



# The Rio Grande Rattler.

Good Boosters!

Circulation of The Rattler in Signal Batt'l. averages over 130 per cent of total strength.

Keep Your Rattler File Complete!

Editions exhausted Every Week. The Rattler Volume will be valuable for Future Reference.

Published in the Field by the New York Division

VOL. 1.—NO. 6

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 27, 1916,

8 PAGES

PRICE FIVE CENTS

**"The Strength of the Wolf is the Pack, but the Strength of the Pack is the Wolf"**

## N. Y. GUARDSMEN TO VOTE ON THE BORDER

### Sect'y. of State Francis M. Hugo Tells How Election Will Be Conducted

#### BALLOT WILL BE EIGHT FEET LONG

(Special to The Rattler.)

We have received a communication from the Secretary of State, Francis M. Hugo, which will be of great interest to the New York guardsmen on the border as it clearly outlines the method of casting their ballots this fall and thus providing the opportunity for all to voice their choice for National, State and city offices.

Bringing with him 40,000 ballots for the use of the New York State troops on the Mexican border at the coming election, Henry G. Adams, head of the Election Bureau of Secretary of State Francis M. Hugo's office, will leave Albany on or about October 25th for Texas. In complying with the law governing an election among the troops as in the present instance, double the number of ballots is required. A liberal estimate places the number of New York State troops which it is expected will be at the border in November at 20,000.

The ballot designed especially for the soldiers is a decidedly lengthy affair, measuring a trifle over eight feet and said to be the longest ever used by the combined national and state election. There will be no names of candidates on the ballots which Secretary Hugo is about to send to the Mexican border. The offices to be filled will be printed on the ballot with a blank space beneath each. In this blank space the soldier is to write the name of his preferred candidate.

Lists in pamphlet form containing the names of every party from presidential electors, state, judicial and legislative officers down to city, town and ward will be furnished to the soldiers.

When Mr. Adams arrives at either McAllen or Pharr, he will go at once to the commanding officer and present his credentials. He will request that men be assigned to assist in the proper distribution of the election supplies to the New York State soldiers in each of the two camps.

Each Captain's quarters will be a polling place unless otherwise designated for some particular reason. The election will be carried out in much the same manner as an ordinary one so far as clerks are concerned, but instead of the soldier entering the booth and marking his choice, he will receive a large envelope in which there will be two ballots. One of these is to be used for offices to be filled. The other will contain the two propositions, namely, the \$10,000,000 bond issue on the acquisition of lands in its forest preserves, the other as to whether or not there shall be another constitutional convention.

The soldier will be permitted to take the envelope and the ballot to his tent, where after consulting the pamphlet giving him the names of the candidates he will proceed to fill in the blank spaces with the names of those persons he wishes to see elected.

The envelope sealed will bear on its face the name of the voter with an oath that he is duly qualified to cast the ballot. The envelope will be deposited in one of the two hundred ballot boxes which are to be shipped along with the other supplies from Albany. Under the law the polls will remain open not less than three hours.

As soon as the polls are closed, the envelopes will be compared with the poll books to see that each agrees. One poll book will then be sent on to the Governor, and the other, along with the ballots will be shipped to Secretary of State Hugo. All ballots not used will be destroyed, not returned.

No time will be lost in expressing the ballots back to Albany, for the vote of the New York troops may mean the victory or defeat of some candidate in a closely contested district.

### CHALLENGE TO OFFICERS.

"Officers of the Twenty-third New York Infantry, N. G. U. S., challenge a team of officers from any regiment in the Division to play a game of baseball at the Twenty-third's Ball Grounds on date to be selected."

M. N. Liebmann, Captain, Adjutant.

### SPECIAL

On Saturday, September 30—"Frontier Day" the entire Division will be excused from duty after 10 a. m.

## THE REGIMENT FROM SUNNY TENNESSEE.

### Latest Addition To New York Division A Separate Company Regiment.

#### EXPERIENCED OFFICERS COMMAND

When the 2nd New York Infantry marched out of their camp at Pharr last Wednesday and boarded the waiting tourist sleepers that were scheduled to carry them back to New York they passed on the way a regiment that had just detrained from these same cars. Three rousing cheers and then some were given by the veteran New Yorkers for the new comers to whom Pharr was a place of wonder and a joy—for a few weeks yet.

This new unit, a late arrival in camp, is the 3rd Infantry of Tennessee, and now forms a part of the 6th Division. The regimental commander is Col. Cary F. Spence, a prominent merchant and leading citizen of Knoxville. The Lieutenant-Colonel is James A. Gleason, the regimental adjutant, Capt. Thos. J. Wyrick, both of Knoxville. All three of these officers are veterans of the Spanish-American War, Colonel Spence having been adjutant of the Sixth U. S. Volunteers, while Colonel Gleason and Captain Wyrick were enlisted men in the Third and Fourth Tennessee Regiments, respectively.

The first battalion, traveling as first section reached Pharr at eleven o'clock last Wednesday morning, and was followed in a few hours by the three other sections, bearing the second and third battalions and the Headquarters, Supply and Machine Gun Companies. As soon as the first battalion arrived the first battalion of the Second New York State troops tents and made way for the Tennesseans. As the remainder of the Tennessee troops did not get in until night fall, the remaining New Yorkers did not vacate their quarters and the Tennesseans spent the night in "dog tents."

The train equipment which brought the Tenn. Regiment to the Border was only sufficient to take away two battalions of the Second New York, as the latter is almost up to war strength, while the Tennessee command numbers only about eleven hundred men, therefore one battalion of the New York Regiment did not get away until Saturday, as rolling stock had to be brought from Houston. One battalion of the Third Tennessee, the second, did not get into its new quarters until Saturday.

To say that the officers and men of the Tennessee contingent were pleased with their new home would indeed be stating it mildly for with the comfortable mess-shacks, the shower baths and the imposing Y. M. C. A. building, their camp seemed little short of perfect to them. It was not long before the men from Tennessee began to mingle with their brothers from New York and to become thoroughly acquainted with their new surroundings.

North and South struck up a firm friendship at the start. If the Northern veterans, to whom Border patrol is an old story, expected to find a green and credulous body of men in the camp of the 3rd Tenn., they were doomed to disappointment. There is nothing of the "rookie" quality about the regiment from Tennessee. They are an excellent and seasoned outfit who have been under arms at their state mobilization camp since the 27th of June. The mountains of Tennessee do not breed raw recruits for every man that comes from the eastern part of that state has handled a rifle ever since he was able to toddle. And as for hiking—well, we'll mention that later.

The first battalion is known back in Tennessee as the Knoxville battalion, being made up of two companies from that city, while the other companies are from Maryville and Benton, towns in the vicinity of Knoxville. The battalion commander is Major Chas. W. Dyer, of Knoxville, who has been in the guard more than twenty years.

The second is the upper East Tennessee battalion, commanded by Major C. R. Hathaway, of Elizabethton, who by the way, at the recent election in his state, was elected County Trustee, but has been too busy working for Uncle Sam to take over the office. The companies comprising the second battalion are from Bristol, Johnson City, Elizabethton and Hampton. Major Hathaway is also a veteran, having seen service in the Philippines.

The third battalion has headquarters at Chattanooga and its commander is Major C. P. Brown, of that city. The companies represent Chattanooga, Athens, Tellico Plains and Etowah.

The Regiment's strength is now about



**"IF WE HAD OUR CHOICE"**  
Which Way is he Going?

eleven hundred, it having lost heavily from the physical examination after reporting to its mobilization camp. Upon the mobilization call last June, the regiment quickly gathered under the colors and encamped at Cumberland Park, Nashville, where they expected to spend but a few days before entraining for the border.

As the days lengthened into weeks and the weeks into months the Tennesseans naturally felt slighted and aggrieved because they had been left behind. While the boys in Texas were wondering when they would be ordered home, their brothers in Tennessee were speculating on how much longer they would have to stay home. Dame Rumor found a warm welcome in both sections.

But when the orders came for the 3rd to proceed to the Border all discontent vanished and the men received the command to break camp with a hearty roar of approval. At first the orders read "El Paso" and with troop B, ambulance No. 1, and Field Hospital No. 1, the 3rd entrained for the designated city. The 1st and 3rd Tenn. Inf. were en route to El Paso. At New Orleans the 3rd received orders to proceed to McAllen and it was not until their arrival at Houston that they learned that Pharr was to be their Border home. Now that they have finally reached their destination they hope to settle down and begin soldiering in earnest and woe be to the High Command that drags them away from the Rio Grande before they have had a chance to prove that the 3rd Tenn. is the "finest of the line."

Tennesseans are not usually given to bragging but if anyone mentions hiking, wrestling, or bands, then let them beware for the 3rd will admit no superiors or even peers in any one of the fields. And indeed they have a justifiable pride in their band which tuned up soon after their arrival and gave the neighboring camps and admiring natives a sure-enough concert. Col. Spence admits that his boys have yet to prove their preeminence in hiking and wrestling but issues a challenge in both these lines to all other regiments in the Division.

The only stipulation he makes is that

proposed teams, numbering fifty men each, must be picked from a single company and not from the entire regiment. Then when the selected teams line up, with full marching equipment, the other side may designate the distance. One mile or a hundred miles is all the same to Col. Spence and his men. The wrestling challenge is a blanket def for the 3rd have their champions that are willing to meet all comers on the mat. Chairman of sports committee take notice.

There is just one other little thing. Tennessee boasts a product that is not usually listed in primary school geographies but which receive a great deal of attention in the U. S. Internal Revenue reports. The moon may shine clear and bright in Texas but the moonshine of Tennessee is of a finer and more invigorating quality.

The 3rd Tennessee is composed entirely from men of the mountains and valleys of East Tennessee. Many of them being descendants of men who fought at the battle of King's Mountain. During the Civil War East Tennessee furnished as many men to the Union army as was furnished to the Confederate army. In the Spanish-American war East Tennessee alone furnished 8,000 men. Tennessee well deserves its name as the "Volunteer State," for according to the population, no state has had more soldiers to volunteer in any of our wars than Tennessee.

### HORSEBREAKING IN CAMP

Several horses have arrived in the corral of the 3rd Regt. which, having never been saddled or broken, acquired the name of bad horses, but they are all alike to Private James J. Fitzgerald of Co. G, who has already taken three of these unbroken horses and made good saddle horses of them in very short order.

Private Fitzgerald is an old hand at the horsebreaking games as he broke all the Western horses used by troop C of Brooklyn under the supervision of Dwight C. Benham of the Miles City Sales Co. of Miles City, Mont.

"Published at Odd Places in Texas" declares The Rattler's heading. Decidedly odd, opines B. H. B.

## MAJOR GEN. FUNSTON TO REVIEW DIVISION

### Will Make a Tour of Inspection of Entire Brownsville District

#### FIRST BORDER VISIT SINCE RAIDS

Everyone in the New York Division will welcome the news that Major-General Frederick Funston, commanding the Southern Department, United States Army, and in command of all the troops on the Border, is expected to visit this part of the Border some time this week, to review all the troops in the Brownsville District.

It is expected that General Funston will go first to Brownsville to review all the troops stationed in that city, and continuing his trip up the Valley will visit Colonel R. L. Bullard's brigade at San Benito, the troops at Mercedes, General Lewis' brigade at Llano Grande, Major General O'Ryan's division at McAllen and Pharr and the brigade at Rio Grande City.

This will be Gen. Funston's first visit to any Border camp since the mobilization of the national guard troops, and in fact his first visit to the Border since the bandit raids of last fall.

As The Rattler said last week, editorially, we of the New York Division hope to see the great commander of the Southern Department, and to have the opportunity of extending to him a hearty welcome throughout the length and breadth of the Division. We are glad such opportunity has arrived.

### OH, DOCTOR!

Surgeon: Private Smith is suffering from a dangerous complaint.  
Captain: And what is his complaint?  
Surgeon: "Ivannaghome."

## GREATEST OF ALL FRONTIER AND FIELD DAYS.

### Saturday to Be Biggest Day in South-Western Texas.

#### GOV. FERGUSON TO BE HONOR GUEST

To the folks back home, next Saturday will simply be September 30th, but to the entire New York Division and all of Southern Texas it will be Frontier and Field Day—the biggest event of its kind ever launched in this country. We have heard of and seen many Frontier Days in the past, the annual one at Cheyenne included, but from point of spectacle and the numbers participating New York's grand event on the Texas Border will eclipse them all. Not only will over half of the Division do their share as active participants, but every ranch, from Sterling's to the Northern part of the Lone Star State, will send its quota of men and horses to compete for the Grand Ranch Prize. Governor James E. Ferguson of the State of Texas, will be the guest of honor at this great occasion.

There will be an athletic meet in the morning, beginning at ten o'clock, a military tournament and mounted events in the afternoon, including a Wild West show, and championship prize fights and vaudeville, and fireworks display in the evening. A large grandstand is now being built at the southern end of the parade grounds at Division Headquarters, which will seat, when finished, over three thousand persons. Reserved seat tickets, selling at seventy-five cents, and twenty-five cent general admission tickets are now on sale.

Visitors are expected from all over the southern part of Texas. Mr. H. W. Pinnick, General Agent Passenger Department of the Gulf Coast Lines has arranged for a large number of excursion trains to be run to McAllen from all points along the road, including Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Ft. Sam Fordyce and other centers in order that the great numbers of soldiers from neighboring Divisions and the many civilians who plan to attend may be accommodated.

Sergeant M. A. Hart, mounted orderly to Major General O'Ryan, first conceived the plan of a Frontier Day for the New York Division. Within a short space of time the Sergeant secured official permission and had general and special committees appointed.

The Major General heartily sanctioned the scheme from the start and has actively co-operated with the committees in insuring the success of the venture. All the preliminary arrangements, and they were almost infinite in number, were completed by Sergeant Hart alone. For the past month he has undoubtedly been the busiest man in the whole Division, for besides his work at McAllen he has visited all the ranches in the surrounding country and secured many entrants for the Wild West events. Sergt. Hart cannot be outclassed as a promoter even by the man who first visualized the Panama-Pacific Exposition.

Lieutenant F. J. McCann, aide to the Major General, is the treasurer of Frontier Day and Lieutenant H. Leroy Whitney, aide to Brigadier General McNair, is chairman of the General Committee. Both have been indefatigable workers with Sergt. Hart.

Of course everyone has seen an athletic meet but the one that is scheduled for next Saturday will be more athletic and more unique than the average. Beside the usual 100-yard dashes and distance events, novelty contests such as trench digging, pot scouring and tossing the "canned William" are hinted at. Athletic Chairman Corporal Bannon of the 7th Inf. smiles in a knowing way when questioned and intimates that he has a few aces up his sleeve by way of surprise. His committee is indeed a hard-working one for entry blanks have been pouring in all month from every regiment in the Division. A prominent member of this committee is J. Stacey Sullivan, 7th. Inf., the son of the late James E. Sullivan, often called the father of American Athletics, and for many years the President of the A. A. U. Stacey Sullivan himself has followed in his father's footsteps and has been actively connected with athletic affairs both at college and since graduation. Cups and medals will be awarded to the winners of all events.

Beside the regimental reviews of the afternoon a military tournament, participated in by members of all units, will be given. This will consist of wall scaling, competitive artillery drill,

(Continued on Page 5)