report has adays. The working force is small, and been the disbandment of one company | the people of Orange bewail that the glory has departed from them. But the sun will shine on them again sooner or later. It is impossible to divorce Edison from ical strength of the guard about 100 his first love, pure electrical science, and this flirtation with mining is being carried are now 1,005,628 survivors. This numon because he believes that there is money in it. As he himself would say, in his graphic and direct language, he is "out for the dust" this time. Edison is most sanguine as to the success of his more systematic methods of issuing mining mills. "In June they will be startstores have been adopted, which have ed up full blast," he said to a Press re-"We'll have the largest mill of the kind in the world.

Mr. Edison explained how masses of gneiss rock containing crystals of magnetic iron ore were blasted out and crushed, and how the crystals were separated

'Then," he added, "the crystals are put in the form of bricks by the machinery, and sent to the furnace for the purpose dertaken by State troops in the South of being made into pig iron. The process since the war, and considering the fact is simple enough in its results, but it is difficult in practice. Thirty-one mills have been started heretofore in the United States. Every one of them has been a failure. Oh, I know when I started what I had to buck against.

"What, in your experience up to date is the greatest electrical discovery, leaving aside the telegraph and the telephone?" he was asked. "The greatest thing out is the Roent-

gen ray, so far," said Mr. Edison enthusiastically. "It is an undoubted benein the future. In view of this evidence fit to mankind. Its real humane and scientific value has now been demonstrated repeatedly. The surgeons are all getting and using the apparatus, and so are all the hospitals, and are using them for practical application almost every day.' 'Have you any bran-new electrical in ventions, or plans for any?"

"Yes," was the reply, "I have got number of things that are new; but that am not quite ready to say anything about. I'd like to get them all right first

'What do you thinkof the talk about a method of transmitting telegraphic messages without wires?. Is such a means of communication likely to go beyond experiment? Is it practical and practicable?" "Transmitting without wires?" said Mr. duties of the soldier in active service Edison, his blue eyes sparkling. "Why, I employment, by the soldiers' homes which, after all, is the only test by pioneered that business. I was the first had it practically for a number of years on the Lehigh Valley railroad-on the the many kind courtesies extended to passenger trains for experiment, and regme by the State officials and officers of ularly on the construction trains. We were able to 'jump' messages as far as 200 feet. Then the messages would be run along the wire for fifty miles. In this way messages were exchanged while the train was in motion. One was sent from New York to London and return. The static electric wave was what was used. "As far back as 1880 we tried a unmber of experiments in this line at Menlo park with kites The scheme I had was to telegraph at sea, the idea being to have a sail or flag, with tinsel woven in it, and to incident to the war. Truly it seems connect that down to the deck. The object was to see how far one could signal at sea from the top of the mast of a ship to another ship; but the land experiments were tried with the kites. We had a fine wire through the kite string and thin tinsome hills, we had a man stationed with a hoop covered with paper in metallic foil. We exchanged signals there about one and three-quarter miles-that is the limit we got without proper apparatus. With apparatus we could possibly have gone hree or four or five miles. At sea, with powerful apparatus, I could not see why hey should not go fifteen or twenty miles. The electric static charge would run up and jump in all directions. M. A. Preece of the British postoffice telegraph, has been trying some experiments. He has obtained better results than I did. I also see that an Italian has been trying it. His results were not any better than Mr.

Preece's, if as good. Mr. Edison does not believe in the possi bility of telegraphing without wires to il according to natural law there must be a limit. When you go twice as far away you have got four times the area. When you double the diameter of the thing you have made four times the area. A pound of butter covers so much surface spread a certain thickness. If the surface is doubled in width the butter goes very thin

'Theoretically, if you throw a stone into the air you disturb the whole world-you have thrown it out of the center of gravity. But practically the effect does not amount to much-is not noticeable. And so you may send out one of those electric waves, and perhaps it may go all over the world, but practically it grows so weak that after a certain distance it be-

comes ineffective. There is a good deal of food for thought and speculation in the fact that this Protean genius of an Edison is only 50 years old, and that his strength, physical and mental, "is as the strength of ten." What new surprises will he give to the world before the end of this old nineteenth cen-

A Boys' Hard Fight With Owls.

Martin E. Simson, aged 13, son of Chas Simson, a well-to- do farmer living near Willow Springs, is certain to lose the sight of one eye as the result of an encounter with two large owls in a stretch of woodland near the drainage canal on Sunday afternoon, and it is no certain whether the sight of his other eye can

On Sunday young Simson went on a hunting trip down the Desplaines river. In abatch of woodland between Willow Springs and Lamont he saw a huge owl perched high up in a tree, and brought it to the ground with a well directed shot. Supposing it to be dead he reached down to pick it up when the bird, which was only slightly disabled, made a fierce atfend himself fastened its talons into the flesh of the right hand. Another owl, apparently the mate of the injured one. just then appeared upon the scene, fastened its claws in the boy's uplifted arm and with its beak destroyed his right eye at a single stroke. The lad fought desperately for his life, and succeeded in freeing himself from his tormentors long enough to sieze his gun, which was upon the ground unloaded. With this he quickhad been having some trouble with a ly despatched the injured bird, and finally succeeded in beating off its infurated

Blinded with blood, which flowed from a dozen cuts and deep scratches upon his face, the boy finally reached a neighboring farmhouse, where his wounds were dressed, and he was sent home.

American Apples in Europe

The American apple is par excellence, carrying all before it in Austria-Hungary, but the supply, which may be safely saw Cartwright steal a base."-Wash- chronicled as enormous, in nowise satisfies the demand. There was an overwhelming invasion of the fruit in the European markets at the begining of last autumn, when the belief prevailed that the trans-oceanic stranger would last out in the south told of Dr. Dashiel's re- the winter. Cargoes, however, continued to arrive throughout the winter, and were snatched up with all dispatch. It is now anticipated that last year's crops will continue to supply the market until this ly tributary to this city, there is no rea-year's crops arrive. Austrian cultivators son why business should not prove satisyear's crops arrive. Austrian cultivators naturally complain on the plea that al- factory now that the fears of overflow though the home produce of last autumn are subsiding. Of course, merchants, both was extremely scarce, they look to aplentiful harvest this year, which, owing to the inferiority of the home product, will be unable to compete with the superior American imports.—Philadelphia Public leading to the looked for deally from now on."

THE PENSION INFAMY.

by the Year 1900

(From the Galveston News.) There is light ahead; not for us, however, but for our grandchildren, their children and their children's children. We who today contribute of our brain and brawn to the sum of the nation's energy and intelligence may only see the faint glow of this beacon of promise. The light will shine in effulgence upon those who come after us. Let us be grateful for the glow, however, and to Col. F. C. Ainsworth, of the war department, who directs our gaze to it. The colonel has complied some curious statistics of mortality among the survivors of the union armies in the civil war. He finds that there ber will decrease as follows:

Year. Survivors. 1900.....999,939 1905......820,687 1810......626,231 1920......251,727 1930..... 37,033 1940..... 340 1945.....

Thus it will be seen that the last union survivor of that mighty conflict will disappear eighty years after the war closed and forty-eight years from the present time. This is an especially interesting calculation in view of the vast sum which the nation spends annually for pensions. The annual sum of such expenditures is now \$140,000 .-000. Col. Ainsworth informs us that three are at present 760,000 who might be added, and many of whom, doubtless will be added during the present administration. Col. Ainsworth shows also that there was 219,000 widows on the rolls, who draw more than onefourth of the \$140,000,000 annually. Therefore as the unpensioned veterans and widows grow older their infirmities will increase and they will doubtless have their names enrolled on the pension lists. It is apparent, then, that we have not yet reached high water mark in pension expenditures, and it is quite probable that by 1900 our annual pension bill wlil be approximately \$175,000,-

Col. Ainsworth says that the mortal-

ity among old soldiers is not greater but

much less, than among the average of men. He accounts for this by "the laws which give them preference in public where life is carefully prolonged, by zations that look after the wants of the sick and needy, and finally and chiefly by the superior advantages his pension gives the old soldier over the ordinary citizen." The colonel is undoubtedly sound in his argument. When it takes eighty years to wipe out a list of pensioners who quit war at average of considerably over 20 years of age there is evidently som e influence exerted upon their lives strong enough to overcome the wounds and "chronic diseases" that the civil war was a veritable fountain of youth to those union soldiers who survived it. But the "light ahead" is the reflection that in time the enormous 'pension burden which now weighs so heavily upon the producing masses will be forever lifted. At the beginning of the next century the aggregate pension cost of the civil war will have reached the total of \$2,500,-000,000. If Col Ainsworth's figures may be taken as a basis we may approximate the entire pension expense of the war. At the rate of \$150 per capita of pensioners per annum from 1900 to 1905, the government will spend a total of \$750,000,000; 820,000 pensioners from 1905 to 1910, \$615,000,000; 626,000 from 1910 to 1920, \$939,000,000; 251,000 from 1920 to 1930, \$376,500,000:37,000 from 1930 to 1940, \$45,-500,000: 340 from 1940 to 1945, \$5,100,000 Summing we find the pension bill to be: From 1865 to 1890, \$2,500,000,000; from 1900 to 1945, \$2,731,000,000; total, \$5,230, 000,000. Add to this the actual cost of the war to the northern states, and we have a total of nearly \$12,000,000,000. This is nearly one and one-half times the assessed values of the entire union in 1860, and six times the assessed value of the seceding states. When we can comprehend these enormous figures it seems beyond dispute that while the union armies saved the union it was at a cost far in excess of the money value of the country at time of the con-

Free Electricty

The latest Utopian scheme is that of a Detroit engineer, who suggests that everybody is provided with free electricity. He says that the aggregate of the suffering endured by the poor from want of sufficient fuel and light, is a matter for the grave consideration of municipalities, and that free electricity is an even greater boon to the populace than free water. The idea of making the homes of the poor warm, light and cheery through the cold months of Winter, and cool and wholesome in summer, through the advantages of electric light, heat and cooking, is most attractive; but the question of how it is to be done is another matter. Water distribution in most cities is an expensive thing, and electricity costs money to manufacture. Some body must pay for these things, and the payment would probably have to be met by local taxation. In the city of noticeably a disinclination to intrude Detroit there are over 200,000 inhabi- upon any one's privacy or for a moment tants, and the cost of supplying these with a moderate supply of free electricity would be, at a rough estimate, \$10,-000,000 a year. This additional burden of taxes would take the romance out of even more seductive schemes than that proposed.

The South.

The New Orleans Picayune regards the

worst of the flood in the Mississippi valley as over, and takes a hopeful view of the outlook. It says: "All the crop indications are favorable. Even in the portions of the Mississippi valley which have been under water there is now prospect that the water will recede rapidly enough to permit of a crop being planted. Elsewhere in the vallley cotton, though slightly late, is doing well, with every indication of an increased acreage. In the territory immediately tributary to New Orleans the crops all promise very well. The sugar-cane prospect never was better, as there is not only a larger acreage under cultivation than last year, but the cane is making excellent progress. Rice is also doing well, with a larger acreage planted in the river section, which al-ways furnishes the most reliable crop. "With so excellent an outlook for the leading crops of the territory immediatedaily from now on."

NO BAD POSTAGE STAMPS

Collectors Are Curious Cranks-Resort to Peculiar Methods

Curiously enough, counterfeiters do not find it profitable to ply their vocation in the postal service, for, according to an official of the postoffice department who has been in the service for over 20 years, there have been no counterfeiting of stamps during that period. The official referred to has been identified with the third assistant's office for many years and he is familiar with almost every detail in relation to the stamps question. He has a large fund of anecdote on the subject of stamp collectors, which he gives out in homeopathic doses when not too busy with the routine business of his

There are several thrifty stamp collectors in New York who make handsome incomes from buying and selling stamps. A few years ago the postmaster general ordered a reprint of an obsolete design of a five-cent stamped envelope. It was a mistake on the part of the department and as soon as it was discovered all of these envelopes, about 10,000 in number, were called in. A stamp collector in New York in some way learned that these envelopes were soon to be called in, so he bought 1,500 of them before the postmaster had time to send them back to the department. After all the others had been called in he had a monopoly of the issue and he was selling them freely at five dollars each to "stamp cranks." He paid but five cents apiece for them, hence his profit was enormous.

There is another incident where a stamp collector learned that there would be a short issue of a certain denomination put in circulation, so he went to the contractor and purchased \$10,000 worth of the new issue. He attempted to sell them at greatly advanced prices and complaint was made to the department. An investigation was ordered and the result was an unlimited number was ordered to be printed and the man who had invested in \$10,000 worth was so badly stuck that he appealed to the department to

"Stamp collectors are a queer lot, continued the official, "for there are many of them in the business who wil resort to almost any means to get hold of a rare issue. They keep a sharp lookout for all changes made in the quality of paper used in the manufacture of stamped envelopes and they manage to find out every time when a change in any design of stamp is contemplated."-New York Times.

We were sitting in the large assem bly hall of one of the public schools of Wilmington recently, when the children were coming together to begin doors on opposite sides of the room file after file of little ones (averaging less than ten years of age) marched in perfect order to their seats. At the sight of the hundreds of sweet cheerful faces one sitting by us whispered as if to himself, "The breath of the schoolchildren is the life of the nation." At a word from their masterly superintendent they arose in a body, and in beautiful unison prayed the "Lord's Prayer." Then they sang "My country tis of thee," and a little later Carolina, Carolina, heaven's blessings attend her." It was most beautiful; the order the brightness, the sweetness, the in nocence, and the promise of those children. In their hearts the seeds of religion and patriotism are being richly sown while their minds are developing in culture. If there is a pessimist in the world, he ought to see a sight like this. And yet, alas, the very beauty of the picture makes another dark one darker-though let us be quick to say, it also feeds hope to the soul even as we behold the greater darkness. Beyond the sound of the locomotive, in the fields, about the little homes, everywhere in North Carolina, there are children-yes, six hundred thousand children-who are not praying the 'Lord's Prayer," and singing patriotic songs in the morning, and who are not developing their minds; their lot is neither blessed nor beautful. Some of them are in schools; but such schools poor cabins, uninviting walls, rough seats, teachers untrained; some of them are chopping cotton, some are shut up in the factories, their bodies and minds and souls condemned to slow. but sure and cruel death; some of them are idle, unthinking, ignorant of the hope there is in them, blind to their country's need of their betterment; all, all, six hundred thousand children, the flower in which sleeps the North Carolina of twenty years hence, are without schools of any kind nine long, forgetful months every year. Can one be expected to write of anything else so long as the children of the plain people are so miserably uncared for, when the way of betterment is so possible? North Carolina does not know what she and breadth of the state the devil is sowing tares; and the reaping must come. Men and brethren, this matter is with us; we are responsible; it is our state. We must reconstruct, and build stronger and greater the temple of North Carolina's hope, our public school system.-Biblical Recorder.

Did Not Know Mr. Hobart.

A well dressed, distinguished looking Presently the silence was broken.

like manner. No; it's impossible. Can't see him. He is busy and must not be disturbed.' The private secretary apparently took no interest in the identity of the caller, and there was a certain brusqueness of tone that emphasized the impossibility of

The private secretary was again absorbed in deep thought. "May I trouble you to hand Mr. Gage my card when he is at leisure?" interrupted the visitor, most politely. "Certainly, sir," said the private secretary, taking the card, but not looking

his temper was in the slightest degree ruffled, neither his face nor his manner After he had gone it occurred to the

ed looking gentleman made his exit. If

Then the private secretary once more became absorbed in thought-a train of thought, however, wholly unlike that which occupied him during the vice president's call.

of things wears off.

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redeem those he had not sold.

Two Pictures

their day's learning. Through two doing. In a few towns she is sowing good seed, but throughout the length

gentleman, with an air of business, but disturb the methodical operation of Uncle Sam's financial institution, entered the treasury building Tuesday. By inquiry of a watchman he readily found his way to the ante-room of the secretary. Two or three other callers were there, and the newcomer paused unnoticed. The private secretary, absorbed in thought, gave him no greeting; infact, barely glanced at him. "May I see Secretary Gage?" inquired the unnoticed visitor, in polite, business

disturbing his chief. Another pause ensued.

Thereupon the well dressed, distinguish-

betrayed it. private secretary to look at the card. He picked it up and started as he read: "Garret A. Hobart."

A neat note of explanation and apology

was subsequently sent to Mr. Hobart. And so it always goes until the newness

THE SHOWING OF THIN, DAINTY WASH FABRICS AT "THIS BIG STORE" EXCELS IN BEAUTY ANYTHING SEEN IN FORMER SEASONS.

IN ORGANDIES THERE IS AN ALMOST BEWILDER-ING CHOICE BETWEEN THE VERY FASHIONABLE NEW GREEN TONES IN STRIPED AND ALLOVER DE-SIGNS, DELICATELY TINTED PERSIAN COLORINGS, ENTIRELY NEW PATTERNS; COOL, SUMMERY-LOOK-ING OLD DELFT BLUES; THE EXCEEDINGLY TASTY SMALL DRESDEN STYLES, AND MANY OTHER CHAR-MING EFFECTS, WHICH ARE AMONG THE BEAUTI-FUL THINGS ONE ALWAYS EXPECTS TO FIND HERE. BY BUYING EARLY AND IN LARGE QUANTITIES EN-ABLES US TO MAKE THE PRICE 35c PER YARD.

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