

The Draft in Elmira.

ELMIRA, Monday, July 20.

The draft for Elmira came off to day. Trouble had been anticipated, but the utmost good feeling prevailed during the drafting. At 5 o'clock the conscripts formed a procession, with bands of music, mottoes, costumes, &c.

Loud cheers were given for the Constitution and the laws, speeches were made, and the occasion was one of rejoicing and festivity, rather than disappointment.

The Empire State is loyal outside of New York, and stands by the Union to the last.

.... The draft in Elmira took one of the sons of John Arnot, a son of Dr. Beadle in another Bank, the Senior Editor of the Press, Mr. Thayer, Frank Phelps the Showman, and C. Slater of the Brainard House. The proportion of foreign-born was smaller than here. The drafted men got up a celebration, paraded, had speeches and a jolly time generally.

From Elmira.

ELMIRA, JULY 31st, 1863.

EDITORS JOURNAL:—The village of Elmira after a short interim again presents quite a martial aspect. The firm tread of military men falls upon the ear with a regularity acquired only by laborious practice, and which, to the ear of those educated in the science, bespeaks the soldier before the sight confirms it. The drafted men are coming in few at a time and at this date the officers to take charge of them are nearly as numerous as the conscripts. The Conscription act is the topic most frequently under discussion; and it is amusing in the extreme to listen to the different views advanced by different parties. There is a degree of ignorance truly lamentable existing in some communities in relation to this matter. Those persons who clamor most about the injustice and inhumanity of the present law for drafting are the ones who are profoundly ignorant of its true merits; as they are also of the defects of the old system for calling out men, and when this fact is made quite apparent to them, as it is frequently by some one who is posted, it does not occur to them as being a sufficient reason for defence. But much the larger portion of the conscripts however, are quite reconciled to their fate, and seem to recognize our country's necessities in the means employed for getting men, most of them would blush with shame at the thought of such a combination of several for the purpose of freeing one of their number, by paying the stipulated amount, in case he should be drafted, as you will find existing in different parts of Jefferson County. This is resistance to the draft in a very mild form; but still if it should be carried out extensively it would practically be rendering the Conscription act powerless for good by depriving the country of men. The framers of that Bill

t
t
c
a
t
p
u
p
c
a
a
-
F
-
w
a
o
w
p
u
I
t
t
C

were *too* humane. Had they left it imperative upon every man drafted to go or produce a substitute, the main object to be secured would have been attained; and muscle would have been given the government to support our drooping banners.

R.

CELEBRATED THE DRAFT.—The drafted men of Elmira followed the example of their brethren in Auburn in celebrating the draft.

After the devoted three hundred were announced the conscripts assembled in the public square, and having engaged two bands of music marched in procession through the streets, after which several of their number made speeches, and a series of resolutions was adopted pledging their support to the Government, and endorsing the necessity for the draft.

NOT WANTED.—The New York and Erie Railroad brought back from Elmira to their homes on Saturday last, 800 of the conscripts lately drafted from Livingston and Steuben counties, orders having been received from Washington that "when the men were wanted they would be sent for."

Dr. J. W. BABCOCK, not J. U. as the draft had it, of Webb's Mills, redeems the stain cast upon the Medical Profession by Uncle Sam in Elmira and Southport. Dr. G. R. V. MERRILL, of Horseheads, wears a like honor.

The Elmira *Press* says five car-loads of clothing for drafted men have been received at the Military Depot.

A CAMP OF INSTRUCTION FOR DRAFTED MEN.—A Camp of Instruction for the newly drafted regiments is about to be established half way between Baltimore and Washington, at Annapolis Junction. Gen. EGBERT L. VIELE—who has been relieved of his duties as Military Governor of Norfolk, owing to the restoration of civil government to that city—has been placed in command. An efficient staff has been ordered to report to Gen. VIELE at Annapolis, who is now on his way to assume his new and arduous duties. This camp is under the immediate superintendence of the Secretary of War, to whom Gen. VIELE reports directly.

The Draft in Elmira.

The draft in Elmira, N. Y., took place on Monday. Trouble had been anticipated, but the utmost good feeling prevailed during the drawing. At five o'clock the conscripts formed a procession, with bands of music, mottoes, costumes, &c. Loud cheers were given for the con-

stitution and the Union. Speeches were made, and the occasion was one of rejoicing and festivity rather than disappointment.

Arms for Drafted Men.

The Elmira *Gazette* says that a large quantity of spades have reached that Depot marked "for drafted men at Elmira." Spades are trumps.

Alleged Frauds on Drafted Men.

It has been charged that gross frauds, in the shape of favoritism and bribes, have been practiced by the Enrolling Board at Elmira. The Elmira Press makes the following references to these charges:—

We believe that infamous and outrageous frauds have been practiced upon the drafted men who come to Elmira to have their cases acted upon by the Board. Thousands of dollars have been obtained from them by swindlers—men who condescended to the basest lying and deception in order to obtain their money. We have for some time been cognizant of the manner in which these miserable sharks operated, but have avoided reference to it, hoping that the officers would make an example of some of them. Their *modus operandi* was this:

Two villains—one a doctor and the other a lawyer—come to Elmira, and mingle with the drafted men. They find a man who has some physical disability, and who expects to be exempted. The pretended doctor scrapes an acquaintance with him, and tells him he is a physician. The man of course asks him his opinion of his case. The doctor takes him one side, examines him, pronounces him unfit for service; but tells the poor fellow that it's no use, Dr. Graves will make him go—when he, pretender though he may be, knows that the examining surgeon will throw him out. He will tell his victim that he has seen worse cases than his which have been sent out for three years by the Doctor; and will wind up by telling him confidentially that he knows a man who will get him clear, and cites him to his friend, the real or pretended lawyer, who will agree, for \$100, or \$150, to get him exempt, or refund the money. The victim takes the chance, and of course is cleared, as the sharks knew he would be.

Now wasn't that a sharp game? And what do we see as the result? These men go home, and have told their friends in Allegany county, that they gave \$100 or \$150 to clear themselves. They think it was the money that done it. They were told by a man they supposed to be a physician that they would not be exempt from disability, and of course they think it was the money that cleared them. In several cases that are known, these men who took the money, and agreed to clear them, never saw or had any communication with the Board or the Surgeon.

There is every reason to believe that there has been many frauds by persons who claimed to be fathers of motherless children, and sons of dependent parents, but these cases are open for investigation, and Major Diven, the Assistant Provost Marshal General, will pay any amount to a person who will furnish him evidence by which to convict persons, whether in or out of office, who have been guilty of complicity in these iniquities. There are men like Mr. Diven, whose honesty and veracity no one ever doubted, who have taken every opportunity and have been furnished every facility for knowing whether or not these charges are true; and it is their belief that all this corruption has been among outsiders, of whose doings no one in the Provost Marshal's office has had any knowledge whatever. Our friends in Allegany county should think twice before they undertake to stir up the people against the officers of the Government.

A RENDEZVOUS OF DRAFTED MEN.

The Central New York Depot at Elmira—Arrival of Conscripts—The Camps, &c.

[Correspondence of the Evening Post.]

ELMIRA, N. Y., August 14, 1863.

The gathering of the men recently drafted in the interior of this state has just commenced at the great rendezvous of Central New York in Elmira. Three depots were originally appointed, namely, Riker's Island, in New York harbor; Elmira, for Central New York; and Buffalo, for Western New York. There are now but two general stations, the Buffalo depot having been abandoned, and the papers belonging to it sent to Elmira, where all the men drafted in the western part of the state will be put into camp, and thence transferred to the regiments in the field.

Elmira has, therefore, become a point of much interest. A double rendezvous, the centre of half if not more than half the area of the state, it is already crowded with soldiers; though the conscripts have, as yet, arrived in but small numbers. In addition to the rendezvous for drafted men, Elmira is also a volunteer station; large numbers of recruiting officers and their recruits occupy the public places and hotels; and from an ordinarily quiet little town of staid and innocent aspect, it has been transformed into a sort of quartermaster's department for the subsistence of soldiers now here and to come.

The camps or barracks at Elmira number four in all. They are situated on the banks of the Cheung river, a wide though almost unnavigable stream, even for the lightest craft. The soldiers, therefore, have the benefit of uninterrupted bathing. The barracks are sufficiently numerous to accommodate nearly ten thousand soldiers; but it is likely that the arrangements for the distribution of the conscripts will prevent the presence of even half that number at the same time at the rendezvous; although the current of arrivals and departures will be large and constant until the men drafted under the present call shall have taken their places in the field.

The arrivals of drafted men here, as already stated, have but just commenced; only two of the camps are occupied by the few hundred conscripts and their substitutes who have come forward, but no less than thirty New York state regiments are represented, by details of veterans from their ranks, for the purpose of conducting away the reinforcements which are to be assigned them. These veterans, including three officers and six privates from each regiment, exhibit the most laudable anxiety as to which of them shall receive the first conscripts and first be constituted maximum regiments. It is not too much to say that they hail the prospective accessions of drafted men with a certain and peculiar pleasure, and possess the utmost confidence in their ability to teach them the art of war.

Brigadier-General Isaac F. Quimby was a few days ago placed in command of the Elmira rendezvous. This officer was until June connected with General Grant's army, where he assisted in the siege of Vicksburg, in command of a division—well-known as "Quimby's division"—but on account of ill-health was relieved, and came to Rochester, in this state. He was medically advised that he could not return to active service till autumn, but took command of the conscript camp. Having received orders as to which of the regiments are to be first filled and the number of men needed, the General will enter at once on the distribution of the drafted men. In the course of a day or two some of the soldiers will take their departure for New York harbor.

The draft is complete in many districts, but the time allowed to the drafted men to report for service or to present substitutes has in but a few cases expired. Meanwhile, General Quimby has information indicating that the number of conscripts to arrive for some time to come will number at least two thousand per week.

A large proportion of these men will enter the field by way of New York. J. M.

THE EVENING

Alleged Frauds at Elmira.

Considerable excitement has existed in Allegany County for some days past, over the alleged fraudulent exemption of drafted men by the Board of Enrollment at Elmira. A large public meeting has been held at Angelica, which was addressed by Hon. Martin Grover. Resolutions were adopted denouncing the reported corruption, and demanding a strict and thorough investigation of the facts. The Elmira papers do not credit the reports, but say that they have caused the greatest excitement in Allegany County:

Persons who have received certificates have, on their return home, boldly proclaimed that they obtained them by fraud and the payment of money. These statements, and the large number of exemptions which are known to have been made, very naturally produced the intense feeling which pervades Allegany county. With some knowledge of the transactions before the Board of Enrollment, and the circumstances under which the exemptions have been given, we are free to say we do not credit the allegations which are made. Men may have been foolishly and even wickedly fleeced of their money by lobbyists and strikers hanging around the Board. But that the Board of Enrollment or any member of it can in the slightest degree be implicated we do not believe.

Capt. Harmon, as Provost Marshal of the District, on learning of the allegations that are made, immediately addressed a letter to the Provost Marshal General demanding a Court of Enquiry, and the Board of Enrollment unannouncedly annulled the exemption of every individual who claimed, or in reference to whom it was claimed that fraud existed, and they have been cited to reappear before the Board and substantiate their charges. Officers guilty of fraud and corruption do not usually act in so prompt and fearless a manner. We have the utmost confidence that the most thorough investigation which can possibly be made will utterly fail to implicate a single member of the Board.

Among the conscripts of Chemung county are no less than four county officials, viz:—the County Judge, the Surrogate, the District Attorney and one of the Justices of Sessions.

PRACTICAL WORKINGS OF CONSCRIPTION.

The frauds in the exemption department in the Elmira District, have been the subject of a public indignation meeting. The character of the fraud is indicated in the following passage from the Elmira Gazette:

WHO GOT THE STEERS?—Some poor fellow in Allegany was drafted. About all his worldly possessions consisted of a pair of steers, upon which he relied to help himself and dependent family. He could not go to war and leave his family to starve, and it was almost as hard for him to part with the steers. But one or the other must be done. Finally it was arranged with one of the outside lobbyists at the Provost Marshal's office, that if the poor man would give up his steers he should have exemption papers. Now, what we want to know is who got the "steers." We know who got the "mare," but we have not been able to find out who got the steers.

A. A. PROVOST MARSHAL GENERAL'S
 OFFICE, WESTERN DIVISION, STATE OF NEW
 YORK, ELMIRA, Sept. 11th, 1863.—*To the Editor*
of the Elmira Gazette—*Sir* :—An article in your
 issue of last evening, contrasting the departure of
 WHEELER'S Battery of volunteers with that of
 drafted men, contained misstatements that I can-
 not think you would willingly make, and which
 I trust you will be willing to correct.

After very properly complimenting the men of
 this Battery, you say :

A contrast to this picture can be seen any day
 when a band of conscripts are sent forward. A
 cordon of armed sentinels, with loaded guns and
 fixed bayonets surround the unhappy men who
 have been torn from family and friends, ready to
 shoot them down, should the promptings of liberty
 overcome the fears of personal harm, and in-
 duce any one of them to make an effort to escape.
 Quite often gangs are chained together like galley
 slaves, presenting a pitiable and melancholy
 sight to the beholder.

Now no drafted men have ever been brought to
 or taken from this depot "chained together like
 galley slaves," or chained or manacled in any man-
 ner.

What has given rise to the allegation is proba-
 bly the fact that deserters from the army are for-
 warded from here in chains and their desperate
 efforts to escape make this precaution necessary.
 These deserters so far as I know have in no case
 been from drafted men. They have been mostly
 from the volunteer regiments, with a few substi-
 tutes accepted under the draft.

Nor has it been found necessary to surround the
 drafted men with a "cordon of armed sentinels
 with loaded guns and fixed bayonets." Many
 bad men tempted by the money they could ob-
 tain as substitutes, have offered themselves and
 been accepted, who intended from the commence-
 ment to escape. These men are guarded on their
 way to and from this depot, and experience shows
 that they have not been too closely guarded, for
 with all the precautions that have been used
 many have escaped. Their escape might easily
 have been prevented by chaining them, but it has
 in no case been allowed to chain men not charged
 with crime. I have never heard of the first draft-
 ed man attempting to escape, and when this class
 of men are sent by themselves no guards are nec-
 essary.

You must be aware that these men who enlist
 as substitutes enlist voluntarily. They are either
 moved by a willingness to serve from patriotism,
 to save some friend from service, or from the
 money paid them. Those that volunteer through
 the recruiting officers are either stimulated by
 patriotism or the sums paid by way of bounty,
 and are none the less mercenary than those who
 receive the bounty from an individual. The high-
 er bounties you pay or the higher price substi-
 tutes can command, the more men will be tempt-
 ed by mercenary motives, and the more deser-
 tions you will have. Witness the recent conduct
 of the New Jersey volunteers, requiring a regi-
 ment of veterans to guard them, and then only
 restrained by the last resort. These men were
 paid by unheard of bounties paid by that State to
 fill her quota without a draft by men gathered
 from all parts of the land.

I do not say this to disparage volunteering.
 You know a little more than a year ago how ear-
 nest I was in encouraging this mode of replenish-
 ing the army, when many were insisting that the
 better way was to draft. I only desire to vindicate
 the quality of the troops obtained by drafting. I
 invite you to visit the barracks where these men
 are quartered, and I defy you to show me a better
 body of men from any volunteer corps in State or
 Nation.

The object of this communication, however, is to correct the error first alluded to.

Very respectfully your obed't serv't,

A. S. DIVEN,

A. A. Provost Marshal Gen.

Head Quarters Elmira Depot
OF VOLUNTEERS.
ELMIRA, 2d December, 1861.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 11.

I. In obedience to the following order—
General Head Quarters, State of New York, }
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
ALBANY, Nov. 23d, 1861. }

Special Orders, No. 510.

1. In accordance with his request Brig.-Gen'l Van Valkenburgh is relieved from duty as Commandant of the Depot of Volunteers at Elmira, from and after the 2d day of December next. Brig.-Gen'l Van Valkenburgh will resume the command of his Brigade.

2. Col. E. F. Shepard is hereby appointed Commandant of the Depot of Volunteers at Elmira, and will enter upon the duties of the Office on the 2d day of December next. By Order of Commander-in-Chief.

THOS. HILLHOUSE,
Adjutant General.

—I assume command of this depot.

II. Capt. Ira Davenport, jr., of Bath, N. Y., is appointed Adjutant to the Commandant.

III. General Orders No. 5 from these Head Quarters are continued in force, except so far as they are herein modified.

Paragraphs 3 and 4 of said General Orders are hereby rescinded.

The Daily Morning Reports will be returned to these Head Quarters before 9½ o'clock, a. m.

Reveille will be sounded immediately after day break.

<i>Peas upon a Trencher,</i>	at 7½ o'clock, a. m.
The Surgeon's Call.....	" 8 " "
Troop	" 8½ " "
Guard Mounting.....	" 9 " "
Squad, Company or Battalion Drill.....	" 9 " "
till 12 o'clock.	
<i>Roast Beef</i> will be sounded	" 12½ " p. m.
Squad, Company or Battalion Drill.....	" 1½ " "
till Retreat.	
Expiration of all passes	" 6½ " "
<i>Tattoo</i>	" 9½ " "
<i>TAPS</i>	" 10 " "

There will be daily at least three roll calls, viz: at *Reveille, Retreat* and *Tattoo*. They will be made on the Company parades by the First Sergeants, superintended by a Commissioned Officer of the Company.

The Captains will report absentees without leave to the Colonel or Commanding Officer.

IV. In order to familiarize the Volunteers with the duty of the Sentinel, the army system of parole and countersign is established. The parole and countersign will be issued daily from these Head-Quarters; and no Officer or private will be allowed to pass the Guard without giving one or the other as the case may require. This paragraph will not supercede the provisions of General Orders Nos. 5 and 8, in reference to furloughs and passes.

V. The various Companies will daily by turn furnish Orderlies in fatigue, without arms, for duty at these Head Quarters.

VI. Muster-in-Rolls will be kept at these Head-Quarters, and Company Commanders will see that as fast as men are mustered their names are properly entered thereon.

VII. All are enjoined to assiduity in learning, and faithfulness in discharging, every duty. The soldier is always upon his honor.

VIII. This Order will be read at Evening Parade this day to all regiments, organized or forming, within this Command.

ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD,
Colonel Commanding Elmira Depot.
IRA DAVENPORT, JR., Adjutant.