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STATE OF NEW YORK

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SIXTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

ALEXANDRIA BAY, NEW YORK

September 4, 5, 6, 1924



ALBANY
J. B. LYON COMPANY, PRINTERS
1925



EDWARD E. SPAFFORD
State Commander

STATE OF NEW YORK

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F. Stanley Roberts.
Loomis Pettibone.
Dr. Frank H. Christian.
H. B. Graves.
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Jerry W. Becan.
Peter A. Drum.
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PROCEEDINGS OF CONVENTION

The Opening Session of the Convention was called to order at 10 A. M., Thursday, September 4, 1924, Mr. Edward E. Spafford, Department Commander, presiding, and Dr. G. A. Silliman, Department Adjutant, Secretary.

The Chairman: The Convention will come to order. The Adjutant will read the call of the Convention.

JULY 1, 1924.

The Secretary: Official State Convention Call — Pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws, The American Legion, Department of New York, I, Edward E. Spafford, Department Commander, do hereby call the Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, to be held at Alexandria Bay, New York, on September 4, 5 and 6, 1924, to convene at 10 A. M. (daylight saving time) for the following purposes:

Business — (1) To elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention to be held at St. Paul, Minn., on September 15th to 19th inclusive. (The Department of New York is entitled to five delegates-at-large and five alternates-at-large and one delegate and one alternate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, paid up at National Headquarters thirty days prior to the National Convention.)

(2) To elect officers for the Department of New York for the ensuing year, viz., Commander, First Vice-Commander, Second Vice-Commander, Third Vice-Commander, Adjutant, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian.

(3) To elect in district caucuses nine District Chairmen to serve on the State Executive Committee for the following year.

(4) To elect the Board of Directors of the Veterans' Mountain Camp as provided for by the Constitution of that body.

(5) To amend the present Department Constitution and By-Laws, if so desired, and transact any other business that may come before the Convention.

Representation — In this Convention, representation shall be by counties. Each county shall be entitled to four delegates and four alternates and to one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each 250 memberships or the major fraction thereof paid up at State Headquarters thirty days prior to the date of this Convention. (Per capita tax and cards must be in State Headquarters not later than midnight of August 4, 1924, to be credited to Convention representation.) Alternates will have the privilege of voting on the floor of the Convention only in the

absence or inability of regular delegates, but they shall have all other privileges of delegates, including the right to serve on all committees.

Election of Delegates — The State Constitution and By-Laws provide that the delegates and alternates to the State Convention shall be chosen by each county in accordance with the County Constitution and By-Laws, and in such manner that each Post in the county has a proportionate voice in their election, such proportion to be on the same basis as that of the Post representation on the County Committee.

Notice to Posts — All County Chairmen must, within ten days of the date of this call, notify the local posts in the county of the time and place of the State Convention.

OFFICIAL:

G. A. SILLIMAN,
Adjutant.

EDWARD E. SPAFFORD,
Commander, Department of New York.

The Chairman: Advance of the Colors.

Convention rises. Colors advanced to the platform. Convention seated.

The Chairman: We will now sing the "Star Spangled Banner."

Convention rises and sings the "Star Spangled Banner." Convention seated.

The Chairman: Department Chaplain LeMay will now pronounce the invocation. Convention rises.

Rev. Arthur A. LeMay, Department Chaplain, pronounces the invocation. Convention seated.

The Chairman: The Adjutant will read the report of the Standing Committee on Convention Program and Rules.

The Secretary reads the Program of the Convention as printed and distributed to the Convention.

Mr. Flynn (Queens): I move the adoption of the report. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: When we were invited to hold our Sixth Annual Convention at Alexandria Bay the invitation may justly be said not to have been from the citizens of Alexandria Bay alone but from the whole of Jefferson county and in this county they looked around to find one of their most prominent citizens — in fact, one of the most prominent citizens of the State of New York — who has felt pleasure in having the Convention held here and desires to express the welcome, not only of Alexandria Bay but of Jefferson county, to the members of The Legion of the Empire State. And it gives me great pleasure to present to the

Convention the Honorable H. Edmund Machold, Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New York. (Applause.)

Hon. H. Edmund Machold (Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New York):

Commander Spafford, Members of The American Legion of the State of New York: As your Commander has already stated, it is indeed a pleasure for me to welcome you to this spot where you will hold the proceedings of your Convention, not only upon behalf of the village of Alexandria Bay but upon behalf of all the people of this county.

It is fitting that you should meet in this spot, at the end of the United States of America. It is fitting that you should hold a Convention of this kind in this place, because you represent something about which I desire to talk in my short address of welcome.

It has been my privilege in official life to come in contact not so much with you as individuals as it has with your representatives and briefly I want to talk for just a few moments about the pleasure which I have had while I have been Speaker of the Assembly of this State in coming in contact officially with your representatives.

You know, in these days there are altogether too many demands made by blocs and cliques. They are made in a very unusual and I must say from my experience oftentimes in a very peremptory demanding manner. But I can say, and say truthfully and I mean it from the bottom of my heart, that in the contact I have had with The Legion men in the Legislature of this State they have been more reasonable at all times, under all conditions, in regard to any issue which has come before us than most any other association with whom I have come in contact. (Applause.)

I desire at this time to pay my word of respect and appreciation to that one member of your association who has been at the forefront of all activity at Albany where I have known about what was going on — Mr. Samuel Aronowitz, of that city. (Applause.)

If in all walks of life and in all legislative endeavors leaders came to the front like Mr. Aronowitz, one-half of our troubles would be solved in the beginning. (Applause.)

As I was thinking about what to say to you in welcoming you to Alexandria Bay in Jefferson county, the thought came to me that you were welcome here not only because you were members of The American Legion, but the welcome extended deeper because of that which you represented. As I have traced the result of the Great War which was closed and the war in which all of you men participated and participated so bravely, I have thought time and time again of the phrase which I have heard uttered by speakers on occasions like this — that it was a war to prevent force from overcoming democ-

racy. I ascribe to that thought but to my mind we must now go a step further. We checked the advance of government by kings, by princes, by emperors, and substituted for it the thought that the true way to advance civilization and liberty in this world was through the democratic form of government, such as we enjoy in this great country of ours.

That being true, we must resolve ourselves to begin to study more minutely than ever the form of government under which we live and what can be accomplished under that government to advance liberty, because after all civilization means nothing else than but the advancement of liberty in our individual lives.

Because that is true, I know of no body of men in this great country of ours who are more fitted to begin a study of that kind for the purpose of seeing whether or not more advancement cannot be made in this country than has been made heretofore.

Now, I say that because irrespective of the internal discussions and strifes we have among ourselves in regard to conditions in this country, let us remember that there is vast room for improvement, although we do live in the best country and under the best form of government which has yet been invented by man anywhere in the world. (Applause.)

So I say in welcoming you to this county that I want to leave with you the thought that within your organization lies the potential power for the advancement of civilization, for the advancement of liberty in this country, where we boast so much about it. We have not yet reached the millenium by any means. There is vast room for improvement in this country of ours under this very beneficent form of government which we enjoy and I say to you that we of Jefferson county heartily welcome you from all parts of the State to this wonderful spot for the purpose of holding your Convention proceedings, because we believe that you represent that progressive thought and action which is bound to take place in this country if we are to improve.

You showed by your manner in going to the front that you stood ready to defend not only the honor of this country but to prevent anything from being done to destroy that form of government. Democracy is only as good as those who own it make it, and those who own that form of government are the individuals of the country which are governed by it. Unless you as individuals, unless those who are governed as individuals, come to the front and take a more active interest than they have in the past, you are going to permit, if you please, certain groups of people from dominating that form of government under which you live. You are going to permit them to undertake to direct our course of life in this country and, to my mind, that is the thing that every soldier who went to the front fought to prevent from happening.

Now, from now on I know that as the specific problems are presented in this country to individual minds that men like you are going to be the first to step to the front and to actively participate in their solution along sound but along progressive lines.

Believing that, I welcome you most heartily, not as an individual. I welcome you most heartily, not as a State official. But I welcome you most heartily to begin the proceedings of this Convention in Alexandria Bay as a fellow citizen of yours, ready to enlist himself in that kind of a cause. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mr. Speaker, I thank you, but my words are altogether too few and too simple and I will desire that our real expression of opinion shall come from our National Executive Committeeman, Mr. Donald Strachan. (Applause.)

Mr. Donald C. Strachan (National Executive Committeeman from New York State): Honorable Sir: As you have stated we of The American Legion of the Department of New York, representing over one hundred thousand ex-service men of this State, are assembled here for the purpose of perpetuating the principles upon which this republic is founded — to defend the Constitution of the United States, to foster a 100 per cent Americanism, to preserve the spirit of brotherhood engendered by the Great War, to combat the autoocracy of both the classes and the masses, and to sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Assembled as we are for these purposes, so akin to those of the government of any state, we deeply appreciate the honor of being welcomed to this beautiful border town by one who has done so much to win our esteem in the halls of the Legislature of this State. We are assembled here and we feel that we will be inspired in this neighborhood to go on with the same spirit of devotion to country that inspired us in the Great War.

We thank you, sir, for welcoming us. (Applause.)

Mr. Edward E. Spafford (Department Commander):

Buddies of The Legion:

When one year ago at Saratoga you entrusted the leadership of The American Legion of our Department to me, the leadership was accepted as a sacred trust, to be delivered again to you today. I prayed God for power to handle your affairs with justice and fairness to all citizens, as well as to our Legionnaires.

It is now your duty in Convention assembled to sit in judgment, and it is my duty to set forth a summary of my stewardship with recommendations and hopes for the future, in order that you may the better legislate during this Convention. My report is long but I have barely touched upon the many activities of our Legion during the past year.

The first official act of your Commander after taking office was to negotiate a loan at the present depository of your

funds, the United States Mortgage and Trust Company of New York City. Your Department is now in sound financial condition, with no outstanding bills and a considerable amount still due us. (Applause.) Of this the Treasurer shall tell you, but I want to say this accomplishment has only been attained by observing the most rigid economy (considering the amount of work done) and by a watchfulness and devotion to duty on the part of Mr. Edward C. Badeau, your Treasurer, and Mr. Charles F. McWhorter, your Auditor. (Applause.) To them your thanks as well as mine are due. It is earnestly recommended that economy be maintained in the future and that a policy be established of setting apart some portion of the savings each year as an endowment fund. This will be a real need in the future when the hand of our Maker begins to thin our ranks.

In my opinion the endowment of this Department within the next five years or ten years at the utmost should be accomplished. The Chairman of your Finance Committee, Mr. C. Royce Sawyer, went to no small amount of trouble attempting to have each member of The Legion contribute one dollar of his bonus toward an endowment fund. Letters were drawn and signed and it unfortunately became necessary to direct that the letters should not be sent out because of the scurrilous behavior of a certain few Legion posts which had access to the columns of our press which, for well known reasons, were antagonistic. I am most grateful to Mr. Sawyer for the thought and time which he has devoted to The Legion this year and I wish here to express your thanks as well as mine.

At Saratoga you passed a resolution directing the Executive Committee to raise money to pay the expenses of the delegation to the National Convention. Your Executive Committee and your Commander have tried to fulfill your mandate but without success. We have approved the publication known as the "Official Source Record" and are now receiving a percentage on books sold. Had this been done since the beginning we would probably have enough money on hand to pay the expenses of your delegates several times over, provided, of course, that the money had not been otherwise spent. There is little doubt but what your Commander could have stopped the Tunney-Carpentier fight, because it was due to our good efforts that the participants were brought together but in drawing up their contract we were not protected and we are forever cured of attempting to raise money by this method.

We had an offer of an air battle with no less a celebrity than Captain Nongesser, the French ace of aces, as the chief actor, but your Executive Committee felt that it would be unwise to hazard the loss of what we already had in the Treasury. I can see no method of raising money excepting by a per capita

tax and by leaving to the judicial districts the problem of raising the money to pay the expenses of their own delegates. My recommendation for next year along these lines is that the State shall pay the expenses of the delegates at large and the judicial districts shall raise the money to pay for the delegates of each district. It is difficult to place a per capita tax on anyone.

When the present administration came into office we were confronted with a number of serious problems. We had the proverbial shortage in the Treasury, we were to start across continent to the National Convention within three weeks and we had to make preparations to effect the passage of the first Amendment which provided for a State Bonus to the soldiers and sailors who placed the name of the Empire State on the honor roll of the World War.

The ground work for the Bonus campaign was laid before leaving for San Francisco and thanks to the electorate of this State and your efforts, the Amendment was passed in spite of a strong effort on the part of some interests. This Amendment did not provide for a bonus, but authorized the Legislature to enact suitable legislation. This legislation was passed by the Legislature unanimously and signed by the Governor.

On this line of thought we cannot proceed further without treading on the toes of our First Vice-Commander, Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz, who has again this year served as Chairman of the Legislative Committee, just as he has in the past, except that experience has made him more efficient. Had it not been for the able, loyal work of Mr. Aronowitz, this year would not have been the success which I think we all feel it to have been. It is only right that you should all know that whenever the Legion has been faced with a great problem, Mr. Aronowitz has not waited to be asked but has given me his ideas in writing and I have used them in full, practically without change and signed my name to them. This particularly happened during the State Bonus Drive and during the defense of the Veterans' Mountain Camp. While we are still gathered here I wish to personally express my thanks and yours. (Applause)

This seems to be the ideal time to mention the Veterans' Mountain Camp, for, as you will all remember, one of the arguments in favor of the State bonus was that we were going to assign a portion of this bonus to an endowment fund for the Camp. There were plenty of men who at that time used that argument to get votes and then failed to work for the endowment fund. It will be at least a year before we know how large an endowment fund for the Camp has been built up but I hope that we may have at least a million dollars. (Applause.)

The Legion, through its Veterans' Mountain Camp Corporation, has done a wonderful piece of humanitarian work and

every Legionnaire and member of the Auxiliary may feel justly proud. To Dr. Samuel Lloyd, President of the Corporation, who has given his wealth and health, our thanks are due. The Theatre Assembly and its President, Mrs. J. Christopher Marks, have given the same loyal support as in the past year. Now is the time to lay the foundation for the annual contributions of one dollar which should be collected during the month of December. That is the time of the year when the spirit of giving is most active and there will be no interference with the poppy drive.

Although the subject of the Veterans' Mountain Camp will be fully handled at the meeting of the stockholders, I cannot close my remarks on this subject without at this time paying tribute to that loyal Legionnaire, Mr. Henry J. Cookinham of Utica, whose efforts in behalf of the Endowment Fund must always be an inspiration to greater effort. No man could have done more valiant service and have inspired united effort than did Mr. Cookinham. Our hearts are full of gratitude and many a disabled man of the future has reason to thank him. (Applause.)

The failure to provide a bonus for the dependents or relatives of those who died previous to the enactment of the Bonus Measure is the outstanding regret of this year's administration. The failure to pass the bill must remain squarely on the shoulders of the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee.

The Legion should at this Convention make the enactment of legislation to effect payment of this bonus the first order of business upon assembling of the Legislature.

Armistice Day was suitably celebrated throughout the State. We still hear the mooted question as to whether November 11th should be made a legal holiday. Those who favor such an action claim that it is the only day distinctly our own, the day of peace which closed the war to end wars, the day distinctive of a great success on the battlefields of northern France, the day to preserve and keep green in our memories all those incidents of the World War. All these arguments are true but do we need additional holidays? Should we cause the economic loss to the people of closing business while taxes mount up? It costs money to decorate our streets and to properly stage our celebration. The season of the year is often bad for parades and a few years from now it will be dangerous for our buddies to parade in the cold, dark days of November.

The rock on which our Legion stands is service and the day is only too near when it will be our business to decorate the graves, not only of our buddies of the World War, but the graves of the veterans of all wars.

Last year at Palmyra the Legionnaires cleared up and beautified an old cemetery where General John Swift had been

buried, and as one goes around the State he sees many cemeteries which need attention and which indicate that we are forgetting our dead. The Committee on Graves Registration was not completed and therefore did not get into working order this year. It is hoped that in the future this important work will be done. It is only lack of time that has prevented our getting started this year.

The decoration of graves should, of course, be accomplished when flowers are obtainable. No better time could be chosen than Memorial Day. It, therefore, seems advisable that Memorial Day be retained as the day for paying tribute to our war dead and bringing to the attention of all citizens the hardships and sacrifices and successes of those who served with the colors. It is suggested that a few days before Memorial Day it will be entirely within the proper bounds of our ideals if we establish a patriotic day, at which time the valor and devotion of those who served our country in peace and in war may well be brought to the attention of all; that the people may realize that service to country is second only to service to God and that usually they go hand in hand.

As your representative, I have recognized the seniority of the veterans' organizations of the Civil and Spanish Wars and have been ready and anxious at any time to take up and carry on their sacred duty to their dead. When we forget our war dead we forget the very fundamentals of patriotism.

On February 1, 1924, our Maker in His wisdom saw fit to take to Himself our Commander-in-Chief during the World War, the late President of the United States, the Honorable Woodrow Wilson. The loss was felt by every Legionnaire to be personal, and not only were memorial services held throughout the State, but the Department went into mourning for thirty days.

We all sympathize with President Coolidge in the loss of his son, Calvin, Jr., and our Chaplain has fittingly mentioned both "Calvin, Jr., and our late Commander-in-Chief" in his prayer in our period of silence.

The report of the National Chairman of the Legislative Committee states that on January 1st of this year there was little hope of the passage of the Adjusted Compensation Bill. The national campaign may, therefore, be said to have begun on January 5th when your Department Commander opened with a broadside in the National Republican Club of New York City. Senator Borah and other arch enemies of the measure were on hand to oppose but the place had been well chosen and even a hostile press had to give us publicity. All over the State prominent Legionnaires fought back against uncalled for attacks on our honesty of purpose, our patriotism, and our integrity.

Suffice to say that the bill was passed over the veto of the President. A great victory was won and while we should

not forget those who supported our measure over the veto, we must not be led astray by those who would betray us. There were men in and out of Congress who did not want to see our bill pass, who urged that the bill did not provide enough. These men were not honest and they were only wolves in sheep's clothing trying to divide the veterans and break up their organization. I doubt if in the whole Legion there was anyone who was fighting harder for Adjusted Compensation than your Department Commander and I urge that this Convention go on record as opposing any attempt of politicians or would-be controllers of veterans' votes to further compensate us for our financial loss due to serving with the colors. Let us make our stand unmistakable. Even in our own organization I have heard a prominent man say that we were given a lemon. The man who said this — as far as can be learned — never fought for this lemon or any other kind of fruit, when the battle raged around Adjusted Compensation. (Applause.)

It is felt, however, that the insurance policies which will be issued should carry a disability clause and that with little effort one can be added. Better service will undoubtedly be had if the policies when issued are turned over to three or four of the old established insurance companies with agents in practically every town in the United States. In making this recommendation I realize that life insurance policies do not usually carry a disability clause except that the disability be total. It is also realized that the transfer of the insurance policies to old line companies will meet with a certain amount of opposition from those who advocate government ownership of everything which doesn't belong to them personally. (Laughter.)

For any further compensation, cash or otherwise, I am unalterably opposed. We had a just claim and the claim was acknowledged. The government said that to pay us in cash would work a hardship and they offered us their notes in the form of paid up insurance policies. We accepted them, let us stand back of our acceptance.

We have heard considerable recently about Mobilization Day. Letters to you of my hearty endorsement are of such recent date that to bring the arguments again to your attention is a waste of your time. I trust that the feelings of this Convention will be properly expressed by resolution on the subject.

The American Legion is the greatest patriotic organization in the United States and therefore it is incumbent on every member of The Legion to make himself a committee of one to go out and get new members. A patriotic organization must give service. It must do things which will add to the contentment and prosperity of our fellow citizens. On this principle the membership campaign in this Department has

been conducted and our membership this year has increased by more than twelve thousand members over the total for last year. (Applause.) The work of the Membership Committee has been tireless and of their work you shall hear from the Chairman of that Committee, Mr. G. Merrit Ward. (Applause.) Mr. Ward has shown a devotion to The Legion and its ideals which merits your praise and approbation. He has been of untold assistance to your Department and I desire to publicly praise and thank him. (Applause.)

A patriotic organization which does not think of the future is not worthy of the name and we must develop our Child Welfare work; we must get behind the national organization and aid in the work which they are doing. Fortunately few, if any, States in this country provide more lavishly for its orphans than does the State of New York and that leaves us free to aid and to spread the gospel of child welfare throughout the country. Child welfare does not simply mean care of orphans. It means getting back of every movement that enables the children to grow into better men and women. Even in this State we must aid in placing orphans of veterans in desirable homes where as they grow to manhood and womanhood they may realize that they are descended from patriotic stock.

Twenty-one years ago the Boy Scout movement was started in this country. Since that time many thousands of boys in this nation have become Scouts and it is an interesting fact that never has one boy or man who has been a first class Scout appeared in a criminal court as a defendant. Every Legion Post should try to develop a Scout troop, and aid in this building up of the next generation.

A resolution should be passed at this Convention directing all Legionnaires to work for the Amendment to the Constitution which will enable laws to be passed preventing parents from selling and employers from using the services of children of immature years. (Applause.)

A Child Welfare Committee was appointed this year but unfortunately the appointments did not get out early enough to accomplish much. Recognition of the problem has been given and we can look with bright hopes to the future.

Your Department Commander is very proud of the Americanism work done this year. The work has been ably directed by the masterful hand of Mr. John L. Riley, Chairman of the Committee, and it is impossible to conceive how anyone could have handled the problems better. (Applause.) He will tell you of the details but let me here pay tribute to the work done in posts to teach our language and our ideals. Let us never forget that the problems of California are as important to us they are to them. What interests one part of our nation interests every part.

Our welfare work this year has been ably conducted by the

State Chairman, Mr. Wallace J. Young. (Applause.) Mr. Young has coordinated the work of the State and in his report you will hear recommendations which you may well follow. He has proven himself to be a fighter for those who needed a champion and I desire here to express my appreciation because of the service he has given.

If there is any line of endeavor along which we can feel more proud than any other, because of our work this year, it is because of the service which we have rendered to the disabled man. Practically every post in the State has been active in this line of endeavor. The selection of Dr. George J. Lawrence, State Chairman of the Rehabilitation Committee, was a happy choice. He has accomplished much for the disabled men and the praise of the disabled must always be a source of gratification to him and his able assistant, Mr. Carl W. Sudhoff. (Applause.) I know that in publicly thanking them I express your wish. Don't think when you hear the report of Dr. Lawrence that the success was attained without untiring efforts. For a goodly part of the year the Veterans' Bureau has been disorganized. How some of the sub-district offices have functioned as well as they have will always be a marvel to me.

In my opinion the trouble with the Veterans' Bureau lies right in the central office in Washington. There is a lack of policy, and in the interpretation of cases a disabled man is apparently considered a crook until he can prove himself to be the contra. Interpretations of all law seem to ignore the fact that every State in the Union now has a workman's compensation law which has shifted the burden of proof in injury cases.

In my humble judgment the Reed-Johnson Bill is not going to be in any way satisfactory. The bill is in no way mandatory, but more than ever places the disabled man in the hands of the whims of the individuals supposed to carry out the provisions of the law. In the hands of unscrupulous people the way is open more than ever for the shaking down of claimants.

I warn you that The Legion must be ever on the alert, else graft will creep in and greater scandals than we have yet known may be expected.

While it is true that two hospitals have at last been opened in this State for the care of tubercular men, you need not believe that they are really ready. In the new hospital at Tupper Lake they even forgot to provide for a laundry.

There is nothing that I would have liked more to do than to have spoken optimistically of the future of the Veterans' Bureau, but I cannot. Experience indicates that there will be little relief until Central Office has a house cleaning, and until certain men who have been failures in the field are removed. When evidence on which I would remove a man

has been submitted to the Bureau, I have never known of action being taken.

There have been rumors that the President is contemplating placing the Veterans' Bureau under some Cabinet officer. We must be on our guard to see that it is not placed in a department where the tail will wag the dog. I think, for instance, that we would all view with alarm the placing of the Veterans' Bureau under the Secretary of the Treasury. (Laughter.)

Since its birth, it is doubtful whether The American Legion has ever received as much publicity as it has during the past year. Some of this publicity has been of a scurrilous nature. I have been accused of everything contemptible and mean, simply because we had a difference of opinion with someone else. Our Publicity Committee has done excellent work throughout the State and I desire to commend to this Convention Mr. Wells Hawks who headed the Committee and who has worked in season and out of season for The American Legion. (Applause.) He has been of great assistance to your Department Commander. Perhaps at this time it may be well to again bring to your attention the State Song, adopted last year. The words were written by Wells Hawks and at his own expense he has had the words and music published. (Applause.) During the next three days we will all have an opportunity to learn this song.

As Department Commander I have been trustee of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home and have attended every meeting where it was humanly possible to reach the institution. I am glad to say that I believe that this Home has been better run during the past year than ever before in its history. Because certain changes have been made there has, of course, been an unnecessary attack upon the commandant of that Home. Colonel Jonathan C. F. Tillson is a Legionnaire, and in my humble opinion has conducted the Home for the benefit of the inmates of the Home and not for the employees. (Applause.) I am sure that this action will meet with the approval of this Convention. It is quite possible that attacks upon Colonel Tillson have been made to some extent because of an action taken by your Department Commander in breaking down a precedent of forty years standing. For forty years the interest obtained on money deposited by inmates of the Home has been used as the Board of Trustees saw fit. I felt that it would have been just as right to have taken the principal as to have taken the interest money, and I have followed through until this long standing evil has been corrected. From the beginning of this endeavor my best supporter was Colonel Tillson. (Applause.)

We have always acknowledged our debt to the Gold Star Mothers and a special committee was organized this year whose duty it was to determine where every Gold Star Mother lives and to see that the posts in the vicinity made arrange-

ments to call regularly and make themselves really sons who would care for and aid the Gold Star Mothers in case of necessity. The Committee has hardly got under way, but the Chairman of that Committee will tell you of his troubles. The location and care of the Gold Star Mothers is a duty which, in my opinion, should be carried on to conclusion.

Mrs. Eva M. Hay has been most active in looking out for the service men who have been in the prisons of this State. Different parts of the State have contributed liberally to her fund, and I cannot speak too highly in praise of the work she has done. Some criticism has been leveled at the Department because of the failure to ask a contribution of one dollar from each post in the State in order to carry on the work of Mrs. Hay. In my humble opinion if a levy of one dollar on each post was to be made, then the money should go into a general service fund and not into the prison activities line only. For our Americanism Committee by budget was allowed one hundred dollars. To pay the expenses of the Department in crossing the United States to the National Convention the budget allowed one hundred dollars. And your Executive Committee appropriated one hundred and fifty dollars to the prison activities. In my opinion the amount appropriated, while not commensurate with the amount of work done, was proportional to the amount appropriated for other lines of Legion activities.

I desire at this time to express my personal thanks and appreciation of the work of Mr. Charles Hann, Jr., in preparing the program, and for his assistance and advice in making what I hope will be a success of your Sixth Annual Convention. (Applause.)

On the shoulders of Mr. F. Gould Lyman, Chairman of the Convention Arrangements Committee, has fallen the burden of coordinating the work of his Committee. I feel that when this Convention is over that every Legionnaire will desire personally to express to Mr. Lyman and the other members of his Committee their personal appreciation of the hard work which has been done to make our three days happy. I know that I will not fail and I hope that many others will not fail to grasp the hand of our genial host and say, au revoir.

From some quarters there has been a certain amount of question or criticism of the conduct of The Legion Annual. Your Executive Committee carefully considered the question and let me add right here that I doubt if the State has ever had a better or more conscientious Executive Committee. It has been a pleasure to me to follow their advice, although at times I may have differed with them in what appeared to me to be essential points. The Executive Committee decided to renew the same contract practically as was made last year, the only additional provision I remember being placed in the contract was that solicitors for advertising should see the

District Chairman before soliciting. This suggestion was followed and has, I believe, worked satisfactorily, for at no time during the year have I received one objection to the behavior of the solicitors of advertising for The Legion Annual. I have requested Mr. Sydney G. Gumpertz to make a report to you in full relative to The Legion Annual at the same time that he reports to you the progress of the Empire State Legionnaire and his hopes for the future.

Probably the greatest need of this Department was a State paper. This need has been felt since The Legion started, and after much investigation and thanks to a gift of one thousand dollars from a wonderful friend, we started the Empire State Legionnaire. A contract has been entered into with Mr. Sydney G. Gumpertz to publish this paper for three years from last February. The paper is published by the New York American Legion Publishing Corporation, a corporation existing under the laws of the State of New York. All of the stock of this company belongs to The American Legion, but the stock is held in trust for three years by Mr. Donald C. Strachan, Mr. G. Merrit Ward and Mr. Edward E. Spafford, as voting trustees. The Legion has been protected against financial loss and we hope to make some real money for the Department. To date the paper has been a credit to the Department. (Applause.) The advertising has been of the highest class and the news has been worth reading. The paper merits your support and when memberships are renewed every member should subscribe to the Empire State Legionnaire. For this action in starting the paper I desire the approval of this Convention and I wish to extend to Mr. Sydney Gumpertz, whose efforts have made our paper possible, my sincere thanks. (Applause.)

Experience has led me to believe that certain changes in your Constitution are necessary or at least advisable. Your Vice-Commanders should be without seniority and neither they nor the Department Commander should be eligible to re-election to their offices for the succeeding year. In my humble opinion posts and county organizations should all hold their elections previous to the State Convention, and all State, district, county and post officers should take office on the day that the National Commander takes office.

The advantages of this system are that the new County Commanders would undoubtedly attend the State Convention and be partly responsible for the selection made there. The organization which would be responsible for the affairs of The Legion for the ensuing year would have no alibi and a united force would come into being to hold office for a definite time.

It is recommended that the office of State Adjutant be made appointive instead of elective. The appointment to be made by the Commander, with the approval of the Executive Com-

mittee. The office of Adjutant should be a salaried one and the salary should be fixed by the Executive Committee.

In making my recommendation please do not think that the work of the present Adjutant has been unsatisfactory. The services of Dr. Silliman have been everything that The Legion could have asked, conscientious, loyal, willing, cheerful and indefatigable, but the Adjutant should be practically an appointment by the Commander, for the Commander should have no chance to pass the buck. He accepts the honor and he must take the responsibility.

There has been one by-law which I have openly violated, and that is the one which limits the number of members on the several committees. The violation has been wilful, for I have during the past year attempted to build up a district organization. There are only twenty Departments in our whole Legion which have a membership as large as our average district. The District Chairmen should have their responsibility put squarely on their shoulders and in order that their work may be successful they must have an organization. This organization problem has been tried this year, giving to each District a Committee and a State Chairman coordinating all of the work. The advantage is very great, for if in some place the State organization falls down, such as Athletics did this year, there should be no need of the breakdown covering the whole State. Each District should have its own organization which could and should function.

As a usual thing it is customary to speak of the ladies first, but The American Legion Auxiliary is so much a part of The Legion itself that I have never thought of our Auxiliary as anything separate and distinct. Throughout the State our Auxiliary has, I believe, closely cooperated with The Legion in every undertaking and endeavor. They, as we, have had a successful year and I know that you all join me in expressing thanks to them for their loyal support. Their President, Mrs. Charles R. Seymour, has been a great help to me throughout my entire administration. (Applause.)

If this year has been a success in any way, it is due in no small measure to the loyal, hard work of the office force at Headquarters. They have worked early and late for your best interests. They need more help and improved equipment with which to work, but I have never heard a murmur or a complaint. All credit to the Assistant State Adjutant, Mr. Joseph A. Burns, and his loyal force. (Applause.)

And now my report is practically finished. For the next three days I shall serve you to the best of my ability. Any errors or mistakes which I may make will be errors of the head and not of the heart.

You honored me last fall and you have been good to me ever since, and when on Saturday I turn the gavel over to my successor it will be with a feeling of remorse and yet of hap-

piness, for as long as I shall live the soul of The Legion as I have known it will never be forgotten. I admire you all and I love our last man organization, The American Legion, born in bloodshed and dedicated always to service for God and Country. (Applause.)

Mr. Murray (Kings): Mr. Chairman, I move you that the report of the Commander be adopted and a rising vote of thanks be accorded him. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Today men and women in this country are proud of the fact that they are descended from the war Governors of the Civil War. A war Governor—in fact, a Governor at any time—has an arduous and strenuous life, but when war comes his work is greater than that of most generals in the field.

The war Governor of one of the greatest States in the United States has accepted an invitation to be with us today, but I want to say that that man's services are not simply confined, have not simply been confined, to being a Governor of a great State. He has been a soldier. He has been a leader in industrial life. He has been a great farmer, a leader of the agricultural movement, and a man to whom the farmers of this country are probably more indebted than to any other living man.

I have the honor to present to you the Honorable Frank O. Lowden, ex-Governor of the State of Illinois. (Applause.)

Hon. Frank O. Lowden (former Governor of the State of Illinois): Commander Spafford and members of The American Legion of the State of New York: It is a great honor to be with you this morning. Commander Spafford wrote me a few weeks ago, saying that I had promised some one that I would attend this Convention. I couldn't recall the promise. (Laughter.) But I know that Commander Spafford is a truthful man or you wouldn't have made him Commander of this great Department. (Laughter.) And then besides I have made so many promises to The American Legion that I am never surprised when I am reminded of any, though I can't recall it myself. (Laughter.)

I remember well those awful months during the early stages of the war. I was Governor of Illinois. Our people were not of one mind as to the necessity or the justice of the war. It was necessary for me to go about the State pretty diligently and appeal to our people for our support. They had been told, and happily, I think, that the war was three thousand miles away and it was difficult to make them understand that that great strife was nearer to the hearts and hearthstones of the people of Illinois than any war in all our history. And when I visited, as I did, and as often as I could, the training camps where our soldiers were to be found, when I saw those magnificent bodies of young men who were preparing to cross the seas, when I thought of the horrors of modern warfare that awaited them on the other side, and when I beheld with admiration their gladness, their eagerness to go and occupy

those deadly trenches in the battlefront, I did tell them, with a heart almost bursting with gratitude and pride, that they could draw upon me throughout their life for anything I could do for them in that way. (Applause.)

And so, Commander Spafford, when you tell me that I have made any promise to The Legion, or whenever any one else reminds me of a supposed promise I have made, I am not sure but I did do it, because I promised everything of which I could think in those crucial days of that great strife when civilization was hanging in the balance. And so don't you ever ask me to promise anything that I ought not to do, because I am very likely to make the promise. (Laughter.) And I know you wouldn't want to involve me in some act I should not perform.

It has been a great happiness to be here this morning and to participate in these exercises. I got here in time to hear the admirable address of Mr. Machold. I enjoyed it. It was to the point. And then I think when Mr. Strachan of your Department answered that admirable address, he summed up the high purposes of this order and organization more clearly, more succinctly and more impressively than I had ever heard them summed up before in all my experience. (Applause.)

I listened with the keenest interest to this comprehensive report of your Commander. I have been moved by the fine, high motives running through it all. I have been tremendously interested in the great work which The Legion of this Empire State is doing and I want to send a message today to the ex-service men of this great State who are not members of The Legion, and that message is, they have only half discharged their duty to their country by serving overseas and can only meet the other half by becoming active members of some post of The American Legion. (Applause.) Because it is only through organization that they can begin to express themselves, and this organization has a mighty destiny before it, as I believe.

I want to say just a word. I am not going to make a long speech, my friends. I know that I haven't the opportunity that I had during the war, where the boys were called out by the General and had to stay (laughter) until that speech was made. I know I haven't that advantage today and so I am going to be brief. But I just want to say one word about the American soldier in civil life after the war in which he has fought so far.

I remember that after the Civil War our foes — that is, the foes of our form of government upon the other side — predicted the fall of the American experiment in self-government when that war should be over and the soldiers of those great armies should be released from military rule. With a joy they but half concealed they predicted that when these soldiers were released from the iron bonds of military discipline and returned to their several communities they would subvert the liberties of the people, and well they might have thought of this, for that had been the history of all the past. The returning legions subverted the republic of Rome. And the same thing happened when Napoleon's vast army

returned. And so history did seem to teach that no great conquering army could win victories on a hundred battlefields and then be released from service and return to the humdrum of private life, taking up their private duties just where they had let them drop when they put on the uniform. That did seem to be the way of the world.

And yet, what happened? One day on Pennsylvania avenue in Washington the Grand Review, of which you have heard your fathers many a time speak, I have no doubt, a great army, hundreds of thousands of men, trained veterans of years of warfare, an army of such magnitude and such valor that the eagles of Napoleon and of Caesar mingled would have gone down in utter defeat before them. And yet, what happened? On the next day those unrivaled armies melted into pursuits of peace and became the Grand Army of the Republic, and that Army was just as helpful and beneficent and patriotic in times of peace as it had been irresistible during the years of war. (Applause.) And thus the predictions of Europe failed to come true.

I remember very well that during those troublous days in Illinois, when it was my duty to arouse our people to the real meaning of this mighty strife, that it was in the tottering veterans of the Civil War among whom I found my greatest inspiration and my greatest aid. Wherever there was a Grand Army post there the flame of patriotism was still burning. There was the center of all the patriotic, helpful influences that radiated out from that community. And I thought then that the Almighty, in His Providence, had kept alive these thinning remnants of the Civil War in order that they might hand on to you the burning torch which they had kept trimmed and lighted throughout the years. I said then — I am glad to repeat it now — that in the long years they had never been of greater service than they were in these last palsied, faltering years of their life. And again, when the Great War was over, the like of which had never happened in all the history of the world, when disorder was growing upon the other side of the sea, when old institutions were breaking down, when civilization seemed to be threatened by another and sinister force as that which you went out to meet, a force based upon the doctrine that the individual, as such, has no rights, that the majority is at absolute liberty to do what it will with the minority and that if the minority stands in the way of its greed or ambitions it has the right to destroy that minority because that was the doctrine upon which the Soviet Republic of Russia was based and at that time, we in America, we were wondering if this complete breakdown of what we know as Christian civilization would pass beyond the borders of Russia, possibly overwhelm the Central Empires, maybe flame on to the sea, men, thoughtful men, in America, everywhere, were wondering if those vainful, destructive fires might possibly cross the sea and find lodgment on our own shores.

I remember the things that went about the world, and I remember that many men again charged that when the American soldiers

had returned under the influence of this devastating fire on the other side they would be found among the enemies of the Constitution and our form of government. Again, just as those who cannot make themselves believe that men are capable of governing themselves, they predicted the ruin of the great Republic, just as they did at the end of the Civil War. And again, what happened? These millions of khaki clad boys returned from the trenches across the seas and they became The American Legion and The American Legion, like its predecessor, the Grand Army of the Republic, is, in my opinion, the most helpful, the most hopeful, the most steady, the most promising influence within all our midst. (Applause.)

And so it was with gladness that I listened to this admirable report of your President, to find that in a hundred different directions for a better, a finer civilization, instead of throwing away your great influence, yours was the influence that was likely to carry to ultimate triumph these currents toward a better day for all mankind.

My friends, there is no General here to keep you much longer, and I know you have a vast amount of business, much more important than listening to speeches. And so I am going to close. But I just want to add one thought, or, not really add a thought, but reinforce an idea which your Commander expressed in his report a few minutes ago. We are a wonderful people in times of great national peril. I never was so proud of anything in all my life as just being an American citizen during the time of the Great War. I saw such magnificent things all about me that were the products of this American civilization of ours that I couldn't resist a feeling of pride. I saw a hundred million of our people, without distinction of race or religion, without any thought of the old differences that had divided them, I saw them act together with a common impulse, with one thought and one heart and one aspiration, and that aspiration was that our Flag should remain in all its purity in the sky of Heaven. That was sufficient to exalt one. I thought I saw the little differences that had divided men and women into classes before the war disappearing. I thought I saw the old signs of human brotherhood which had become to be dimmed, I thought I saw that re-emerging. I thought I saw the hundred millions of our people again united by a single idea and devoted to a single end. And then the magnificent spectacle of these four million of our young men who put on the khaki uniform. I was Governor of Illinois at the time, as I have told you, and I had this experience which was the experience of every other Governor in the United States at the time, I think. I had no regiment and no battalion and no company and no squad and no individual soldier complain of me because I was sending him across the seas too soon. But I had a lot of them bitterly assail me because I was letting some other regiment or some other battalion or some other company cross in advance of them. (Applause.) Was there ever any such magnificent rivalry in all the history of the world? The

only jealousy, the only division, the only hard feeling, because some one else was permitted to cross in advance and expose himself ahead of his comrades in the battle front. And I was proud of being an American as I never was before in all my life.

And when the war was over I thought that this fine spirit would be preserved, that it might remain and that if it did, how splendid the future lay before us. But I found to my regret that the old differences were emerging, the petty jealousies were returning among our population, and that the old indifference which we had manifested before the war to our country had seemed to return. That was true of our population as a whole. I don't think it was true of the service men. And I think that the great duty resting upon the service men of America today is — for they have earned a right by their service abroad — to recall that spirit which exalted and made us great throughout the war and pulled the vision before our eyes in times of peace as well, for there are dangers of peace, not so glaring, but no less fatal, than the dangers of war.

As a nation we are heroic in great national crises. We are very commonplace at other times. And among all the duties resting upon The American Legion, the highest, the most far-reaching and the most essential, in my opinion, is this — that they, for they have earned the right, can call upon the American people to serve their country in times of peace as loyally as you served it in the dark months of war.

We go on from day to day in America, you know, just as though we were a model, just as though our country would last forever. That is not the history of mankind. That is not the story of the world. The path of the centuries is strewn with wrecks of nations, once just as hopeful and just as sanguine as our own. We think of ourselves as a young nation. We are compared with the epochs by which history is measured, and yet we are one of the oldest of the great civilized nations of the world, young as we are. For an uninterrupted, continued national life England alone antedates us in the history of the modern world. For since our government was formed, but a few short years ago, the map of the world has been rewritten twice. Since our government was formed all other nations, save Great Britain, have had a break in their national life. No, my friends, you are just in the beginning of your great career, just as the Grand Army of the Republic, in my opinion, performed its most important service more than a half a century after the war had closed. So the great American Legion, with its right to leadership, is just entering upon long and distinguished career, and I wish you, every one of you, Godspeed.

I hope that you will be able to make those of us who were not permitted to participate in the Great War, I hope you will make us feel that our duty is to keep that Flag where you placed it, you and your predecessors, and that our duties in the time of peace are just as pressing as was your great service in the time of war. I thank you. (Applause.)

I can't tell you boys how much good it does me to see you again

and see that the spirit that made us so great in 1917 still lives in your breasts. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Your Excellency, we are going to extract from you one more promise, and that is that again in future years you assemble with us at our State Convention. (Applause.)

I want to express to this Convention a sad story why the Commander of the G. A. R. of the Department of New York is not with us today. It is acute indigestion, and it is one of those cases of a man who has grown old in service of his country, who still wants to carry on, but time has done its work and he is unable to perform the wishes of his own heart.

There is in our country a service which, perhaps, is not so well known to the States not on the border of our seacoast — not on our seacoast. It is a branch of our service which raises real seamen, men who go out to the rescue of mariners in distress, a service which keeps up a patrol of our coasts to rescue shipwrecked people, a service also which prevents smuggling and at the present time has recently been placed on a war footing. (Laughter.)

During the real war this service was combined with that of the Navy, and of their service there I can speak from personal knowledge. There was no more gallant service rendered than that of the Coast Guard of the United States. They kept down the submarines and they acted as patrol vessels in accompanying the transports across. You probably did not recognize them at that time, but they were there, and they were rendering excellent service. The head of that service is with us and I have the honor to present to you Admiral Frederick C. Billard, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard. (Applause.)

Admiral Frederick C. Billard (Commandant of the United States Coast Guard): Commander Spafford, Ladies, Fellow Members of the American Legion: To follow the inspiring address of Governor Lowden is some handicap but as you know it is customary in any circus tent to have a star performer followed by one of mediocre quality. (Laughter.) I believe Commander Hann will confirm my statement when I say that his invitation to be present here today was accepted with alacrity. It was accepted also with a very great deal of pleasure, bordering, I may say, on enthusiasm. I anticipated with keen satisfaction being at your Convention in this beautiful place and having the opportunity of looking into the faces of so many fellow members of our splendid organization.

I should indeed have little sense of values if I did not deeply appreciate the great honor intended primarily for the service which I am the head of and for myself in a very secondary way, in being asked to address you here today. I want the Coast Guard to be represented here, and I want an opportunity to ask for my service the support of a body of men who, in their corporate form, represent the best aspirations of American life today.

I have always had a warm affection for the old Grand Army of the Republic. I am of an age that has permitted me to see its

members marching by the thousands, in the prime of vigorous manhood, with memories of the stirring days of the Civil War fresh in their minds, and to see them now, a dwindling body of bent, aged men whose few remaining years should be sweetened by the affectionate regard and gratitude of the republic they fought to save. (Applause.)

The American Legion is marching on in their footsteps, destined, I believe, to have an even greater influence than the G. A. R. upon the future welfare of this nation. The American Legion will faithfully preserve the history and recollections of our participation in the World War. It will appropriately honor our distinguished leaders and their followers who served in the ranks or in the berth-deck, and it will keep alive not only the history of American participation in that titanic struggle, but the human side of our experiences in the trenches, in the training camps, and on the decks of the hundreds of ships that formed our great navy. I know very little Latin, but there is one quotation, from Horace, I think, that has stuck by me and that has been a source of considerable solace in trying and uncomfortable circumstances. It is "*Haec olim meminisse juvebit*" — "Some day it will be a pleasure to remember these things." I am satisfied that, as the years go on, we shall feel an ever increasing sense of satisfaction in the knowledge that we served the country in the World War to the best of our ability, within the sphere of opportunity offered us, and that it will be a never failing gratification to recall the experiences that marked our respective careers in that war.

However, no organization that confines itself solely to perpetuating past deeds can long survive. Hand in hand, with honoring and preserving the past, must go useful, constructive service in the present, with aspirations for even greater service in the future.

I have felt that the name of our organization, The American Legion, was happily chosen. The word "American" dominates the title, as it should. It stands for the best that human civilization has developed with respect to human rights, high standards of living, and good government. It represents the best hopes of mankind for happiness, peace, and opportunity, and, my friends, it stands today for power and world-wide influence. Let us see to it that it always connotes power and influence. The word "Legion" brings to mind the disciplined, trained legions of Rome, who brought about and upheld the power and civilization of the Imperial City. The inscription on their banners, "S. P. Q. R." — "The Senate and the Roman people" — was their inspiration, and typified their patriotic devotion to their government and their country. As long as this spirit animated her legions, Rome ruled the world. When the legions were no longer animated by patriotism, love of country, and loyalty to those placed in authority over them, the great empire fell, and the barbarians and vandals desecrated her temples.

The American Legion has some clear cut duties to perform in our national life and has many opportunities for real constructive service. Its first duty is to see to it that our comrades who are

mained, wounded, or broken in health, as the result of their service under the flag, be adequately and efficiently taken care of and generously provided for. (Applause.) The splendid accomplishments of the Legion along this line are matters of common knowledge throughout the length and breadth of the land. The next duty which I feel lies squarely before The American Legion is that it shall forever stand for loyal support of the country, the flag, and law and order; that it shall constantly advocate, by precept and by example, respect for law and order, for duly constituted government, and for all those in authority. The most casual observer must note that society, in the present day, seems to be shot through with an extraordinary disregard for the restrictions imposed by law and by convention, be it the government, the parent, the teacher, or, indeed, public opinion. These influences in America The American Legion must unceasingly combat.

Now, I must tell you just a little about the United States Coast Guard, as a preliminary to what I want particularly to say to you today. The Coast Guard is a small service and its history and functions possibly are not widely known among the membership of The American Legion; but, if you will permit me to say it, The American Legion should know the Coast Guard just as it knows our sister services, the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps.

The Coast Guard dates back to 1790. After the freedom of the American colonies had been won, through the War of the Revolution, the Continental Navy was disbanded. There was then no sea force available for the protection of the coasts and the maritime interests of the newly constituted United States until the organization of the Revenue-Cutter Service, under an act of the First Congress, approved by President Washington on August 4, 1790. The cutters formed the only armed force afloat belonging to the young Republic until a Navy was authorized a few years later. The first commission granted by President Washington to any officer afloat was issued to Captain Hopley Yeaton, of New Hampshire, in the Revenue-Cutter Service (now the Coast Guard). The President was authorized by Congress to employ the vessels of the Coast Guard to defend the sea coasts and to repel any hostility to the vessels and commerce of the United States. From that day to this, the Coast Guard has played a distinguished part in every war in which this country has been engaged, with the sole exception of the war with Tripoli. That is the only war in which vessels of the Coast Guard were not engaged in active military operations against the public enemy.

The years 1798 and 1799, in which the young Republic was involved in certain difficulties with France, witnessed very important naval operations by vessels of the Coast Guard, which cruised against French privateers in the Caribbean sea and among the West Indian Islands. Of the twenty-two prizes taken during that period, eighteen were captured by cutters unaided, and they assisted in the capture of two others. The cutter "Pickering" made two cruises to the West Indies and captured ten prizes, one of which



THOMAS J. BRADY
Chairman, First District
CHAS. W. FAIRFAX
Chairman, Seventh District

SAMUEL E. ARONOWITZ
First Vice-Commander

L. L. CONNOR
Second Vice-Commander
DONALD COSTRACHAN
Natl. Executive Committeeman

carried forty-four guns and two hundred men — three times her own force. A Coast Guard cutter made the first capture effected during the War of 1812.

I cannot refrain from relating to you what seems to me to be one of the most dramatic incidents of the War of 1812. As a contrast to a modern naval engagement, it is amusing. The Coast Guard cutter "Eagle" was pursued by two British vessels of quite superior force. The cutter was purposely run ashore on Long Island and the crew removed her guns and dragged them up on a high bluff, from which point of vantage they fought the British ships all day. When they had exhausted their large shot they tore up the ship's log book, to use as wads, and fired back the enemy's shot which lodged against the hill. During the engagement the cutter's flag was shot away three times, and was as often replaced by volunteers from the crew on the hill.

In the early days of the nineteenth century the cutters were actively engaged in stamping out piracy in the West Indies and in the Gulf of Mexico. To anyone interested in stirring tales of piracy and the Spanish Main, there is a wealth of interesting material in the operations of vessels of the Coast Guard just following the War of 1812, when its vessels had many thrilling encounters with the notorious pirate chieftains, Jean LaFarge and Jean LaFitte.

It is not my purpose to lead you down through all the wars in which the United States has been a party, but simply to say that in each and every one of them vessels and personnel of the Coast Guard played an important and distinguished part.

Now, what of the great war which our organization commemorates? As I have told you, the Coast Guard was organized in 1790. It was placed under the Treasury Department, possibly because there was no Navy Department in our government at that date. The statutes of the United States provide that the Coast Guard shall constitute a part of the military forces of this nation and shall operate as a part of the Navy, under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy, in time of war or when the President shall so direct. Accordingly, the moment war was declared the entire Coast Guard, personnel, vessels and equipment, automatically passed, by operation of law, into the regular Navy. Its vessels fought submarines in the European war zone, cruised in the West Indies, and performed arduous and important service on our own coasts. Its commissioned personnel served on various combatant ships in the Navy, many of which were commanded by Coast Guard officers, and at large training camps, a number of which were commanded by Coast Guard officers.

On September 26, 1918, the Coast Guard cutter "Tampa" was sunk by an enemy submarine off the coast of England, and went down with a loss of every soul on board, 115 in all. With the exception of the "Cyclops," whose fate has never been ascertained, this was the largest loss of life incurred by any United States

naval unit during the war. Tampa Post of The American Legion, in the City of New York, to which I have the honor to belong, is named for that gallant little vessel. It is a matter of solemn pride with us that the percentage of battle losses in the Coast Guard during the World War—that is, of deaths due directly to enemy action—was, as I am informed, greater than that in the Army itself, excluding the Marines. And I want you to fully appreciate this fact. The gallant officers and men who went to their deaths in the cold waters of Bristol channel were not in the submarine zone because they had been appointed or had enlisted in the Navy; they were there because they were commissioned officers and enlisted men of the Coast Guard, the Coast Guard being then a part of the Navy, just as the Marine Corps is a part of that great service. If a man be appointed today an officer of the Coast Guard, or if he enlist today in the Coast Guard, he is obligated, in the event the United States should become involved in war, to proceed anywhere and to risk his life in defense of the country, in precisely the same way, and to precisely the same extent, as though he were appointed an officer or were enlisted in the regular Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States.

I like to refer to the Coast Guard as the "peace and war" service. As I have said, it has won an enviable record in every war in which the nation has been engaged. In time of peace it maintains a constant readiness for war. Its personnel are highly disciplined, thoroughly trained, and the service stands ready, should war come, to pass into the regular naval establishment on twenty-four hours' notice. It is a real part of the national defense.

But the Coast Guard is peculiar in having something of a dual personality, in this wise: in time of peace not only must it keep prepared for war, but it is charged with a large number of important peace-time duties, the most noteworthy of which are humanitarian in their character. Time will not permit me to describe to you the many varied and interesting duties of our service in time of peace. Its most important work in time of peace is to save life and property at sea. It is a government organization specifically charged with the inspiring duty of rendering aid to mariners, passengers, and shipping in peril. Its vessels cruise actively along our coasts at all times, and particularly in the most dangerous conditions of weather, to render aid to vessels in trouble. In the fiscal year ended June 30, 1923, the number of lives saved or persons rescued from peril by the Coast Guard was 2,792, and the value of vessels, including their cargoes, assisted by the service totaled \$51,436,005. Coast Guard cutters seek out and, when found, tow into port or destroy floating derelicts, those abandoned hulks of ships that drift aimlessly about the sea and constitute one of the greatest dangers to those who go down to the sea in ships. The cutters cruise on the Grand Banks of Newfoundland, keeping in touch with the icebergs and warning the trans-Atlantic liners of the presence of those menaces to human life, and largely to the vigilance of these little ships is to be attributed

the fact that the "Titanic" disaster has never been repeated, and, since the Coast Guard took charge of this work, eleven years ago, there has not been a single life lost by collision with icebergs or ice fields in the North Atlantic. Our ships visit the remote parts of Alaska and enter the Arctic ocean, carrying law and order to the Eskimo and other natives in those far distant regions. They protect human life and preserve order at regattas and important marine celebrations. They enforce the anchorage laws in our great ports. They guard our coasts from Maine to the Rio Grande, from lower California to the Arctic ocean, on the Great Lakes, and in the Hawaiian Islands, performing constantly a multitude of important and varied services for practically every department of the United States government. In addition to the ships and supplementing their work in rescuing human life, a cordon of some two hundred and seventy Coast Guard stations (formerly known as life-saving stations) protect our shores. The record of these stations in saving the lives of persons on board stranded ships is replete with heroic deeds and needs no elaboration by me now.

I have tried, in a few minutes, to give you some inkling of what the Coast Guard is. I have failed in my purpose if you have not grasped the fact that here is a small military service, a part of the national defense, and one of the very oldest organizations in the Federal government, that is charged with a multitude of difficult, dangerous, and important duties in time of peace; that has made an enviable record throughout 134 years of our national life; that has well-founded traditions and standards of conduct and duty that are second to none. Throughout its history the Coast Guard has performed its work and built up its reputation with resources in personnel and in material totally inadequate to the tasks allotted it.

One of the duties imposed by law upon the Coast Guard is the protection of the customs laws of the United States. Away back in the history of the country there was considerable smuggling by sea, when swift sailing craft would steal into out-of-the-way bays and inlets and endeavor to land merchandise without paying the prescribed duty. The Coast Guard cutters had to combat this activity, which they succeeded in stamping out, and smuggling of that character practically disappeared until the past few years, when smuggling of a peculiar character has revived to a tremendous extent. (Laughter.)

There has been placed in the Constitution of the United States, by the sovereign act of the States of this Union, the Eighteenth Amendment, which prohibits the importation into this country of intoxicating liquor. Not only is it the duty of the Coast Guard, as of every official, and, indeed, of every citizen, to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, but one of the specific duties allotted to the Coast Guard by law is concerned with illegal importations into this country. You will understand that the Coast Guard is not charged with the prevention of illegal importations made from ships lying at the docks in our great harbors,

as that is taken care of by the customs service. The Coast Guard is charged with the prevention of smuggling by craft that enter places or land their cargoes on the shore away from the scrutiny of the customs officials. If the law provides that intoxicating liquor shall not be brought into this country, by sea, it is the duty of the Coast Guard to prevent such smuggling. If the law provides that any other article, be it what it may, shall not be imported into this country by sea, it is the duty of the Coast Guard to prevent the smuggling of that particular article.

We are, as a service, vitally concerned with carrying out to the limit any task that Congress, in its wisdom, sees fit to set us to do. Those of you who have served at sea know what I mean when I say that Congress and our Commander-in-Chief having assigned a task to the Coast Guard, that service does not propose to argue about it or to discuss it, but to simply answer "Aye, aye, sir," and act accordingly.

The Coast Guard has not sufficient vessels or personnel for its regular peace time work, quite aside from anti-smuggling activities. Its ships were designed, not to pursue swift rum runners, but to assist life and property in time of peace and to be adapted for service in the Navy in time of war. It soon became apparent that, with its inadequate resources in men and ships, it was impossible, in spite of the most determined effort, for the Coast Guard to contend successfully with the ever increasing smuggling of liquor on our coasts. The President transmitted to Congress estimates for additional personnel and material to enable the Coast Guard to undertake the great task of stopping liquor smuggling from the sea, and Congress has generously appropriated funds for that purpose. Under that appropriation the Coast Guard is reconditioning vessels obtained by transfer from the Navy Department, building motor boats, and recruiting additional personnel, preparing with the utmost possible expedition to undertake the greatest task that has ever been imposed upon a small organization of this government.

I want to be frank and I have no desire to minimize the situation. It is a matter of common knowledge that a large fleet of foreign vessels is hovering off our coasts for the express purpose of violating the law of the United States. These ships lie at anchor outside of the territorial jurisdiction of the United States, and, in the case of British vessels, outside the limitations set forth in the recent treaty with Great Britain, where they are safe from search or seizure. They lie there, loaded with liquor, and are visited by numerous small, fast motor boats, running at night without lights, who load liquor from them and dash, at high speed, for the innumerable inlets and bays that line our shores. The coast line of the continental United States, exclusive of the Great Lakes and Alaska, is approximately 10,000 miles. The liquor ships, of course, are free to take their position off any portion of this 10,000 miles of coast line. They can move about at will and those engaged in this nefarious work have perfected organizations on shore

whereby the rum runners know of the arrival of the liquor ships and where they can make contact with them. The rum running launches, as I have said, are small and of high speed. They have only to make comparatively short dashes, in the darkness of the night, and their engines can be kept tuned up to the highest point of efficiency for making these dashes. Their speed, invisibility, and maneuvering qualities are such that it is extremely difficult to hit them by gunfire. It is possible for one of them to run alongside a liquor ship, take on cargo and scoot away into the darkness before a cutter lying within a few hundred yards, with her searchlight trained on the supply ship, can detect it.

These foreign liquor ships that constitute the notorious "rum row," aided and abetted by American citizens who are willing to violate the laws of their country for illicit gain, are openly flouting the dignity and power of this, the greatest nation in the world. It is a situation, my friends, to stir the indignation of every red-blooded, patriotic American citizen. Men of The American Legion, who risked their lives in defense of the United States, must deeply resent seeing this disreputable crew of foreigners flaunting their misdeeds in the face of the law-abiding people of this nation.

I have told you that the Coast Guard is rapidly procuring additional resources to make relentless war upon these enemies of the American Constitution. I do not deem it expedient to state publicly when these resources will be available, nor how or where they will be utilized. You appreciate, I am sure, the many problems and difficulties imposed upon a service as small as the Coast Guard, consisting of only 209 regular officers and some 4,400 warrant officers and enlisted men, incident to increasing its personnel, reconditioning vessels, building a large number of motor boats in shipyards all over the country, assembling its personnel and floating equipment, and in perfecting its organization for this huge undertaking. And you recall the length of time required to enlarge our Army and Navy for effective action in the World War, at a time when the enthusiasm and energies of all our people and the resources of the entire nation were bent to that end.

The Coast Guard does not propose to state what it intends to accomplish, or what it hopes or expects to accomplish. The Coast Guard has never in its history boasted of what it intended to do, and it is too old to change its mental attitude now in that respect. The personnel of the service is going into this none too agreeable duty with vigor, determination, and enthusiasm, simply because it is their duty. An honorable record of 134 years serves to crystalize pretty thoroughly standards of devotion to duty in any organization. I can only say this: During its long history of accomplishment, the little Coast Guard has had many difficult, trying, and dangerous duties assigned it, and it has never failed yet. I will say this, also, that what hopes I have for an early and successful victory in this fight are predicated chiefly upon my knowledge of and faith in the high standards of duty and the

traditions that animate the personnel of the regular Coast Guard.

To see a little service tackling this big problem unafraid must appeal to the manly instincts of every American who loves a good fight, particularly when that fight is in behalf of the Constitution and dignity of the United States, and it must appeal especially to the men of The American Legion. If you saw our small Regular Army assigned in time of peace a colossal task, full of danger and difficulty, not akin to its normal peace-time activity, you would, I am sure, support it to the limit, because you stand loyally in support of the Constitution, the Flag, and all those in authority. Will you not do the same by the Coast Guard? We will need your support and that of every good American. Insidious influences will strive unceasingly to besmirch the unsullied reputation of the Coast Guard and, if possible, to corrupt some members of the humbler ranks, who have spent their lives, on meagre pay, in battling the elements to save human life.

Misrepresentations concerning Coast Guard personnel will be made, either through ignorance or by design. Let me cite to you a recent incident that came to my personal attention and that illustrates what I mean. A short time ago, while I was visiting a number of our Coast Guard stations on the New Jersey coast, I read a story that had wide publicity in the press, to the effect that a Coast Guardsman had been caught signaling with a green light to the rum runners, thus giving them information as to whether or not they might, with safety, enter a certain inlet on the New Jersey beach. As I happened to be in the vicinity of that locality, I made a personal inquiry into the circumstances. Upon reading the news story, I wondered what our man was doing with a green light, as such lights are not carried by men on patrol. Visiting the inlet at night I found on watch a clean-cut, upstanding American lad of about twenty years of age, who had been accused of this disloyalty to his Service. He carried the usual white electric torch to enable him to pick his way over the ground at night and to read the numbers of motor boats that entered the inlet. There was pointed out to me the exact spot where the boy was accused of signaling to the rum runners, and, my friends, it was a spot from which, on account of a bend in the inlet, it would have been absolutely impossible for any launch contemplating entering the inlet to have seen the signal, and there was nothing on earth to prevent the boy, had he desired to signal to the rum runners, from walking a couple of hundred yards around the bend to a position from which he might have been seen.

I wondered about the report that the light was green. An officer with me directed the man to go to the position referred to and throw his light down on the water. This he did, and there was immediately evident a greenish tinge, due to the reflection of the white light on the green moss of the rocks along the inlet shore. It seems that the boy had thrown his light down on a large turtle that had been captured and tied up there, and the green reflection from the moss started the story, widely used by the press, that a

member of the Coast Guard was sending secret signals to the rum runners offshore.

That is the kind of thing that we will have to contend with; that and possibly allegations and insinuations of a more serious nature. I want you to bear in mind that the officers and many of the men of the Coast Guard that will be engaged in this law enforcement campaign against smuggling are the same people who hunted German submarines on the coast of Europe and that helped to guard our coasts and train our naval recruits during the World War, and that those gallant officers and men who went down with the *Tampa*, had they been spared that heroic death, would now be preparing for this campaign against further attack on our Constitution by rum row.

At present the Coast Guard stands as a David against this Goliath of assault upon the fundamental law of the United States regarding the importation of liquor, but it will grow in stature and the contest will be less unequal than it is now. Do not pass judgment, I ask, upon the accomplishments of the Coast Guard in this great undertaking until it has had a fair and reasonable time in which to produce results. In this fight to defend the Constitution, to uphold the law, to rid our coasts of the presence of these despicable enemies of the American government, I ask for the Coast Guard the support and cooperation of every good American citizen, and, in particular, of my buddies of The American Legion. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Admiral Billard, we thank you for your message, and I know that it has been most instructive to us all and you can depend that the message which you have given here will go out to the Legionnaires throughout the State, from Montauk Point to Dunkirk and from Stapleton to Rouse's Point. (Applause.)

We all love France. (Applause.) It makes no difference whether we understand her or not, we love her just the same. We have probably asked ourselves many times why this should be and I believe that you will all agree with me that one of the very chief reasons, perhaps the reason, why our love is so sincere, is the fact that France has sent to us such able representatives.

Today we have a representative of France who saw service in the French Navy. (Applause.) A man whom some of us have known, have learned to love and admire. And it gives me the greatest kind of pleasure to present to you today the Honorable Gaston Liebert, Minister Plenipotentiary from France to the United States. (Applause.)

Honorable Gaston Liebert (Minister Plenipotentiary, Director of the French Bureau of Information in the United States): Mr. President, Ladies and Members of The American Legion: It was a real joy for me to accept this invitation to be with you today. I am a sort of a permanent guest of The American Legion. I have been with its members so often and have been welcomed by

them in such a charming and warm way that it is always an extreme pleasure for me to find another opportunity of meeting you. (Applause.)

Today is a particularly propitious time for a meeting of The American Legion: This meeting of three days coincides pretty well with a very remarkable double anniversary, which is, first, that of the birth of Lafayette, who came over to this country nearly one hundred and fifty years ago in order to help the greatest country in the world to come to its birth. (Applause.) The other anniversary is that of the first battle of the Marne, which was the initial turning point of the great World War, which you helped to win for all of us Allied and Associated Powers.

These two days are now linked up in Franco-American history. It was a French, Belgian and British army that won the first battle of the Marne, but it was you, American soldiers, that helped win the second battle of the Marne, which was practically the beginning of the end of a war which was concluded by an armistice which many have since considered as having been premature. (Applause.)

Knowing the spirit which animates The American Legion, and having heard expressed the opinion on that subject of many of its members, I am convinced that the majority of you regret that things over there did not last quite long enough to bring a conclusive peace. The result of certain mistakes made at that time is that since the last five years we have been dragging along an inconclusive peace and that France is still trying to get the two vital things which she ought justly to get — reparations for her devastated territories and security for the future. (Applause.)

Since the Treaty of Versailles was signed France was dragged into nineteen conferences or parleys, not one less than that; all those parleys having for their object to come to certain arrangements in view of getting her reparations. And every time France made fresh sacrifices to certain points of view which are not exactly similar to her's; France acting all the time with the idea of keeping among the former Allies of the war a united front and of so making Germany understand that it would be time for her to begin payment.

The last attempt of that sort was made after three great American experts had been over there, one of them being General Dawes, who, with his clear and sound mind, drafted something which is called the Dawes Plan, which seems to be more practical than anything else that had been provided for during the last few years. (Applause.)

And the result was the Conference of London, which was concluded only a short time ago and about which I said this to an important Boston newspaper:

Re-establishment of a united front among the wartime Allies by the agreement on the application of the Dawes Plan reached at London is placed foremost by me among the results

of the Conference. The two great results of that Conference are, first and foremost, that the Allies have at last regained a common understanding and present now a united front to Germany; second, that as a natural consequence of this unity, Germany is no longer able to evade her just responsibilities and has come to an attitude of mind in which she *seems* to be at last ready to pay her just debt.

You must be very careful about that word "seems." I don't affirm that. (Applause.)

"It is exactly for such a situation that France had been hoping for a long time. She has been falsely accused by German propagandists of trying to destroy Germany, and the fact that at the first opportunity, when a settlement containing reasonable guarantees was offered her, France did not hesitate to accept it, is sufficient refutation of that charge and proof of her honest and moderate intention and also of her friendly feelings toward those of the German people who are really honest and sincerely peace loving.

Now, if Germany attempts any new evasion, the world will be able to judge. As Mr. Herriot, the present Prime Minister, said in his London statement:

The agreement marks the beginning of a new era. It means that the Allies are now once more sympathetic to each other's problems and will approach the settlement of them with mutual good-will. With that fundamental condition re-established, the problem, though intricate, can certainly be solved. There remains, of course, the matter of Inter-Allied war debts, of France's security, as well as the negotiating commercial treaties with Germany, but with sympathy of attitude among the Allies these questions can probably be settled in a satisfactory way.

We must not forget, when we speak of this Conference of London and of its achievement, the splendid work done by American experts in drafting the Dawes Plan, and we must also bear in mind that the success of the Conference of London — if, as we hope, it be a success — is due partly to the recent visit to Europe of Mr. Charles E. Hughes, Secretary of State (applause), and it is not unreasonable to think that Mr. Hughes, in his visit to Berlin, helped to convince Germany of the wisdom of accepting the Dawes Plan, which means the wisdom of beginning to be honest instead of being constantly dishonest. (Applause.)

There is another question, the second great and grave question, that of the security of France, which comes, naturally, immediately after that of the reparations. It is only the future which will show us if we all were right in trying to show Germany leniency and a certain amount of confidence. Let us all hope that Germany will show herself worthy of that confidence and of that

lieniency. But there is absolutely no question that no security for France nor for the rest of the world, including this great country, is possible until Germany has disarmed *morally*, which means that as long as there are still in Germany people, among the most influential and highly placed, who still talk to the German people of a war of revenge, there is no such thing as future security for anybody in this world. And as long as we see German government people, such as the President of their Republic, such as their Chancellor, repeat openly, as they did only a few days ago, that falsehood to the world and to their own people, that Germany was not responsible for the last Great War, as long as such an extraordinary spirit prevails how can we feel secure?

Now, that question of — I won't say disarmament, but reduction of armaments — which is at the order of the day and which is indissolubly linked up with that of security, should never be taken separately in thinking of *military armaments only*. All countries in the world are not, from that point of view, placed in the same relative position. England has, first of all, to defend her coasts, to be master of the sea, and to defend her far-away colonies. So, naturally, her greatest effort must be made on the sea. She must spend most of her money in keeping her navy at its high standard. This country is placed in a particularly fortunate position, being separated from Europe by three thousand miles of water on one side and from Asia by some six or seven thousand miles on the other side, so she has not any great danger to fear. Canada has never been a danger and Mexico is not one either. So you can afford to keep a small nucleus of a standing army backed up by reserves, provided organizations like that of The American Legion, of the American Order of the World War, of the American Order of Foreign Wars, keep up the spirit, not of combativity, but of patriotism, learned patriotism, among the American people, and this, because you have time to organize an army if and when needed.

France, unfortunately, is not placed in such a happy position geographically. Since the last two thousand years of her long and hard history, she has been invaded probably more than thirty times by the hordes from the other side of the Rhine. The last invasion you saw, because you went over there to help us repel those hordes, but you must remember that there have been many similar ones before. So France cannot afford to wait. She knows that an invasion from those hordes is always sudden, and that before she had time to organize a new army she would be, not only overrun, but wantonly destroyed. So she has got to, whether she likes it or not, whether it costs her lots of money or not, to keep a certain standing army, sufficient to repel the first shock of the invasion, and to stand firmly behind her frontiers until her army can be fully organized — and it must be organized quickly — and until her Allies come to the rescue.

France cannot be accused of militarism for that reason, for what she is doing is only a question of self protection and the expendi-

ture on her army and air forces is nothing else than a premium of insurance that she is compelled to pay in order to preserve her very existence.

So, as I was saying just now, the question of reduction of armaments must always be considered in taking into account the difference of geographical positions of the different countries. For France it is chiefly a strong army that is needed. Her navy is important, but comes second. And an army with us means also air forces, because we know that the next war will be fought in the air just as it was, partly at least, during the last war. Those questions of military armament, naval armament and air armament should always be considered at the same time and linked up. Otherwise, nothing serious can be done. Besides, France cannot consider any important reduction on the present effectiveness of her army, unless she gets practical, tangible, material guarantees against future aggression.

This is the point of view, not of one of our statesmen, not of Mr. Poincaré, or Mr. Briand, or Mr. Herriot, it is the point of view of all of our statesmen, of all who have at heart the welfare of France and of her future security, which means the security of the rest of the world.

And those two conditions which I have just put before you now were given out a few days ago by the present French Prime Minister, Mr. Herriot. He said in a few words that all questions concerning reduction of armaments must be studied together, not only military armaments, but also naval and air armaments, and they must be studied for all nations; second, no important or dangerous reduction of France's armaments can take place unless she gets adequate guarantees for the future against aggression from her hereditary enemy from the other side of the Rhine.

I want to be short. But I want also to say to you a few other practical things:

I referred at the beginning of this little address to a great patriot of mine of former days, to Lafayette. Your feeling toward that man, that great man, shows what spiritual forces mean in this world. I am not arguing that material forces do not count, as in my profession I am used to dealing with realities and facts. But at the same time I know what spiritual forces mean. It was spiritual force that Lafayette represented and which he embodied when he came over here; and this was so well understood by all American people since that time that when they are thinking of France and the part she played in your independence, they always think of Lafayette. They know that Rochambeau, that Admiral DeGrasse, played also a great part in that War of Independence, but it is always to Lafayette that one thinks first, because he was the great spiritual force that came to the rescue at the beginning and which inspired then everybody, both in France and in this country. You were fighting at that time for a great ideal, which is now-a-days the ideal of all great democratic countries in the world. Lafayette represented also that ideal and so he remains

the great link between you and France. You never forgot it, and in two days from now your President, I understand, is going to be present at the inauguration of a statue of Lafayette at Baltimore, a statue which was made in France and sent over here. It shows that splendid spirit of gratefulness which is one of the noblest traits of the American heart and mind.

You are a grateful nation. You have proved it throughout the whole of your history, and when Pershing in Paris said at the tomb of Lafayette: "Here we are, Lafayette!", it was the expression of that splendid and noble gratitude of the American people for a service rendered and rendered with all our hearts, nearly one hundred and fifty years ago, to this great Republic.

But we also, the French people, are grateful, and we will always show you our gratefulness for what you did in the last war when you came at the critical moment with all your might, with all your young enthusiasm; we will never forget it. It is that mutual feeling between our two peoples which will be the great and permanent link between us and which also will be an encouragement for all of us, French people and for all our statesmen, in case anything happens which puts again in danger the future of the French nation.

We all feel, no matter whether there are, or not, treaties of alliances, treaties of guarantees, that if a danger arose of the same kind as the one which threatened France and the whole of Western Civilization between 1914 and 1918, that America would come to the rescue if needed. (Applause.) And for that feeling of security which your splendid generosity, your splendid gratefulness, gives us at all times, I came here to thank you today and to tell you that at the bottom of all these difficulties in Europe, there is always with us in our hearts that feeling of security which is given to us by that splendid American friendship so well embodied by The American Legion, which keeps the sacred fire burning. (Applause.)

The American Legion gave us a proof that that spirit exists and that it is keeping alive to all the problems of the moment, only a few days after the French Government had decided to go into the Ruhr as a means of making Germany pay and of bringing her to her senses. The American Legion gave us that proof in voting unanimously at Indianapolis in January 1923 an absolute and unanimous approval of the attitude of the French Government and nation at that time. (Applause.) That approval was known immediately in Paris and I can tell you that it gave the French Government, which was then a little bit anxious about the opinion of the world, the greatest encouragement that they could receive. It was also a proof that if anything dangerous happened, which was vital for our future security, you would be there, firmly behind us, and I want to thank you for it. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Monsieur Liebert, as Lafayette was the link between France and the United States in the early days, so I

think that The Legion feels that the Honorable Monsieur Gaston Liebert is the link between France and the United States today. (Applause.) And we hope, sir, that you will be with us in Paris when we hold our National Convention there in 1928. (Applause.)

The Chairman of the Rules Committee will present his report.

Mr. Charles Hann, Jr., (Chairman, Rules Committee): Mr. Commander, Delegates to the Convention: Agreeable to the desires of The Legion your Committee on Rules has formulated the following rules which we submit for the approval of the Convention:

1. With the following modifications, Robert's Revised Rules of Order will be followed.

2. A delegate desiring to make a motion or address the Convention shall address the presiding officer as "Mr. Commander" and give his name and the name of his county.

3. Only two delegates from any one county shall be permitted the floor on any one subject.

4. The floor shall be permitted but once to any individual delegate on any subject, except by the unanimous consent of the Convention.

5. State officers, including District Chairmen, are entitled to all privileges of delegates, except that they may not vote, unless delegates from their counties.

6. Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker.

7. Nominating speeches shall be limited to three minutes. Second speeches shall be limited to two minutes and only two seconding speeches shall be made for one candidate.

8. Nominations shall be from the floor by roll call, alphabetically, by counties, except that by unanimous consent, this rule may be abrogated to save time.

9. Each county shall be entitled to a total vote equal to that granted under the State Constitution and By-Laws, regardless of the number of delegates present, provided a majority of delegates to which the county is entitled be present. When less than a majority of the delegates of any County are present, such county shall be entitled to as many votes as there are delegates present.

10. Voting shall be by acclamation except when a roll call be demanded by the chairmen of at least three county delegations.

11. The vote shall be announced by the chairman of each county delegation, such chairman to be chosen by each delegation.

12. Alternates shall have all privileges of delegates, including that of serving on Committees, except the privilege of voting.

13. Alternates may vote only in the absence of regular delegates, selection of such alternates to fill delegates' places to be made by the county delegation in question.

14. Any candidate for any office must receive a majority of

the votes of the Convention before elected, successive ballots to be held until one candidate receives a majority.

15. All resolutions offered on the floor of the Convention or otherwise shall be automatically referred to the proper committees without reading, or in the absence of such committees to the Committee on Resolutions for proper consideration.

16. Any resolution not introduced to the Convention at the close of business on the morning session of the first day must be placed at the bottom of the list of previously submitted resolutions.

Mr. Commander: I move you the adoption of these rules.

Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The reading of the committee appointments now will take place.

The Secretary:

Credentials Committee

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
Norton Sultzor William A. Smith		
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
Wm. E. Leonard Dr. L. Bailey	L. A. Hawkins Frank McTraimen	L. J. Larrabee Lyle Nelson
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Dr. C. C. Nesbit Ernest Childs	Thomas Callahan Earl Burdick	

Publicity Committee

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
Edward Butler Jerry LeForest	George Welsh Joseph H. Lyons	Percy Stevens A. A. Cloutins
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
George West Anthony Bechman	A. J. Radell Wallace Coad	Dave Lewis Harold Tucher
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Clarence R. Smith F. Hopkins	V. G. Hoyt Samuel Gibbs	James Nagle Chester Norton

Americanism Committee

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
Arthur W. Proctor Fred J. Storber	Albert McNamara Martin Zivicke	John L. Riley Andrew J. Murphy, Jr.
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
Edw. J. Duignan A. Mushaw	Harold Tracy Lewis McRowe	J. A. Judge J. H. Green
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Levi Quick George Schmit	H. C. Ostertog Charles Chipman	Wm. C. Gray Roger Thompson

Legislative Committee

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
Fred Norman John J. Stanley	Chas. J. Griffin Benj. F. Fisk	P. H. Clune Milton Saulspough

Fourth District

C. W. Leister
Geo. C. Trever

Seventh District

Art. Rathjen
Wm. Hugh

First District

Samuel Dribben
P. St. George Bissell

Fourth District

Wm. W. Trush
Dr. N. Merrihew

Seventh District

Norman Peverill
William McKay

Fifth District

F. J. Tarney
John Fitzsimmons

Eighth District

Edwin B. Kengott
William Laidlaw

Finance Committee

Second District

Arthur Floor
Thos. O'Shaughnessy

Fifth District

B. W. Cornwall
Bernard A. Rasbach

Eighth District

Alan Oppenheimer
Thomas Galloway

Sixth District

W. H. Mandeville
Kirk DeLouis

Ninth District

Frank Addyman
Arthur J. Williams

Third District

John J. Connors, Jr.
E. E. Wiel

Sixth District

Ralph Calhoun
Charles Epstein

Ninth District

Clarence Lichtenstein
Dr. J. E. Noll

Resolutions Committee

Second District

John J. Cruickshank
Emil N. Baar

Fifth District

T. J. Bunce
E. H. Burnett

Eighth District

Fred Chindgren
L. W. Colprice

Third District

Frank A. McNamee
Jas. A. McCarthy

Sixth District

J. T. O'Neil
Leslie Brown

Ninth District

Robert Morrow
John R. Schwartz

First District

Irwin I. Rackoff
William B. Love

Fourth District

Thomas Bushnell
Allan Taylor

Seventh District

T. Merritt Ward
Thomas Mott Osborn

War Risk and Hospitalization Committee

First District

Daniel Edwards
V. K. Commons

Fourth District

Ralph Nielands
Arthur Glatt

Seventh District

Dr. R. C. Hill
Dr. Chaffee

Second District

W. J. Young
B. C. Troci

Fifth District

Clarence Meloning
Howard E. Kelsey

Eighth District

Miss L. Phillips
Horace Harsey

Third District

Dr. A. L. Olshansky
Ann E. Flynn

Sixth District

J. E. Williams
Dr. Ross G. Loop

Ninth District

Walter V. Davis
Dr. Vincent V. McCabe

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

First District

C. E. Pitts
Arthur Forbach

Fourth District

Irving Goldsmith
Robert E. Casey

Seventh District

Mr. Evens
T. H. Kennedy

Second District

Spencer P. Young
James Pasta

Fifth District

William Finnerty
J. R. Ehrlich

Eighth District

John Duke
Arthur C. Birkney

Third District

James Horder
John J. Ray

Sixth District

H. H. Cassidy
Claude McKinney

Ninth District

Chauncey L. S. Fish
Milton A. Siegfried

Time and Place Committee

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
R. E. Condon	A. T. Rasquin	Dr. J. Purcell
William H. Clark	Art. Sontag	Edw. N. Scheiberling
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
Everett Hildreth	J. H. Dillon	Charles Rundle
R. C. Prince	Bernard Lawrence	Charles Coffey
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Howard Converse	Mark Needham	Emmons Bryant
Thos. Comisky	Keene L. Salisbury	Phillip A. Nylod

Membership Committee

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
Abraham Raumberg	Samuel Weisman	Frank Doney
Miss Anna B. Duncan	Thos. Senft	Clyde Gardner
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
T. A. Morrissey	Wesley O'Brien	B. Baker
John Dwyer	Joseph Bondy	Archie Van Atta
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Herman Conley	Robert M. O'Reilly	Harvey Williams
Walter Termont	W. E. Slivers	J. Lester Burnett

Military Affairs Committee

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
Roy Hodgson	F. C. Baker	Ernest Clifford
Ralph Jones	C. B. Manee	Edgar C. Farrington
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
Nelson Moss	Frank Sass	Orrin Dykeman
Henry Gage	Frances Lope	Arthur Lennox
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Harry C. Smith	Thos. E. Heard	Clayton Jones
Arthur Smith	Frank C. Ribble	Wiley Ryan

Rules Committee

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
Alvin Mela	John Boyle	Arthur Higgins
Mrs. Rose Taylor	Vincent McCormick	E. N. Rode
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
		Elias Meade
		Frank Ackerman
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
		C. A. Gray
		Albert Towner

County and Post Activities

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
Benj. Fox, Jr.	Earle M. Turner	Robert Weldon
Dr. Philip Lehrman	H. K. Robinson	

<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
J. H. Center	Hugh D. Cary	M. Wright
Allan H. Mann	A. J. Rouillier	Wilcox
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Jas. Mauley	Harold Henry	Gene Kene
Jos. Ball	Charles Metcalfe	John O. Paatterson

The Secretary: There are some communications:

I regret sincerely that I cannot participate in the Convention of The American Legion of the State of New York. I thank you kindly for your invitation, turning my affectionate thoughts and well wishes to my comrades of the late war who fought fiercely and in peace bring a spirit of union, of force and of faith for every human progress. I salute you with my whole soul and with a profound affection which re-echoes memories that honor.

(Signed) GENERAL DIAZ,
Generalissimo of the Italian Armies.

(Applause.)

Your letter of June 11th has just come to my attention upon my return from Europe, and I hasten to express my sincere thanks for the invitation which you extend me to attend the Sixth Annual Convention of the New York Department of The American Legion.

I regret very much, however, that it will not be practicable for me to accept, as my time during the early part of September will be very fully occupied here. I have an engagement which will take me to New York on the 9th but it will be impossible for me to leave here until the last minute.

Regretting that I cannot give you a favorable reply and with my very best wishes for a most profitable and enjoyable Convention, believe me,

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) JOHN J. PERSHING.

(Applause.)

Your kind invitation only reached me this evening, but I am afraid that it is too late, not by days but by years. In these days I save my energies for my work and I do not attempt any outside matters. I am sorry, for I should like very much to meet the fighters of a later generation.

Very sincerely yours,
(Signed) OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

(Applause.)

Your kind letter of June 11th was forwarded to me here at Geneseo, after my return from the Cleveland Convention. Many thanks for the invitation to attend The Legion Conven-

tion at Alexandria Bay. I wish I could take advantage of this very real compliment this year, but, the fact is, I have already made engagements for the first week in September which will prevent me being in northern New York at that time. I regret this the more, because I had a most enjoyable experience at your Convention last year and would like to "repeat."

With many thanks and best wishes, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

JAMES W. WADSWORTH, JR.

(Applause.)

Up to this date I had fully intended attending the American Legion Convention, Department of New York, to be held at Alexandria Bay, New York, in accordance with your kind invitation of June 11th, but I find that, due to the pressure of official business here preparatory to my departure for the National Convention of The Legion in St. Paul, it will be impossible for me to attend in person the Convention of the Department of New York.

This is a source of much regret to me, due to the fact that I have always desired since becoming Director to attend the State Convention of New York, knowing the importance of this Convention, and because of my desire to become better acquainted with the Legionnaires of that State.

I hope that you will take advantage of the occasion to express to the State Commander and to the Legionnaires in attendance my appreciation for the cooperation they have given the Bureau in carrying on its work for the disabled. During the past year many matters of great importance to the Legionnaires have come up and been acted upon, and in all of these matters I have felt that the officials of The American Legion, Department of New York, have done much to assist the Bureau in carrying on its important duties.

The importance of placing in operation promptly the provisions of the new World War Veterans' Act is paramount, and I am sure that the Legionnaires would prefer that I devote my energies in that direction to the fullest extent and, for that reason, I feel that my presence in Washington is urgently needed at this time.

Should you desire any other representative at the Convention I will be glad to designate the District Manager of the Second District, or one of the Assistant Directors of this office.

With best wishes for the successful outcome of the Department Convention, I am,

(Signed)

Very truly yours,

FRANK T. HINES,

Director.

(Applause.)

It is most kind of the members of The American Legion of the State of New York to desire my presence at Alexandria Bay for their Sixth Annual State Convention.

I shall unfortunately be away in France at the date you mention and unable to be present, except in thought, at a gathering which promises to be of the greatest interest.

I beg to express my thanks for the honor of this invitation and I beg you to believe me,

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) JUSSERAND.

(Applause.)

Nothing would give me more pleasure than to accept your courteous invitation to meet The Legion at Alexandria Bay at their Sixth Annual Convention.

I have an appointment on the 5th of September, made some time ago, to meet the Veterans of the G. A. R. at Auburn, New York. I appreciate the honor paid me in your invitation and regret that I shall not be able to accept same.

With assurances of my best regard for yourself and the splendid organization you represent, I am

Sincerely,
(Signed) HENRY L. KEENE,
*Commander, Department of New York,
Grand Army of the Republic.*

(Applause.)

Appreciate very highly the honor of your very cordial invitation to attend The American Legion Convention and wish it were possible for me to avail myself of this pleasure. However, other engagements preclude my acceptance of the invitation. Will you kindly convey to the membership of The American Legion my heartiest good wishes for the success of the Convention and my sincere appreciation of their kindness to me? To you personally I send my heartfelt thanks.

(Signed) MAE NOLAN,
*Member of Congress,
5th District, California.*

(Applause.)

Your kind invitation to speak at your Convention has been received and I sincerely thank you for this honor. I am sorry to tell you that I am busy with a campaign this fall and do not see how I could get away.

One thing that I would say if I were speaking before your patriotic body of men is that I will continue as long as I live to do everything possible for the war veteran.

I believe that I am the only man in public life today who heard Abraham Lincoln's last inaugural address. I stood within ten feet of him and he said in part:

“Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may pass away. With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.”

These words have inspired me and have encouraged me in many a discouraging battle in Congress for just consideration of the war veteran, his widow and his children.

Gratefully yours,
(Signed) ISAAC R. SHERWOOD.

(Applause.)

Permit me to assure you that I appreciate the invitation you extend on behalf of the members of The American Legion of the State of New York to attend and address their Sixth Annual State Convention. I should indeed be very happy to accept your invitation, but it does not now seem probable that I can do so.

Owing to my recent severe illness from which I am recuperating, I have found it necessary to cancel all speaking engagements and decline all invitations for the next five or six weeks.

Permit me to thank you and your associates of the Convention Committee for the cordiality of the invitation, and your expressed purpose to make my visit a happy one.

With best wishes, and again assuring you of my regret that I cannot accept your invitation, I am,

Very truly yours,
(Signed) SAMUEL GOMPERS.

(Applause.)

I am in receipt of your kind letter of the 11th instant in which you invite me to be present at the Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion as a guest of honor and speaker. While I wish very much that I might comply with your request, I regret to inform you that because I have not been at all well it will be impossible for me to attend the Convention.

With best wishes for the success of your Convention, believe me,

Very truly yours,
(Signed) ROBERT T. LINCOLN.

(Applause.)

I am up against it. When I wrote you June 20th on my return from several days’ absence out “where the tall corn grows” it was my hope to so arrange my Legion schedule for the week in which comes your Convention as to enable me

to get to Alexandria Bay. I was particularly desirous of doing this, by reason of the sweet recollection of my previous contact with the New York outfit. But such plans have been made by the fellows in Kansas and Nebraska that dates out there for September 4th and 5th cannot be changed. I cannot tell you how this disappointed me, for there were particular reasons why I wished to address the New York Convention this year.

With every good wish and reminding you that we have an engagement at the National Convention at St. Paul,

Always yours,
(Signed) K. M. LANDIS.

(Applause.)

The Chairman: This Convention is running on standard time. We didn't get started this morning on time. But at every other session the gavel is going to fall and begin at the time set.

Mr. Shaffer (Bronx): Mr. Commander, I make a motion that we adjourn until 3 o'clock. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Thursday Morning Session of the Convention adjourned at 1:20 P. M., Thursday, September 4, 1924.

The Second Session of the Convention was called to order at 3:20 P. M., Thursday, September 4, 1924.

The Chairman: The meeting will come to order. I think that you will all enjoy the next report. It is that of your Treasurer, Mr. Edward C. Badeau. (Applause.)

Mr. Edward C. Badeau (Department Treasurer):

The passing of another year finds the Department of New York, I believe, in a stronger position financially than it ever has been before. As we go back over the records since the date of organization we find that each year there has been a reduction of the Department debt. Each succeeding year the current revenues have been sufficient to meet expenses for a growing proportion of the 12-month period for which an administration holds office.

This year's convention finds the Department out of debt and with a bank balance of \$1,635.78. In addition there is due the Department approximately \$1,600 from the American Legion Annual, which shortly will be available for the incoming administration. Sales of the Source Records of the World War in this State which have netted the Department \$757.44 in two months should continue to be a source of revenue for some time to come.

After the Convention last year the Department was compelled to borrow \$3,000 to carry on until the dues for 1924

began to come in. This was paid off. I believe that sufficient money will be made available for the incoming administration to carry on throughout the entire year without borrowing.

The financial condition of the Department is due first to the large share that Commander Spafford has borne personally of the ordinary expenses of an administration. Without desire to establish a precedent, he has paid all his large traveling expenses himself.

The work of Joe. Burns, Assistant State Adjutant, has been another large factor. He has kept the expenses of the office down to the minimum consistent with efficiency. The major portion of the treasurer's work has fallen upon his shoulders. He has accepted the burden with his usual good humor and handled it with characteristic good management.

Charlie MacWhorter, of Kings County, cheerfully has devoted many hours of his time at no small personal sacrifice to audit the books of the Treasurer at frequent intervals during the year and has completed his final audit. I quote from his report:

	Prior Administration Expenses	Current Expenses	Budget Disbursement		
			Over	Under	
Salaries		\$10,204 21	\$8,000 00	\$2,204 21	
Printing & Post.....	\$24 90	2,547 71	1,750 00	797 71	
Tele. & Tele.....	150 33	563 51	500 00	63 51	
Office Sundries		469 13	250 00	219 13	
<i>Organization Work</i>					
Commander's Trav....	204 21	.....	1,500 00	.....	779 83
Executive Com.....	12 21	720 17			
Legislative Com.....	.....	179 85	200 00	.....	20 15
Publicity .....	.....	.....	100 00	.....	100 00
<i>Convention</i>					
National .....	.....	.....	100 00	.....	100 00
State .....	.....	221 27	250 00	.....	28 73
Reports .....	.....	362 45	250 00	112 45	
<i>General</i>					
Equipment .....	.....	210 75	.....	210 79	
Miscellaneous	60 00	28 97	250 00	.....	221 03
Americanization	74 17	529 71	350 00	179 71	
			\$13,500 00		
Excess Receipts over Budget.			6,221 89		6,221 89
Totals	\$16,037 77	\$19,721 89	\$3,787 51	\$7,471 63	\$7,471 63
					<u>\$3,684 12</u>
<i>Not in Budget</i>					
Membership Certificates and prizes.....					\$385 30
Welfare Work (Net)					140 00
District Conference					189 49
Rehabilitation (\$233.27)					85 74
Past Commanders Badges.....					22 62
Bok Peace Award (Net)					18 55
Bonus Expenses (Net)					933 80
Refund for ineligible dues.....					1 25
Trophy					45 00
Film Refund					20 00
1923 over payment.....					4 00
Prior Administration Expenses					828 09
					<u>\$18,642 61</u>

AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Statement of Condition September 1, 1923 to August 31, 1924

Balance, Sept. 1, 1923.....		\$221 57		
Receipts:				
1923 Dues	1,782			
1924 Dues	67,788			
	\$69,570 @ \$1 25	\$86,962 50		
Paid National Organization.....		68,992 00		
		\$17,970 50		
Less, due National Organization..		578 00		
State Share			\$17,392 50	
Buttons on hand 282 at \$0.20.....		\$56 40		
Buttons sold		1,162 71		
		\$1,219 11		
Buttons purchased		1,001 60	217 51	
Profit:				
Legion Annual 1923.....			1,000 00	
Auxiliary Railroad Certificates.....			5 60	
Man without a Country Fund.....			182 21	
Treasury balance, Disbanded Post.....			139 00	
Flag Circulars			13 94	
Source Records Royalty.....			757 44	
Fathers' Auxiliary	\$10 00			
Paid National Organization....	5 00		5 00	
Interest (Net)			9 69	
Amount available for expenses.....		\$19,722 89		
National Dues received, not paid				
out	\$278 00			
Over payment by Counties.....	18 25	\$296 25	\$20,319 14	\$20,540 71
Disbursements for expenses, per detail attached.....				\$18,642 61
Balance August 31, 1924.....				\$1,898 10
Cash in bank.....	1,635 78			
Petty cash	\$50 00			
Buttons on hand.....	58 40			
National Delegates Supplies on				
hand	75 92			
Advance for Convention Expense..	80 00			
		\$1,898 10		

Audited and found correct
 (Signed) Chas. F. McWhorter,
 C. P. A.

Respectfully submitted,
 (Signed) EDWARD C. BADEAU,
Treasurer.

(Applause.)

Mr. Hann (Richmond): Mr. Commander, I move you the adoption of the report. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The Adjutant is now going to just touch on the work which he has done this year. It has been a great year for the Adjutant and I am glad here to listen to it for the first time myself. (Applause.)

Dr. G. A. Silliman (Department Adjutant):

Commander and Comrades: In accordance with custom, I herewith present the report of my tenure of office as Department Adjutant for the year ending September, 1924. My report covers primarily the activities of Department Head-

quarters which has functioned under the expert guidance of the Assistant State Adjutant, Joseph A. Burns.

At the beginning of the year we made a survey of conditions in the Department, paying particular attention to the recommendations of the preceding administration, and of the last State Convention. Along this line we have continued the policy of dropping defunct Posts, of consolidating and arranging files so that at the present time we have a complete and accurate filing system and at a moment's notice we are able to give definite information pertaining to any Post, County or Department of the State organization. As to early and prompt distribution of membership books, this was done as soon as they were received from National Headquarters and this year all books were in the hands of Post or County Officials October 22, 1923. This distribution was made according to recommendations of last convention through County Organization where this was possible. Where this was inadvisable the distribution was made direct to Posts.

A general survey of Posts shows that at the present date we have 751 active Posts in the Department. During the year seven Posts were eliminated by either consolidations or cancellations; 26 new Posts have been chartered and 40 permanent charters issued. There are approximately 175 Posts at present operating under temporary charters. Every effort has been made during the year to have Posts apply for permanent charters. The assistance of the County Chairman in this matter will result in the issuance of permanent charters to all Posts entitled thereto. From the reports of the Commander and the Chairman of the Membership Committee, you will have the facts pertaining to membership, but the following analysis will show the relative membership standing of the Posts as compared with previous year:

One hundred per cent Posts, 465; 90 per cent Posts, 55; 80 per cent Posts, 66; 75 per cent Posts, 65; all others, 100; total, 751.

For the first time in the history of the Department we find 55 of 62 counties equalling or exceeding their previous year's membership and 22 counties have the largest membership in this history of the Department. All this before August 4th, which was really an 11-month year. The total number of cards reported to The American Legion Weekly, which actually represents the number of members enrolled as of September 2, 1924, was 68,636.

While the list of Post and County Officers is at present complete and accurate, these officials are constantly changing and it is highly important that these units keep Headquarters advised of any change in their roster of officers at all times. The County Chairman can materially assist the Department to maintain an accurate roster.

Executive Committee.—During the past year there have been five meetings of the State Executive Committee. At no time has there been less than a quorum present. The average attendance has been thirteen of the seventeen members. Meetings have been held in the following places: Saratoga Springs, State Headquarters, Albany, Ithaca, and Alexandria Bay.

Your attention is called to the action of the Executive Committee at its meeting in November when by direction of the Convention resolutions amending the constitution were considered and adopted as follows:

Amending Article 5, Section 2, of the State Constitution: "Each County shall be entitled to four delegates and four alternates and to one additional delegate for each two hundred and fifty memberships or the major portion thereof paid up thirty days prior to the date of the State Convention."

Amending Article 6, Section 2, of Department Constitution: "The State Executive Committee shall consist of six officers of the State Organization, the National Executive Committeeman and nine other members to be elected on the basis provided in the State Constitution."

And, providing "that the National Executive Committeeman shall be a member with voice and vote of the State Executive Committee."

Official Source Records.—There has been a sale of a set of History known as Official Source Records of the Great World War, with the endorsement of National Headquarters. The endorsement of this Department had been withheld because of the methods used in this sale. At the conference of Department Adjutants at Indianapolis, Indiana, December, 1923, the objections of this Department were formally taken up and we were assured that these objectionable features would be eliminated. From first hand investigation we found this to be the case and accordingly the Executive Committee gave its endorsement at its meeting May 25, 1924. Henceforth, the Department realizes 2 per cent on the sale of all these sets within the State. The first two months' income from this source was in excess of \$750.

District Conferences.—Following out the instructions of the Executive Committee the Department Adjutant, through the District Chairmen, arranged District Conferences in eight of the nine districts in the Department, attended by the Post Commander, Adjutants, County Chairmen and such other Post officials and Legionnaires who cared to attend.

The typewritten calls of these Conferences were prepared at Department Headquarters over the signature of the District Chairman and were addressed to the officials mentioned above.

In each Conference the District Chairman acted as Chairman of the meeting and a set program was followed, providing for the presentation of prepared papers on subjects of interest to every Post. The reading of these papers was followed by a general discussion. That these meetings were beneficial to The Legion there is no doubt, as is evidenced by the increased efficiency of our many Post and County officers. As directed by the Executive Committee, the Assistant State Adjutant attended these Conferences and by his presence assisted in completing the liaison between the Post, County, District and Department. I do recommend that the holding of these District Conferences be continued.

State Bonus.— Upon the call of the people of the State of New York, through their State officials, the Posts of the Department of New York within the past few months rendered a service recognized by the Soldiers' Bonus Commission as being of immeasurable value to the State and to the veteran. Without hesitation the Posts of this Department responded to the call and with a sole desire to serve their comrades and the community, took upon themselves the responsibility of distributing and filing applications for the New York State Bonus in accordance with the instructions of the Adjutant-General. It is estimated that more than 300,000 blanks were distributed through The Legion and in many cases these blanks were not only distributed but typewritten and notarized without expense and with little inconvenience to the veteran.

Posts are now working in the same manner on the Federal Adjusted Compensation Blanks and it is expected that this work will be completed within the near future.

It was felt that forwarding the blanks direct to the Posts by the Adjutant-General of the State of New York and by the Adjutant-General's Office in Washington, rather than reforwarding by State Headquarters, was an advantage and our experience has justified that action.

Office Operation and Management.— The staff at State Headquarters, with one exception, remains as it was one year ago. The duties of our employees for the past twelve months have been somewhat greater than heretofore by reason of our increased membership, the New York State Bonus, the fight on Adjusted Compensation, etc. Notwithstanding these additional activities, there has been not a very material increase in our regular permanent force. The proper filing and indexing of more than 60,000 membership cards required the services of three filing clerks for a period of about two months. The added labor of preparing and mailing the considerable number of bulletins forwarded this year required the services of an additional mail clerk.

Contact between the Department and Posts through the medium of the bulletin has been availed of to a large extent

by the Department Commander, so that with the regular bulletins issued there has been a considerable increase in the amount of mail dispatched from State Headquarters. Twice during the year a communication was addressed to each member in the Department, once in the interest of increased membership and again in the cause of Adjusted Compensation. In the aggregate there has been more than 100,000 pieces of mail dispatched from State Headquarters in the past twelve months, an average of 300 pieces each working day. Some of the circularizing to the individual members has had to be done outside by reason of our small staff and inadequate office space for the handling of mail in bulk. All other circularizing has been done by our own staff.

It is recommended that the Finance Committee of this Convention create in the budget an allowance of at least \$500 for the purchase of filing equipment for our Department Headquarters. Valuable papers, documents and supplies are now stored on temporary wooden shelves, subject to possible loss and creating a very poor appearance to those who visit our office.

I wish to commend the whole-hearted devotion to duty and service as exhibited by Carl W. Sudhoff of the Department Service Division. In his report he will cover the activities of his department and I am sure will convince the Convention of the general excellence of the service rendered.

In closing I want to convey to the members of Headquarters Staff my sincere commendation for the ready and zealous efforts to function on their part. The chief of this staff needs no introduction, for surely the work of Joe Burns as Assistant Department Adjutant, speaks for itself. He has been more than a mere cog or a spoke in the wheel. He has been the hub, and I most heartily commend the Commander for retaining him this year, and surely in the interest of efficiency and The Legion, I sincerely hope he may be a fixture at Headquarters for many moons to come. The inspiration of him has been reflected through the entire office force, all of whom have labored with only the best interests of The Legion in mind. No job has been too great for them and many an extra job has been done by them and many an extra hour given by them in our interests and I do sincerely thank them.

The Department is in a very healthy condition, and if I, in the small service I have rendered during the past, have aided in advancing the ideals of this Legion of ours, I feel amply repaid. (Applause.)

Mr. Schaffer (Bronx): Mr. Commander, I wish to make a motion that the Adjutant's report be accepted with the thanks of the Convention. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The next order of business will be listening to the Chairman of our Legislative Committee, Mr. Aronowitz, Chairman. (Applause.)

Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz (Chairman, Standing Committee on Legislation):

Mr. Commander and Legionnaires: Since the organization of The American Legion there has been enacted into the law of this State, through the efforts of The Legion, a multitude of legislation. Practically every request of our organization for legislative action has been complied with. We have had the confidence of the law-making bodies of our State and this confidence has been justified, because The Legion in the Department of New York has ever been manifestly fair in its legislative endeavors.

We now face a critical period, so far as The Legion is concerned. If The American Legion is to continue to have the confidence of the legislative and executive branches of our State government, we must refrain from demanding any legislation which is unreasonable and unfair. This convention should give the strictest heed to all resolutions calling for legislative action. Too frequently resolutions are passed without proper consideration as to their merits; and such action oftentimes causes considerable embarrassment and justifiable criticism. Nothing can more quickly destroy the confidence now reposed in our organization than unreasonable legislative demands.

There is, however, one class of legislation which has not been adequately cared for to which attention should be directed. That is legislation relating to veterans in the Civil Service. Those who were in Civil Service positions before entering military service have been placed under a distinct handicap which they have never been able to overcome. One law was passed attempting to ameliorate this condition, but it was declared unconstitutional. Other legislation, after passing the legislature, has been vetoed by different Governors at the suggestion of either the Civil Service Commission or the Pension Bureau.

At a hearing on one of these measures, Governor Alfred E. Smith, who has ever shown a sympathetic interest in veteran affairs, made a suggestion, which should be adopted by this Convention. The Governor advised that a committee from The American Legion, conferring with the State Civil Service Commission and the State Pension Bureau, could agree upon a program of legislation which would remove the unfair features of the present law and the existing injustices to the ex-service men and women without calling forth condemnation from State departments. Such a program of legislation should be broad enough to include all veterans. It is useless to attempt to secure legislation relating to Civil Service prof-

erence or retirement privileges for veterans so long as the various State bodies having charge of these matters present such violent opposition when bills dealing with these subjects are before the Governor for consideration. It is, therefore, recommended that this convention authorize and instruct the incoming Commander to appoint a committee to consider these subjects and to confer with those designated by the Governor—the recommendations of this joint committee of Legionnaires and State officials to be presented to the next Legislative Committee for action.

The outstanding features of legislation passed by the 1924 legislature were the additional appropriation of \$1,500,000 for the completion of the State Military Memorial Hospital at Kings Park and the provisions for the payment of the State Bonus. Both of these laws were strictly American Legion measures. The State Hospital is a project for which The Legion has been working during the past four years. From 1920 on The Legion has been advocating the building of such a hospital by the State for the exclusive care of neuropsychiatric cases among World War veterans. Various appropriations have been made for this purpose, but for one reason or another nothing came of them. Last year The Legion was successful in securing an appropriation which resulted in construction being actually started on this hospital and the additional appropriation received this year means the early completion of the institution, which will stand as a monument to The Legion's interest in the welfare of the disabled.

The feeling of confidence in The American Legion could not have been shown more clearly than by the action of the legislature on the bonus question. The American Legion's Legislative Committee drafted the bill, had it presented at the opening of the session, and secured its passage without amendment. In addition, your Legislative Committee was enabled to have this measure introduced as a committee bill in both houses so that its early passage could not be held up through the petty politics of those desiring some personal recognition by having their names attached to the bill. This enabled the Bonus Commission to start work at least two months earlier than would otherwise have been the case. No hearings were held in either house, although this measure provided for the paying out of forty-five million dollars. The chairmen of the committee in charge in both houses stated that so long as the measure met with the approval of The American Legion, that was all that was necessary.

In order that the proceedings of the Convention of our Auxiliary might be included in our annual report printed by the State, the annual appropriation to The Legion for this purpose was increased by the last legislature from \$1,000 to \$1,500.

One measure failing of passage should be particularly brought to your attention. This was the bill providing for a direct appropriation of \$1,500,000 to pay the bonus to the relatives of those who died in service and of those who died prior to the time the bonus act became a law. This bill passed the Assembly unanimously, but was killed in the Senate Finance Committee. This provision could not have been included in the original bill because of the wording of the Constitutional Amendment under which the bill was passed. This Convention should strenuously urge the enactment of such a law at the next session of the legislature.

The complete list of laws passed by the 1924 legislature, through the efforts of The American Legion, is as follows:

Chapter 19 — Providing for the issuance of \$45,000,000 in bonds for the payment of a bonus of \$10 a month to World War veterans, with a maximum of \$150 to any veteran.

Chapter 64 — Providing for instruction in the history and meaning of the Constitution of the United States in all public schools beginning in the eighth grade.

Chapter 70 — Providing for an additional appropriation of \$1,500,000 for the completion of the State Military Memorial Hospital at Kings' Park.

Chapter 140 — Appropriating \$1,500 for printing the proceedings of the 1924 Convention of The Legion.

Chapter 244 — Providing that disabled veterans, having completed a four years' course under the Veterans' Bureau, may be entitled to take the examination for architect, without the five years' experience in an architect's office, ordinarily required.

Chapter 245 — Including The American Legion among the lists of corporations receiving the benefit of the Benevolent Orders Law.

Chapter 286 — Allowing town and village boards to acquire lots and erect memorial buildings in honor of the veterans and veterans' associations of any war, and allowing such boards to issue bonds for such purposes.

Chapter 290 — Providing that the Adjutant-General shall keep a record of the burial place, within the State, of all those who served in the Military or Naval Forces of the United States.

Chapter 339 — Allowing villages to appropriate, not to exceed \$200 for the observance of Memorial Day.

Chapter 376 — Making it a misdemeanor to raffle or pawn the American flag.

Chapter 446 — Giving inmates of the soldiers' and sailors' homes the right to vote.

Chapter 523 — Allowing counties to issue bonds for the erection and maintenance of memorials in commemoration of the veterans of any war in which this country has taken part.

Chapter 525 — Providing for instruction in the schools of the proper use and display of the flag.

Chapter 559 — Providing that veterans permanently and totally disabled by reason of loss of sight shall receive \$500 per year, to be paid semi-annually.

Chapter 604 — Including The American Legion in the list of benevolent orders.

Chapter 611 — Exempting honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines of the United States from the payment of a village poll tax.

Chapter 632 — Providing that in examinations for promotion in the Civil Service honorable service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Army Nurse Corps may be considered as an item of credit.

Chapter 635 — Providing that a person on an eligible civil service list who was disabled in Federal military service shall be entitled to have his name certified on the eligible list for appointment for a period of two years from the date of his final release from hospital or vocational school.

Chapter 634 — Providing that time spent in any vocational school of the United States Veterans' Bureau shall be credited as experience in training in all civil service examinations in this State.

There was also a joint resolution directing the Commissioner of Education to investigate the history text books used in the State and make his report thereon to the next legislature. This resolution is not being carried out, due to the failure of the legislature to provide an appropriation for the payment of the expenses of such investigation.

The following bills passed both houses, but were vetoed by the Governor:

Assembly, Print No. 810 — Providing that where positions in the same grade in the competitive Civil Service are abolished nonveterans must be laid off before veterans.

Assembly, Print No. 1929 — Providing that veterans should receive the same increases in salary as were given to those in their grade who did not enter the military service.

Assembly, Print No. 962 — Giving veterans of the World War holding Civil Service positions the same retirement rights as are given to Civil War veterans.

These laws were secured largely through the influence of the ex-service members of the legislature. The annual legislative dinner, held the last Tuesday in January with the attendant committee meetings, enabling all to know The Legion's aims and aiding greatly in the work of the entire Department and bringing together the ex-service members of the legislature, should be continued. Its worth is so well known as to need no discussion. In this year's legislature there were seven Senators and forty-one Assemblymen who were World War veterans. As in previous years, the

ex-service members of the legislature formed a caucus for the purpose of aiding legislation proposed by The American Legion. This caucus was presided over by Assemblyman F. Trubee Davison who, with Assemblyman Julius Berg and Senator James S. Higgins, did a large part of the work in securing the enactment of desired legislation and the defeat of that which was not desired. The complete list of ex-service members in the legislature is as follows:

Senators: Philip M. Kleinfeld, James A. Higgins, Nathan Strauss, Seabury C. Mastick, J. Griswold Webb, Theodore Douglas Robinson and Parton Swift.

Assemblmen: Lester W. Patterson, Harry A. Samberg, Julius S. Berg, John F. Reidy, Joseph E. Kinsley, Lewis F. Harder, Dr. Ralph H. Loomis, Dr. Frederic S. Cole, Murray Hearn, Joseph Reich, Richard J. Tonry, Edward J. Coughlin, John E. McCarthy, Howard C. Franklin, Miller B. Moran, Russell B. Griffith, Vincent B. Murphy, Wallace R. Austin, Samuel W. McCleary, Alexander H. Garnjost, F. Trubee Davison, Edward W. Wallace, Victor R. Kaufmann, Henry O. Kahan, John H. Conroy, Phelps Phelps, Samuel I. Rosenman, Louis A. Cuvillier, Joseph A. Gavagan, Nelson Ruttenberg, Marck C. Lambert, John C. Devereux, Russell G. Dunmore, Clemence C. Smith, Daniel L. Dayton, William F. Brunner, Kenneth H. Fake, Herbert B. Shonk, Frank A. Carlin and John Boyle.

To each one of these members are due the thanks of the ex-service men for their loyal support of The Legion's legislative program.

For years your Legislative Committee has recommended that State Headquarters be moved to Albany. The reasons have been given many times. The opinion of your committee has not changed. However, an investigation has revealed that there is no space available at this time nor any immediate prospect of any facilities to house State Headquarters in the Capital City. Therefore, it is recommended that no change be made in the location of State Headquarters at this time.

The Legislative work this year could not have been accomplished save for the enthusiastic and tireless efforts of Deputy Attorney General Patrick H. Clune and Mr. Frank A. McNamee, Jr., both of Albany, who acted as co-chairmen of the Legislative Committee. These men participated in every conference on Legion Legislation, were mainly responsible for the drafting of the bonus law, appeared before the various committees and before the Governor on many occasions, urging the adoption of The Legion Program. They are entitled to the sincere commendation of this convention.

I desire also to express my personal appreciation to all the members of the Legislative Committee for their co-operation and support; to State Commander Edward E. Spafford for his backing up of the Legislative Committee in every way



EDWARD C. BADEAU
Treasurer
SYDNEY G. GUMPERTZ
Historian

H. F. THOMPSON
Third Vice-Commander

DR. G. A. SILLIMAN
Adjutant
REV. ARTHUR A. LEMAY
Chaplain

possible and his frequent appearance before Legislative Committees and the Governor at various hearings held in Albany. I would also especially mention the splendid work being done by Joe Burns at State Headquarters. He is efficient, ever courteous, eager to assist and correct in his information. The Department is indeed fortunate in having so capable an office manager. Finally, I would thank Legionnaires throughout the State for their loyalty and support and trust that their interest and enthusiasm may never wane. (Applause.)

Mr. Norman (New York): Mr. Commander, I move that the Chairman of the Legislative Committee's report be accepted with thanks. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: As your Department Commander has gone about the State I think in almost every county I have mentioned a remarkable piece of Americanism work which was decidedly practical. It was when a Memorial Service to the dead was about to be held in the City of Wilkes Barre at the same time that a Legion meeting was going on. Well, if The Legion knows it they don't allow it, but it is seldom that we are able to carry out and remain entirely within the constitution and the law when we prevent such meetings. It takes a very big man to do that thing. That man is one of the Vice-Commanders of the National body of The Legion and there is none better, none greater, and it gives me great pleasure to present to you, my Buddies, National Vice-Commander William B. Healey. (Applause.)

Mr. William B. Healey (National Vice-Commander, The American Legion): Comrade Commander, Honored Guests, Ladies and my Fellow Comrades of The Legion: You have been more than kind to me to allow me the privilege to share in your Convention. It is a profound honor indeed to be allowed the pleasure to bring to you the greetings of our National Commander, John R. Quinn. (Applause.)

It is needless for me today to go back over the pages of the activities of The Legion during the year. You have already received that information in detail from the wonderful report of your Department Commander. However, we must look forward to the time of The Legion taking an active part on the threshold of its next year's activity. We can't carry on The Legion activities any better to allow the close cooperation of the general public than by yielding to making the citizen of tomorrow. We have in the United States today over 12,000,000 children between the ages of six and twenty years and out of that vast number we only find around 3,000,000 under the Boy Scout Movement or some other welfare movement in the country. We must stop and consider that with some thought because it is a serious problem. It is really the citizen of tomorrow. Of course, to read the Press during the past six months you would be inclined to think that The Legion is somewhat of a selfish body, bound together for our own selfish pur-

poses. It sometimes reminds me of the story they tell—I have often told this story before, I believe in your great State—but it fits in to bring out exactly the way the general public is really gazing upon The Legion due to the way propaganda was brought about on the Adjusted Compensation. They tell the story of the good housewife who went out to the polling place to cast her vote and when she entered, the clerk at the desk inquired, "What is your politics, please?" "Well," she said, "I am a Republican, my husband is a Democrat, the baby is dry, the cow is wet, and the dog is a Socialist." (Laughter.) "Well, why do you term the dog a Socialist?" "Well, because he hangs around all day and doesn't do anything but howl." (Laughter.)

But The Legion is not banded together for our own selfish purposes. We realize that every year a great stream of America's youth is going out into the work of the world, carrying with them these loves and hopes and aspirations, the love of truth, the love of freedom, and the love of justice, cooperation and friendship—take it or leave it. Take it and the world comes back to prosperity. Leave it, and the process of crumbling we have already will extend and extend. The world is too far from stable to withstand more severe shocks without added suffering. You can attract prosperity, joy, happiness and love by thinking them and living them, or you can repel them by doubt, fear and the expectation of trouble and disaster. As a man thinks in his heart so he is and so are his affairs.

I believe that every person while they live here in this country shall follow out what is laid down in the Constitution for him either to do or not to do, and one of those things is to recognize that he is a component part of all and that he best considers himself and his interests when he thinks in terms of the entire nation. I would like to think of America as one great, glorious chorus of the human race, temporarily sung out here where every person can have a heart to beat and a hope and a tear to shed for her own. I would like to think of America as a benediction and a prayer. I would like to think of her as she ought to be, an inspiration to all the world. I would like to think of her so that when we sound out our deliberations every auditor and speaker will have an added heart beat. I would like to think of America as having done her duty in every cause, under the guidance of Providence.

We are Americans when we can say and when we believe and when we will die for the right to say and the right to believe: "My land is the sweet land of liberty." When we allow our thoughts to drift back to that awful struggle, and that awful war, our souls still quiver with the lash of the mighty darkness.

When the dogs of war were howling through the earth, when governments rocked, crumbled and even fell, when nations hurled death and destruction at other nations, when the very heart of the world itself was bleeding, when virtue was fouled, when little children cried out for food, God again in his wisdom gave to a nation a sure foundation and high ideals, a nation built by the mighty

Washington, cemented and made undivided by our own beloved Grant and dauntless Lincoln and to this nation's most critical hour, He again prepared and fitted a leader, a leader to bind up the torn and warped threads of bleeding humanity, a leader to stand out before the nations of the earth, unabashed and utterly unafraid, that great scholar, that great statesman, the soldier, Woodrow Wilson. (Applause.)

The world is very small, nations everywhere are face to face. They must live together. They are trying to live together, but they have no program by which they can live. They must have a program comprehensive, enforceable, and definite, or it is certain they can't live in harmony. The bigness of a man is best demonstrated by his ability to do material work, ability to take as well as give, plus faith in men as the solvent for every human problem.

We have a peculiar satisfaction today in the reflection that when we made the decision we made no reservation. We supplied men and materials in abundance. We asked for nothing and we made no terms. We haven't lost any of our love for liberty. We haven't at all qualified our standards of democracy, but we hate as we hate men and nations who are yellow and cruel, who are beasts when they are victorious, who equivocate when faced with the demands of justice. Ours is a government of law and when I say law I don't mean that that we write upon the statute books. I mean that great body of wisdom and justice which is the fruit of all ages, to which the wise men of Greece and of Rome and of every civilized nation since have contributed. That great body of law which we feel in our hearts, expresses the highest wisdom and the most exalted sense of justice, of the best of all times. Yes, today you hear on every hand that the majority is supreme. That really is the general opinion of this new form of tyranny which is breaking out in the United States and to which they call Bolshevism. Of course, ours is a government of the majority but it is something vastly more. When our forefathers met in Independence Hall to frame the Constitution they were familiar with the lessons of history. They knew that republics had risen and fallen because of the tyranny practiced by the majority in those republics. So they said that there are some rights so sacred that they must be placed far above even the largest majority and one of those rights is to allow a fellow man to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience, and that the law would protect the humblest individual in exercising that sacred right. They were familiar with history. They knew that the moment man emerged from savagery that the instinct of property developed in his heart. They knew that all progress and all civilization was based upon that notion, so they said — "no matter what the whim or passion of the majority the property of the individual must be placed above the majority and that the humblest individual would not be deprived of his property except by due process of law." It has often been said, and it is everlastingly true, that America is the best and last hope of mankind. If we should fail, which God forbid,

where may the broken spirit find shelter, where beneath this heaven will you find a land for those who seek that land of liberty, that land of righteousness, that land of law? But we will not fail if we do our duty.

But the time is past when we can stand by and allow the enemies of social order everywhere to occupy the center of the stage. We must come out and show that we stand for the great principles that are within the Constitution of the United States. Yes, some are such enemies that will find their way into the night to try and undermine the principle of government, and will cry out, "We want free speech!" but, yet, on the other hand, they will destroy the very laws and institutions that allow them free speech. If they don't like America, its principles, its form of government, then let them hunt new fields where they will be happy under other governments. We will never tolerate the destruction of the institutions that our forefathers erected in this country. We must unite in our efforts and rid the country of these so-called Reds, because after all they are only yarn. And when you realize that you live under a flag of all the signs and symbols since the world began there is none so full of meaning as the flag of our country.

That piece of red, white and blue silk means 5,000 years of struggle upward. It is the full growing power of ages of fighting for liberty. It is the full growing century plant of humanity in bloom. Our flag stands for humanity. Our flag stands for the right to give to the sons of all men a chance. Our flag stands for a glorious past. Our flag stands for a glorious future. It is not so much the flag of our fathers as it is the flag of our children and of our children's children yet unborn. That flag stands for a tomorrow. It is the signal for good times coming. Our flag stands for a Republic that goes onward and onward. That flag never met retreat. It is the only flag under a republic which stands out with that great signal. So let us follow our flag, the unseen hand of God leading, we follow the flag. This Republic never retreats. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mr. Young, Chairman of the Welfare Committee. (Applause.)

Mr. Wallace J. Young (Chairman, Standing Welfare Committee): Mr. Commander and fellow Legionnaires:

The State Welfare Committee held its first meeting on January 29th and completed its organization. At this meeting the committee outlined as its program the following:

1. The actual functioning of the committee and to relieve the Rehabilitation Committee of its present welfare duties.
2. The co-ordination of present welfare activities throughout the State and the elimination of duplication of effort.
3. The assignment of every center where disabled ex-service men are located to some Post or county, that contact may be established by The American Legion with every disabled man and active interest taken in his welfare.

4. To disseminate data affecting the disabled man through the nine Sub-District Chairmen to the counties and Posts.

5. That each Sub-District Chairman send to the Chairman each month a report of the welfare activities of his district with his recommendations. That the substance of these reports and recommendations be incorporated into a bulletin which shall be sent to all of the Sub-District Chairmen for their information.

6. That meetings of the Sub-District Chairmen only be held every three months.

The organization of the committee, as adopted at the last convention, differed from former committees, in that it consisted of a Chairman appointed from the State at large and a Sub-District Chairmen and two members from each of the nine Judicial Districts. It was the intention of the committee that the sub-committee in each district would be the nucleus of a working committee composed of the County Welfare Chairmen in each district. The welfare problems within the districts would be discussed by this committee and reports of its activities prepared and forwarded to the State Chairman. From these reports a bulletin would be prepared and sent to all the Sub-District Chairmen for the information and guidance of their committees.

It was deemed inadvisable to hold frequent meetings of the whole State Committee as it has been proven in the past impossible to gather such a large group together in any central place. These men are all voluntary workers and have their own interests to care for and as the State Department is unable to defray their traveling expenses it is not fair to ask the individual members to attend frequent meetings and to defray their own expenses as this would prevent many an active worker from serving.

The committee realized that the welfare work was essentially a local proposition best handled by the posts or county committees who are more familiar with the problems and able to handle them without dictation from a State Committee unfamiliar in most instances with the questions involved. However, as very little was known of the work that was being carried on throughout the State the committee felt it should develop what was being done, to co-ordinate this effort, to eliminate duplication where it existed, and to effect an interchange of ideas, and to lay the foundation for a service organization within The Legion, which would be permanent and effective.

The need for such a service organization is very apparent and the duplication of effort, especially in handling of claims, due to the lack of such an organization, is considerable. It has been noted that a man in filing a claim will appeal to his Post, to the county and to State Headquarters, thereby starting three lines of inquiry. This causes confusion in the Bureau, additional correspondence on their part and results in

delay in handling of the claim. In many cases evidence and affidavits are necessary and must be secured from different parts of the State, welfare officers handling the claim have been in doubt as to who in The Legion to write and in some cases welfare committees have found it necessary to pay the expenses of one of its members to visit the community in question to secure such data.

To build up such an organization it is first necessary for each Post in the State to appoint a welfare officer and each county a welfare chairman. The names and addresses of the Post officers should be filed with the County Welfare Chairman and he in turn should send a complete list to the Sub-District Chairman for his district. Each Sub-District Chairman should forward to the State Chairman a complete list of the welfare officers in his district in duplicate, one for the use of the State Committee and one for the State Service Director.

In developing such an organization it is not the intention to have The Legion take over the present work of outside organizations among the ex-service men unless they are prepared to carry it out as well or better or unless these organizations plan to abandon their efforts. Reference is especially made to the work now being done by the American Red Cross and other organizations.

The committee has experienced considerable difficulty due to two factors, namely, the appointment of men who have not been previously consulted and who are unable to serve, making replacements necessary after considerable delay. Also lack of attention to communications by welfare officers, which delays the work and often reacts to the detriment of the men we are trying to help. The first difficulty can be readily removed by District and County Chairmen securing the assurance of the members that they can and will serve before making recommendations for appointment. The second difficulty can only be adjusted by a closer co-operation by all those interested.

Following the first meeting of the committee, a questionnaire was sent to all Sub-District Chairmen outlining the form to be followed in making reports, which was as follows:

- A. A list of centers where disabled men are being taken care of.
- B. The total number of men located at each center.
- C. The type of cases and number of each. (In this connection state whether T. B., N. P. or General.)
- D. The number receiving compensation from the U. S. V. B.
- E. The number not entitled to compensation.
- F. The number of claims pending.
- G. Is The Legion visiting the center at regular intervals?
- H. Has any Post or county been assigned to the center?
- I. Do you find any duplication of effort in that one center is receiving considerable attention and another center very little?

- J. If so, what steps will be taken to correct same?
- K. What suggestions have you to make along the lines of The Legion's participation in the welfare work for the disabled ex-service men in these centers?

Employment:

- A. Has any step been taken in your district to meet the employment situation among ex-service men?
- B. Has any step been taken by The Legion or outside agencies to provide employment for men released from vocational training?
- C. Do you favor having a Legion employment officer in each county to co-operate with outside agencies and to aid in placing ex-service men in positions?
- D. Have you any suggestions to make?

General:

- A. Have any provisions been made to alleviate distress among needy ex-service men and their families?
- B. Have any steps been taken to assist the widows and orphans of ex-service men?
- C. Have you any big welfare project that has been put over that would be of interest to other parts of the State?

It was the intention of this questionnaire to bring to light the welfare work that was being conducted locally and to give the committee working data. The committee has endeavored to summarize as much as possible the reports from the various districts that have reported.

REPORTS BY DISTRICTS

First District:

New York.—In New York county the big welfare project is The American Legion Employment and Welfare Committee of New York County, Inc., under the chairmanship of Harold L. Downey. Its Employment Department reports 808 honorably discharged veterans registered, of which 499 have been placed in permanent positions and 238 in positions of a temporary nature. Its Welfare Department has handled 408 cases and at present has 213 active cases in its files. A total of \$23,580.53 has been distributed in cash to the destitute. The work among the disabled in hospitals is under the jurisdiction of a Hospital Visiting Committee. U. S. V. B. Hospital No. 81 with approximately 700 N. P. cases has been adopted by eight Posts and Manhattan State with approximately 275 N. P. cases by five Posts. Other hospitals taken care of are Seton Hospital, St. Luke's Hospital, Reconstruction, St. Anthony's, Brooklyn State, etc. The patients at all the hospitals have been visited at regular intervals and supplied luxuries and entertainment. In addition to this work at Christmas a party was given to orphans and children of needy veterans and baskets to families in need.

Bronx.—Visits made to U. S. V. B. Hospital No. 81 and Seton Hospital and entertainments staged for the patients. Its Welfare Committee has handled 81 cases and secured cash relief to the amount of \$1,215. Successfully prosecuted 10 claims, 7 claims pending and placed in positions 12 veterans.

Second District:

Kings.—There is operated in Kings county a Waste Collection Bureau by the Welfare Committee, headed by the Hon. George A. Wingate, which combines a storehouse, repair shop and sales room. To this center the public is appealed to send all their castoff clothing and discarded articles. The articles are reconditioned and sold to the poorer class at much less than store prices. Last year the Bureau took in \$10,599.66 with an expense of \$6,902.86, leaving a profit of \$3,000 for their welfare work. An Employment Bureau is also conducted and 475 men were placed in positions. Visitations are made to patients in Brooklyn Naval and Brooklyn State Hospitals and in addition to luxuries, spent over \$700 at the holiday season. In addition 140 destitute families of veterans have been cared for, 91 Thanksgiving dinners and 200 Christmas baskets distributed. Legion also acts as probationary organization, assisting the courts to straighten up first offenders. Twenty-one compensation claims handled and naturalization papers secured for 28 veterans.

Nassau.—Nassau county has adopted the 300 N. P. cases at Kings Park State Hospital and the 90 N. P. cases at Central Islip. During the past year the Posts in addition to making regular visits to the hospital and furnishing luxuries and entertainment have sent the men 273,991 cigarettes and in over two years a total of 705,677 cigarettes. Other items valued at \$25,000 have been sent to the hospital including athletic equipment, motion picture machine and radio equipment. The Legion also maintains an Emergency Fund to cover expenses of the patients not covered by State or Federal appropriations. This is replaced by sale of articles made by the men in occupational therapy. All questions of compensation of patients are handled by the Red Cross unit located at the hospital with the co-operation of The Legion.

Queens.—Only center located in Queens county is St. Anthony's with 25 T. B. cases. Regular visits made by local Posts. Committee has handled 40 cases, 35 being compensation claims and 5 relief claims. Also contact established by posts with 150 disabled veterans at their homes. The Welfare Committee has established contact with practically all Queens county men located in hospitals in the country, having located some 160 and are supplying clothing, etc., to about 75 of these men. Employment situation in process of organization. Also maintains fund for loans or direct contributions in relief cases. Has also donated athletic and recreational equipment to Man-

hattan State and maintains emergency fund at latter hospital.

Suffolk.—Suffolk county Posts have visited patients at Kings Park, Central Islip and Holtsville Sanatorium and furnished cigarettes and other luxuries.

Third District:

Sullivan.—At Liberty and Loomis are centers for tuberculosis cases, 30 at Loomis and 130 at Liberty and 40 taking out patient treatment. Ninety per cent receiving compensation, balance have claims pending. Corporal Russell D. Sprague Post No. 109 at Liberty is taking care of situation, aiding patients in filing claims, receiving emergency hospitalization while claims are pending, visiting bed-ridden patients once each week, settling disputes between owners of contract cottages and patients and furnishing bed-ridden patients with fruit and flowers. Report employment situation in excellent condition.

Fourth District:

The Sub-District Chairman reports that the welfare work in Warren county and part of Washington and Saratoga counties is handled by Glens Falls Chapter of the Red Cross, of which he is also Secretary. This chapter reports that in the last four years it has handled 2,130 cases and that \$919,648 has been brought into the communities through Compensation Insurance awards and that \$119,000 is being paid to ex-service men in Vocational Training. Besides handling claims and finding employment the chapter extends its service to social service work among the families of veterans.

Fifth District:

The Sub-Chairman reports that after repeated attempts only two reports have been received, from Onondaga and Oneida counties, and that the other four counties have not responded. In Onondaga there are two centers, Crouse Irving Hospital and Onondaga Sanitarium, which are being visited by local Posts. In Oneida there are two centers, Utica State Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital, which are also being visited by local Posts.

Seventh District:

This district has been divided into three sections and one member of the Sub-Committee supervises the work in each section. Three centers listed, Rochester, Newark and Auburn, with 54 patients and each center is visited regularly. At Christmas the Welfare Board installed radio sets at Rochester State and individual head sets at Monroe County T. B. Sanitarium. Also keep a supply of clothing on hand for needy ex-service men and families, and all needy cases received provisions for Christmas dinner. Also reports Auburn is doing a splendid piece of work for ex-service men in Auburn State Prison.

Eighth District:

Sub-Chairman reports no district organization, but that there has been plenty of work of commendable nature done by local Posts but finds it hard to secure reports. No detailed reports received.

Ninth District:

Sub-Chairman reports six centers, namely, East View, Grassland, Seton, Matteawan State, Hudson River State and Bowne Hospitals, with a total of 250 patients. All hospitals receiving visits regularly from Legion Posts. In Westchester over 300 ex-service men placed in positions. All posts in Yonkers give Christmas gifts to the 411 orphans in Link Watts Orphan Asylum. Mount Vernon Post No. 3 have done excellent work on compensation cases, having secured in three years compensation amounting to \$115,000 for ex-service men and women.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The committee has experienced considerable difficulty in conducting its works and has not accomplished all it set out to because of two factors, namely, lack of co-operation by Post and county officers and lack of funds with which to operate. The committee offers the following recommendations to the Convention:

1. That the present organization of the State Committee be **maintained**.

2. That each Post and county in the State appoint, if they have not already done so, an active Welfare Officer and that his name and address be filed with the Sub-District Chairman of the district.

3. That District Chairmen and County Chairmen be urged to confer with members as to their willingness to serve before making recommendations or appointments, thereby eliminating replacements later.

4. That Post and County Welfare Officers be urged to cooperate to a great extent and that they be urged to pay more attention to correspondence and reports.

5. That a system of reports every three months be established. The Post Officer reporting to the County Officer and the County Officer to the Sub-District Chairman. That a summary of these reports be compiled by the State Committee and printed in bulletin form and mailed to each service officer in the State for his information and guidance.

6. That the cost of such service be met by each county contributing the sum of five dollars per year to the State Committee. That this fund also be used for the dissemination of legislation affecting the disabled and needy ex-service men.

7. That The Legion, either through the Post, county or State, not attempt to take over from outside agencies the work that they are now conducting among ex-service men unless

they are financially able to do so or unless the outside agencies contemplate abandoning their efforts.

8. That all Post and county welfare officers be urged to send to the State Service Director at State Headquarters copies of all letters to the Veterans' Bureau on compensation claims so that duplication of effort may be avoided and assistance given by State Service Director wherever possible.

9. That all Posts be urged to continue their welfare efforts and to increase rather than decrease their efforts, to the end that every disabled and needy ex-service man in the State will continue to receive a helping hand from The Legion no matter where he may be.

10. The Committee condemns the action of the Veterans' Bureau in continuing Occupational Therapy centers for mental cases in the same classification as Vocational Training centers and selling the articles made by the men for the account of the United States Treasury and urges that Regulation No. 68 be so modified that the patient may retain the articles he makes or allow them to be sold for him.

11. The Committee heartily endorses the project of having the State Hospital Commission take over from the Veterans' Bureau the operation of Occupational Therapy centers in State Hospitals and urges such action as will bring this change about.

12. The Committee heartily endorses the State Commander in his criticism of Colonel George E. Ijams, Assistant Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau and urges his removal in the best interests of the disabled ex-service man.

In conclusion, the Committee desires to thank the Department Commander for his assistance in the work of the Committee and to also thank all those who have co-operated with the Committee and who have personally aided the Chairman.

The Committee urges that every Legionnaire in the State will realize the necessity for the continuation of our efforts in behalf of our less fortunate comrades. That now that questions of adjusted compensation have been satisfactorily adjusted, that more time be devoted to these problems. The care of these men is our obligation and heritage and we must not neglect it. Let no needy or disabled ex-service man in this State feel that The Legion has forgotten him and that we are always ready to lend a helping hand, not charity, but the helping hand of friendship. Great credit should be given to the Auxiliary for the wonderful work which they have done which in many instances has far surpassed the efforts of The Legion.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mr. Robinson (Queens): Mr. Commander, I move you that the report be adopted and the thanks of the Convention be given to the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The 6th of this month, Saturday, is the anniversary of the Battle of the Marne, the second Battle of the Marne. Six years ago today preparations were being made for that offensive and in that offensive was the First Division. We all have vivid recollection of the work of that Division. Our own Buddy, Dan Edwards, was one of them, and when he asked the Secretary of War to join us in our convention we had expected that he would present his good wishes. But it was impossible for him to be here and he has sent to us a Legionnaire of outstanding prominence, a man who during the war was in high command with the First Division, a man who as a Legionnaire was Aide to General Foch, when he was with us, and perhaps some of you had the pleasure of listening to the translation of General Foch's messages to The Legion and to the country. We are fortunate in having the pleasure this afternoon of listening to Brigadier General Parker of the United States Army. (Applause.)

Brigadier General Frank Parker (United States Army): Commander, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen and Fellow Veterans: I have come from the Secretary of War uninstructed and I have thought perhaps it would be interesting if I were to tell to the Convention just where the Army of the country is today, where it has come from in recent years and what its aspirations are, or, in other words, where it is going today.

I am going to ask you to permit me to go back a little way into history, because I think that all of us professional men know that the best base of departure for any effort in our profession is a careful consideration of history prior to making any step. I am going to ask you, then, not to go back to any musty annals of history, but to take the last war we fought, look at its major phases and ask ourselves what the lessons were it taught us, looking to another war.

I myself am a great believer in the old proverb — the people that wrote those proverbs had lived for a long time and have borne out what I believe to be perhaps the best proverb of all — and that is, "Blessed is the man who knows how to profit by the experience of others." So we are going to take a look now at the World War. I am going to ask you to go past with me rapidly over that war and then I am going to try to tell you today where the forces of our country are, and by the forces I mean the land forces, the Army.

I am going to go back with you to a night, one of those pleasant nights in mid-France in July, 1914. I was at that time serving with the French Army. I was at the Superior school of war of that country and the academic preparatory training, consisting of a certain length of time spent with the Army. I was just finishing my three months' service with the 5th French Division, and the 5th or 6th French Regiment of the line. It was a night, as I said, about the middle of July and we were out on exercise. I had been assigned that night to the machine guns, and the captain

of the platoon — I was with a platoon commander and was with him on an outpost and had very little to do and we sat in the moonlight talking after we had taken up our position — and I said to this man, to this officer, "How do you French people feel about your next war with Germany?" "Well," he said, "I am going to answer that question honestly." He said, "I don't know exactly what will happen in our next war." He said, "I don't feel sure myself; I feel, however, that France is going to make an effort this time." He said, "The last effort in 1870 was not an effort; we never got started." And then he went on about what had happened in France since 1870. He said, "You know, in 1870 our troops were just as brave as they were in 1914; you found superb fighting individual units; but," he said, "we were defeated before we ever started to fight." He said, "Since that time we have taken on national service, and in those days we had a small Regular Army, but from 1870 on we took on national service; the youth was called to the colors and they were taught many things that had to do with co-ordination, not only military matters, but many other things." He said, "We made something after 1870 that we didn't have in 1870; we made general officers and we made a general staff; in other words, we did what Germany had done before she ever started the war on us; but," he said, "we went further than Germany did; we have made of our Army a great civic school; we have taught the men of France what their obligation is to their country, not only from the military standpoint, but from many others; we have taught them who their friends are in the world and why; who they may look to as their future allies and why." So he said, "Today if Germany should attack us again, Germany will at any rate meet a co-ordinated nation in arms and not again a small army hastily reinforced by militia troops."

I have served with the French Army on several occasions. I graduated from their Cavalry School in 1904, had served with their infantry and had served for a while in 1912. And I said to this Frenchman, "Let me give you the opinion of an outsider who has had some experience with military matters and has some basis on which to form a judgment." I said, "I believe that you people are going to recover your lost laurels in your next war; I don't know how or when, but," I said, "I believe that France today has gotten back to her old military spirit and organization, and that in the next war France is going to regain her lost prestige, and," I said, "I say that after having seen your army in a good many different phases."

Now, gentlemen, that was in the middle of July, 1914, and you remember that the war was declared and broke on August 3, 1914. There we were discussing war as an academic thing two weeks before the actual break of war. France at that time was no more thinking of war than you are here today. They were thinking of the war academically, working for it academically, but no one dreaming it was coming, and so it came. I left that regiment at

the end of July and as I passed through Paris I was stopped at the Embassy and they said there is no use to go any further, "the war is about here," and sure enough on August 3d war was declared.

I think it will be interesting to tell you of a conversation that occurred in the German Embassy on the afternoon of August 3rd. I was then Acting Attache in the American Embassy in Paris and the Attache said to me: "I wish you would go down this afternoon to the German Embassy. They are going to declare war against France and they want to leave certain documents and certain moneys with our Embassy." So about four o'clock on the afternoon of August 3rd a machine drove up in front of our Embassy, we went out and found a young man sitting in the machine, monocle in his eye. I went up to the machine not knowing who was in there, introducing myself. I said: "I am Captain Parker of the American Army." He put out his hand but didn't reply. So I said: "I beg your pardon, but I didn't get your name." So just then the Secretary of the American Embassy, coming behind, said: "This is Prince Wallenstein of the German Embassy."

So we got into his automobile and we drove down to the Embassy. There we found Baron Von Shurm, the Ambassador of Germany who greeted us thus: He said: "Germany is about to declare war on France in self-protection." He said: "In recent days France has been attacking our frontiers, her airplanes have been flying over our inoffensive villages dropping bombs thereupon and in self-defense Germany is now attacking France." I can see that German Ambassador standing before me today. I can see the expression on his face as he said that. Several of us at the American Embassy — I in particular — knew that the French had ordered the troops to withdraw 10 kilometers from their own frontier limits and to refrain from any possible way of provoking attack from the Germans. Whether Baron Von Shurm knew we were in possession of this fact or not I don't know, but he certainly didn't have a very confident air when he made the statement. I myself had just left a French regiment in which war hadn't even been thought about. Later on I saw an allusion in Mr. Von Shurm's Memoirs to this very affair and he went on to describe how Germany had ordered him as its representative in Paris to go to the French and demand from the French the possession by the Germans of the great fortresses of Verdun and Bellefor, as hostages in case Germany and Russia should fight. As Baron Von Shurm went on to say: "This humiliation was saved me by my being ordered to present the Declaration of War by Germany on France." I think at that time he was having a very uncomfortable time. As he made the statement to us and we made some trite response to what he had to say and as we withdrew, I could just feel that there was a feeling in that Embassy that day of tremendous apprehension. I heard afterward that Baron Von Shurm had said: "My country is on the verge of suicide." Whether he said that or not I don't know, but I

went away that day from the German Embassy feeling that the German representatives there were none too sure of the step Germany was taking. That is my own impression that I have. At any rate the war was on.

Now we have an idea that a Frenchman is a very nervous sort of a man, even nervous when there is nothing particularly to be nervous about.

Gentlemen, that is not the case. I was there when the war broke. France marched off to that war as a man who takes a long and bitter cup that he has to drink the contents of. They drank it with a steady hand and those territorial troops came out and went off and took their posts and it was all done quietly. Paris was quieter on that day than it ever was on any normal peace time day. You can always tell when a unit goes about its business whether it knows its business or not by the way it starts out. The quieter a man is about his business the better he knows it. And so it is when we went out to watch the first Battle of the Marne. At that time I was an observer with the French Army. And as we rode out, that was the date of the first Battle of the Marne to which the Commander has just alluded, the sixth of September. You could ride at full speed. I was riding in a Packard car. We rode at seventy miles an hour, right up and down the rear of the front line. All the trams were on the proper side of the road, one side of the road open for traffic and that machine of ours could do sixty or seventy miles an hour. Now, as I say, I judge the efficiency of troops by the efficiency of their order in the rear. And so when we came back from those four days—that was the time of that desperate fighting in the center there when Marshal Foch was first making his record as a soldier—and, by the way, gentlemen, whatever he may have done later to my mind his most brilliant work was done on those early days of September just ten years ago today when he commanded the Ninth French Army of about seventy thousand men which stopped the two combined Armies of Van Hausen and Von Bulow which numbered somewhere in the neighborhood of three hundred thousand men. And later on in October when he was sent to command the group of Armies in the north and stop the final movement of the Germans around the left flank and hooked the Allied left up there to clear the channel ports, there again was fighting which was far more brilliant than when he commanded all the Armies in the final cleanup.

He was fighting with inferior forces and altogether his problem was more difficult. I mention that because we are rather inclined to base Marshal Foch's record as a soldier from the time that he took command of all the Allied soldiers and swept the Central Powers from France.

I want to point out certain things. In 1914, the main things I have touched on already. In 1915, there was very little. Both sides were heavily intrenched, both sides had their reserves and attacks were stopped. In 1916 again the shambles of Verdun.

There the Germans concentrated all of their attacks on Verdun and from February to June eight hundred and nine hundred thousand men perished on those fields of Verdun. Now, many of you have been on those fields. You can look from the forts of Douaumont, and see around you to a practically unlimited extent the tombs of between eight and nine hundred thousand men. Later on, in the Somme when the British Army and French commenced that attack, and that was the first time they had made a serious attack since the beginning of the war, there again heavy and bloody fighting with no particular results. And so 1916 passed.

Then again in 1917 the beginning of the end. In 1917 in the fall—first, in the spring, you remember the disaster of the Chemin des Dames there, when the French Minister of War went up to the Army and told them how to conduct the campaign, and they all became mixed up there—disaster. That was when the French Armies were down to their lowest ebb, and the French divisions were saying they wouldn't fight under such conditions as that. It was a terrific time, the most dangerous and most critical time of the whole war. That was the time when they had to look around for a man who was not a soldier so much as a man who knew how the soldier felt on the inside, and they went and got a man by the name of Petain. He is today Commander-in-Chief of the French Armies and is the man to my mind who pulled France through in 1917 for he went around to the individual divisions, he and his officers, and they wound up the individual man again to hold until the American troops got in and it was a terrible time. I won't go into what happened in detail.

Now, in the fall of 1917 occurred the disaster when the Italian Army was completely destroyed, probably a quarter of a million men wounded and killed and another quarter million captured. And then came the fall of Roumania and Russia's downfall. Over two hundred divisions disappeared from the Allied forces that year, more than the entire strength of the German Army. Remember those figures. More than the entire strength of the German Armies had disappeared from the ranks of the Allies and America had not gotten in yet.

And so 1918 came. Now, I want to stop for a minute on 1918. I think it very interesting because it has to do with the development of our own forces. This man Foch to whom I have been alluding, a past master of warfare, a man who had devoted his entire life to it, and a man who from the beginning of his career was a marked soldier, had insisted upon having some kind of a unified command, some one man to say what the rest of the Allies were to do. Nothing happened until on March 21st of 1918 when the Germans, having gotten rid of the Russians, were pouring their troops from Russia back to the Western front. Foch had told the Allies not only that this thing was going to happen, this attack. It came very near ending the war in favor of the Central Powers. But he gave them the date and where it was going to fall. It

finally fell between the Fifth British Army and the First French Army. Well, it fell there and then for the first time after four years of bloody conflict with no one man to run the thing, then it was that the British Army and the French Army, both of which had not a desire apparently to have a unified command, found the Germans pushing in between them. The French Army had actually on the twenty-fourth of March given the order to fall back, the order had been prepared, and was on the way to be executed, to fall back upon Paris. On the twenty-fifth the British had given the order for the British troops to fall back on the Calais ports and Ludendorff's maneuver was a complete success. At two o'clock on the afternoon of the twenty-sixth Marshal Haig, who had not wanted the unity of command, sent for Lord Milner to come over in a hurry and find somebody to command. That was the time when he gave his famous back to the wall order. And they hurriedly got together and gave this order for unified command only for coordination, at that time, to Marshal Foch.

I traveled with Marshal Foch for two months and these things I talked over with him at length and it was extremely interesting, as you may imagine.

At two o'clock on the afternoon of the twenty-sixth, when they had come to the decision to have this unity of command, Clemenceau turned to Marshal Foch and said, "General, at last you have your desire." Marshal Foch said, "Well, Mr. Minister, you give me beaten armies now and now you think you are making a present to me, and you ask me to win victories with them." He said, "It certainly needs all of my good intentions to accept such an offer, but I do accept it."

That was at two o'clock on the afternoon of the twenty-sixth of March, when apparent defeat stared the whole Allied cause in the face, as we had only four divisions in France at that time. From that moment commenced victory for the Allies.

Marshal Haig then said to General Foch, "General, not only am I now under your orders, but wherever you see a subordinate of mine you give him orders and he will take them from you just as though he were getting them from me." Foch went direct to the Commander of the Fifth British Army, gave him certain orders, informed him that all reserves were to be poured into that breach, and from that time on the situation was saved.

The Americans, under General Pershing, at once came and offered their services unconditionally and from that moment on it was a series of successful assaults on the German lines.

Now, there is something interesting here from the standpoint of the soldier. It is that the Germans had held for over two years that western front with just about one-half the forces that the Allies had had, just about one-half. The exact figure was something like seventy thousand on the Allied side to forty thousand on the German side. When the Germans commenced their successful attack they commenced with inferior forces. When the Allies commenced their counter-attack, which was successful, they

commenced with inferior forces. What is the lesson? The lesson is, unity of command, a single man's idea, and a single man directing. The Germans cannot claim to have had a very brilliant director, but they did have one man.

I mention these matters because they have had a great deal to do with our study since that in preparation for war. And so the war ended with the series of assaults on the line, not attempting to assault any particular place, but assaulting here and there and preventing the movement of reserves to any particular point and so forth.

I simply touched on that unity of command because it is such an important principle. And so the war came to an end, as Mr. Liebert said this morning, prematurely, and we came back home again.

When we got home, we people of the Regular Army, with General Pershing at our head, we began to figure on what the lessons of all this had been to us, and these I want to bring before you now, the three or four main ideas which have directed the reorganization and the complete reformation, you might say, of the policy of our Army in the country today.

In the first place, the first great lesson of that war was the question of the suddenness with which wars break. Take all the wars with which any of you are familiar and you will find that they break from one day to the other. Take any great pest — and a war is only a pest — it gives you no warning, it comes as a gust out of the summer sky. You will find a boat blown up in Havana Harbor, and war was declared. You will find a telegram exchanged between Bismarck and a French minister, and war came. And you will find somebody killing an archduke in the Balkans, and war is on. And war comes like a thief in the night.

The second lesson has been the scale upon which modern warfare is waged. We recognize the fact that in every other line of endeavor today men's intelligences are getting more and more keen. They work on bigger scales. They handle bigger problems. They do bigger things all the time. And so it is in the war. And you can take all the series of wars up to the present and you will find they get bigger all the time. And the Army today has taken that as a second lesson to be prepared for a war that will divide the world into two camps, that is the kind of a war the United States is preparing for. Not that we expect to have many men under the colors. We don't. But we do expect to be able to coordinate our national resources in man power and material resources. We are trying to work in figures so that whatever happens the figures won't astonish us. We will have something prepared and ready for use, and have the moulds made, into which we will pour the country's man power and the country's resources.

The third lesson is the disastrous effect of trying to improvise anything connected with war. I think we have a bill of something like twenty-four billions to pay for that last war. That is charged up to the Army. Yes, it is charged up to the Army. It is charged

up to the Army because the country was not prepared for war and we had to buy everything and do everything over night and we spent twenty-four billion dollars, not on war, but on the preparation for a war we weren't prepared for in any way.

I had the honor to command a regiment in the first assault made on the German lines at Cantigny. It was made exactly one year and two months after we declared war; one year and two months after we declared war America made her first attack upon the enemy with a regular division. What did we have in that regular division? We had the men and rifles, and that is all we had that came from America. Our artillery came from the French. Our airplanes came from the French. Our tanks came from the French. Our automatic rifles came from the French. Our flame throwers came from the French. Our hand grenades came from the British, and so on. That was a year and two months after we declared war and the attack was made by a regular division.

Now, gentlemen, that must make us all think that that was not fast enough. That is not fast enough for America to do something—a year and two months after something ought to be done. I think we will all admit that, even the most conservative of us. So we claim that the last lesson which I am going to give you today—I don't want to give you too many—is that anything that is improvised in time of war today when war breaks, if it will break again, if history repeats itself, if you believe in the proverb, it may not be today or tomorrow, but what is fifty years? It seems to me that we are a nation of people that think in terms of today all the time, and we think that things that happen fifty years from now are not interesting, and yet how little a time that is in the life of the nation. So the Army today is looking forward. We are not stopping with the end of our nose today or with today's problem, but are looking forward fifty or one hundred years, and we have got the data out for it and are prepared for it and it can't come too big.

Now, then, you think perhaps I am talking of the Regular Army. I am not. I am talking today of the Army which ramifies throughout the nation, and for the Army the great lesson of that war was that we could no longer have that medieval institution of a Regular Army. Our Regular Army today is nothing but the professional teacher of the civilian soldier. That is what it is today. He has become, as he should have been always, a part of the nation itself, and we ramify today, down into the last high school of the country, and we people of the Regular Army are nothing but the professional men responsible for the fact that when America has to make her next effort that an intelligent effort is made and that a proper framework is given to it and that we are not surprised as we were in 1917. In other words, your Army today is a country itself, ramified right straight down through the country itself, and our national guard, our organized reserves, and our citizens' military training camps here today are spreading throughout the country, a mould into which we can pour the country's resources tomorrow

in man power and in its material resources and start off on a scale which will correspond to whatever the necessity may be.

So it is, gentlemen, that when you see your Regular Army today you can think of it only as a part of the Army of the United States. It is a very small part of it, a very small part of the army of the nation, of the Army of the United States. It is smaller than the National Guard today. But tomorrow, when the time comes, or fifty years or a hundred years from now, we have something outlined today which gives the country a chance to step into a machine corresponding to the situation.

I, myself, have followed all of this agitation about the League of Nations and the different Courts which have been proposed, and so forth, but it is very far from me this afternoon to say anything about those things. That is not my province. But I was in France and saw a nation over there that had to use the last ounce of her national coordinated strength, and she just barely won through. On March 21st France was as near a defeat as a country could be and still survive. I saw that nation use every ounce of her coordinated effort at the time when she had to do it. I hope that we shall never have to go through what France went through, for in every home today in France you will find that the dead are there. In every hamlet you will find a little stone out there in the middle of the hamlet, with probably three or four sides of the stone filled, and on that stone is written the name of each of the children of France that have fallen for France.

And yet, gentlemen, when people criticize France for not being prepared, before you make the criticism make a journey through France, live among them as I have. I spent two years on those battlefields after the war was over to study those questions, and in the maneuvers with the French General Staff, we were billeted for three nights at a time in these maneuvers, with different people, sometimes with a peasant for one night and the next night at a chateau, and so on, and I would like to have had you all with me to hear those people talk. I think we would all feel the same about that, as Mr. Liebert said. France is entitled to protection and must have it. One million three hundred and eighty-six thousand of her young men fell on those fields. Those are big figures, gentlemen. As many again were mutilated, eyes gone, arms and legs cut off. Big figures. Things you can't understand. When you begin to travel around those battlefields you begin to understand something when you see those acres and acres of white crosses.

I say we don't want something of that in this country. Not long ago General Harbord, who will speak to you before long, one of the ablest men in this country — he is a Major-General and on the retired list today and can say what he thinks, largely (laughter and applause) — but he called attention to the fact that it was not an impossible combination extending from the banks of the Rhine to include the waters of the eastern shores of Asia. Gentlemen, remember that. That is a big piece of territory, too. Just

remember that. Now, General Harbord is an extremely conservative man, a thinking man, a man who has seen big things, a man who has lived big things, and when he gives you a thought of that kind accept it and think about it with him, because other men like him are thinking exactly the same thing. Look out for the world combination. There are many nations in the world today that are not satisfied. I could name several of them, but I am not calling any names here this afternoon. But there are many nations that are not satisfied today. Look out for the world combinations. That is what we have to be afraid of. We are not afraid of any individual combination, but look out for the world combination, because that is going to be the war that is going to distress this country when it comes. It is not going to be any single nation, but a combination of nations that will bide their time and prepare for war and you will know nothing about it until the war is sprung. At any rate that is food for thought.

I don't think we want this country to be surprised by any combination of that kind. And so it is that our Regular Army, recognizing the fact that this country does not want a big Regular Army—when I came back from Europe I appeared before the Military Committee and they asked my opinion about a four hundred and fifty thousand standing army, and I said, "Gentlemen, my opinion is exactly the reverse of that. We want to get away from this idea of a Regular Army. We want to get something that is small, instructors for our Regular Army, and then bring the nation into it and make a homogeneous mass, because that is the way we have to fight. We have to fight as a nation and not as soldiers on one side and civilians on the other side. We have to fight as a single people. Let's organize as that. Let's have a small Army as instructors and let's have the nation doing in time of peace what it has to do in time of war. Let's have the nation as the Army. And that is what we are doing today, gentlemen.

Now, within a few days we are going to have this Defense Day, and you have all heard the talk for and against it, mostly for it, of course. It seems strange that the analogy between the human being and the nation is so complete, for wherever you see a man of a nation there you see the nation. I have sat in councils on more than one occasion when a great many nations were represented and I was always interested to study the individuals and find in the individuals the exact reproduction of their nations. No sensible man denies today that the individual should have a proper coordination of his mental, his moral and his physical attributes. A man who cannot coordinate mentally, morally, physically, has not been properly educated and trained. And yet when we apply that simple principle to our national defense and to our nation we have men that get up and cry that we are disturbers of the peace. Exactly the same principle. When we ask the people voluntarily and properly to volunteer and come out and say, "We will do so and so," we find that that is illogical. I believe in letting the pacifist talk. I believe that the more he

talks the more the country hears what the argument is and the more the country is convinced as to the soundness of the argument for defense. So I don't believe the pacifist should be treated roughly unless he interferes with what the Government is doing overtly. But I, myself, believe — I'll tell you a story that will point exactly to what I mean. I made one or two mistakes one day in a maneuver and I apologized to the General commanding for the mistakes, and he said, "Well, Captain" — or whatever I was at the time — "I am glad you made those mistakes today, because it has given me a chance to say something, to show what I know. If you hadn't made any mistakes I would have had to go out from this field without saying anything." (Laughter.) So I think that is a very good way to look at pacifism. Let them bring forward their argument and let the country see the argument for pacifism on one side and the argument for defense on the other side.

Now, I am profoundly optimistic about the American nation. The American when he makes his decision and when he has heard both sides of the question, decides right. Now, that is my own firm conviction, and I have had them decide a good many questions with me and very often. They decided right and the more you put the argument of both sides before them the more convinced they are when they come to an opinion.

So, give the country this pacifist talk if they want it. Let them hear both sides. We already see the minority they are in now. I, myself, am not at all afraid of it. I feel convinced that we are right and the country is going to take it as a thing that is right and a thing that is logical. There is nothing about the American that has anything whatsoever to do with the German in 1914. When I was asked, in 1914, whether this thing of having this national army idea was not bringing us into the lines of the German thought, I said, "No, because the German and the American started differently, and you could no more compare a German and an American than you could black and white. You have to have some point of similarity before you can start a comparison and there is none between the German Empire and the United States." So after the war the citizens of the United States were only too glad to take off their uniforms and go back to work. As the time comes to be soldiers, however, then that is the man's end of it and that is where they want to be and are interested in everything that has to do with the welfare of their country.

That is unquestionably the state of mind of America today and always has been the state of mind of America, and there is not a man in this audience, or any other audience, that has any idea that the military want ever to boss anybody in time of peace. As a matter of fact, the soldier, the minute he puts his uniform on, is completely subservient to the civil power. I want you to take this idea away with you tonight, gentlemen. We have the best organized Government for war in the world. I was director of the Command course, the course of strategy at the War College, last year, and one of the duties was to prepare a comparative study

of the war governments of France, England, Germany and America. When you put them on the slide on the wall the comparison is so greatly in favor of America that there is no comparison. Our President in time of war runs this country as a one-man business. Congress gives him full powers to go ahead and do it. He has his war boards to get the industries started. He has the Army and Navy to do the fighting and runs that thing as a one-man business with full support by Congress. No other country can show you any such organization as that. Behind that we are getting all of this skeleton organization which gives this fine organization, given to our country by the Constitution, a chance to execute something, and that is all.

I want to close my remarks. I think I have talked long enough on the subject of the Army now this afternoon. But I want to say that personally I believe that this country is getting to be more and more the balance wheel of the world. I think that the decision today, made by America with reference to any world matter, is going to be pretty nearly decisive. I think that we should have something back of that decision. I think we should have the force that makes any decision good. You will find that any decision in this country today that is not backed up by force, which can be just as well a force for righteousness as unrighteousness, it really has no importance; and so I see America today carrying out the policy of our first and great President, George Washington, remaining at home, remaining strong, remaining the balance wheel of the world, with force behind its decisions to make them good.

Now, that is what our Regular Army today is assisting our National Army, our National Guard and our Organized Reserves in preparing. It is not costing the country much. It is costing very little and it is giving the country in general an idea of what the country has to do in case the country wants to do something.

I want to say a word for our Regular Service, and I want the members of The Legion who are interested in the question of military organization to mark what I have to say about this.

The Regular Army today, in order to be the high standard set for the civilian soldier, so that he may have something that is properly constituted, we need to get back to our old regimental posts. Today we are scattered. Whenever there are buildings they are putting our forces. We need today to get our forces together in camps where the regulars, the National Guardsmen and the Organized Reserve men can do their summer work together and can get to know each other. Nothing brings men together so quickly as a little sweating under the hot sun and a little piece of work to be done where each man has done his work right. That is what we need more than anything else, the regular post, where we can bring back our old standards, and then the divisional camps where the civilian soldiers can come in summer and work with us and get to know us.

Now, gentlemen, I have terminated. I have endeavored to place

before you just what the role of the Regular Army is today. That of a cordon of instructors for the civilian soldiers, the man who in time of war must come again and fight the battles of his country.

Mr. Commander, I thank you very much for the privilege of this opportunity. (Applause.)

The Chairman: General, we thank you for your talk, as you have given us an opportunity to suggest that you take back to the Secretary of War the desire of The American Legion that the War Department, without great delay, shall produce the bill which will make it possible and compulsory for all branches of this Government to go to war together. We do not believe that in case of war that only the military army should be mobilized. We believe that capital and labor should be mobilized as well, and for three years the National body has urged such a bill to be brought forth by the War Department and they are still telling us that that bill is in preparation. (Applause.)

Buddies, with your permission, I am going to vary the program to a slight extent and not intersperse the speakers with the reports of the Committees.

During this year it has been a great pleasure to me to be associated with the President of our Auxiliary. Our President has been most active and at no time has The Legion called upon her for any service but what she has rendered it willingly and way beyond any requests of ours, and to those who have never had the pleasure of meeting the President I know that they are glad that I am now able to present to them Mrs. Charles Seymour, the President of the Auxiliary of our Legion. (Applause.)

Mrs. Charles Seymour (President, Department of New York, The American Legion Auxiliary): Mr. Commander, Madam Vice-President, Distinguished Guests and Members of The American Legion: When I told the Commander that I was coming over here he said, "Don't bring any pieces of paper with you with any writing on and don't bring that little black book of yours." But I had at least one friend on your Program Committee, for I notice today that the program says, "Readings — Mrs. Charles R. Seymour." I obey orders. (Laughter.)

It is my proud privilege, as President of The American Legion Auxiliary to bring to you greetings. We hope you think we are the most wonderful organization in the world.

The Convention: We do. (Applause.)

Mrs. Seymour: We are not only the largest and most wonderful organization but, in the words of our National President, Mrs. Bishop, we are the most unique, in that we are the only organization of women in the world who take the will of man as our law without question. (Laughter.) We are in name, nature and eligibility under the complete control of The American Legion, and we are proud of it. Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, our Past National

President, gives voice to our sentiment when she says there is only one thing we love and honor better than the Auxiliary, and that is The American Legion and the ex-service man.

Just about one year ago we met together on a similar occasion and I'd like to think of this as a birthday party. There is a little verse written which applies to the one born during the month of May. This is September, but I think it will work here:

Who first beholds the light of day
In Spring's sweet flowery month of May,
And wears an emerald all her life,
Shall be a proud and happy wife.

We, The American Legion Auxiliary, wear as our emerald our little star, be it either Gold or Blue, and we want to be your proud and happy partner.

On one's birthday it is customary to wish health, wealth and happiness. We don't wish you health, because you have just passed through one of the greatest years of your existence. There is no higher place than where you are in the lead in your National body. We don't wish you wealth, because you are already blessed with wealth in that you have the Fathers' Council, the father's tender care of the boy, and in the Auxiliary, the combined service of the head, heart and hand. The work that the women are doing is something that the angels of Heaven might envy. And in your Legion, your buddy spirit. We don't wish you happiness, for a true soldier is always happy.

We thank you for your whole-hearted cooperation which you have given us during the year and we wish every Legion man to know that at all times we have found in Commander Spafford a staunch friend, a true brother and a gentleman. His advice and counsel at all times has been invaluable to the Department Secretary and to the President and with all our hearts we thank him.

And again I say, Greetings to you from your wives, mothers, daughters and sisters. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Last year the President of our Auxiliary made a very enviable record and you will remember the things that she did for our Mountain Camp. But perhaps some of you didn't have the pleasure of making that trip to San Francisco where our songs sung her praise. Perhaps some of you were not present last year at our Convention and therefore do not know this remarkable woman who was elevated at San Francisco to the position of National Vice-President of The American Legion Auxiliary. And therefore it gives me great pleasure to present to you Mrs. Keens. (Applause.)

Mrs. William G. Keens (National Vice-President, The American Legion Auxiliary): Commander Spafford, Mrs. Seymour, Distinguished Guests, Members of The American Legion: Last week I was up in New Hampshire and the President of the Department of New Hampshire was the Vice-President last year of this dis-

trict and we had a little talk together and the question arose **who** was deader than a Vice-President and we decided it was two Vice Presidents, and I expect to be in her class next week. (Laughter.)

It is very pleasant to come before you and bring you the greetings from the national body of The American Legion Auxiliary. We are especially proud this year of your New York State Auxiliary which has gone ahead twelve hundred over its last year's mark, and I am very glad as a national officer to come to you with that report, and I bring you the greetings from the National body always assuring you of our cooperation and our best interest for anything that is for the benefit of The American Legion of the ex-service man. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Buddies, you have some very interesting reports. You have your hospitalization report and others yet to hear and I am going to call right now for the hospitalization report and it will be rendered by the Chairman, Dr. Lawrence (Applause.)

Dr. George J. Lawrence (Chairman, State Hospitalization and Rehabilitation Committee): Mr. Commander and Comrades. Before reading this very short report I want to assure you that your Committee on Hospitalization and Rehabilitation has in no way done the amount of work in the State this year that it should have done, but that does not mean that the work was not fully carried out. Your State Commander himself has been as good as three or four such committees as this and with the able assistance of the State Service Officer, Mr. Sudhoff, there has been no question relative to rehabilitation, war risk, Veterans' Bureau, or any other subject that is of interest to our disabled buddy that has not been taken care of. Our State Commander and our State Service Officer have been in very close touch with the Veterans' Bureau not only in Washington but in our own Second District and they have really done the work. This is merely a resume of your Committee.

Your State Rehabilitation Committee held its first meeting on Saturday, February 16th, of this year, and took up the recommendations, resolutions and policies of the Fifth Annual Convention having to do with the work of this Committee.

I will give you these various resolutions and the action taken by your Committee.

1. Conduct of Veterans' Bureau: Recommending that the Director of the Veterans' Bureau call a conference in Washington composed of leading educators, employers, representatives of labor, The American Legion and relief organizations to formulate a definite plan for improving the system of vocational training and rehabilitation and that the conference submit to the Director their recommendations in this respect to such matters as may require additional legislation.

This conference was held in Washington during the winter,

but without definite results outside of possibly starting some of the Senate investigations of the Bureau.

2. Transfer of hospital patients: That no patient of a well recognized sanitarium or hospital shall be transferred to any other institution without his consent.

The Chairman of your State Committee made a personal visit to Saranac Lake and Liberty Center to investigate this matter, and it was determined that this represented the wishes of the service men, and was settled as the policy of The Legion. The Director of the Veterans' Bureau promised to follow this policy also. For any further action along these lines, it is recommended that individual cases where this policy is being violated be brought to the attention of State Headquarters.

3. Admission to Tupper Lake and Chelsea Hospitals: That the hospitals be filled gradually, by new cases, men who express their willingness to be transferred there, or by the New York State men now hospitalized in other States who desire to return to this State, always provided the man's condition is such that he can be moved without danger or impairment to his physical condition.

Your Committee is heartily in accord with this policy, and to the best of our knowledge it is being followed by the Bureau.

4. Increase of beds at Hospital No. 81: That the Veterans' Bureau raise the capacity of Hospital No. 81 (in the Bronx) to 1,000 beds and make the necessary increase in personnel, equipment and accommodations for this purpose without delay.

This recommendation was heartily approved, and it was also urged that the pay for attendants be raised, in order that a better class of individuals can be secured for this work.

5. Fire protection of hospitals: That complete fire protection installations shall be made at all Veterans' Bureau hospitals, present and future, and that fire protection be given at all times careful consideration.

It is recommended that an investigation be made at Hospital No. 81 in the Bronx, to see if reported improvements at that institution have been made.

6. Establishment of Reconstruction Centers: That the Veterans' Bureau without delay install, equip and operate a reconstruction center or centers as recommended by the Hospital Committee for N. P. cases.

The New York State Hospital Commission has indicated a willingness to undertake this work and install the necessary centers if an appropriation can be had for this purpose. It is recommended, and this action has the approval of the State Hospital Commission, that the State Department of The Legion lend its efforts toward securing this necessary appropriation from the next session of the Legislature.

7. Salaries of doctors and dentists: That the salaries of doctors and dentists employed by the Veterans' Bureau be

increased to insure them salaries commensurate with the duties they are called upon to perform and that the District Manager have the power of appointment of such physicians and dentists as are necessary to carry out the work of this district.

This matter was handled by the Second District Rehabilitation Committee of The Legion, and recommendations were made. Also at the same time better trained attendants were asked for at the hospitals, particularly with regard to Hospital No. 81.

8. Decentralization: That hospitalization be completely decentralized in the Bureau, so that the District Manager will be in charge of and responsible for all matters affecting hospitalization in their districts and that the National Convention be requested to demand that this be done.

Nothing probably has been done along these lines except in connection with rating of cases. Decentralization in this way has taken place to a certain extent. Complete decentralization is again urged.

9. Amending of T. B. and N. P. regulations: That the regulations in regard to T. B. and N, P. cases be amended to increase the time limit of the presumption of service origin from three years to five years and to eliminate the rule which requires that existence of disability be shown by actual examination, substituting in its place a rule which will give the same discretion as the 20-B regulation did under the two year period.

No action was taken by your Committee at the time of this first meeting as it was felt that the matter was fully taken care of by our National Committee. The Reed-Johnson Bill, known as Public 242, was passed by the Sixty-eighth Congress, and was signed by the President on June 7, 1924. This bill embodies most of the recommendations made by the last National Convention of The Legion through our National Legislative and Rehabilitation Committees, and make the benefits of the Veterans' Bureau available to a great many service men whose claims had been heretofore disallowed. It is estimated that the provisions of this bill will confer direct benefits on 118,400 veterans and dependents, and will cost the government thirty-three million dollars the first year and thirty million a year thereafter.

10. Filing application for vocational training: That the law with regard to vocational training be amended to permit this benefit being awarded in all cases where it is established that the man has a service connected disability regardless of time of filing claim.

The new law, Public 242, provides that the Bureau shall furnish vocational training until June 30, 1926, but it also provides that the disability must have been acquired or aggravated between the dates of April 6, 1917, and July 2, 1921. It is recommended that the law be so amended that a service

person may have the same time status with regard to vocational training as may be given by the Bureau with regard to compensation.

11. Rehabilitated veterans' relation to labor: That the delegates from the Department of New York recommend to the National Convention that a standing committee on relations with organized labor be established for the purpose of seeing that rehabilitated veterans are not prevented from securing work because of union rules, local or otherwise.

The American Federation of Labor has always agreed to co-operate along these lines, but in all individual cases it is a matter with which the local deals exclusively and it appears that Headquarters exercises little, if any, control over the local.

12. Hospital officers: That each county organization appoint a hospital officer or officers to visit each hospital in the county, where there are veterans receiving hospitalization, and report conditions at each meeting of the County Committee or County Executive Committee, forwarding copies to the State Hospital Committee.

Action was taken by your Committee along these lines, and most counties appointed an officer, and some reports were made with regard to hospital conditions.

13. Government insurance: Endorsed government insurance and its advantages. Urges all Post commanders to write War Risk Insurance Board to have representative appear at meeting to explain the advantages of government insurance.

This matter was discussed informally by the Committee but no action taken. Many Posts have held the meetings referred to and had insurance matters explained, and it is probable that many reinstatements and conversions were accomplished, but it is very much the same with government insurance as it is with regular commercial insurance. The individual does not act until the need is realized, and then it is sometimes too late. Insurance is a tough proposition, even when handled on the basis of personal solicitation, but we see so many cases of lapsed insurance leaving dependents in absolute want that we believe The Legion should take action along these lines. The only difficulty is in finding a way to get the men to reinstate.

In connection with hospitalization in this State, your Chairman would like to report that he has visited a number of hospitals personally, and finds that the average of care and treatment is better in State institutions than in government hospitals.

It is also brought to your attention in connection with the previously mentioned Reed-Johnson Bill, Public 242, that the Bureau is now operating on a definite basis with regard to disability ratings.

Central office of the Bureau has ruled that all claims filed prior to June 7, 1924, where claimant would have been entitled to benefits under the old act, that the case shall be adjudicated under provisions of section 310 of old act. Where claim is filed on or after June 7, 1924, and claimant would be entitled to benefits under both new and old acts, the case is adjudicated under the provisions of section 210 and no compensation paid for any period more than one year prior to claim therefor. And where claim is filed on or after June 7, 1924, and claimant is entitled to benefits only under the new act, the case is adjudicated under section 210 of new act but no payment made for any period prior to June 7, 1924.

Strenuous exception to this ruling has been taken by Chairman Watson B. Miller of the National Rehabilitation Committee, and it is hoped that his Committee will be successful in having this ruling revised.

Your Committee also feels that the work of our National Legislative Committee should be highly commended. This Committee is becoming more and more effective every year, and it is through this Committee that much is accomplished. During the past year the principal things accomplished were the passage of Adjusted Compensation and the Reed-Johnson Bill. Besides these two big pieces of work, the Committee also secured the passage of thirty-seven other bills having to do with the service population and the general public welfare.

The Senate considered 233 bills and the House 476 bills, in which The American Legion was interested.

The State Rehabilitation Committee is and has been, largely, interested in matters of policy and for action in individual cases you should go to the Service Division at State Headquarters. The business of that department is to handle individual cases personally with the Veterans' Bureau, where at least information is secured as to the exact status of a case. Every disability cannot be connected with the service, but if there is a chance of getting favorable action on a case, that department is ready and willing to do everything possible. (Applause.)

Mr. Murray (Kings): I move that the report be received with thanks as read. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Today there has come to this Convention an old shipmate of mine, one of my closest pals for a considerable period of time, a man who if he wanted to could tell you some pretty mean and nasty things about me but I have confidence in him and I don't expect him to tell anything more about me than I am going to tell about him. I want, however, to present to you Prentiss Bassett, Commander of the Military Order of the World War. (Applause.)

Mr. Prentiss P. Bassett (Commander, Military Order of the World War): Mr. Commander, Mr. National Vice-Commander, and Friends: It is very kind of your Commander to refer to me as he did. It is also his usual custom to take the wind out of anybody's sails before they really get under way. However, I remember your Rules Committee Chairman, I believe, in suggesting the rules stated the fact that no delegate could address your State Commander from the floor only by calling him "Mr. Commander." I am going to hide behind the guest badge I have on and I am going to take advantage of him and address him only as "Spaff." That is all I have ever done and that is all I ever could do.

We in the Navy knew "Spaff" and we loved him. I could tell you a great many things about him that you already know and some that you don't already know. My time is limited. I think "Spaff" did that deliberately, knowing what I could say had I the time. (Laughter.)

I notice now—and I did notice a year ago—that since the Army knew him apparently they came to love him also. You made him your State Commander and I am sure that you could have gone a long way and found no one better.

The time is so limited that I will only express my appreciation of having this opportunity to bring the greetings from the Military Order of the World War. It is a small organization, most of its members are your members. Some of your members are our members. We are trying to do the same thing you are on a very small scale. I think our efforts are sincere although our results are rather limited. If there were time I should tell you how we tried to model our organization on yours. I haven't that. But I will say, that we think of The Legion, that its mind is clear, its heart is sound, and its soul must go marching on. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The Credentials Committee will report.

Mr. Traver (Chairman, Credentials Committee): According to the credentials of delegates and alternates present, the counties have the following voting strength:

Albany, 9; Allegany, 6; Bronx, 12; Broome, 10; Cattaraugus, 5; Cayuga, 6; Chautauqua, 8; Chemung, 6; Chenango, 6; Clinton, 6; Columbia, 6; Cortland, 4; Delaware, 6; Dutchess, 9; Erie, 16; Essex, 5; Franklin, 8; Fulton, 5; Genesee, 5; Greene, 3; Hamilton, 4; Herkimer, 7; Jefferson, 7; Kings, 22; Lewis, 3; Livingston, 6; Madison, 5; Monroe, 25; Montgomery, 5; Nassau, 10; New York, 47; Niagara, 8; Oneida, 11; Onondaga, 10; Ontario, 7; Orange, 9; Orleans, 5; Oswego, 2; Otsego, 6; Putnam, 4; Queens, 18; Rensselaer, 7; Richmond, 7; Rockland, 3; Saratoga, 6; Schenectady, 6; Schoharie, 0; Schuyler, 5; Seneca, 5; Steuben, 7; St. Lawrence, 8; Suffolk, 11; Sullivan, 5; Tioga, 2; Tompkins, 5; Ulster, 7; Warren, 7; Washington, 6; Wayne, 7; Westchester, 16; Wyoming, 6; Yates, 5.

Mr. Pasta (Queens): Mr. Commander, I move you that the report of the Committee on Credentials be adopted. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The Color Guard will retire the Colors. Convention rises. Colors are retired. Convention is seated.

The Thursday Afternoon Session of the Convention adjourned at 6:10 p. m., Thursday, September 4, 1924.

The Third Session of the Convention was called to order at 9:50 a. m., Friday, September 5, 1924.

The Chairman: The Convention will come to order.

Convention rises as the Colors are advanced.

The Invocation is delivered by the Department Commander.

The Convention sings "The Star Spangled Banner."

The Chairman: The reports of the Standing Committees will continue — Americanism Committee, Mr. Riley. (Applause.)

Mr. John L. Riley (Chairman, Standing Americanism Committee):

Mr. Commander and Delegates: During the past year our State Committee has been engaged principally in (1) stimulating respect for our National Flag, (2) helping to deal with a few flagrant instances of disloyalty, (3) assisting in observing American Education Week, (4) directing the State Essay Contests, (5) assisting a committee of the Legislature to investigate the exploitation of immigrants, and (6) promoting certain Americanism legislation.

The Work of the Posts.—As in past years, many Posts carried on in their communities very successful Americanism programs. Merely to list the achievements in Americanism of the various Posts would require a report three or four times the length of this report. It is, of course, also true that some Posts did practically no work of this character, either through lack of appreciation of the value of such work to the community and to the Post itself, or through the neglect or inability of the Post Commander to find a live chairman for his Americanism committee. Aside from the work of caring for the disabled, the Post which makes no attempt to serve its community, neglects its greatest opportunity and has little excuse for existing.

The county organizations, also, seem to have been increasingly active in Americanism activities during the year, among the activities conducted by the county officials being such as a county essay contest, an inspection of every school in the county to see that every school had a Flag, county exercises



ALBERT S. DAYTON
Chairman, Second District
H. C. WILDER
Chairman, Fourth District

WILLIAM M. LEFFINGWELL
Chairman, Sixth District

WILLIAM A. FINNERTY
Chairman, Fifth District
JOHN S. LEONARD
Chairman, Eighth District

on certain patriotic occasions, and a vigorously constructive handling of the problem of disloyalty in the county.

To assist the Posts in carrying on their Americanism activities, the State Committee has distributed thousands of copies of printed suggestions during the past few years. The State program is brief and practical and should be consulted and used by every Post. As the National Director of Americanism is preparing a program which is about to be printed, our State Committee is revising our State program so as to embody these latest suggestions.

The Flag Campaign.—Our Committee has carried on an intensive campaign throughout the year to familiarize people with the new Flag rules which were formulated and adopted by the National Flag Conference and to stimulate Legion Posts, school authorities and others to use the Code and to give it publicity. Some of the things that have been done by our State Committee in carrying on this campaign are the following:

1. Induced the State Commissioner of Education to send to the 330 school superintendents of the State, a letter recommending that the new Flag rules be followed in displaying the Flag in and about all school buildings and urging that the children be told about these rules. (A copy of this letter was sent also to every State Commissioner of Education in the United States, resulting in many of them sending a similar letter to the school superintendents of their states.)

2. Sent news items to the 400 daily and weekly newspapers of New York State giving the substance of the State Commissioner's letter to superintendents and inclosing a copy of the Flag Code.

3. Distributed 70,000 copies of the Flag Code free to the teachers and to other school officials of New York State by the state Headquarters of The Legion.

4. Sent a letter and a printed copy of the Flag Code to each of the 1,000 Post Commanders in the State urging them to help in the Flag campaign.

5. Distributed 3,000 copies of the Flag Code at the State Convention at Saratoga to Legion and Auxiliary delegates and to school children and teachers at Saratoga.

6. Furnished news articles on the Flag Code to the following publications:

New York State Bulletin to the schools (16,000 circulation).

Journal of New York State Teachers' Association (25,000 circulation).

Educational Review.

7. Copy of the Flag Code given to every member of the New York State Senate and Assembly.

8. Assisted the State Superintendent of Public Buildings to rearrange the flags in the Capitol at Albany, in accordance with the Flag Code.

9. Delivered addresses on the Flag Code before many organizations, including schools, teachers' conventions and clubs. Several addresses also delivered by radio.

10. Cooperated in bringing about an amendment to the State Education Law, requiring the Commissioner of Education to prepare, for the use of the public schools of the State, a program providing, among other things, "for instruction in the correct use and display" of The Flag (chap. 525, Laws of 1924). As the Flag Code adopted by the National Flag Conference is the only widely accepted set of rules for the display of The Flag, it is reasonably certain that under this amendment this Flag Code will be taught this fall in all the schools of the State.

The Revised Flag Code.—It will be recalled that the Flag Code was first formulated and adopted at a National Flag Conference which met in Washington, D. C., June 14, 1923, having been called by Garland W. Powell, National Director of Americanism of the American Legion. Former President Harding, in addressing the delegates representing 71 organizations, requested them to continue in session until they succeeded in "formulating a code that will be welcomed by all Americans," and he expressed the hope that "every patriotic and educational society in the Republic" would "commit itself to the indorsement and observance and purposes of the Code" which the convention would agree upon. This National Flag Conference settled many differences of opinion of long standing and gave us the first authentic Flag Code for civilian usage in the history of the country. The Flag Code was received with Nation-wide approval and President Harding's expressed wish is well on the way to being fulfilled.

The National Flag Conference constituted itself a permanent body with the purpose of later revising the Flag Code if that seemed desirable. Thousands of letters were received during the past year commending, criticising or suggesting improvements in the Code. Consequently a second session of the National Flag Conference was held in Washington on May 15, 1924, at which the rules were revised in the light of the year's experience. Only minor changes were made, however, mostly for the purpose of clarification. This revised Flag Code is now in press. A limited number of official copies will be published over the name "National Flag Conference." It is hoped that the Federal Government will assist in printing this official Code and will sell it at cost. In addition, many national organizations are already planning to issue a separate folder containing the Flag Code. The American Legion alone distributed about 10,000,000 copies of the Code during the past year and it is already preparing to issue many millions

more of the revised Code, and to carry on an active campaign throughout the Nation to promote the observance of these Flag rules. Indeed, this campaign is already so well advanced that provision has been made in 36 states, either by arrangements with the State Commissioners of Education or through State laws, to have the children in the schools instructed in these rules, New York being one of the few states in which such instruction is provided for by State law.

It is believed by those who have labored at the two sessions of the National Flag Conference to formulate this Flag Code that it is now in final form and that few additional changes need be expected. At both the first and second sessions of the National Flag Conference a strong desire was expressed to have the President of the United States issue a proclamation, at an appropriate time, calling attention to the work of the National Flag Conference and urging the cooperation of all organizations in bringing the Code into general use.

Our Committee urges every Post in the State to purchase a generous quantity of the Flag Code folders of the revised edition and take the lead in the various communities of the State in the effort to put these rules into effect. Many decorators and flag merchants are still ignorant of these rules, or have only a hazy notion regarding them. A campaign of education is what is needed.

As a matter of record, it ought to be stated here that the present chairman of the New York State Committee on Americanism of The American Legion acted as Chairman of the Flag Code Committee at the two National Flag Conferences, having succeeded Gridley Adams at the first Conference and having been elected chairman of the committee at the second Conference.

In addition to his work as chairman of the Code Committee, helping to edit the Code and to select illustrations for it, he has had to make official report of the work of the Flag Code Committee for the files of the Army, the Navy and the Marine Corps. The American Legion, Department of New York, has thus been active in the formulation of this Flag Code which gives evidence of being one of the most important and permanent pieces of work which The Legion has thus far sponsored.

Pledge to The Flag.—The National Flag Conference, at its second session in May, 1924, voted unanimously in favor of further revising the pledge to The Flag by the addition of the words "of America," so that the adopted pledge reads:

"I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States
of America and to the Republic for which it stands,
One Nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

It is confidently believed that the addition of these two words will be readily accepted and that this revised pledge will be in use shortly in the schools of the State.

Education.— Our Committee, believing that education is the surest guarantee of our security and the most effective method of combating disloyalty and of counteracting the efforts of disloyal propagandists, have helped in every way, during the past year, to improve the effectiveness of the public schools and to promote instruction and training in good citizenship.

In cooperation with the Chairman of the Legislative Committee of The Legion, we supported legislation requiring that instruction in the history and meaning of the Constitution of the United States be given to children of all public and private schools of the State in the eighth grade and higher grades. Such a law was enacted by the Legislature, and became effective September 1st. In the public schools of New York State a course in civics has been in use for several years, which includes a study of the Federal Constitution. This law should result in greater emphasis and fuller amplification of this work already so well begun.

We successfully opposed bills which would seek to break down the system of part-time or continuation schools, which are being developed in this State for the benefit of working children between 14 and 18 years of age.

We successfully opposed bills which aimed to weaken the law requiring that new voters shall give satisfactory evidence of their ability to read and write English intelligently as a condition for voting.

We favored generous support for evening schools, especially for schools wherein illiterate and non-English speaking adults might learn English and prepare for American citizenship.

Our Committee is keenly interested in such improvement of rural schools that the country child will have educational opportunities equal to those of the city child, and we favor such modification in the plan of administering and financing rural schools as will best bring about this result.

Essay Contests.— In addition to receiving essays submitted to us in the National Essay Contest, our Committee conducted an independent State Essay Contest in an effort to cooperate with the New York State Historical Association in arousing interest in the events connected with or growing out of the period of the American Revolution. In this State Essay Contest, fifteen counties submitted essays, the best three essays coming from Richmond, Queens and Albany Counties, respectively.

In the National Essay Contest fewer counties submitted essays, the winning counties being St. Lawrence, Monroe and Kings. Considerable criticism of the wording of the subjects chosen for the last two National Essay Contests has been voiced, to the effect that the subjects were so worded as to restrict freedom of thought by prejudging the question to be written about. These criticisms were justified. Our Committee, therefore, emphasized the State Contest, rather than

the National Contest, this past year in our communications to Posts.

There is a serious question in the minds of our Committee whether the limited cooperation received by The Legion in these essay contests justifies their continuance, especially since many other organizations are now conducting essay contests, thus seriously interfering with the regular work of the schools. We distributed 9,000 circulars and sent out 2,700 letters in promoting the State Essay Contest. The results did not seem to justify the effort. The whole question of the continuance of these contests is now being considered, not only by our State Committee, but by the National Director of Americanism. However, our committee strongly endorses the local, county or city essay contest as one which is more likely to attract participants, especially if it deals constructively with some important civic need. In a number of the counties and cities The Legion has already conducted such local essay contests with encouraging success.

American Education Week.—American Education Week, one of the most widely accepted and successful of Legion activities, will be observed this year from November 17th to 23d. During the week special days are set apart for exercises, dealing with such subjects as the Constitution of the United States, patriotism, illiteracy, health and physical education.

Public School authorities throughout the State are observing Education Week. They use the week to advertise throughout the community the activities and needs of the local schools. During this week public school officials speak before various clubs; committees from clubs inspect and study the schools; local newspapers give special space to articles on the schools. Our Committee urges every Post to cooperate in this most successful and helpful observance.

Aliens, Their Exploitation and Loyalty.—Our Committee, after studying the report of the joint legislative committee on the exploitation of immigrants in New York State, believes that some legislation is needed to protect the recently arrived immigrants from the exploitation to which they have been subjected. The report reveals a shocking amount of injustice, mostly stealing, committed by so-called foreign bankers, by pseudo-steamship agents and others against the credulous and trusting immigrant. Some of this exploitation is due to the State's neglect and it must tend strongly to arouse in these immigrants a feeling of distrust in our government, which leads quickly to disloyalty to our Nation.

The investigation was made by a committee of which former Senator Cotillo of New York City was chairman, the Chairman of our State Committee on Americanism having assisted the legislative committee as an expert. The report of the committee was submitted so late in the legislative session that their recommendations could not be acted upon, but

it is understood that some of the remedial legislation recommended in the committee's report will be proposed at the next session of the legislature.

Disloyalty.—On several occasions during the past year, our Committee has cooperated in dealing with disloyalty. Last fall, our Committee was asked to investigate a proposal to reinstate as a teacher in the public high schools of a city in New York State a person who, after extended hearings, at which he had the assistance of counsel, had been dismissed as teacher from the schools of the same city shortly after the close of the World War for disloyal utterances and disloyal instruction in his class room. While admitting his former proved disloyalty, certain school officials were inclined to condone his previous disloyalty in the belief that the dismissed teacher was no longer disloyal. Our investigation revealed that the dismissed teacher had been a teacher of history in a public high school; that he had given instruction to about 200 boys daily; that approximately 1,000 boys had come under his instruction and influence during his four years as teacher in this one school. We learned also that the boys themselves had objected to his disloyal utterances, particularly to his telling them in class that it was all right to place the red flag above the Flag of the United States, their indignant protests on this occasion having attracted the attention of the principal of the school. Thus, while thousands of American soldiers were dying on the battlefields of France, this proved hypocrite and traitor in the role of a State and city employee, was using his office of trust and responsibility to develop an attitude of disloyalty to our Nation and our Flag in these hundreds of American boys which were entrusted to his care.

As a result of our investigation and of a conference with a representative of the board of education in which the State Commander and the County Chairman participated, the State Commander sent a letter to the Board of Education and to the State Commissioner of Education, laying down the principle that "The American Legion as an organization is unalterably opposed to the policy of permitting any person to teach in our public schools about whose loyalty to our Nation there is any doubt." The Commander also expressed himself as fully agreeing with a statement, made some years previously by Dr. John H. Finley, former Commissioner of Education, that "the same degree of loyalty is asked of a teacher as of a soldier. If a teacher cannot give that unquestioning support to the country that makes his own individual freedom in time of peace possible, his place is not in the school." The State Commander also requested that The Legion have an opportunity to be heard further before this previously discredited teacher should be reinstated. To date, the teacher has not been reinstated.

This case is presented thus fully as a type case in order

that this convention may record its approval of the vigorously effective action taken by the State Commander and of the principle enunciated by him in his letter to the Board of Education.

Our Committee's attention has been forcefully called also, during the past year, to the activities of disloyal "soap box orators." As a result of the disloyal utterances and inciting activities of a communistic agent on the streets of Buffalo, The American Legion officials of Erie County, both in court proceedings and in public hearings before the City Council, not only exposed the speaker as utterly disloyal and revolutionary, but they succeeded in getting the city officials to prohibit the holding of public exercises in streets or parks near the city monuments, except when such exercises are of an especially patriotic character. The City Council is now being urged to enact an ordinance designating certain places in the streets and parks where public speaking will be permitted. In the controversy in Buffalo, The Legion agreed with other organizations that the right of freedom of speech should be preserved, but that, since the streets are fundamentally for traffic, street speaking, if permitted at all, should be strictly regulated to protect the people of the city in their right to use the street freely for its intended purpose and that the regulations should aim also to conserve law and order.

The Buffalo case presented many difficulties and attracted wide attention. The wide and desirable publicity given to the case and the able and dignified presentation of The Legion's point of view and the point of view of other patriotic organizations helped to shape public sentiment on a matter about which there is too much apathy at present. The American Legion of Erie County handled the situation with great intelligence and good sense for which they deserve the commendation of Legion men everywhere and for which they deserve, especially, the thanks of this Convention.

Extreme Pacifism.—Quite as disturbing as the two concrete cases just described is the apparently well organized effort of the past year to convert our people to an attitude of non-resistance, inadequately referred to as "pacifism." Students of radicalism are generally agreed that those who would accept and enjoy every blessing which this Nation would bestow upon them and give nothing in return, having failed in a general campaign to win many converts to disloyalty, are now concentrating their efforts in a campaign to undermine the loyalty of our citizens by working among women's organizations, church organizations and college students.

During the past year wide publicity has been given to the so-called "slacker's oath," to which certain agents of disloyalty sought to have the students of certain American colleges subscribe. It is known that some did subscribe to this oath. A group of representative women toured the country,

urging that this country disarm, ignoring the fact that such disarmament would leave our people helpless to defend themselves if attacked. A great convention of American clergymen showed a strong tendency to substitute absolute non-resistance for military or naval service as all that a citizen need to render in a National crisis. A well known writer, in a book which is said to be having a wide circulation among the churches and the women's clubs, advises the churches to say to their own government: "We will never again sanction or participate in any war. We will not again give our financial or moral support to any war." When Alton B. Parker last March sent copies of the pledge, of which the above is only a part, to many leading bishops and other clergy, to college presidents and other representative laymen for their reaction, most of them replied that they could not subscribe to it; but some were found—two prominent editors, a dean of a college, four bishops—who were favorable to the pledge. It is difficult to understand how anybody who has taken a pledge to defend the Constitution of the United States, and who exercises his rights of citizenship can reconcile his pledge of allegiance as an American citizen with his slacker's pledge. In a democratic republic such as ours, rights and responsibilities are correlative terms. Denial of citizenship responsibilities by an individual should cancel his citizenship rights. The American Legion's attitude toward war is well known. It is opposed to war except as a last resort to uphold right and justice; but it believes, with President Wilson, that "the right is more precious than peace;" that there is such a thing as a justifiable war; and that a Nation should not be utterly defenseless in case of attack. With regard to the slacker's pledge, The Legion would agree with General Pershing who, upon having such an oath called to his attention, said, "I am unalterably opposed to any pledge which would require Americans to fail in duty to their country, either in time of peace or in war."

Importance of Americanism Work.—In closing, our Committee would emphasize again our growing conviction of the supreme importance of service to the local community and to the State and Nation as one of the two or three great fields of usefulness in which The American Legion must be increasingly active if it is to fulfill the hope of its founders or justify its claims as a patriotic organization. Continued service to country in definite achievements must be the foundation of its program and the measure of its worth. (Applause.)

Mr. Farrington (Rensselaer): I move the adoption of the Committee's report. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The report of the Standing Committee on Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

Dr. Ross G. Loop (Chairman, Standing Committee on Soldiers' and Sailors' Home):

The American Legion, Department of New York, in annual Convention assembled:

Resolve:

(1) That there is a real and urgent need for a home for veterans of various wars of the United States resident in New York State and that this need will steadily increase for many years to come, as the Veterans of the World War age and as industrial conditions change.

(2) That the institution at Bath, N. Y., known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, occupies an ideal location in the State from the standpoints of accessibility, hygiene and beauty, and that no change of location should be contemplated.

(3) That the several modern fire-proof and semi-fire-proof buildings now in use, including those devoted to hospital purposes, shall be kept up to full efficiency by wise and adequate expenditure, that the four barracks now empty be abandoned and salvaged if feasible, on the best possible terms, to be replaced as needed by modern buildings.

(4) That a sinking fund be established by the State for the accumulation of funds for expansion of facilities as needed.

(5) That the Legislature be urged to make adequate appropriations to maintain this institution in a manner suitable to its name, The Soldiers' and Sailors' Home. (Applause.)

Mr. Traver (Saratoga): I move that the report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Buddies and Buddyettes: I note that in the Convention there is one of our very dearest friends, Past State Commander Albert Callan, and I now ask him to come to the platform and be escorted. (Applause.)

Mr. Albert S. Callan (Past Department Commander): Comrade Commander, my Comrades of The Legion: I had hoped to occupy my lawful position, alternate delegate to the State Convention. But unfortunately the observing eye of the Commander found me out and brought me here.

I know that you are very busy and I know that a great deal of good will come from this Convention. I shall always retain the deepest affection and sympathy for The Legion and for the great causes for which it stands. I told the Commander this morning a little story and if you really think it would be worth while repeating, Mr. Commander, and if you will bear with me for a moment, I am going to tell you something; this tale, which is brief, but nevertheless which has struck home to me on so many occasions during the past year.

There was a gentleman by the name of Miller who was a resident of Adams, in this county of Jefferson. He grew up in Adams

and later on in life went out to Indiana where he practiced law, became a prominent member of the Bar of the State of Indiana, and later an associate of Benjamin Harrison. Mr. Miller on the election of Mr. Harrison was made the Attorney-General of the United States. He always had a feeling that he would like to return home again to Adams. So after he got in Washington one day he packed his grip, took the train and got off at Adams, and there he saw a man whom he recognized, or at least thought he recognized, as having driven the cab in the village when he was a boy, and he went over to this man and he said, "Will you take me up to the hotel?" and he said, "Yes." And with that Mr. Miller got in and they started up and the old fellow had one of these broken down old hacks, and he said, "Giddap, Giddap." They went along a little ways and finally Mr. Miller turned to him and said, "Do you know me?" and the driver said, "Giddap, you used to practice law over the drug store." Finally they got along and he said, "Well, you know what I am now, I am Attorney-General of the United States." "Yop, go on, giddap." He said, "What do the people in Adams say about that?" The fellow, without turning his head, said, "Giddap; oh, they just laugh." (Laughter.)

So, Mr. Commander, tomorrow you may enjoy the experience of having the delegation and the rest of the Convention and the State of New York as a whole, just laugh. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Well, I know, Mr. Past Commander, that I express the feelings of every person in this Convention that they are not laughing at your past. They are laughing at the story you told and of the thoughts that are possible for the future of your happiness and may it all be pleasure so that smiles and laughter will always attend you. (Applause.)

Report of the Publicity Committee.

The Secretary:

Publicity is so illusive a thing that it is hard to make a concrete report on what has been done or accomplished. It can either be deplored because of its lack or the effort congratulated, because of its accomplishment. During the past year this Publicity Committee has had the exceptional advantage of working with and for the State Commander, who not only supplied an inspiration, but whose activities were such as to always make news. It was the pleasure of your Chairman, who worked by his side during his courageous fight for Adjusted Compensation—the publicity of which was nation-wide. The members of the Publicity Committee have given the Chairman able support, and especially so in their own territory. It must again be urged that the best and most effective way to obtain publicity for The Legion is through personal contact and the individual urge. There could be no better plan than to have either the Adjutant or a good publicity officer of each Post make it his

duty to see that all items reach his local newspaper. By reaching, it is not meant to imply that mail should be used, but rather that the Adjutant or publicity officer should, by personal call and a continuous contact, keep in touch with the local editor. There is no reason why the news in the bulletins sent out from State Headquarters should not be localized and thus made doubly valuable to the newspapers. For instance, if the State Department issues something on a movement, there is no reason why the Post should not give the statement out as coming through the State Commander, amplifying it with a local touch and some comment on what the Post has accomplished or plans to do in this direction. These days newspapers are simply overwhelmed with mailed-in publicity matter. The majority of it reaches the waste basket unread. No successful publicity man in the country would think of starting any effort without doing it personally. That is, by a call on the city editor, and it is my experience, after many years both as a newspaper man and a press agent, that editors like to receive calls, not from timid, shrinking people, but men and women who have something real to give them and who believe in what they are doing and what they have written about. I know that in this opinion of personal publicity, I have the support of all the members of the Committee with whom I have been in touch. The State publicity has been greatly aided by the newsy and well-edited Empire State Legionnaire which deserves the support of every member of The Legion in this state. It would be most beneficial to the State publicity if means could be raised by which a copy of this paper could be sent to every newspaper in the State. It would be a fine reflection of what The Legion was doing in other places and open up local columns for local affairs.

Many thanks are due the State Commander, the State Officers, the Assistant Adjutant and the members of this Committee for cooperation and hearty support.

WELLS HAWKS,

Chairman, Publicity Committee.

(Applause.)

Mr. Dribben (New York): I move the adoption of the report. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Report of the Legal Committee, Mr. Cotter. Buddies, in presenting the Chairman of the Legal Committee I want to here publicly thank him, not only for his work as Chairman of that committee, but because the County Commander of Erie County was for a large portion of the year out of the State. To Mr. Cotter I am entirely indebted for most of the correspondence I had and I want to thank him doubly as being one of the greatest Legionnaires in this State. (Applause.)

Mr. James P. Cotter (Chairman, Standing Legal Committee):
Mr. Commander, Delegates, Alternates, Ladies and Gentle-

men: The report of the Legal Committee will be very brief. Our chief work has been in giving advice and opinions or questions certified by the State Commander, County Commanders and Post Officers. However, as in the past, assistance has been granted to individuals in criminal matters, immigration matters, civil law suits and in other lines connected in no way with the service. The committee wishes to recommend with the Legal Committees of previous years that we should as far as possible confine our work to those matters affecting the ex-service men as such.

Demands for assistance made on the Legal Committee throughout the year have revealed the fact that there is an amazing lack of knowledge by the members of The Legion, and even by the Post and County Officers, of the rights of the ex-service man, and this is not only as regards Federal claims, but in reference to the legislation passed in our own state, through the tireless efforts of our Legislative Committee.

For example, only a few of the communities in this State are taking advantage of the opportunity to assist needy ex-service men with City and County funds without forcing upon them the ignominy of going to the regular Poor Department. It is true that a brief resumé of State legislation has been placed in the report of each annual convention. Those Legionnaires who are not lawyers need a reference work made up without legal phraseology, containing more of the "meat" of the various New York bills and Federal rulings. The Legal Committee, therefore, requests and recommends that a circular or pamphlet be prepared for distribution covering the various relations of ex-service men to their Federal, State and Community governments.

In conclusion, I regret that I was not able to devote more time to the affairs of the Legal Committee.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mr. Sweet (Queens): I move that the report be adopted, with thanks. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: That completes the reports of Standing Committees, with the exception of the Membership, which has its special place on the program. We, therefore, proceed to the report of Special Committees.

I am going first to call for the report of the Prison Activities Committee and in presenting Mrs. Hay, who will make this report, I desire you to realize that Mrs. Hay has done a very wonderful piece of work this year. She has visited all of the prisons and has been the great guide and help for any veteran who has had the misfortune to find his way into the prisons of our State.

Mrs. Hay. (Applause.)

Mrs. Eva Hay (Chairman, Prison Activities Committee):

Mr. Spafford, Fellow Legionnaires: This being the first report of its kind in the Department of New York I want to give you some idea of its importance.

There are confined in the penal institutions of this State about one thousand ex-service men; this does not include the prisons where men serve a term of less than one year.

When in prison they are to a great extent helpless, as they are not citizens, therefore have not the rights of free men, and no matter how many friends a man may have, once he is a convict he is no longer one of them. No one boasts of or admits having a friend in prison, so I am trying to take the place of the friends they have lost.

During the past year I have visited all of the State prisons. I do not go to interview the men to ask foolish questions, or through idle curiosity. I visit a man only upon his request to see me. Am certain if I had the time to go into details of my work you would feel as I do, that it is one of the biggest things The American Legion is doing, *the making of men*.

The majority of people say, that once a man has been in prison he is contaminated and there is no good in him, but I differ there. We all at some time have felt the need of a helping hand and no doubt have availed ourselves of this help. That is the part The American Legion can do for these men. In the service we were all Buddies and let us continue that way. We stand for *service* and it is badly needed here. I have had the kindest, most helpful co-operation from the Superintendent of Prisons, but have not had the same from all subordinates, some of whom are Legionnaires.

When men are released I help them find employment and if necessary give them food and shelter until they can pay their board in advance somewhere, for when a man is released he has but the clothing that he wears and the sum of money earned by his labor, for which he is paid one and a half cents for each working day, less punishment reduction. You can readily see that only a man who has served many years will have enough to get a start.

Eighty per cent. of all men convicted in the State are sentenced from New York City and sent to Sing Sing; from there they are sent to the up-State prisons. The detail work, such as seeing the district attorney, judges, etc., is, therefore, mostly in New York City. The legal advice and help given has been largely through the generosity of non-Legionnaires.

This year I have made 56 visits to prisons, granted 575 interviews, assisted 11 families of confined veterans, had 5 warrants dismissed, 1 pardon granted to a lad who was rated by the U. S. V. B. as total disability, had 2 sentences commuted, filed claims for New York State bonus, have filed, reopened and had granted 21 claims for compensation and have had 7 transfers made to other prisons for the health of the veteran and there are now pending 48 cases of various nature, but by no means have all my efforts been successful.

The greatest good done is something that cannot be counted

in figures. It is not a help of tangible nature, but the moral support and courage given, the knowledge that there is someone who cares, and is depending on them to make good, is in my opinion the most important help of all.

Due to a lack of funds, the up-State prisons have not been visited as often as they should have been. I have been twice to Auburn and Comstock and three times to Dannemora, but I have kept in close touch with the men by correspondence, not having a typewriter all writing is done in longhand.

The financial report up to and including August 15, 1924, is as follows:

Expenses (an itemized account of which was given the Department Commander)	\$803 87
<i>Receipts:</i>	
American Legion, Department of N. Y.....	\$150 00
Johnston Costello Post, Penn Yan.....	25 00
Westchester County	100 00
Cook Post of Yonkers.....	10 00
<hr/>	
Total from Legion Posts.....	\$285 00
<i>American Legion Auxiliary</i>	
Westchester County	95 50
Penn Yan	25 00
Geneva	5 00
Utica Post, 229.....	10 00
Andrean Post	10 00
Boonville	25 00
Sea Cliff	10 00
Monroe County	50 00
Nassau County	3 00
Jefferson County	10 00
Manchester and Shortville.....	51 00
Herkimer	10 00
<hr/>	
	\$304 50
40 and 8, Westchester County.....	10 00
Personal Gifts	148 75
<hr/>	
Total receipts	\$748 25
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A deficit of \$55.62, which was covered by a personal check from Commander Spafford.

My objective is a Legion Parole Agent, medical examination to determine the physical and mental condition of veterans who have been shell shocked, gassed or wounded, hospitalization when needed and a chance to become useful citizens upon release.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mr. Taylor (Westchester): Mr. Commander, I move that we receive that report with thanks and appreciation for Mrs. Hay. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: We will now go ahead with the program of today and the next business in order is the report of the Standing Committee and award of prizes for membership. (Applause.)

Mr. George Merritt Ward (Chairman, Standing Membership Committee): Mr. Chairman:

Having been appointed by your State Commander Chairman of the State Membership Committee, I wish to take this opportunity to advise you of the prizes offered this year by the State Department.

First. A silver cup presented by the Jackson A. Matthews Post No. 614, Saranac Lake, to the Post situated in a town or city having a population of less than thirty thousand, which, before January 31, 1924, has increased its membership by the greatest percentage over its paid-up membership of December 31, 1923.

Second. A silver cup presented by the Corporal Russell D. Sprague Post No. 109, Liberty, N. Y., to the Post situated in a town or city having a population of thirty thousand or more, which, before January 31, 1924, has increased its membership by the greatest percentage over its paid-up membership of December 31, 1923.

Third. A silver cup, "The Chairman's Cup," to the Post situated in a town or city having a population of less than thirty thousand, which, by thirty days before the next regular State Convention has increased its membership by the greatest percentage over its paid-up membership of December 31, 1923.

Fourth. A silver cup, "The Commander's Cup," to the Post situated in a town or city having a population of thirty thousand or more, which, by thirty days before the next regular State Convention, has increased its membership by the greatest percentage over its paid-up membership of December 31, 1923.

Fifth. To all Posts reporting 100 per cent of their 1923 membership paid up for 1924 a Certificate of Merit will be issued, which will provide for a record of the number of members in the Post in 1923 and 1924, the percentage increase, and the names of the Post Membership Committee. The certificates will be beautifully designed and should hang on the walls of every Post quarters as a record of achievement and inspiration to Membership Committees in the future.

Sixth. A handsome silver band for the Staff of the Post Colors to those Posts which by thirty days previous to the next regular State Convention have reported doubling their 1923 membership.

Seventh. A handsome gold band and fourgiere for the Post Colors to those Posts which by thirty days previous to the next regular State Convention have reported 100 per cent membership of all veterans in the community they are situated in who are eligible to membership.

Eighth. Gold medals to the County Commander and Chairman of the County Membership Committee of the county which shows, thirty days before the next regular State Convention, the greatest percentage increase in their county membership for 1924 over their 1923 membership.

Ninth. A trip to the next National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., including railroad fare, Pullman, hotel and meals for the trip, to the ten men who sign up the greatest number of new paid-up members by thirty days before the next regular State Convention.

Tenth. A trip to the next National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., including railroad fare, Pullman, hotel and meals for the trip to one representative of each of the ten Posts who report the greatest number of new paid-up members by thirty days before the next regular State Convention. These individual representatives of the winning Posts to be chosen by their Posts as the men most responsible for the signing up of their new men.

Rules for Awards 1 to 8: A Post, to compete for awards 1 to 6 and 8, must have had on record at State Headquarters at least fifteen paid-up members for 1923 at the time of the last (1923) State Convention.

When two or more 1923 Posts combine in 1924, the 1923 membership of the combined Post will be considered to be the sum of the number of members of each of the previous Posts as of December 31, 1923.

Rules for Awards 9 and 10: For each new member reported before January 31, 1923, a credit of 100 points will be given; for each new member reported during February, 90 points will be given, and this system will continue to thirty days before the State Convention, the credits for each new member being reduced 10 points each succeeding month.

A "new member," as provided for under awards 9 and 10, is considered to mean a member paid up for 1924 who has not been a paid-up member in 1923 of any Post in the State of New York. New members should sign membership application blanks. The name and address of the member who got the new member to sign up should be endorsed on the back of the signed application blank, and either be sent to State Headquarters direct, or may be attached to the State Card on which the "new member" is reported and accompany that card to State Headquarters.

Post Adjutants in sending in names of new members to Department Headquarters should enter on the back of the Department Record Card the name and address of the man who signed up the new member, and should tabulate the new member under the procurer's name.

The winners of awards Nos. 1 and 2 will be notified as soon after January 31st as the returns can be made up. The winners of other awards will be notified in time to attend the

next regular State Convention, at which time all awards will be made. No tabulation for any contest will be made before the closing date for that award.

On behalf of the State Membership Committee, I wish to assure all Post and county organizations that I, personally, and all members of the Committee stand ready at all times to do anything in our power to help them in building up their membership. Help us with any suggestions you may have to make, and do not hesitate to call on us for help. After the first of the year I shall hold myself in readiness to answer a call to any part of the State where some particular membership effort may be under way, if it is considered that my presence may help in any way.

We in New York State have only scratched the surface of membership possibilities. This year we want to get to every man eligible. We can do it only through organization and work and pep. We've got them all! Let's go!

Report of the State Membership Committee: The State Membership Committee for the past year having been appointed by the State Commander on January 14th proceeded to organize at a meeting called in Albany on January 29th. Of the twenty-seven men appointed, only six attended this meeting. Six others wrote accepting their appointment on the Committee but regretted that they would be unable to attend the meeting; three others wrote saying that they would be unable to serve; while thirteen neither attended the meeting nor even acknowledged the notice of their appointment on the Committee. Your Committee feels this a very poor showing and makes very definite recommendations later on for its improvement.

The Chairman had previously attended a number of district caucuses for the purpose of studying the membership conditions throughout the State and reported informally to the others his findings. Discussion was held on ways and means for promoting membership throughout the State and a lengthy detailed report and recommendations was submitted the same day to the State Executive Committee, a copy of which is attached to this report. Copies of the recommendations were also sent to each Post and County Commander in the State.

Reply postal cards were sent to each Post and county organization asking for the names and addresses of the men locally responsible for membership work. With these in hand the membership organization throughout the State was formed, consisting of those who actually had this work in hand and headed by the members of the State Committee.

The Jackson A. Matthews Post No. 614, of Saranac Lake, the Corporal Russell D. Sprague Post No. 109, of Liberty, the State Commander, and the Committee Chairman each offered prize cups and the State Department authorized Cer-

tificates of Merit, Bands of Excellence, Bands of Honor, County Medals and twenty free trips to the National Convention to be contended for by the individual Posts and members throughout the State. Notice of these prizes and the rules governing their attainment were sent out to the Posts and counties early in January and a very keen competition resulted. The winners will be announced at the end of this report.

In all, your Committee sent out 6,824 letters as well as attending and addressing many meetings and banquets throughout the State, everywhere urging on the membership work. Copies of all communications sent out, as well as numerous local circular letters sent by different Post, are attached hereto.

Mention also should be made, before we go further, and full acknowledgment given to the constant attention and devoted work done by the State Commander to increase our membership. As you all know, he was constantly traveling over the State and everywhere talking members and more members. The increased membership this year is due to his untiring efforts more than to any other one thing.

Our efforts were slow in getting started and the results at first were very discouraging. January brought in but little response; much less than in 1923. The end of February found us still lagging behind. In fact, it was not until the third week in March that we began to reap the benefit of our efforts and passed the membership of the corresponding period of the year before. But from that time on the gain was steady, and by the first of June we had passed the total membership of 1923 and so were, as a State, "over the top." Today we have 68,636 members, which is 12,000 more than at the same time a year ago and more than our total for 1923. The State stands eighth in the nation by percentage gain over last year. Those ahead of her being, with the exception of Wisconsin — which has approximately twenty-five thousand — all States of under ten thousand members.

Other States are asking us how we did it — wherein our magic lay? Well, of course, we had the advantage over the other States of our State bonus, the blanks for which we were helping to make out. It is difficult to say just how far that helped. We know it multiplied the membership of some Posts many times. The State membership, however, was well ahead of 1923's record before the bonus work began and credit for *that* can only be given to organization and the endless work of the individual members of the Posts themselves. In fact, your Committee believes that the success of membership work lies entirely in the proper organization for it and the work of the individual Post officers and members.

In the matter of organization we recommend that the new State Commander immediately at the close of this Convention ascertain from the new District Chairmen the names of the

men each intends to appoint as District Membership Chairmen and that he designate these districtmen as the State Membership Committee under such State Membership Chairman as he may choose. Instead of waiting until the first of the year, this Committee should organize at once. Each member should form a sub-committee in his own district, made up entirely of the Chairmen of the Membership Committees of each county, while the County Membership Committees themselves should be made up of the Membership Chairmen of the individual Posts.

Immediately after the meeting of the State Committee, at which the program for the coming year is decided upon, the members should go back to their districts and call district organization meetings, reporting to the County Membership Chairmen, who comprise the same, the findings and plans of the State Committee. These meetings should then be followed by county meetings, for in the final analysis it is the workers in the individual Posts who accomplish the results.

The Posts were all urged this last year to make a record of the names and addresses of all men applying for the State bonus. We recommend that if possible the State Department obtain from the Bureau such a record and have the same catalogued by localities, so that such Posts as failed to do so may obtain the list for their locality from State Headquarters. This would give each Post a list of the majority of those eligible for membership in The Legion and with that it comes down to the question of organizing a sufficient number of the active enthusiastic members in the Post to properly see these men and show them that it is their duty to join and help The Legion in its work.

And let me say right here that during the past year that is where we fell down. We had the organization, we had the names, we had the enthusiastic workers, but in thousands of cases we were unable to persuade the men that it was up to them to join. That it was their moral duty, just as much as it was to join up with the army at the beginning of the war. And so we come to the real need of The Legion today, which is — "propaganda to the public" — not only the propaganda of words, but also that of deeds well done. The public, and among them many actual service men, need to be educated by our words and deeds to a realization of what The Legion stands for. When they realize our true aims and ideals, the public will be so solidly behind us that there will be no further necessity of going out and getting members. Any man who has the right to join will see to it that he has that precious card of membership and will wear with pride our emblem of service in peace as in war.

Now, just as it is the job of the individual members of the Posts to see that the gospel of The Legion reaches every eligible man in his community, it is the job of the County, Dis-

trict and State Committee to see that it reaches the general public. This can be done through meetings and banquets and lunch clubs and newspapers and magazines and in an infinite number of ways, depending on local conditions. It means work and constant work for those committees, but that's what they are formed for. A committee that does not function is a cancer in the body of the organization and should be cut out at once before it breaks down the whole system.

In this matter of the education of the public, we especially recommend the co-operation of The Legion Posts in every movement or activity of local benefit. Originate as many as you can, but if some other organization starts something good, don't sit back and knock it, but boost it — jump in and offer to help — insist on helping — but, most important of all, let the whole town know you're doing it. Teach them the preamble of our Constitution. Have a big canvas printed, giving it in the largest possible type and display it at all public meetings or celebrations. Have it span the street in front of your quarters whenever there is a parade or fair or large gathering of the people. Make them read it, and believe it; but first of all, believe it yourselves and live it, so that when the public reads it they won't laugh and say: "That's all very well to say, but — so and so." The entrance to every Post quarters should have a large bronze plaque bearing it, with letters so large that it can be read from across the sidewalk. The public today know nothing about The Legion except what the politicians and press have told them. It's up to us to tell them the truth, and what we have done, what we are doing, and when they know that our membership work will be a thing of the past.

So many men and Posts have done well during the past year that it is very hard to give recognition only to those that have won prizes and yet we have only time to "hit the high spots" so to speak. You have all had the report of the standing of the counties, but that hardly is a fair record. It is all arranged by comparison with previous years, so that a county, which has consistently year after year maintained a high standing, gets but little recognition, while one with a poor showing last year and but a normal one this, may be well ahead of it on the list. As an example, let me cite Madison county, which has made a consistent gain each year, having its largest membership today, although it stands but fifty-third on the list. This applies as well to Schuyler, Suffolk, Chemung, Chenango, Seneca, Queens, Cayuga, Essex and Columbia counties. The latter especially deserves mention. Being Al. Callan's county, it expended its most strenuous effort last year and we never expected to equal it this year. But they not only equaled that record, but passed it. The same should be reported for Yates county, who led the State last year.

Again, by the gain of but a few more individual members,

some Posts' standing may jump many degrees in percentage, while it would take hundreds of new members of another Post to do the same. It is to be hoped that during the coming year the new Membership Committee may be able to determine some method of comparing actual to possible membership in the various communities. On the other hand, in spite of all our efforts, some Posts have not only failed to gain, but have been losing members, many of them Posts of but a few members and little or no Legion life. To cover such cases, we recommend that the State Department, in accordance with its by-laws, recall all charters to Posts which by the end of the year have not the required fifteen paid-up members, such charters not to be returned until such membership be attained.

Four hundred and eighty-five Posts have increased their membership this year. Certificates of Merit have been sent to each of them.

Fifty-seven of the sixty-two counties have gone over the top.

Twenty-two counties have the largest membership in their history.

Thirty-nine Posts have doubled their membership.

Twelve Posts have tripled their membership.

Five Post have quadrupled their membership. While the winning Post has multiplied its membership more than twelve times.

Three Posts have enrolled every eligible man in their localities.

Our State Commander, recognizing the wisdom of always putting his best foot forward, has, at my request, persuaded Mrs. Spafford to make the presentation of the prizes offered.

The first is the Jackson A. Matthews Post cup to the Post situated in a town of less than 30,000 which before January 31st last increased its membership by the greatest percentage over that of December 31, 1923, won by the Phillip McGovern Post No. 345 of Irvington with 191 per cent.

The second is the Corporal Russell D. Sprague Post cup to the Post situated in a city of over 30,000 which before January 31st last had increased its membership by the greatest percentage over its membership of 1923, won by National Vaudeville Artists Post No. 690 of New York City with 106 per cent.

Third, the "Chairman's Cup" to that Post situated in a town of less than 30,000 which 30 days prior to this Convention had increased its membership by the greatest percentage over its 1923 membership, won by the Charles J. Love D. S. C. Post No. 406 of Boonville with 384.6 per cent.

Fourth, the "Commander's Cup" presented by our State Commander to that Post situated in a city of more than 30,000 which 30 days prior to this Convention had increased its membership by the greatest percentage over its 1923 membership, won by the East Side Post No. 868 of New York City with 1232 per cent.

As already reported "Certificates of Merit" have been awarded to Posts for equaling or passing their 1923 membership.

Silver "Bands of Excellence" for having doubled their 1923 membership have been won by the following thirty-nine Posts:

Clark Mills Post No. 26, Clark Mills; Pelham Post No. 50, Pelham; Lackawanna Post No. 63, Lackawanna; Hanbidge Post No. 69, Ogdensburg; Ruddick-Trowbridge Post No. 73, Monticello; Yerkes-Couchman Post No. 99, Rochester; Don-Martin Post No. 148, Silver Creek; Flower City Post No. 180, Rochester; Genesee Valley Post No. 194, Rochester; Glenn D. Wicks Post No. 231, Sauquoit; Glens Falls Post No. 233, Glens Falls; J. Livingston Wadsworth Post No. 271, Genesee; Riverhead Post No. 273, Riverhead; Lionel G. Watkins Post No. 277, Great Hills; Joseph Gallipeau Post No. 294, Avon; Bay Shore Post No. 365, Bay Shore; John J. Welch Post No. 381, Niagara Falls; Charles J. Love, D. S. C. Post No. 406, Boonville; Warrensburg Post No. 446, Warrensburg; Gudinas Post No. 459, Rochester; Benjamin Franklin Jr. Post No. 463, Ovid; Liberty Post No. 515, Greenwich; Robson Savage Post No. 546, Middlesex; Carle Anderson Post No. 559, Harrison; Joseph B. Garrity Post No. 562, Ridgewood; Lester White Post No. 566, Livingston Manor; Dewey Sackett Post No. 575, Bergen; Huggick Purcell Shepard Post No. 616, Richfield Springs; Raymond W. Harvey Post No. 703, Fort Ann; Rowe Churchill Post No. 710, Moravia; Henry C. Wilson Post No. 762, New York City; Pulaski Post No. 782, Rochester; Herbert W. DeLong Post No. 808, Belmont; Edward A. Cummings Post No. 819, Brooklyn; Max O. Van Atta Post No. 843, Spender; Urban Karcher Post No. 850, Castorland; East Side Post No. 868, New York City; Newfane Post No. 873, Newfane; Slagei Band Post No. 941, Rochester.

Gold Bands of honor for having enrolled all eligible men in the community in which they are situated were won by six Posts:

Donald W. Gleason Post No. 190, Delhi; Cole Hansenberger Deland Post No. 676, Odessa; Harvey C. Noone Post No. 954, Churchville; Robson-Savage Post No. 546, Middlesex; William Russell Post No. 404, Vernon, N. Y.; Sherrill Post No. 230, Sherrill.

County Championship to that County which showed 30 days prior to this Convention the greatest percentage increase in their county membership for 1924 over 1923, won by Warren County.

Gold Medals to Dr. E. L. Gow, County Chairman, and W. S. Kelleher, Chairman County Membership Committee.

Free trips to the National Convention for signing up the greatest number of new members awarded to:

Benjamin Kaufman, East Side Post, New York City; Alan

Taylor, Schenectady Post; Ralph Jones, Dan Tallon Post, New York City; Glenn Condon, National Vaudeville Artists Post, New York City; Wm. L. Briggs, Hanbidge Post, Ogdensburg; Matthew Bonafide, Flower City Post, Rochester; George L. Jackson, Cook Post, Yonkers; Miss Malingren, Jane D. Delano Post, New York City; John Kreppel, Joseph B. Garity Post, Ridgewood; Morris Clause, Little Falls Post. (Applause.)

Mr. Leonard (Chautauqua): It gives me the greatest pleasure to move the adoption of Mr. Ward's report and the thanks of the Convention for the wonderful work he has done this year. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Now, gentlemen, you are going to get one of the founders of our Legion. Will you please bring to the platform our Buddy, Theodore Roosevelt? (Applause.)

The Chairman: The Chair recognizes the County Chairman of Nassau.

Mr. Tappin (Nassau): Mr. Commander, on behalf of Nassau County it gives me great pleasure to present to this Convention our "Teddy," Assistant Secretary of the Navy, of Nassau County. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I decline to present a government officer of such renown as our "Teddy" to this Convention as only belonging to Nassau County. (Applause.) I, therefore, ask him to sit down until we can properly present him. (Laughter.)

Buddies, I have just found out something else. We have got Bill Deegan with us and I want to present him. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Buddies, yesterday you heard from this platform a wonderful speech by an able soldier. That speech was made by a man who had commanded the man who will next address you. Today when those two men met they can never forget the wounds which were still visible on the man who will come next, a man who was promoted on the field of battle and the recommendation for his promotion was made by General Parker, whom you listened to yesterday. Today that man has moved along in public esteem and in our hearts we refuse and absolutely decline to let that County which has produced such wonderful and great men — and where we go today to break the law (laughter and applause) — we refuse absolutely to let them claim all the credit for our "Teddy," and I, therefore, present to you the Honorable Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and one of our great Legionnaires. (Applause.)

Honorable Theodore Roosevelt (Assistant Secretary of the Navy): Commander Spafford, better known as Ed Spafford, Brother Tappin, and Buddies: The first thing that came to my mind as I was standing up here was when we were all singing and someone leaned over to me and said: "What in thunder are you

doing?" (Laughter.) It took me back to what happened to my mother long ago. She used to take all of us little boys to church together at Oyster Bay. One day after the service another lady said to a resident of Oyster Bay, "You know, I like Mrs. Roosevelt, but I don't understand why she allows her children to make those horrible irreligious noises." (Laughter.) It was the poor children doing their best to sing. (Laughter.)

The day before yesterday I was in Washington and an officer of a foreign Army asked me where I was going over the week-end and I said I was going to The American Legion Convention. Well, he was pretty poorly educated and he didn't know much about The Legion. (Laughter.) And he said to me, "What is it?" "Oh," I said, "it's the service organization, ex-soldiers," etc. He thought for a while and he said, "Soldiers — Legion — do you have military discipline there?" (Laughter.) And I wish I had had him with me a moment ago to see the military discipline we had here. (Laughter.)

And that put me in mind of something that happened to my father. Back in the days of the Rough Riders, when the Rough Riders were formed, I don't suppose there was anybody except General Wood in the entire Rough Riders who had the foggiest notion of military discipline. Father was Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment. He was going around one evening inspecting the guard. He came by the guard which was stationed near his tent. He found the guard sitting down. The guard had on long trousers at that time, with his trouser leg pulled up to his knee, scratching, and as father came by the guard looked up in a pleasant way and said, "Skeeters are bad, ain't they, Colonel?" (Laughter.)

Now, I have spoken to all of you so many times that I am a little bit shy for fear I will wear out my welcome. But today I have got a short message, but one which lies very close to my heart, that I want to give you. First, to me The Legion is a very great organization. I feel that The Legion has potentially the power to become one of the greatest organizations the country has ever known. The Legion might be simply an organization of veterans who got together, just because they were veterans and just to talk and have a social time. If that were the case, though I'd be loyal, though I'd enjoy myself, though I'd certainly belong, I wouldn't have the feeling for it that I have now when I think of what it has the power to develop in it. The Legion manifestly need not be simply an association of veterans with nothing more on its programme. The Legion has got within itself the seeds for greater service. The Legion can build up and leave behind it as a monument a record of achievement which will last to the time of our children and our children's children and afterwards.

Now, as I see it, we are at a mighty critical time in The Legion affairs. We are at the fork of the road. One fork, if we take it, will lead to simply a social organization, simply a gathering of veterans, where we all meet and "lalligag" over treasured memories, where we all have a beautiful time, but little else. That would be atrophying The Legion.

The other fork leads to an extension of our influence on the country and the community. The other fork will lead to great benefits for not only The Legion but for the country, and the other fork of the road will mean hard work. Now, I am hoping The Legion will take this last fork of the road. Roughly speaking, countries either go forward or go back. You can't keep them stationary. What drives countries forward is the young men and young women of the country. Progress comes from the young people in the country. The older people in the country generally are not very keen on new ventures. Rather let things stand as they are, have a slight tendency to live in the past. If a country remains completely under the control of the older people that country tends to die of dry rot because progress tends to be eliminated. When such a case occurs I don't blame the old people, I blame the young people for not having kicked in and taken their share in the country's affairs.

The improved future of this country of ours depends upon whether the younger generation are going to shoulder their burdens and make themselves felt. Now, I think that The Legion and The Legion membership are the logical people in this country to lead the youth of the country. We have got to halter a long lead on the younger generations of other times, because generally the younger generation has not any point of contact, doesn't know how to get together, just the fact that they are young, that is all.

We have all been in service together. We are united together by the bonds of service, mutual service, than which there can be none stronger. So we start off, generally speaking, knowing one another. We have got, therefore, the best kind of an opportunity to assume the leadership of the younger generation.

Now, if we are to assume that leadership there are certain things we must guard against, certain actions we must take. To begin with, if I may use the term, we must not be too class conscious of ourselves as ex-service men. We must not arrogate everything to ourselves. We must reach out and get hold of the younger boys and younger girls who come up since the time of the war and who look to all of us. The true leadership comes from comradeship, not from setting yourself apart. We must, therefore, collect the younger element around us and work alongside of us. Also, and to an extent a corollary of that, and a practical illustration of how we must do it, we must broaden the scope of our activities. We must not let ourselves get where, no matter how worthy they are, our attentions are devoted simply to legislation which affects ex-service men.

Now, mind you, I don't mean for a moment that we should abandon guarding service men and seeing that they get a square deal. But we must not let that be the primary programme of The Legion and of the ex-service man. I hope now with the bonus a fact accomplished, regardless of whether you were for or against it, regardless of whether anyone was for or against it, we will think more in terms of the country at large and emphasize less the terms

of simply ex-service men. Now I don't want you to misunderstand me. I don't mean for an instant that we should abandon watching out for the interest of the service men and abandon seeing that those who were disabled get a square deal. If we did, if we abandoned that we'd be traitorous. But what we must do is not to make that our exclusive mission. Otherwise we won't be able to rally this larger group around us in the country. We must be nationally minded, not simply ex-service men minded.

Again, negative leadership gets nowhere. Positive leadership is what counts. We have got to go out and make a positive drive to get things accomplished. We must not simply wait until the proposition is thrust on us. We must go out and look for it, adopt it as our own and then set out to see that it is accomplished. There are any number of things that can be done and if we do they will strengthen The Legion.

I am going to give you an illustration of something along the same line. McNider was telling me the other day how in Iowa they have got their Legion so that they demand each year some bit of work, civic work, accomplished by each Post. What has been the result? Benefit to Iowa, benefit to the United States, and the membership of The Legion has gone way up. It has done everybody good and The Legion is assuming a stronger position every year.

Now there are some who will say from the foregoing statement that what I am doing is urging The Legion to get into politics. That is trash. I have stood rigidly from the very beginning against The Legion getting into politics. The first Caucus at St. Louis they wanted to elect me Chairman and I refused because I was afraid that if I accepted they'd say I was trying to use The Legion to help myself politically and that that would hurt The Legion. And then I backed for first Chairman a Southern Democrat. (Laughter.) So you can see that I am not simply talking. I have been acting up to what I have talked.

But though The Legion should refrain from partisan politics it must sit in and take a part on big politics. What are they? Oh, there are hundreds of them. For example, Army and Navy — see that we maintain a proper Army and Navy. And right there I want to dot my "i's" and cross my "t's." Don't simply pass resolutions for it and then forget about it. When the time comes that there is a Navy Day held, or a Defense Day held, if you believe in what they stand for, get out in the various communities and help make them a success. If you believe that certain things should be done for the Army and Navy, get after your Congressmen and Senators regardless of whether they are Republicans or Democrats, or what-nots. (Laughter.) Make them understand that that is what you want. (Applause.) The what-nots are mainly in the Northwest. (Laughter and applause.) That is only one illustration. There are any amount of other things that can be done. Recreation work — seeing that the kids get a proper chance to have playgrounds, fostering movements like the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. All that.

And when The Legion begins to associate itself more and more with work of that kind that leadership of the younger generation, of which I have spoken, will grow and will be founded on such a firm foundation that you cannot shake it.

One more thing. I don't want anybody to think that when I say that The Legion should not engage in partisan politics that I mean that Legionnaires individually should not. I think every member of The American Legion individually should engage in partisan politics. What I am trying to do is to differentiate between The Legion as an organization and the individual. As an organization, no partisan politics. As an individual, surely partisan politics.

And I will tell you why. Now, I am a Republican. Naturally, I am wishing the Republicans win. But if The Legion, men of the type of The Legion, will get in and take a part and get to where they have influence and control in the various parties, even if we Republicans are beaten by a party which is composed largely of Legionnaires, I am not going to worry about what happens to the country. (Applause.)

I must tell you a funny story. I was out campaigning with Governor Ed Morrow in the Kentucky mountains four years ago and up in the Kentucky mountains they take their politics mighty seriously, and we came to a town called Pikesville. There the Republicans happened to be in control and they had celebrated our advent to the town by putting the leading Democrats in jail. (Laughter.) Now, naturally, that aroused considerable resentment in the ranks and file of the Democratic Party there and they allowed that they'd shoot an eye out of Eddie Morrow or me, sort of vicarious atonement on our part. Well, the committee in the town were a little bit worried about that because we had some other speaking dates in Kentucky. So they detailed a guard to look out for Morrow and a man to guard me. Well, nothing happened. We got back again to the train and the boy who was guarding me was a great big, tall, six footer, built about like Charlie Hann, and he had been with me in service. He had been in the 26th Infantry. His name was King. As we sat down on the train I said, "King, take a pretty active interest in politics?" He said, "Yes, Colonel." And I remembered that he was an awful kid when he was abroad. And I said, "How old are you?" He said, "I am nineteen, but I voted for Morrow last year and I am going to vote for Harding and Coolidge this year." (Laughter.)

Now, though I said I wanted all to get into partisan politics, I don't want it carried to that extent. (Laughter.)

In finishing, because I promised you a short speech, in all seriousness, comrades, our job is not only to look after the ex-service men who are alive and well now and the ex-service men who are alive and injured. As I see it, one of the principal obligations laid on The American Legion is to guard the memory of the men who were killed in Europe. How can we best guard that memory? By erecting tablets? By making flowery speeches? What would

they care for most? And I speak feelingly because, as you know, my brother Quentin was killed there, and incidentally my little boy is named after him, and Donald Grant, who is here in the audience, has a boy named after him, too. Now, what would Quentin and the boys like him want — and it is our mission to keep their memory properly alive — what would they want us to do? Not speeches and not tablets. They would want us to set out, to determine to create a better country in the future as a monument to them. We are at this fork of the roads. If we take the fork I am suggesting it will mean hard work. If we take the fork I am suggesting, however, we will, to my way of thinking, show the keenest appreciation of those who died. In the memory of those who died let's make up our minds to take the harder task, to sit in on the affairs of the country, to endeavor to assume the leadership of the young people of the country, to persuade the country at large that when we say service men we don't mean simply men who serve themselves, we mean men who serve the United States of America. (Applause.)

Secretary Roosevelt: Buddies, General Frank Parker, who is an excellent man in spite of the fact that I deceived him into thinking that I should be promoted, wants to extend to all of you on behalf of the First Division, with which I had the privilege to serve — by the way, what other First Division men are there here? Oh, we've got a lot of us here, Frank — on behalf of all of us First Division men we want to invite all of you to our memorial unveiling in Washington on the fourth of October. President Coolidge is going to make the speech there and if you come we will welcome you with open arms. (Applause.) That is all we'll be able to welcome you with in Washington. (Laughter.)

The Chairman: Mr. Secretary, having been brought up and disciplined in the Navy, I always have to begin with the formal title, even though I wind up with "Teddy."

We have enjoyed your message. It came almost exactly the way that I knew that it would, because if you remember in my letter to you I said that we wanted to know your thoughts because your thoughts will be a guidance to us, not only today and tomorrow, but throughout the whole year and I know that you can depend on the buddies of The Legion to carry on community welfare for their own communities, state and nation.

Buddies, we wouldn't be happy here without having a bit of a word from that grand Department Commander of yours, Bill Deegan. I present him to you. (Applause.)

Mr. William F. Deegan (Past Commander, Department of New York, The American Legion): Mr. Department Commander, Mr. Assistant Secretary of the Navy, The County of Nassau, Ladies, and Fellow Legionnaires: The Commander caught me unawares. I hadn't prepared a thing because last evening instead of having had an opportunity to jot something down in a lower berth the

trains were so crowded that I was compelled to stand in an upper berth and was unable to do a darned thing.

But I do want to just convey a little message that I think should be carried from this Convention by all after listening to Teddy. You know, I remember the St. Louis Caucus and can almost picture it at this particular moment, when Teddy stood upon that platform when men were in civilian clothes and men were in uniform. I suppose in that auditorium there were over four or five thousand service men. In those days it was called a caucus. And they pleaded for over an hour and a half to have Teddy accept the Commandership and he said no, and the New York delegation was privileged on that day to sit upon the stage. I don't know whether that privilege will be extended to the New York delegation at any National Convention now. (Laughter.) And the New York delegation took Teddy under its wing and pleaded and pleaded and pleaded, and he said no. He even lost the friendship of a great many of us because he wouldn't accept the Commandership, because Ted at that time stated, "I intend to enter politics and I will not use The Legion to build up something for myself." And I rather felt that Teddy then was one of the greatest Legionnaires that we had and I think today he is one of the greatest Legionnaires we have. (Applause.)

I have heard it said that Teddy has used The Legion. Now, I have had occasion to do a great deal of business with Teddy, on behalf of men who have served, and are serving in the Navy, whose families are in distress, and I have gone to Ted and said, "Ted, will you, for God's sake, release this man? His family is in dire want." And I want to tell you that Teddy Roosevelt has never failed to release a man whose family was in dire want, even though he broke the rules. That is the kind of a man Teddy is. (Applause.)

Coming up on the train with Teddy this morning, standing on the back platform of the train, we discussed the question of where The Legion was going to get off. And I said this to Teddy, that we have listened to politicians tell us day after day and day after day, "You must not go into politics; you must stay out of politics." And in discussing that particular subject with a prominent Democrat in New York here recently I said, "You are going to drive The Legion and any other veteran organization into politics quicker than you think for the simple reason that you fail to recognize the service the veteran of the World War has rendered." And by that I mean that there is no place for him on the ticket. I don't ask that a service man be placed on the ticket if he is holding a Legion office, but if he is qualified and has the goods I think that his service to his country warrants him being placed on some ticket. We want a veteran Congress, a veteran Senate, a veteran Assembly and a veteran Board of Aldermen. (Applause.) And we have to go to various capitols and beg for some legislation. I think the time is past and we have got to stop begging. They recognize other organizations and we are five million five hundred thousand and it is about time that the parties recognized the man

who served his country, and if they don't I am afraid they will have to take the consequences and, as I told one man the other day, "If we ever do enter politics let me tell some of you old birds that you are going out and you are going to stay out." (Applause.)

Mr. Scheiberling (Albany): Mr. Commander, I move you that the Convention do now go into the session of the Veterans' Mountain Camp. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Annual Meeting of the Veterans' Mountain Camp Corporation was called to order Friday morning, September 5th, 1924, at Alexandria Bay, New York, the President, Dr. Samuel Lloyd, presiding, and the Secretary, Mr. William A. Finnerty, acting as Secretary of the meeting.

Mr. Spafford (New York): Dr. Lloyd, my predecessor informs me that at the meeting last year you are responsible for destroying this gavel. Having been told of that in plenty of time, some of your admirers requested me to present to you a gavel which was indestructible and on which they have placed this inscription: "To Dr. Samuel Lloyd, in slight token of appreciation for unselfish work as President in making the theory of the Veterans' Mountain Camp a practical institution." (Applause.)

Dr. Samuel Lloyd (President, Veterans' Mountain Camp Corporation): Mr. Commander and Gentlemen of The Legion: I can only express my thanks and appreciation of having this presented to me at this time. What I have been able to do for The Legion has been done thankfully, willingly and to the best of my ability. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman (Dr. Samuel Lloyd): The Corporation of the Veterans' Mountain Camp will now convene. I would like to give notice to all Legionnaires who are personally enrolled in the posts, to all delegates, alternates and visitors to the Convention, if they are members of The Legion, that they are members of this Corporation and have a right to vote. The vote here is not confined to delegates.

The first order of business will be the reading of the minutes.

Mr. Spafford (New York): Mr. President, may I rise and request personal privilege?

Mr. President, in this Convention Hall or tent there is a woman who has done more for the Veterans' Mountain Camp than almost any individual or post could possibly have expected it humanly possible for one to do, and, therefore, I request your permission, sir, as my point of personal privilege, to escort Mrs. J. Christopher Marks to the platform before you begin. (Applause.)

Mrs. J. Christopher Marks, President, The Theatre Assembly, is escorted to the platform by Mr. Edward S. Spafford, of New York.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, if you have read The Legion Annual you will find the minutes printed in the Annual.

Motion made that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: It becomes my duty, gentlemen, to present to you the report of the Camp for the present year.

Report of the President to the Third Annual Meeting of the Corporation of the Veterans' Mountain Camp of The American Legion, Department of New York, Incorporated.

In September, 1921, at the Annual Convention of The Legion, Queens County, through Mr. Chas. Pope Caldwell, presented an idealistic scheme to provide for our unfortunate comrades, who cannot obtain relief through the established Federal Government agencies.

At this time the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That the State Commander appoint a Committee of three to investigate the feasibility of establishing Mountain Camps for the care, treatment and entertainment of the wounded, sick, disabled, indigent, aged and infirm who have served honorably in the armed forces of the United States. Such camps to be located on the State Forest Reserve, and if a feasible plan can be promulgated the Committee have immediate power to act.

It will be noticed that this resolution and the debate preceding its adoption did not contemplate the acquisition of property or the construction of permanent buildings.

It was supposed at this time that a site could be obtained in the State Forest Reserve and buildings of a cheap and semi-permanent character erected, that would enable us to take care of a large number of the men scattered through the State, calculated at that time to be between five hundred and fifteen hundred, who for one reason or another were unable to prove that their disability was incident to their service in the Army during the World War.

When Governor Miller was approached, however, it was found, although he was very sympathetic and anxious to help, he was powerless because the law expressly forbade the erection of buildings, or the occupancy of any portion of the Forest Reserve by any individual or organization for anything other than a temporary period for rest and recreation.

It became necessary, therefore, to look into the acquisition of a permanent site contiguous to and providing the advantages of the Forest Reserve where permanent quarters could be provided.

After a careful investigation of all the available properties, guided and advised by the State Conservation Commissioner, the present site of your Camp was found and the Committee

reported the results of its labors to the State Executive Committee. The Committee was then enlarged by the Executive Committee by the addition of five members selected from its own personnel, to investigate and if the enlarged Committee approved to acquire the property without expense to the State organization.

The remainder of the year was spent in organization and the solicitation of funds to obtain and pay for the property. The first annual Poppy Sale was held, resulting in a profit of \$21,087.85, and different committees and individuals studied the question of the best plan for administering the Camp in the interests of The Legion. During this whole period the Camp Committee was a sub-committee of the State Executive Committee and was required to report, not only to the then State Commander, Mr. Deegan, but to the Executive Committee at each of its several meetings. Many different plans for handling the affairs of the Camp were studied not only by the Camp Committee but by the Executive Committee and finally the present organization was decided upon, not only as the most feasible and efficient, but as the best combination that would insure a continued and constructive plan of development for the future, meet the suggestions coming from all parts of the State, and insure a continued control on the part of all sections of the State and preventing the management from ever becoming concentrated in any one section or district, to the exclusion of others, and possibly to a selfish and local control by any section or faction.

During the past year, and especially since the adverse newspaper publicity of the late winter and spring, a number of different ideas, with regard to the future administration, have been suggested in different sections. So far as your President has been able to ascertain, not a single one of these suggestions differs in any material way from the suggestions and plans that were studied by the State Executive Committee before they adopted the present plan.

By the time of the Syracuse Convention, at which the first meeting of the Corporation was held, your State Executive Committee had authorized the incorporation of the Camp, had acquired title to the property, and through the Camp Committee had raised the money necessary for its purchase, eighty-five thousand dollars; had obtained the necessary license to operate as a general and tuberculosis hospital from the State Board of Charities and from the State Board of Health; and had undertaken the necessary repairs and alterations, which the State Engineer had outlined as essential, before the Camp could open for the reception of patients.

During this period many outside organizations had become interested in our venture, the most notable of which was the Theatre Assembly, which has contributed more than any other single organization, and which through its President, Mrs. J.



JOHN C. GRIFFIN
Chairman, Ninth District



MRS. CHARLES R. SEYMOUR
President, American Legion Auxiliary



I. D. WESSELS
Chairman, Third District

Christopher Marks, has done more to concentrate public attention on our work, than even the individual posts or the various Auxiliaries have been able to do. I am happy to say that Mrs. Marks is here today as our guest and I hope will be willing to speak to us before the meeting adjourns. She has been a power of good for our cause, a never ceasing inspiration and help to your President during the whole of his administration.

On July 1, 1922, the incorporators held the first corporation meeting at the Camp and the Corporation came into being at the Syracuse Convention, September 23, 1922. You elected your first Board of Directors, composed of the State Commander, the State Executive Committee and three elective members from each of the nine judicial districts in the State. This Board held its first meeting at the Camp October 7, 1922, formulated the policy for the year, elected the President, Mr. Charles Pope Caldwell, the Treasurer, and an Executive and Finance Committee. This year was a period of construction. Alterations, repairs, and construction of new buildings were carried on. On the 29th of January the President, Mr. Caldwell, resigned, and your Board of Directors called upon me to fill the place. I assumed the responsibilities with extreme reluctance. I did not want the position and only a feeling of absolute loyalty to The Legion and of very great responsibility led me to assume the position. I found that building contracts and other commitments had been entered into, so that the Corporation was almost irretrievably in debt.

There were:

Signed contracts outstanding amounting to....	\$66,575 77
Accounts payable	26,876 20
	<hr/>
	\$93,451 97
Cash in bank	9,146 31
	<hr/>
Actual deficit	\$84,305 66
	<hr/> <hr/>

Something had to be done and done at once to meet this contingency. There was no fixed income, and no way of securing one. The campaign of personal solicitation and speaking had to be arranged and every effort exerted to meet these contractual obligations as they came due. Your President from this time forward gave almost all of his time, to the sacrifice of his personal affairs and personal income, to the affairs of the Corporation. The Second Annual Poppy Drive was organized and resulted in a net profit of \$75,809.28, and the construction work was carried on continuously, the Camp furnished and prepared for the reception of patients.

On the first of February Dr. Joseph J. Cosgrove, who had been selected out of over one hundred and fifty applicants

(two hundred and fifty applications actually received), took charge and his work has been constructive and efficient since that time. He brought to the work a peculiar adaptability and a knowledge, not only of the treatment of tuberculosis in the modern way, but an expert knowledge of construction and farming rarely combined in any one man.

We have been fortunate in having him with us during this formative and difficult period.

The Camp was opened on June 15, 1923, and has been running ever since. We, therefore, came to the Saratoga Convention with the Camp open for tuberculosis patients and restricted to this class. We were painfully aware that we had not yet fulfilled the ideas expressed in the original resolution, but the pressure was from this class of cases, they were more in need than any other, and the decision to devote our work to this class was, in the opinion of your President, wise. We were opposed to going on with constructive work while we were still in debt, and consequently then, and have been since, unable to develop that portion of the Camp which should ultimately be devoted to those suffering from diseases other than tuberculosis and to those in need of reconstruction and convalescence. Because this part of our work has not yet materialized, do not think for one moment that it has been forgotten. Our immediate duty, as we saw it, was to get your Corporation out of debt; to carry on just so far as our funds would allow without an increase in our liabilities; and to prepare for the future development of the property as fast as funds became available for the purpose and not before.

The policy has been, is still, and will be so long as I am your President, "expansion only when we have the money actually in the bank to pay for it." No more debts, no more banking on contingent or future subscriptions. Pay as you go, and if you can't pay stay where you are until you can. The strictest economy has been the watchword of the administration for the past eighteen months and should be still until we are sure that we can continue without risk of involving ourselves in new indebtedness.

At the time of the Second Annual Meeting, at Saratoga, we were still seriously in debt, but still much had been done. The Camp was opened and the patients were gradually increasing. The physical conditions of the grounds and buildings and of the farm were being improved and we were happy to report that definite progress had been made during the year.

At the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors following the meeting of the Corporation, your Board again elected me to the Presidency. I had hoped that someone else would have come forward and allowed his name to come before the Board, so that I might have withdrawn my name, and retired from the duties and responsibilities of the Presidency, but no one

else seemed to be available at the time and I felt, therefore, that it was again my duty to carry on. During the fall and winter every effort was made to increase the income so that we might meet the outstanding liabilities and take care of the daily expenses of Camp Maintenance. The number of patients was gradually increasing, and the physical condition of the Camp and of the patients was steadily improving. By the time of the meeting of the Board of Directors in Albany on the 29th of January, your President reported that during the year since his election to the Presidency, the indebtedness had been reduced by \$49,790.06, leaving a balance still due of \$34,575.60.

At this time we had already begun to prepare for the Annual Poppy Drive, and this year we tried to put into effect the same plans in each county that had worked out so satisfactorily the year before in New York County. We had been able to borrow the necessary funds to keep the Camp running from the First National Bank of Southampton through its Cashier, our Treasurer, and from the Central Union Trust Co., without pledging any of our securities or mortgaging our real estate.

Then the storm broke. The Bonus Campaign was on and we were trying to get as many assignments as possible. The Poppy Drive was about organized and Mrs. Marks was pushing the Annual Subscription Books, when the New York World, followed by the Herald-Tribune, and copied by many of the papers throughout the State, made their attack. That these articles were inspired, that the time was carefully selected in order that it might jeopardize the success of our efforts to obtain funds, we know. That the parties behind the attack were inimical to the Camp, but much more inimical to The Legion, we also know. The attack was unfortunate and undoubtedly decreased our receipts from all sources. Nevertheless, we were able to pull through.

The report that your Camp was bankrupt at this time was absolutely untrue. It was short of funds in its General Fund and we were having a hard time to get money to keep us going up to the time of the Poppy Sale, but never once were we in jeopardy. The worst that could have happened was the possibility that we might be obliged to close the Camp and send the men home until we were again "in funds."

Fortunately this was not necessary, because the attacks brought forward many friends of the Camp who rallied to its support. We asked that ten members of The Legion each take the Camp's note for one thousand dollars to carry us through. Five people responded. Mrs. Marks promptly took the first one for the Theatre Assembly; Mr. Horace Graff, a member of the New York County Committee, took the second; Doctor W. H. Luckett, of the First Division Post, took the third; your President took the fourth; and Mrs. John Bowne Mott,

through the President, took the fifth. Mr. H. Wilson Taylor, the son of Colonel Hiram Taylor, took one for \$100 and offered in the course of his work as a bond salesman to try and place the other five. He had succeeded in placing them, when the publicity campaign already referred to came on, and the plan fell through. We had just enough, however, to enable us to function up to the time of the Poppy Sale.

The Poppy Sale this year was most successful in spite of the efforts made to hamper it and the bad weather in the Metropolitan District. Again this year, I must call your attention and express my thanks to Mrs. Goodman Richard Davis, Mrs. Harlow Brooks, Mrs. Arthur Cilley, Mrs. Howard Lillienthal, Mrs. William A. Brickner of Caduceus Auxiliary, who devoted themselves to the Drive and spent practically every day at Poppy Headquarters; to Mrs. J. Christopher Marks, who not only organized the work in her own Theatre Assembly, but as Chairman of the Poppy Committee of the Federation of Women's Clubs in the State, again did pioneer work. To her assistants, Mrs. G. E. Hutchinson and Miss Minnie Mae Marks, we must also extend our thanks. Mrs. Henry S. Bowron took care of the D. A. R., and to her, too, we are under a tremendous debt. Mrs. W. E. Godfrey, Chairman of the New York County Auxiliaries, was also a member of the Executive Committee and devoted herself to the Drive for weeks before it began. Miss Anna B. Duncan of the Jane A. Delano Post, Mr. Ira Irwin Rackoff of Murray Hill Post, and his brother, Mr. William Rackoff, were at Headquarters daily and took charge of the counting of the cash in the containers and the deposits in the banks, working all day and every night up to midnight, when the last deposit was made. Mr. L. A. Wasserman of Tank Corps Post took charge of the supply room, organized an efficient working force and handled the records. Mr. Herbert A. Russell of John Purroy Mitchel Post gave practically all of his time for at least a month to this work.

Our thanks are particularly due to the Rector, the Rev. Henry Darlington, D. D., and the Vestry and Wardens of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, who placed an office on the third floor of the parish house at our disposal for two months and gave us the use of the assembly rooms and the basement for the Poppy Headquarters, free of rent, thus contributing materially to the success of the Drive.

Our plan of having all the counties in the State organize Poppy Drive Committees was not generally successful. In those counties where it was tried it worked most successfully, and the experience gained this year will result in greater efficiency next year. We hope that this plan will be taken up generally by all the counties next year, and that we may have a much more general and loyal co-operation next year than we had this.

All Posts and Auxiliaries did not co-operate this year but we hope that each year every Post and every Auxiliary will see the importance of their contributing to the funds of the Camp, and in so doing, make a definite contribution to the Welfare Fund which goes to care for their unfortunate comrades who are unable to care for themselves. This is the largest source of income we have. It can be made to carry the expense of Camp maintenance, if we can only have the loyal support of every Legionnaire and every member of the Auxiliaries in putting it over each year.

County Chairmen should appoint next year's Poppy Chairmen now, so that by spring the committees may be fully organized, have their preliminary plans all made and know how many poppies the different organizations in their counties are going to require, so that Headquarters may know how many must be ordered to take care of the sales. We have to place our contracts by February in order to be ready for delivery in April and May. An approximate knowledge of the number of poppies that may be required will avoid the necessity of having needed moneys tied up in a large number of poppies which are now carried over from year to year.

Receipts from poppies (1924).....	\$116,956 74
Expenses	27,053 16
	<hr/>
Net	\$89,903 58
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Col. H. J. Cookinham of Utica, by appointment of the State Commander, took charge of the Bonus Campaign, and did it most effectually and efficiently. The fact that we are not receiving as much as we had expected is in no wise a reflection on the wonderful work that he did, but rather to the adverse criticisms, which were timed by those responsible for them to hamper this work. That this publicity has cost the Camp thousands of dollars we know as a fact.

All the bonus money has been deposited in the Empire Trust Company to the credit of the Endowment Fund as fast as it has been received from the Bonus Commission, and the Finance Committee has invested it as fast as possible in securities that are certified as legal for trust funds and savings banks.

Bonus results.—Up to August 30, 1924, receipts totaled \$66,713.17, for which receipts have been made out and have been mailed to the donors.

Annual subscriptions.—We have not received as great a co-operation as we had hoped for from the annual subscriptions. The reasons have been largely the same as we have already spoken of in connection with the Poppy Drive and the Bonus Assignments. There is also another reason why they have not gone well with the Posts and Auxiliaries. The Commanders, when they have received the books, have had the

idea that it was intended that the members of The Legion and the members of the Auxiliaries were expected to fill the books themselves. This was not the idea at all. They were sent to the Post Commanders as samples and to have them see how many members of their Posts would take books and get people in the different communities to make annual subscriptions running from one dollar up.

This plan should be continued. It can be made a very large and a very continuous source of income. We are hoping it can be pushed again this fall and kept going all the year round. Every member of The Legion should have one of these books in his desk and in his pocket all the time. He will then be surprised to find how easily he gets his acquaintances to sign up. Once having obtained the subscription, we will do the rest, by sending a bill each year to each subscriber. We have no paid subscription agents, and we have to depend upon you, the individual members of the corporation, to each of you act as a voluntary agent in your own community. It has been brought to our attention that many people have subscription books of this year's issue that are partially filled; these should be sent in either to Mrs. Marks or to the Camp office not later than November 1st.

Receipts	\$5,508 05
Expenses	2,106 88
Net	<u>\$3,409 17</u>

Included in the expenses are a large number of subscription blank books which are ready for distribution and which can be obtained at this time.

And now to sum up. The year has shown the following results:

Hospitalization.—Ninety-eight hospital patients have been received into the Camp from every district in the State; seventy-nine have been discharged; there being at present nineteen men at the Camp. The average has been twenty-eight. Details of these figures are contained in the financial statement to be submitted later. The patients have come from the following districts:

District 1, 28; District 2, 20; District 3, 5; District 4, 11; District 5, 7; District 6, 5; District 7, 5; District 8, 7; District 9, 10; total, 98.

The mess averages \$1.31½ per man per diem.

Average costs per hospital day are:

Hospital	\$2 86½
Administration	89
General expense	09½
Total	<u>\$3.85</u>

The total number of hospital days have been 9,795, or an average to August 31st of 100 days.

Mr. Charles F. McWhorter has devoted himself to the Camp unselfishly, and without compensation, for the past three months. He has done a wonderful piece of work and has been a constant help and inspiration, and your President wants at this time to publicly and gratefully acknowledge his debt as well as the debt of The Legion on the whole to him for all the sacrifices both in time and in money that he has made in our behalf.

To the State Commander, Mr. Spafford, we must express our heartfelt thanks. He has been most helpful in our councils, active on the Finance and Executive Committees, and in the Board of Directors, and has had the Camp at heart throughout the whole of his administration, and your President is anxious that he should know that his advice and his help have been appreciated far beyond the power of words to express.

On July 26th and July 27th the Board of Directors and Medical Board met at the Camp. At this meeting a special committee was appointed to consider what should be the future policy of the Camp. This committee will present its report later. A special committee was also appointed to study the question of the farm and make suggestions in regard to its future management.

This committee consisted of Dean H. C. Cook and of Mr. R. W. Radway, Farm Bureau Agent of Franklin county. Their report will also be presented.

I must ask your careful attention to the Treasurer's report. It has been studied and compiled most carefully by Mr. Charles F. McWhorter and again your President must call your attention to the work Mr. McWhorter has done. It has been done most cheerfully, willingly and thoroughly and without any charge for his time and services. Votes of thanks cannot compensate for work such as this and your President can only voice again what he has said before, that what began as a mere casual acquaintance has grown, on his part, to a feeling of friendship and appreciation that will be life-long.

It has been my duty to guide the destiny of the Camp through the most trying years it will ever have. It was a dangerous experiment, for if it failed it would have brought a flood of criticism and derision on The Legion. We have passed that danger. The Camp is out of debt. It does not owe one dollar to anybody today. It owns its property at Tupper Lake free and clear; it has an Endowment Fund of \$127,541.80; it has in cash available for its maintenance next year \$35,723.40.

If we do not increase our work materially during the next year, the budget will amount to about \$55,000, so that before the year is out and the Poppy Sales come on it will probably be necessary to borrow from twenty to thirty thousand dollars.

But in reaching this estimate your President has taken no account of money not actually in sight.

There will undoubtedly be money coming in throughout the year that we have no way of calculating, and if the whole Legion will only adopt the Camp, accept the fact that the officers are honestly and conscientiously trying to make it go, and every man become an active booster instead of a captious critic, it will go forward to unprecedented success.

We have reached the point today when we can for the first time look forward to the future without fear. Let us try now and realize all the desires of the founders. Give ourselves to raising an adequate building fund to develop at Paradise Point a fine infirmary and cottages to care for the non-tuberculous, the convalescent, the indigent and the aged. Let us provide a place for the women of the World War who need just such care as we can and should give them. Let us care for the incipient, the uncertain tuberculosis patient not yet far enough advanced to be admitted into the government institutions, even under the provisions of the Read-Lockwood Bill, and also to give a resting place to those of our comrades who will be discharged from the government hospitals as arrested cases but who have not yet sufficiently recovered to enable them to go back to work and then looking still more to the future let us prepare for that great army who in the battle of life will in the next few years find they have been vanquished and must appeal to their families or their friends or to charity to support them. It is going to be a great horde. Some of us in this room will find ourselves amongst them. Let us prepare so that when the times comes we may call out to each of them, "Come home and rest yourself among the comrades with whom you served and fought. Partake of the bounty you yourself provided in your years of plenty. Come home to your own home and rest and stay." (Applause.)

The Chairman: The next order of business, gentlemen, is the reading of the Treasurer's report.

Mr. Phillips (Suffolk): I move that the President's report be accepted with a rising vote and that we extend him our thanks. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. Hulse (Treasurer of the Corporation): Mr. Chairman, with your permission I would request that Mr. McWhorter read my report as he has prepared it and understands it better than I do.

The Chairman: If there are no objections Mr. McWhorter will present the Treasurer's report. (Applause.)

Mr. Charles F. McWhorter (Kings): Mr. President and Comrades: This is the report but I am not going to read it all. I

am going to read the high spots. Contained in the report is a complete detailed statement of all the individual and other receipts of the year. A copy of this report will be on file at the Camp office, Legion Headquarters, and the Public Library at 5th avenue and 42d street, New York City, and is open for inspection and study. Up to Saturday night last, the fiscal year closing August 31st, every last dollar of bonus assignments which were received into the office have been acknowledged and are included in this report.

As a result of the several conferences had by the writer during and since the newspaper criticisms, it has been decided to change the form of the report to furnish the information in the form apparently desired and which form appears to have been favorably received. This report will, therefore, be from the start to date and hereafter be both for the current year and will also show the accumulated figures. This report consists of:

- Exhibit A — Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements.
- B — Statement of Condition of Funds.
- C — Balance Sheet.
- D — Maintenance Costs.
- E — Hospitalization.
- F — Farm and Dairy Products.

supported by schedules, showing receipts for the year, as follows:

1 — Donations from posts.....	\$5,280 69
2 — Donations from auxiliaries.....	4,507 88
3 — Donations from theatre assembly.....	63 00
4 — Donations from associations.....	15,560 91
5 — Donations from individuals.....	3,808 00
6 — Additional poppy receipts.....	116,945 34
7 — Loan-to payments completed.....	1,285 00
8 — Bed fund receipts.....	1,050 00
9 — Endowment fund receipts.....	5,425 00
10 — Bonus assignments	66,337 84
11 — Bonus donations	535 83
12 — 1924 annual subscriptions.....	5,508 05

The receipts have been apportioned in accordance with the expressed wish of the donors. Where no wish has been expressed, such amounts were credited to the general fund, except that direct contributions from churches, and fraternal societies were credited to the endowment fund, unless otherwise instructed. All bonus assignments have been credited to the endowment fund.

Respectfully submitted.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, you have heard the report of the Treasurer. What is your pleasure?

Mr. Gumpertz (New York): I move the adoption of the report with thanks. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Aronowitz (Albany): Mr. President, the Veterans' Mountain Camp is the most important work of The Legion of this State. Due to the fact that the program was so long this morning, many of the members have left. I think that the Camp is important enough and the information about it is valuable enough to warrant the attendance of the entire Convention. Also, to have the entire Convention have the pleasure of hearing Mrs. Marks.

I therefore move that this meeting now recess until nine tomorrow morning. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Veterans' Mountain Camp Corporation reconvened at 9:10 A. M., Saturday, September 6, 1924.

The Chairman: The Corporation meeting of the Veterans' Mountain Camp will come to order.

The first business will be the reading of the report of the Special Committee on Farm. Mr. Frenette.

Mr. Frenette (Special Farm Committee):

Your Committee has taken some liberty in forming its conclusions and made it somewhat provisional, and we trust you will pardon us for stepping outside of the technical farm problems to be considered.

Obviously, the farm and its management could not under any circumstances become a purely commercial proposition.

By the very nature of the case institutional farms are rarely profitable. With the dirt farmer, so-called, there is no separate overhead charge, for all administration, including the planning of crop rotation and care, soil studies, supervision of labor, salesmanship, bookkeeping and a variety of things that a farmer does not reckon with in his expense account.

Such work is done by the family while otherwise employed or at the end of the day's work. Under the division of labor plan necessarily involved in connection with an institution like yours every one employed must be cash paid, and your products must compete in the open market with those grown under the less expensive private farmer plan.

In the care and maintenance of your patients, or those who will occupy the Camp under whatever classification, there is developed a local demand for food which places a value upon certain products somewhat higher than wholesale farm products prices.

In this list fluid milk and cream from tuberculin tested cows cared for under the most approved sanitary conditions and their milk and cream protected from infection from milking to consumption comes first. For summer use garden vegetables seem important and also fresh laid eggs. If this analysis is

correct, then the available farm land outside the small amount devoted to vegetables should be given over to the production of hay for cows and the necessary horses to do the farm work. And the hay plants such as the clovers and timothy would logically be the plants to grow.

The seasons are short and temperatures as a rule unfavorable for corn, and grain feeds can be purchased at market prices, as the area of easily cultivated land is small, and the means of harvesting and threshing grain either very crude or unavailable at any price makes grain growing quite out of the question as an annual crop.

Hay plants can be grown on the same fields over a period of years by the frequent application of stable manure and chemical fertilizers. Pasture grass in its season and early cut hay can be relied upon for home grown feeds, and balanced ration grain feeds purchased and judiciously fed may be depended upon to produce practically to the limit of the animals in use. Your location is near one of the finest natural potato sections in the east, and aside from a few early potatoes no doubt they could be purchased as cheaply as grown. All meat products, possibly with the exception of poultry, can be most economically obtained on the general markets.

Beyond the requirements already mentioned for crops, the clearing and cultivation of more land would appear to be an unprofitable venture.

Until the scope and function of the Camp has been more definitely fixed than it could possibly be at present, so short a time after the close of the war, and before Government plans have attained their final maturity, we would recommend no further change in the location of buildings. There would no doubt be some saving of time in handling the cows and their feed if the barns were located on the hill near the fields, but such a change would involve a home nearby for the caretaker and the interest on the money expended for these changes would easily pay the extra labor of hauling feed down and manure back to the land.

The division of labor as found on institutional farms makes necessary more labor than would be found on privately owned farms. For this reason sometimes the labor on these institutional farms is not as efficiently used as on the privately owned farms. On many of the privately owned farms we find one man caring for thirty to forty acres of crops, depending, of course, upon the nature of the crops. It becomes necessary, however, at certain seasons of the year to employ extra men either by the day or by the month. Under the present system as found on many of the institutional farms it would be extremely difficult to recommend any definite system for labor. Therefore, it might be well to state that probably under no circumstances will the labor on such farms be able to compete with the labor on the privately owned places.

It might be well to keep in mind the production of milk and cream, as stated before, and with this one end in view make the labor as efficient as possible. Also it seems well to keep at least the present amount of garden. Any changes that might be made either in live stock or with crops or garden should be made gradually.

Respectfully submitted.

Mr. Spafford (New York): Mr. President, I move you, sir, that the report be accepted with thanks and referred for definite action to the Board of Directors. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The next report will be that of the Special Committee on Organization. Mr. Brady.

Mr. Thomas J. Brady (Special Committee on Organization):

“Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

“At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Veterans’ Mountain Camp, held at Tupper Lake on July 26th and 27th, 1924, a Special Committee, consisting of Mr. Brady, Chairman of the 1st District, Mr. Wilder, Chairman of the 4th District and Mr. Leonard, Chairman of the 8th District, was appointed to recommend to the Annual Meeting of the Camp a definite policy for the care and treatment of disabled veterans.

“The Committee, after a thorough inspection of the Camp, held a meeting at Albany on August 7th 1924, and several meetings since, and hereby submits the following report.

“The Camp, which is situated at Big Tupper Lake, comprises three main points: Paradise Point, Fox Hall Point and Warren Point. At the present time Warren Point is used for the Farm. And Paradise Point at the present time is not in use.

“Paradise Point consists of a number of buildings which are available for use during the summer months but which are not equipped for winter use. Your Committee recommends:

“1. That the Camp continue to take and care for all tuberculosis cases refused by the Government and the United States Veterans’ Bureau, also tuberculosis cases which are awaiting Government action and arrested cases during convalescent period, but no far advanced or surgical cases.

“2. That as soon as the money is available Paradise Point be put in proper condition and that these buildings be opened for the care and treatment of non-tubercular convalescent cases. No Neuropsychiatric cases or cases that the Camp cannot reasonably handle shall be taken.

“3. That no charge of any kind be made to any veteran who had been accepted for admission into the Camp.

“4. That no paid publicity agent be employed by the Camp.

“5. That an executive manager be employed to aid and assist the President.

“6. That no further expansion along building lines be undertaken until the money is available and in the hands of the Treasurer.

“That at least one meeting of the Board of Directors be held each year at the Camp in order to enable the Directors to inspect the property and secure first hand information of the progress the patients are making.

“8. That in order to increase the interest in the Camp and to give Legionnaires an opportunity of seeing the splendid work The Legion is doing in taking care of the disabled veterans, the Board of Directors foster an annual excursion each year to the Camp of Legionnaires and their friends. That such excursion be made without expense to the Camp with the possible exception of providing meals for the visitors.

“9. That the Board of Directors adopt a budget which shall be within the conservative estimated income of the Camp for the year. That the District Chairman recommend and President appoint within each District a committee of representative citizens who will act as advisory committee in aiding and assisting the Camp to raise the necessary funds for its maintenance.

“10. That the President and Treasurer be bonded in a good surety Company in the sum of fifty thousand dollars each and that each employee of the Camp handling moneys of the Camp be also bonded in an appropriate amount.

“11. That all posts and persons who have donated money for lean-tos be requested to release these funds to the general building fund.

“12. That an effort be made to obtain an office in the City of New York rent free and if this is not possible that the present office be maintained at an annual rental not to exceed twelve hundred dollars.

“13. That all moneys received from assignments of the New York State bonus be placed in the Endowment Fund and that the interest be used directly for the relief and assistance of disabled veterans within the State of New York but not used for building purposes.

“14. We approve the report of the special committee of farm experts and their recommendation of the raising of those crops and products which can be most economically produced and we are opposed to the further clearing and cultivation of land and moving of farm buildings at this time.

“15. Your Committee urgently recommends that each District elect the best qualified man for Director of the Camp. We urge that men be selected who are sympathetic with the great humanitarian work the Camp is doing in taking care of and rehabilitating tuberculous and convalescent veterans. We also wish to impress upon the incoming Directors that it is their duty not only to visit the Camp but to also assist the

President in raising of the necessary funds to enable the Camp to properly function.

“16. We learn with regret that Dr. Lloyd’s health will not allow him to again accept the Presidency of the Camp. Too much praise cannot be given him for his unselfish work and we recommend that his services be retained as Chairman of the Medical Board.

“17. That to insure the complete confidence in the Camp and to guarantee the Legionnaires and their loyal friends who are contributors that these recommendations will be carried out, we urge the Board of Directors to elect as President that most loyal champion of the Camp, Edward E. Spafford. (Applause and cheers)

“Respectfully submitted.”

Mr. Spafford (New York): Mr. President, I rise to a point of personal privilege. I was present at the meeting where this Committee was selected. I have consulted with the Committee and I feel that the Committee has far overstepped the bounds of propriety and decency in daring to submit to the stockholders of this Corporation recommendations pertaining to the personnel of the future. I am not unappreciative of the idea that they would like to have me continue in work. I will continue in work, but I cannot accept the Presidency of the Veterans’ Mountain Camp and I told this Committee so and I regret very much that they should have brought my name into it.

Mr. Brady: What this distinguished gentleman says is most true. He did tell us that he wouldn’t accept it. But in spite of that the members of the Committee asked the Board of Directors at its meeting this afternoon to use their best endeavors and efforts to get Mr. Spafford to change his mind.
(Applause)

A motion is made that the report of the Committee be adopted. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The next business, gentlemen, is the election of the members of the Board of Directors for the ensuing year. First, the Executive Committee and the officers for next year, who will be elected by the Convention today, are members of the Corporation for one year.

Mr. G. Merritt Ward (Monroe): I move you, Mr. Chairman, that the men who are elected this afternoon to be officers and members of the Executive Committee of The Legion of the State be made and elected here Directors of the Camp Corporation for the following year. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The next is the election of Directors.

Mr. Edward E. Spafford is nominated, seconded and elected Director from the 1st District.

Mr. Morse is nominated, seconded and elected to succeed himself as Director from the 4th District.

Mr. William A. Finnerty is nominated, seconded and elected Director from the 5th District.

Dr. G. A. Silliman is nominated, seconded and elected Director from the 6th District.

Dr. Bartlett (Geneva) is nominated, seconded and elected Director from the 7th District.

Mr. Benjamin L. Rhodes is nominated, seconded and elected Director from the 8th District.

Mr. Hiram W. Taylor (Westchester) is nominated, seconded and elected Director from the 9th District, to succeed himself.

The Chairman: During the past two or three years—in fact, ever since the beginning of the Camp—we have had a great deal of assistance from people who are not members of The Legion, people who have taken up simply because of their interest in the ex-service man and their desire to see the Veterans' Mountain Camp take care of as many of our sick and wounded comrades as possible. Many of these philanthropic people have been most enthusiastic in this work. They have been very large contributors to our fund. The numbers have increased gradually and the enthusiasm on the part of those who have been working with us has been materially advanced by the work of one particular person.

I know of no one who more unselfishly or more willingly has given of her time and her money and her enthusiasm and her health to the Veterans' Mountain Camp than Mrs. J. Christopher Marks. (Applause)

The Chairman: Mrs. Marks is present and I am going to ask her to speak to you for a few minutes because she brings a message from those who are outside of our own organization and brings it in a way that very few people can bring a message to any organization. Mrs. Marks. (Applause)

Mrs. J. Christopher Marks: Mr. President, Executive Officers, and Members of The Legion: I hope you will like my message. It doubtless is my first and probably my last speech before The Legion. I have worked since the inception of this Camp and I want to tell you that I have worked because I wanted to work. I did it because I worked during the war and I am one, I may say, of few who have continued with the same faith and affection in the ex-service man of today that I had during the war. (Applause)

Today I come to you as an outsider, as Dr. Lloyd has said, representing the whole of New York State covering thousands of club women. Also, I come to you as the President of the Theatre Assembly of New York City which has in its membership two thousand ladies and some gentlemen. We are very proud to own the gentlemen and we greet with great enthusiasm those who are to come in in the future.

Last January I was called to Albany to appear before the State Board of the Federation of Women's Clubs of New York State.

When I reached there I found through the President, Mrs. Booth, who has a very wonderful son among your number, Mrs. Booth of Plattsburgh who is the President of the Federation, presented me to this body of women and then asked me if they should install in the Federation a chairman for the Veterans' Mountain Camp at Tupper Lake would I take the chairmanship for the year. That was a very hard question to ask me, because you all know that I am interested, that I wanted every woman and every family interested in this State. And what could I do but accept it with great enthusiasm and do my best?

And then came the Poppy Drive and I was asked to be chairman of the Women's Clubs of New York State, the first time that the State as a body had taken hold of the poppies to work under the managership of The Legion and the Auxiliary and to cooperate from the outside with you for the poppy drive. Well, I also accepted that. And I have lived to tell the tale.

You have heard the report of the poppy drive and I do want you in your hearts to consider in that report how many outsiders that didn't work in the years before have worked through your Legion posts in their respective locations in order to swell the fund to sustain this Camp. Dr. Lloyd and I very carefully worked out that all of this work should be done through The Legion in the respective localities. So I want you to consider the outsider today, not myself personally, but as I come to you representing the public.

Every speech that I have heard thus far has been from the very inside. You all know each other. You know what you think of each other. But, of course, I get things from the outside that perhaps you don't get.

Just at the time of the poppy drive — Dr. Lloyd brought it in his report to you yesterday — the attacks that had been made upon the work of the Veterans' Mountain Camp occurred. I hope some of the people may be present who made some of those attacks, because I want you to know from the public, if you are present, that you have certainly done a very wrong thing to your very own. In speaking all over the State before the outside organizations, the first thing that would come up to me, way even in the western part of the State, would be, "Why, Mrs. Marks, how can you stand up and talk for this Camp when the very Legionnaires themselves condemn it?" Please think seriously of that.

My message may not in all ways be pleasant to you but sometimes it is a good thing for a good sister or a good mother to just tell you how things do sound when you hear them from the outside. No house can stand if it is divided. Sometime it must fall. You ask me, "How does the Theatre Assembly stand with two thousand members?" We are united. We try to work in harmony. We try to work in unity and we have not the object to work for that The American Legion has in the Veterans' Mountain Camp. Your men who are ill, your men who must be cared for, and that, it seems to me, should be almost your first thought. You, the

buddies who own this Camp. I haven't anything to do with it. I represent the public. The public hasn't anything to do with it. We don't even own a brick. We can't own a share of stock. We can't have a word to say only as I am saying it to you now. If there be criticism it generally comes from the inside and switches out and the public gets hold of your criticism and then condemns with your words what you are trying to do as an organization.

If by chance no one is here fully responsible for those attacks that came from the inside, won't you as a big committee, go into your organization and try always to suppress the things that are detrimental to the success of that which should be one of your first ambitions?

The public is greatly interested in your Veterans' Mountain Camp. I can tell you that because they say money talks and from the public came a great deal of money, and from the public must come a great deal more money to make your Camp a success.

We have in speaking to the public to answer all sorts of questions which are put to us — among others are, that you are a close corporation; you don't even allow a very well known business man's name to appear on your Board of Directors. And all of those questions come to us and we try to answer them the best we can.

Now, if you are responsible as an American Legion I beg of you to be united, to have harmony in your work, for those who deserve the sincerest protections of love and everything that can be given them while they live and perhaps bring them back to health. (Applause)

I want to speak here of your Commander who has cooperated so beautifully with us during this past year and I want to speak of your outgoing President. I worked with the first President. I helped to raise the first dollar and I have never been sorry.

The dreams have come true and you have the Camp, this wonderful place. But this President that you had during the past year. I was in session with him nearly every day during the season and I want you to know that if there has been a failing in health it has not come from the burden of discharging the duties of the Camp, but it has come from neglect in many cases where members of The Legion should have come forward to help in raising the money and not ask your President with all of his arduous duties to go out into the open, into the public, and stand the responsibility of getting in the money to carry the Camp safely over until the Poppy Drive. That should never be asked of any President. I wouldn't like my organization to ask it of me. I was present at the time he asked for ten people to help raise one thousand dollars each, taking a note from the Camp to be paid during the time that the money should come in from the Poppy Drive. I felt so chagrined. I felt so sorry for him. To think that someone did not come forward out of about the sixty-three thousand of The Legion people or organizations to help him. I felt so sorry that I was the first. I did it with pleasure. And I took the note of the Camp and I paid it back myself with subscriptions that I made from the books. (Applause)

I think he told you yesterday, that he had five. Now, those are the things that take the life and the blood out of a man or a woman. It isn't the work that we do, like today or tomorrow, but it is when neglect comes from a big organization and you have it on your shoulders as Dr. Lloyd had this Camp. Then he had the criticisms come just before the Poppy Drive. He didn't have the reinforcement of the love, the backing, the help of The American Legion at his back at the time he most needed it, as I have in the organization of the Theatre Assembly today. I wonder how many men here would go through what I know Dr. Lloyd went through with the last year about the finances. I don't know about our organization. But I think whoever your incoming President should be, you should have a finance committee to relieve that man of the obligation of swinging the financial proposition of the Camp as well as the discharging of the duties of direction.

Dr. Lloyd, I want to pay you a tribute from all of the ladies in New York State who have worked under your direction. They have always found him one hundred per cent. He has the confidence of every clubwoman that I have ever heard mention his name and having that confidence they have opened their pocket-books. You have got to get the confidence of a woman before you will get a cent, and Dr. Lloyd got that.

I want to speak also of your Director at the Camp. It so happens that Dr. Marks and I have about thirty acres where we have to have caretakers and farmers. If we had to tack on the top of that man's profession of caretaker and farmer a medical director, I think I would be looking all over the United States to find a man to fill the job of both. And it seems to me — I have been to the Camp three times — that you have a most wonderful, competent man at the Camp. I wonder that you ever found such a man. We have a hard time to find just the people even without the medical profession connected with it.

I want to speak to you of the cows. You probably know that it was my organization who established the dairy there. The last time I knew they had twelve young stock beside the cows. You know what the insurance means on these. You know they are very valuable from the report that was given yesterday and the insurance papers will tell of their value. But they are increasing. Today they are occupying a barn that was occupied by the private dairy of Colonel Barbour, when he owned that place. I wonder the cows live in that barn. You have a very wonderful valuable dairy. But it seems to me with the great Auxiliary of The American Legion, we'll say, someone, some one great body within yourselves, that a barn could be built that would be the right kind of a barn to take care of your valuable dairy and allow its increase. To me that is one of the most essential things at your farm and I speak because I know what it costs. I earned every dollar myself to buy that dairy with, with the help of my ladies, and it is well worth caring for because it gives the very best milk and cream and butter to your men who need it and one thousand and thirty-

two dollars to the good last year. So I think it is very worthwhile, one of the first things you do, to invest in the barn.

I want to speak of your office in New York, wherever you may have it. Do maintain an office if you want to keep faith with the public. Our ladies this last year were able to go to 110 East 42nd Street. The president of any club in New York State could go there. They could ask for any bit of information that they wanted. She always had it given to her in the most courteous manner and came away satisfied and nine times out of ten would report back to me that the information gained at the office was perfectly satisfactory to her club. And I want to speak of the potatoes that came here on this platform yesterday. You may think it doesn't pay to sow seed but I'll tell you that it does. Last year, it seemed to me, that you would need potatoes and and you would need pigs and while they called me the "pig woman" and likened me to the woman from New Brunswick, New Jersey, when I bought fifty pigs for our organization and sent them up to you, I want to tell you that we made good on the eats for the boys last winter and we decided that the potatoes were necessary. And we knew that when the snow came they could live. So we bought the potatoes which cost the Theatre Assembly nine hundred and twenty-nine dollars and I was the happiest one in this tent yesterday when Mr. McWhorter had thought far enough to bring the potatoes and show what had come from the seed that we worked hard with card parties, etc., to buy the potatoes that it might go on and on and on to feed the men who need the help at the Camp.

So don't be afraid of a little bit of seed that you sow in any one of your Posts or Auxiliaries. It will come back to you tenfold and you will be very, very happy in the success that it brings to others who need it.

Now, I want to speak of the subscription book which came out. Every Legionnaire in the State was mailed a copy of the Veterans' Mountain Camp News. When Dr. Lloyd and I consulted together we felt you needed a report of the Camp and therefore that paper was gotten out, cuts of the Camp, etc. We had no money to do it. It was just at the time when finances were so low. I want you to know that your President sold some of his personal bonds. I saw him do it. And we went halves on the proposition in order that we might get more money in to help the Camp. The American Legion Weekly wouldn't give us one bit of time so the money had to come from somewhere, and between Dr. Lloyd and myself we financed the subscription books, the cuts for all of your papers, the printing of the paper, the mailing of it out, the envelopes in which they were mailed and the stamps that it took to mail to sixty-three thousand Legionnaires and ten or eleven thousand Auxiliary women, and we put the subscription books out.

Our Theatre Assembly brought in about two thousand dollars, a little over in money, from the subscription books. The Eastern Star of New York State brought in a little over eleven hundred

dollars. And the rest has been brought in from some of the clubs, and I believe from some of the Auxiliaries. The expense was given at something like two thousand dollars, but please, dear Legionnaires, remember that included all of the cuts, your Veterans' Mountain Camp News, an issue of eighty thousand papers and you can find out from The American Legion Weekly just what it cost. And still we have enough books to work with.

Now, I want to speak for the proposition. Out of the five thousand dollars that came in there were three watches given. The expense was not much for the watches but there were only three watches that really were earned out of the three thousand dollars expense, out of the five thousand dollars that came in. I have proved to you — I am on the outside — but I come into your midst today — I have proved to you that my organization of women of two thousand right in New York City took up the proposition and went out among their friends and brought in two thousand dollars and a little over with two thousand members. You have sixty-three thousand members, I believe, and about ten or eleven thousand Auxiliary members. It is your Camp. It isn't my Camp. It is your Camp. It isn't the club women's Camp, only as a matter of principle. But it is doubly your matter of principle, because you are a Legionnaire.

Now, why can't The Legion and the Auxiliary take the same pep and inspiration and put the job over just the way the Theatre Assembly and the Eastern Star of New York State did? Now, you can if you will only do it. If you do that you will never need want for anything else, for your Camp. If you don't like to do that, it is a very easy thing — if you see fit to do it — to have even a dollar a year for every Legionnaire and Auxiliary woman. But you must do something to help your new President whoever he may be, who shall come to fill this office.

I have worked very arduously because I loved you and I still do. I shall always love the ex-service man just the same as the day when I waved the flag when he sailed away. And I am always with him. Perhaps not in all that he does, but I am with him to do my part as a good American citizen. But you must realize that it is impossible to keep up this struggle and this fight for years. I have a duty to my family. I have a duty to my own. And that is why I say this is probably my last speech before The American Legion.

And so therefore I am leaving with you this message. I have started the work. I have proved to you that the thing can be done. The Camp is established, out of the state when the price was eighty-five thousand dollars for the Camp and the Theatre Assembly alone raised twenty-five thousand dollars of that money in cash and turned it over. So we have proved to you that the thing can be done but it never can be done unless you have harmony and unity and work together.

I found out in my experience as a presiding officer and nine times out of ten the woman or man that criticizes and knocks is

the woman or man that never does one thing to help the proposition. (Applause)

So I therefore beg of you when I hear a knock or a criticism I take good stock of that knock or criticism. If the criticism is worth while, if that criticism is constructive I consider it. If that criticism is destructive I consider the person who gives it. And that is what we all should do. We should look into the matter very carefully.

So I want to thank you all for the wonderful love, the wonderful affection that you have extended to me, not only today but at each one of your Conventions. I want to thank every one who has been associated with me and I want to tell you that I am not leaving the work of the Veterans' Mountain Camp—we are going on with its work—but the work is now started and I believe that you have in your vast number so many, many people who will just fill in and take these chairmanships and probably do very much better than I have done. I do want to say to Dr. Lloyd in closing, you have been a pioneer worker. I know what you have gone through with. Perhaps I know it better than any other person in this room. And the man who follows you is going to have it easy compared to the work that you have done during the past year, because the struggle won't be so hard. We have overcome some of these knocks and unjust criticisms and we are making it that much easier for the man that follows. But I want you to feel that even though your success may not be the same in dollars and cents at the close of this year as it may be next year, there is something up above that knows and registers every struggle of love and faith that is given to a man or woman in the office and you will be registered equal because you have given the service. Dr. Lloyd, and so I want to say to you in leaving my position as Chairman of the State that I want you to take the message and consider it. If you don't like what I have said to you think about it, because after a while you are going to like it. After a while when you get used to it, if you are the man or the woman that has not done anything much for this Camp, you are just going to consider it and say, "I guess I'm out of the running; I'll get into the line that I belong in as a Legionnaire or an Auxiliary woman and in that way I am going to make good to my official office as a member of one of the two organizations."

So take the message. Think of it. Let it dwell with you and may success always come to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mrs. Marks, we appreciate the work that you have done for us and on the part of The American Legion I am going to ask a favor. I learned in Mrs. Marks' speech just now that she has a farm of thirty acres. I am going to ask your unanimous consent that the President of the Veterans' Mountain Camp may send to Mrs. Marks, as a gift from the assembly, one of our young heifer stock at the Camp as a gift in return for some of the work that she has done.

Mr. Spafford (New York): Mr. President, I so move. (Applause.) Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Wallace J. Young is nominated, seconded and elected from the 2d District.

Mr. Walter Bliss is nominated, seconded and elected from the 3d District.

The Chairman: Your President will announce that the Board of Directors will meet in the Crossmon House immediately after the adjournment of the Convention today for the election of the officers for the ensuing year.

There being no further business the Corporation of the Veterans' Mountain Camp will adjourn.

Mr. Spafford (New York): Mr. President, before adjourning I move a rising vote of thanks be given to our retiring President. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Fourth Session of the Convention was called to order at 10:10 A. M., Saturday, September 6, 1924.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, the Convention will come to order.

The Convention will rise. Advance of the Colors.

The invocation is delivered by the Rev. J. A. Judge.

The band plays the "Star Spangled Banner."

Mr. Traver (Chairman, Credentials Committee): Mr. Commander, in addition to the previous report we made we wish to make the following statement: Oswego, 3 delegates present, 5 votes; Rockland, 4 delegates present, 6 votes; Schoharie, 3 delegates present, 5 votes; Tioga, 3 delegates present, 5 votes.

This makes all delegations the full voting strength as shown by the membership of record August 4th. Total voting strength of the Convention, 515.

Mr. Commander, I move you the adoption of the Committee's report as a complete report of the Credentials Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Secretary:

Leaving for Mexico tomorrow and greatly regret unable attend Convention.

(Signed) HENRY D. LINDSLEY.

(Applause.)

Regret that I cannot be in attendance at your Convention as I had looked forward to it. Hope it will be great success in every way. Sincere regards and good wishes to all.

(Signed) BERT L. HALLIGAN,

Commander, Department of Iowa, The American Legion.

(Applause.)

Regret I will be unable to attend the Convention assembled. Please express my regrets and hope you have a successful reunion. Accept my sincere thanks for the wonderful work you have accomplished for the Department past year.

(Signed) L. L. CONNOR,

Second Vice-Commander.

(Applause.)

Greetings from the United Spanish War Veterans, Department of New York. Kindly convey to your comrades our wish for a successful Convention.

(Signed) JOHN D. DRISCOLL,

Department Commander.

Best wishes to all delegates. Hoping this is the most successful New York State Convention for the good of The American Legion.

(Signed) MICHAELS KLOSOWSKI,

Commander, Pulaski Post, No. 782, Rochester, N. Y.

(Applause.)

Pennsylvania Legionnaires congratulate you most heartily for the splendid work you have accomplished during the past year. Please convey our very best wishes to your delegates and keep up the good work.

(Signed) JAMES J. DEIGHAN,

Department Adjutant.

New York State Federation of Labor offers greetings to and wishes for successful Convention of American Legion. Our Vice-President, Wm. E. Brown, veteran of World War, will endeavor to be present before adjournment. Accumulation important matters referred my office by our annual convention prevents my attendance.

(Signed) JOHN M. O'HANLON,

Secretary-Treasurer.

(Applause.)

Greetings and best wishes for a splendid Convention from the Department of New Jersey.

(Signed) A. E. PATTISON,

Commander.

(Applause.)

Greater Syracuse, New York, extends a cordial invitation to all members of your worthy organization for Syracuse Old Home Week, October the fifth. A supreme presentation each day has been arranged by the Syracuse Post for Syracuse's one hundred years celebration. Hoping to see your many smiling faces week of October the fifth.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) RAY V. TROY,
Director, Old Home Week.

(Applause.)

Greatly regret unexpected circumstances here prevent my attendance your Convention.

(Signed) MARK T. McKEE.

(Applause.)

I have your letter of the fifteenth. I was away from Albany and that accounts for my delay in answering. It would be a physical impossibility for me to go to Alexandria Bay on any of the dates mentioned, in fact at any time during the month of September. With the State Convention and the State Fair, both of which I am compelled to attend, I will be doing all I can in September consistent with the duties of the Executive Office. I cannot let them go over because I expect to be very busy in October. I write you fully about it because I know you will appreciate my position.

Kind regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ALFRED E. SMITH.

(Applause.)

Comrades of New York:

I am indeed very sorry that I cannot be with you today in Alexandria Bay at your annual Department Convention. But merciless itinerary and the fact that this administrative year is one month shorter than 1923 prevent me from telling you in person how deeply appreciative I am of your loyal co-operation, and how proud I am of your magnificent membership record.

It must give you a thrill of pleasure to know that your Department has gained numerically more members than any other Department in the Legion during 1924. When a Department registers virtually ten thousand members more than the preceding year, it can mean but one thing; you have able leaders and an enthusiastic, cohesive Legion Department.

In this message of greeting I feel I must express to you my admiration for your fighting spirit. Last February when The Legion was at a crisis I called upon you for aid. That it would be given I had no doubt. But that it would be so unani-

mous, whole-hearted, so huge and overwhelming, astonished me and I shall never forget your loyalty.

The New York Department has made great strides this year. Your service work, the generous assignment of part of your state bonus to the tuberculosis camp at Tupper Lake; the establishment of your state newspaper—all these indicate a virile Department.

It has indeed been a year of outstanding achievement both Departmental and National. Yet is it not true that a Legion victory merely opens new paths of service, that each triumph is a stepping stone to further unselfish effort? The Reed-Johnson Bill was passed; yet we must continue to be watchdogs over the welfare of our disabled comrades; we must re-dedicate ourselves to their service. Great progress has been made in caring for the orphans of our fallen comrades. But only a start has been made; the work is barely begun, and caring for these waifs of war will some day, in my opinion, be the greatest service The Legion can render to the nation.

Our country needs our service today as much, if not more, than it did in 1917. In Americanism lies our opportunity to give that service. Let us continue to give it unselfishly.

In your deliberations I know you will bear these three cardinal policies in mind. It is on your efforts their success depends. The efforts of The Legion are the individual efforts of each and every one of us.

New York has always done its duty and a little bit more. That it will continue to do so I am assured.

Good luck attend you each and every one is the wish of your comrade,

(Signed) JOHN R. QUINN.

(Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: We will now hear the report of the Empire State Legionnaire and The Legion Annual. Mr. Gumpertz.

(Applause.)

Mr. Sidney G. Gumpertz (Managing Editor and Business Manager, the Empire State Legionnaire):

The Empire State Legionnaire issued its first number in February of this year. This paper was made possible by a contribution of one thousand dollars from a very good friend of The Legion and no further funds have been asked towards publishing this paper. It has filled a long felt want and has come in for a great deal of favorable mention by Legionnaires, newspapers and firms throughout the State. It has been the endeavor of the Managing Editor to give the news of the various Legion activities throughout the State in a bright, newsy manner, absolutely impartial and without fear or favor. There is a News Editor who receives a salary of thirty-five dollars a week; the Managing Editor has allowed

the use of one of his offices for a nominal charge of one-third the cost; and the stenographer receives ten dollars a week, which is one-third of her salary; the balance is paid by the Managing Editor.

The advertising carried has been a very high class. It would be impossible to publish any paper on such small capital without sacrifices. The Managing Editor who is also the Business Manager has every confidence in the future of this publication, and while the circulation at the present time is not what it should be, we feel that within the next year this paper will be a credit to The Legion and as a financial proposition a paying one.

It is our sincere hope that you can carry the message back to your posts urging full support of the Empire State Legionnaire. We have sacrificed a great deal to publish this successful paper and all we ask is the spirit of cooperation. With that the Empire State Legionnaire will be the premier Legion newspaper in the United States.

For the loyal cooperation of the State Commander and any other Legionnaires we are deeply grateful and sincerely trust that our work in the future will show that we are grateful.

The Legion Annual, 1924, is authorized and contracted for by the Executive Committee of The American Legion in the State of New York and is a publication designed to place in a concise form the history, facts and diversified activities of the Department. This listed advertising is very carefully supervised and none but The Legion are employed. Last year the publication brought a profit of two thousand dollars to the Department and this year will show a profit of fifteen hundred dollars. This decrease was caused by business depression throughout the State.

The Legion Annual is furnished to all delegates to the State Convention, to State Officers, to Post Commanders, and newspapers in New York State, and is a very favorable method of acquainting the public with the splendid work of The American Legion.

Mr. Kopf (Nassau): I move that the report be accepted with thanks. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Will Mr. Aronowitz, the First Vice-Commander, escort to the platform the National President of the Gold Star Mothers?

(Applause.)

Mrs. Lyman, National President, Gold Star Mothers, is escorted to the platform by Department 1st Vice-Commander Aronowitz, the Convention rising amid applause and cheers.

The Chairman: To you, my buddies, I desire to present the President of all the Gold Star Mothers, whom we so much revere.
(Applause.)

Mrs. Lyman (President, Gold Star Mothers): I hardly know what to say to you, but as a mother of one who sleeps in France I am sure that you all know that the order of the Gold Star stands firmly behind Defense Day and anything which is for the betterment of The American Legion and the United States of America.

I thank you.
(Applause.)

The Chairman: I desire now to present to the Convention the leader of the men who have won one of your trophies at the Convention, and the leader of the band which represents your State at the next National Convention.

(Applause.)

Is the Convention Finance Committee ready to report?

Mr. P. St. George Bissell (Chairman, Finance Committee): Mr. Commander, and Members of the Convention: Before proceeding with the report of the Finance Committee I wish to express our thanks to the Secretary of that Committee, Miss Galloway, who has rendered us very great assistance.

(Applause.)

I further wish to express my thanks to the members of the Finance Committee who cooperated actively in preparing this report. All but two of the districts of the State were represented at the meetings of the Committee and the recommendations which we offer to you are unanimous.

After due deliberation we submit the following recommendations and budget:

1. That the Treasurer's annual report be made in conformity with that adopted by the Convention and, if possible, that printed copies of this report be distributed to all delegates at future Conventions.

2. In order to avoid the necessity of borrowing money to carry on affairs of the Department and have sufficient funds in the State Treasury for use early in the year, this Committee recommends that State Department urge upon National Department the distribution of 1925 Membership Cards as soon as possible after the close of the Convention.

3. Inasmuch as the apparent income prior to 1925 will be very limited, it is recommended that the expenses of delegates to the National Convention at St. Paul shall not be paid by the State Department.

4. In view of the fact that *The American Legion Weekly* is now on a self-supporting basis, this Committee recommends that delegates to the National Convention at St. Paul urge upon that Convention that *The American Legion Weekly* receive only fifty cents of the per capita tax — the extra twenty-five cents to be returned to the several Departments of The American Legion.

5. The following budget is submitted by your Committee with the recommendation that it be adopted as that applying for the year ending August 31, 1925. This budget is based on an estimated total membership of 65,000, \$1,000 from The Legion Annual, and \$500 from Source Records royalties.

Office Administration:

Salaries	\$10,000
Printing and postage	2,000
Telephone and telegraph	500
Sundries	250

Organization:

Officers' traveling expenses	1,500
Legislation	200
Publicity	100
Americanism	250
Welfare	250
Prison welfare	250

Convention:

National	100
State	250
Reports	250

General:

Miscellaneous	250
Equipment	500

Total	<u>\$16,750</u>
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6. Should the actual cash receipts of the State Department be in excess of the total budget, the State Executive Committee are authorized to appropriate the balance, if necessary, for the expenses of the Department.

Before submitting the report I wish to state that in the budget no amount is less than the previous year and that we have taken into consideration the amount expended by the State Department during the past year in arriving at our result.

I move the adoption of the report. Motion seconded.

Mr. McWhorter: Mr. Commander, in conditions similar to the present year that would be an absolute physical impossibility. I agree with him. It should be done. I believe in the widest publicity. But where a year closes as this did on the Sunday previous to the Convention you have got to step some to get the figures out and the Treasurer's report without the question of publication. I would recommend and suggest to the Chairman of that Committee that that recommendation be amended by the insertion of the words, "if possible."

Mr. Bissell: We will accept that amendment. Carried.

Mr. Charles Griffin (Chairman, Legislative Committee): Mr. Commander, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention: I de-

sire to express my thanks also to the members of the Committee on Legislation who have rendered valuable assistance in preparing this report. I desire also to announce that this report is the unanimous report of the Committee on Legislation.

Whereas, The Legislature of the State of New York has heretofore, pursuant to statute for such occasion made and provided, enacted legislation providing for the payment of a bonus to World War veterans who were residents of the State of New York and living at the time said statute came into force and effect; and

Whereas, No provision whatever in such legislation was made for the payment of such a bonus to the widow, next of kin or persons dependent upon such World War veteran who may have died prior to February 28, 1924, and who served in the military or naval forces of the United States during the World War; and

Whereas, It is the sense of this Convention that such omission in said statute works an injustice to the said widow, next of kin or dependents of such World War veterans who have died on or prior to the aforementioned date; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention place itself upon record as favoring the enactment of proper legislation by the Senate and Assembly of the State of New York at its coming session in the month of January, 1925, looking towards the enacting of proper legislation providing for the payment of a bonus, as promptly as possible, to the widow, next of kin or dependents of such World War veterans who may have died since the said World War and on or prior to February 28, 1924, and that this Convention memorialize the Legislature of the State of New York to that effect so that an amendment to the said Bonus Law covering this subject matter may be promptly enacted.

I move the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Griffin:

Whereas, There is now part of the Consolidated Laws of New York State what is known as section 63, which reads as follows:

Leave of absence for veterans on Memorial Day.—It shall be the duty of the head of every public department and of every court of the State of New York, of every superintendent of every department, bureau and office in the government of the various cities and villages in this State, to give leave of absence with pay for the twenty-four hours of the thirtieth day of May or such other day as may, according to law, be observed as Memorial Day, to every person in the service of the State, the county, the city or village, as the case may be, who served in the Army or the Navy or the Marine Corps of the United

States in the War of the Rebellion, or who served in the regular or volunteer Army or Navy or the Marine Corps of the United States, during the war with Spain, or during the insurrection in the Philippine Islands, or who served in the regular Army, Navy or the Marine Corps of the United States during the recent World War, and who was honorably discharged from such service. A refusal to give such leave of absence to one entitled thereto shall be neglect of duty.

Be it

Resolved, That this Convention favor the immediate passage of the following amendment, to same, to wit, "This shall not be construed as intending to deprive any such employee within the meaning of this law from a regular day off as granted to other employees during the calendar week during which Decoration Day may fall.

I move the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Griffin:

Whereas, It has been proposed to erect a bridge across Lake Champlain between Crown Point in the State of New York and Chimney Point in the State of Vermont; and

Whereas, Such bridge would promote commerce and intercourse between the States, would be of incalculable benefit in any national emergency by affording a means of communication and transportation across a great natural barrier which would be always available, and would aid the public at large by facilitating travel in a region of surpassing natural beauty and great historic interest; and

Whereas, The erection of such bridge has received the hearty approval and support of the Executive Committee, The American Legion, Department of New York, and many other municipal, civic and fraternal organizations; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the American Legion, Department of New York, in Sixth Annual Convention assembled, that the erection of a bridge has and should have our full approval and we pledge our support to the furtherance of the project and that the officers elected at this Convention be urged to pledge their support and to use their best efforts to secure an appropriation from the State of New York for carrying out the work."

I move the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Griffin: On this resolution, comrades, there is attached a resolution passed by the Assembly and the Senate of New York memorializing Congress to the effect that they give their full approval to the measure and their full co-operation to the State of New York, and your Committee on Legislation recommends that a copy of this resolution be sent to the National Convention at St. Paul for adoption by that body.

Whereas, The waters of Lake Champlain are under Federal control and constitute a natural barrier between the State of New York and the New England States, over which there is no bridge between Rouses Point and Whitehall, a distance of one hundred and ten miles; and

Whereas, The only means of transportation for persons or commodities are afforded by ferries whose capacity is greatly overtaxed, and that commerce and travel are rapidly increasing, and at certain seasons of the year it is physically impossible, or unsafe, to cross the lake; and that in time of war, or grave emergency, these conditions constitute a serious menace to the public safety and welfare; and

Whereas, A vehicular bridge over Lake Champlain would foster commerce, and would benefit the public generally by rendering more accessible regions of great natural beauty and unsurpassed historical interest, and afford more convenient opportunities for health and recreation to millions of people; therefore, be it

Resolved (if the Assembly concur), That Congress be and it is hereby requested to investigate, in co-operation with the proper authorities of the States of New York and Vermont, all the practicable sites and the feasibility and cost of construction of a vehicular bridge across Lake Champlain as a part of the Federal Aid Highway to connect the States located so as to best serve the public interest, and to make a report of their findings as promptly as possible in order to provide a basis for appropriate action by the Federal and State governments concerned; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Clerk of the House of Representatives and of the Senate and each Member of Congress elected from the States of New York and Vermont, the Governor of the State of Vermont, and to the Clerk of each branch of the Legislature of the State of Vermont.

Adopted in Senate March 13, 1924. Adopted in Assembly March 26, 1924.

I so move, Mr. Chairman. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Griffin:

Whereas, It is the sense of veterans of the late World War generally that the candidacy of any veteran for entrance into or advancement in the Civil Service of the State of New York or its territorial subdivisions should be endorsed whenever such veterans have shown their ability to pass the required examination when all other factors are equal; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, go on record in favor of the passage of legislation to conform the Civil Service Law of the State of New York with the Federal Civil Service Law with respect to preference in Civil Service appointment or promotion to veterans of the World War.

I move the adoption of that resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Griffin: There were several other resolutions submitted to the Convention Committee but following the advice of the Chairman of the Legislative Committee for the past year this Committee has only approved the resolutions of State-wide importance, believing that any resolution of small or picayune nature will do more to harm The Legion than do good for it and so if your resolution has not been reported out it has only been for that reason.

The Committee has certain recommendations to make, or, rather, to emphasize, in the report of Mr. Aronowitz.

First of all, your Committee recommends that a Committee from The American Legion be appointed to confer with the State Civil Service Commission and the State Pension Bureau, so that they can agree upon a program of legislation which would remove the unfair features of the present law and the existing injustices to the ex-service men and women without calling for the condemnation from State departments.

I move the adoption of that recommendation. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Griffin: Your Committee on Legislation recommends that all bills that have been vetoed by the Governor of the State of New York be taken up again by the State Legislative Committee and as far as possible corrected to meet any current objections and resubmitted to the next session of the Legislature.

I move the adoption of that recommendation. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Griffin: Your Committee on Legislation moves that this Convention extend a rising vote of thanks to the following members of the Legislature, who are veterans of the World War, and who have worked consistently to further veteran legislation during their terms of office:

Senators: Philip M. Kleinfeld, James A. Higgins, Nathan Straus, Seabury C. Mastick, J. Griswold Webb, Theodore Douglas Robinson and Parton Swift.

Assemblymen: Lester W. Patterson, Harry A. Samberg, Julius S. Berg, John F. Reidy, Joseph E. Kinsley, Lewis F. Hardner, Dr. Ralph H. Loomis, Dr. Frederic S. Cole, Murray Hearn, Joseph Reich, Richard J. Tonry, Edward J. Coughlin, John E. McCarthy, Howard C. Franklin, Miller B. Moran, Russell B. Griffith, Vincent B. Murphy, Wallace R. Austin, Samuel W. McClearly, Alexander H. Garnjost, F. Trubee Davison, Edward W. Wallace, Victor R. Kaufmann, Henry O. Kahan, John H. Conroy, Phelps Phelps, Samuel I. Rosenman, Louis A. Cuvillier, Joseph A. Gavagan, Nelson Ruttenberg, Marck C. Lambert, John C. Devereux, Russell G. Dunmore, Clement C. Smith, Daniel L. Dayton, William F. Brunner, Kenneth H. Fake, Herbert B. Shonk, Frank A. Carlin and John Boyle.

I move the adoption of that recommendation. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Griffin: Your Committee makes the final recommendation that a vote of thanks be given to Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz for his work as Chairman of the Legislative Committee during the past year.

I move the adoption of that recommendation. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Americanism Committee. Mr. Riley of Albany. (Applause.)

Mr. Riley (Chairman, Americanism Committee): Our Convention Committee on Americanism makes ten recommendations. With the consent of the Commander I will read the whole ten by number and I would suggest that if there are any objections that you object by number so that I can very easily locate any one of the ten.

The Convention Committee on Americanism recommends:

1. That the report of the Standing Committee on Americanism be approved and adopted.

2. That the Standing Committee on Americanism be authorized to print as many as fifteen hundred copies of the reports of the Standing and Convention Committees on Americanism for distribution among the posts and the school officials of the State.

3. That five hundred dollars or more be allowed the Standing Committee on Americanism for their work for the coming year.

4. That Post Commanders be urged to advise and encourage all members of their respective Posts to vote, as an obligation of American citizenship.

We suggest the following as a Legion slogan:

"No slacker voters in The American Legion."

We recommend further that the New York State delegates to the National Convention be directed to work for the passage of a similar resolution, urging all of the Posts in the country to make an organized effort to induce Legion men to vote.

5. That every Post be urged to conduct in their communities during the coming year either an essay contest or a speaking contest, as a most valuable type of co-operation with the schools, and as a method whereby The Legion may impress its ideals upon the youth of our land.

6. That the State Legislature be requested to direct the Commissioner of Education to prepare a "Teacher's Hand Book of the Constitution of the United States," which shall contain a brief history of the adoption of the Constitution and of its various amendments and such additional matter and such illustrations as may be necessary to an intelligent and sympathetic understanding of our Federal government; and

that a copy be placed, free of charge, in every class room of every public and private elementary and secondary school in the State; and further, that a copy be presented at graduation to every person graduating from a normal school of New York State.

7. That the State Legislature be requested to direct the State Historian to make plans for the proper celebration of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the most important events of the American Revolution, including especially the events which occurred in New York State. (The State Historical Association has already laid a good foundation for this celebration in the preliminary plans worked out with the aid of a State appropriation of five thousand dollars.)

8. That the Legislature be requested to enact such laws as may be necessary to correct and prevent such exploitation of immigrants as was found to exist in New York State by the Joint Legislative Committee which investigated and reported upon the matter at the 1924 session of the Legislature. (See Legislative Document 76-1924, pp. 71-72, for the recommendations of that Committee.)

9. That this State Convention recommend to the National Convention that the Federal Naturalization Law be amended to require aliens to give evidence of ability to read the English language intelligently as an additional condition for becoming naturalized citizens of the United States.

10. That this Convention go on record as expressing its unreserved approval of National Defense Test Day as a measure of reminding our citizens of the need for preparedness and of the wisdom of conserving our manhood in national crises through an adequate and well organized plan of defense, and as urging every Post and every member of The American Legion in New York State to co-operate in the observance of National Defense Test Day on September 12th.

Mr. Patterson (New York): I would move you that this able report on Americanism be adopted with thanks. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Your Commander notes with a great deal of pleasure that there are in the Convention several members of the Grand Army of the Republic and he requests that Legionnaires conduct them all to the platform where we hope they will remain as our honored guests throughout the rest of this session.

The members of the Grand Army of the Republic are escorted to the platform, the Convention rising amid applause and cheers.

The Chairman: A message from the G. A. R.

Member (Grand Army of Republic): I stand here, gentlemen, to thank you for the honor that you have bestowed upon us poor old soldiers. Some of them call us government charges. What do you think of that?

I am very thankful for the kindness and the honor you have shown us poor old soldiers. (Applause.)

Mr. Carey (Chairman, Committee on Post Activities and Athletics): Your Post Activities Committee had nothing very tangible to go on. Each Post problem is governed largely by local conditions, so we have compiled very few recommendations that we believed would cover in general all Posts.

We recommend that the State Department instruct all Posts to elect a Post Activities and Athletic Committee at annual Post elections of officers.

We recommend for funerals that each Post provide a fund whereby an inexpensive wreath be furnished deceased veterans and members of Legionnaires' families within its jurisdiction.

Also that each Post provide a permanent firing squad for all funerals of deceased veterans. Now, this, without doubt, is provided in the larger Posts. We make this recommendation principally for the rural Posts, that do not have the man power to pick up a firing squad when they need it.

We suggest the following activities for Post funds: Local industrial expositions, amateur theatricals, an annual ball, carnivals, and fairs. We suggest that in staging carnivals and fairs or activities of a similar nature Posts should assume complete management. Employment of professional management in all undertakings of this nature has in all instances proved a failure. That is, it has been very unprofitable.

We suggest the following for increasing Post membership and maintaining a maximum active membership: Inter-Post meetings and banquets, entertainments at Post meetings, joint social meetings with Auxiliary; and for the summer months the establishment of a summer headquarters and club, preferably on a local body of water. This has proved satisfactory in a great many instances.

We make the following suggestions for the gaining of local prestige of the Post: A constant and untiring effort by the Post for betterment of local conditions and municipal needs.

For Post athletics we suggest that each county committee appoint an athletic director to co-operate with the local Post committees in bringing all Posts into a closer athletic association and also that the contests be urged more extensively.

Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of this report. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Mr. Flynn will make a report for a Special Committee which was organized to look out for our trip to the National Convention.

Mr. Flynn (Queens): Mr. Chairman and Delegates: I have a lengthy report to make — (laughter) — and I hope you will abide with me for those two hours until I get through with the report.

The Convention Arrangements Committee has met and we have decided as part of a uniform a blue overseas cap with gold piping

and the word "New York" on the front of it, a blue and gold badge with buttons of two inches in diameter with State coat-of-arms, window placards, four to a car, and posters for each Pullman car. Now, the entire cost of these caps and badges will be \$1.50 and I think you can get them from the Assistant Adjutant, Mr. Burns.

Now, I have been given to understand that when Alexandria Bay took this Convention over it was on condition they would furnish the necessary funds with which to meet the expenses to take a band along with us, from Rochester to St. Paul and back, and I understand that those obligations cannot be fulfilled, and knowing the delegates as I do and having come in contact with the different men from almost every county in this State, I know that there is not a delegate among this Convention, either man or woman, who came here so shabby that he brought his lunch with him. (Laughter.) And for that reason we will have to make an appeal to the delegates to get enough money together to pay for the expenses of that band and the only way we can get it is through your own generosity and I know that some of you have got some money left — (laughter) — because I know that all of the delegates here didn't visit all of the islands — (laughter) — and you won't have time to do it now, because I know you want to get back where it is warm — (laughter) — and you want to get back to a place where they furnish heat in the hotels — (laughter) — and you want to get back to a place where they don't use the State Troopers as night watchmen. (Laughter and applause.)

Now, I don't want to take up any more of your time. We want contributions. We want them from every delegate who is here, if he will give it, and I don't know what the exact cost would be but Mr. Spafford, your retiring Commander, has very kindly volunteered to start the subscription by donating the sum of \$100. (Applause and cheers.) I have no right to tell you what Queens county will do, because we haven't caucused. But Queens county will go on record as saying we will contribute \$100. (Applause.)

Mr. Murray (Kings): Kings will donate \$50.

Mr. Patterson (New York): New York county will donate \$50.

Mr. Walsh (Albany): Albany county will contribute proportionately, \$25.

Mr. Patterson (New York): New York county requests me to make that \$100.

Mr. Hines (Bronx): We want to say \$100.

Mr. Ward (Monroe): Monroe county, \$100.

Mr. Leffingwell (Watkins): Sixth District, we will donate \$100.

Mr. Flynn: We won't take any more contributions now and in order that this Convention might go on and to give the districts

a chance to caucus, you can bring your subscriptions up to Mr. Burns who will gladly take care of it, and I get a commission out of it. (Laughter.) I thank you. (Applause.)

Mr. Patterson (New York): Mr. Commander, New York will add \$100 more.

The Chairman: Buddies, I don't see that there is anything particular to be adopted about that report, but I think the man who presented it deserves our thanks and I would like to entertain a motion to that effect.

Mr. Condon (New York): I move you, sir, that the thanks of this Convention be given to Mr. Flynn and his Committee for their work and the excellent report rendered.

Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: My buddies, during the war you must have realized that there was one man who had to carry the full burden in his own mind of what was going on throughout the whole line of action in France. That information, of course, had to be available in various parts. Sections knew it, but he knew all and reported to only one man. That was General Pershing. (Applause.) And the man who really actively directed the forces is with you this morning and you are going to have the honor of listening to his message of the past.

I have the honor, gentlemen, to present to you Major-General Harbord, now retired. (Applause.)

Major-General James G. Harbord (U. S. Army [Retired], Formerly Chief of Staff of A. E. F.): Commander Spafford and Ladies and Gentlemen of The American Legion: I acknowledge with a very grateful heart the kind things which the Commander has said of me, whether they are deserved or not.

My attention was called to the fact this morning that it is a very easy thing to get out of this tent. I was told by the man who has been showing me around this morning that there might have been a time when some of you people would have had to listen to me but there was no possibility of holding you now if you chose to get away, which reminded me of an example which I am not going to follow. A man was making quite a talk at a place like this, and one man went out and met another one coming in, and the fellow coming in said: "Hasn't he finished yet?" He said: "Oh, yes, he finished some time ago but he is still talking." (Laughter.) I am going to try to stop when I get through and I am going to make it short.

It is six years next week since St. Mihiel. A good deal has gone under the bridge since then. A Socialist Defeatist Government rules in France. A pro-German pacifist during the war is Prime Minister in Great Britain and a pro-German pacifist during the war is one of the candidates for President in this country. General Pershing will retire from active service next week. Ours is a

country of short memory and brief regrets. The high exaltation which moved the country to high things in those days of 1917 is rapidly disappearing and when others forget I think The Legion ought to remember. (Applause.) And I want this morning to recall to you some of the things that I think you might remember and some of which are perhaps unfamiliar with you.

Generally during the war we only knew what was taking place on our immediate front. It was pretty hard to realize that our particular unit was part of a co-ordinated whole or that our particular advance was in response to a comprehensive plan. Those who got over early to France were in perhaps a position to know something of the difficulties which we encountered in the early days. General Pershing and his first party started from New York on the 28th of May, a little body of about ninety officers, orderlies, clerks, etc. We made our preparations to sail on the *Baltic* and made them with very great secrecy. Some of us hardly took our own families into our confidence. But to our surprise when we got over to New York we found the chiefs of the supply departments in Washington had been wiring in open language for two weeks, and packing boxes with General Pershing's name all over them had been on the dock twenty-four hours before the *Baltic* sailed. So there was not anything secret about it.

We got on the ferry boat, went down the bay and went aboard in a fog at dusk. We landed in England on the 8th of June, the first foreign troops to land in England since William III and his Dutchmen landed there in 1688. We got over in France on the 13th day of June and the people there were very enthusiastic in the reception of General Pershing and his party. Frenchmen are not generally well informed of what is going on in other countries and they thought we were the advance guard of a great army that was to come very soon. They little knew of the pitiful unpreparedness of the United States. General Pershing had to stand to our Allies in the place of an army until one could be created and sent to him. Under circumstances which were without precedent in our history but were inherent in a foreign country itself straining every nerve in war, he had to weld together the parts that were to constitute his great army. In a country where all the harbors were crowded to a limit our ports and facilities had largely to be created by our own engineers and where every mile of railway and every freight car was needed by the French and British, General Pershing had to devise the system which was to supply his own armies. Making war in a foreign country, the exigencies of home politics, did not permit us to even refer to the British and French as our Allies but merely as our associates.

When there came a time that President Wilson permitted General Pershing to join in the Allied Councils it took all of General Pershing's straightforward American manhood to hold his own in matching wits with Prime Ministers who saw no impropriety in agreeing with him and cabling contrary instructions to their ambassadors in America. The most terrific pressure was brought

to bear on the Commander-in-Chief to make him put his untrained men into the line before he thought they were ready but he stood like a rock and held off until he thought they were at least fairly trained. Tremendous pressure was brought to bear on him to make him amalgamate our men into the armies of our associates. He stood like a rock against this and the world, I think, and especially our own country will never be able to pay to him the debt they owe to him for his foresighted wisdom in insisting on an American Army under our own Commanders. (Applause and cheers.)

I think it is not too much to say that but for that wisdom and for that insistence it wouldn't have been possible to end the war in 1918. Our losses, it is true, were heavy enough, but we owe to Pershing and his stand against our Allies the fact that when our men died they died under the shadow of their own flag or survived the victors with their brother officers and men. (Applause.)

In these days when the opponents of wars of every kind, defensive and otherwise, are conspicuously busy, The American Legion ought to remember that if the rule, peace at any price, had been adopted by Americans 148 years ago we should have had no United States and we would still be bending the knee to an English King. (Applause.) In our country after every war in which we are engaged there is a period in which the advocates of peace are very busy and the soldiers are more or less under an eclipse. We are in that period still in this country now following the great war. The last people in the world who want war are soldiers. Nobody who has looked into the ugly face of war wants ever to see it again, but the returned soldier, the Legionnaire, if you please, is able to make the distinction between aggressive warfare and national defense.

The American Colonists very early became convinced of the necessity of union and of the fact that if they stood separately they couldn't maintain themselves either against savage Indians or English oppressors. So strongly were they impressed with this that they put it forward as one of the reasons for bringing the Constitution into being and wrote it into the Preamble of that immortal document that they were uniting for the common defense. Any law of national defense is passed pursuant to that preamble to the Constitution and is a part of the basic law of the land. Anyone who seeks to violate it or to lessen it in any way or degree is very un-American and is really a common enemy of our people. (Applause.)

In June, 1920, with the horrors of the great war and the splendid service of you men then as yet unforgotten, our Congress passed the National Defense Act in response to this constitutional provision. The National Defense Act, as we call it, became the constitutional mandate without which the Constitution fails of its purpose and is incomplete. It is the law of the land and it is obligatory on every person in America, every American and all the people of America. In these days when there is unrest and chaos throughout the world, governments, and especially our government, have

to look to the returned soldier for stability in government. They find that kind of men in The American Legion, the motto of which is, 100 per cent. Americanism," and whose aims are "better government and better citizenship." The American Legion is pledged on the side of law and order. It stands for service, past service in the greatest war in which we have ever fought, present service for better government and better citizenship.

As I said in the beginning of this little talk, this month is the month of St. Mihiel and next month is the month of the Marne. Today is also the birthday of Lafayette, who was a Major-General in the United States Army just 100 years ago, and was visiting in this country 50 years after his service in the Revolutionary War. It is well to remember these things and it is fine to have these reunions, because we then consecrate ourselves to the service of our country. I think that these things will give you something to think about and when others are forgetting The Legion ought to remember. Thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: General, words of thanks from me would be entirely out of place after my buddies have expressed them in such unmistakable terms, but we do really feel that you have been a great inspiration to us and have aided us much for the future years. (Applause.)

Friends, the next speaker is one of our greatest men in the State, a man who believes that the wishes of the veteran are not based on ulterior motives. He believes that when The Legion legislates that they legislate honestly in accord with the Preamble of their Constitution, and it gives me the greatest sort of pleasure to present to you your established friend, Senator Copeland of the State of New York. (Applause.)

Hon. Royal S. Copeland (United States Senator from New York): Commander, Members of The Legion, Ladies and Gentlemen: I wonder if you know just how difficult it is, no matter how experienced he may be, to begin with a speech. One time our Governor, the most popular man in the State, Al Smith (applause and cheers), went down to Sing Sing to visit the institution and, after being shown the buildings by the warden, the Governor was asked to speak to the inmates. He was embarrassed. He had never spoken to the inmates of a state prison before, and he didn't quite know how to begin, so finally he said, "My fellow citizens —" (Laughter.) And then he remembered that when one goes to State's prison he isn't a citizen any more. So the Governor was more embarrassed, and said, "My fellow convicts —" (Laughter.) That didn't sound just right, so Al said, "Well, anyhow, I'm glad to see so many of you here."

You know it does a United States Senator good to go somewhere where they seem glad to see him (laughter), because Senators aren't very popular. When they call the roll of the Senate now, the Senators don't know whether to answer present or not guilty. (Laughter.) The feeling of the people is shown by the attitude of a certain father who was at the Senate the other day with his

small boy who had never been there before. They were in the gallery when the Chaplain opened the proceedings, and as he prayed the boy pulled his father's coat tail and said, "Papa, is the minister praying for the Senators?" "No," said the wise father, "he looks at the Senators and prays for the country." (Laughter.)

But, I am glad to be here. I am glad to meet this great group, because to my dying day it will be a matter of regret to me that I am not eligible for membership in your body. I was commissioned and raised a hospital unit, expected to go abroad with my unit, when I was ordered back from Fort Ontario because the Council of National Defense decided that America must not make the same mistake that Britain did when she sent all of her doctors and her medical students into the Army, and so, at the end of the war, as you may know, America was supplying a large part of the medical service for Great Britain, and so the deans of the medical schools were sent back, and I was sent back, and had to go back to that job when I wanted to be with you men who were in this active service. I was eating my heart out on one day. The Mayor sent for me. He said, "Doctor, my Commissioner of Health resigned this afternoon and I want you to take his place." "Why," I said, "Mr. Mayor, I can't do that. I am already called upon to do another thing for the Government." I suggested several men for the place, but the Mayor insisted. Finally I said, "Well, I am very much obliged, Mr. Mayor, but I must decline." You know, the Mayor is red-headed. Perhaps you didn't know that. (Laughter.) He walked around that flat top desk, his face as red as his hair. He shook his fist under my nose and he said, "Dr. Copeland, I am determined that the City of New York shall do its full share in taking care of this Army. The Army will go through the City on the way to Europe and I want every protection given to the health of this Army and I am offering you the biggest job in the United States, the job of keeping this Army clean on the way to Europe and the job of keeping the country clean when they come back from the other side. I am the chief executive of this City — in time of war I have a right to commandeer your services and I demand that you take this job and I am going to swear you in right now."

Now I say that that man had greater vision than I had and his determination was shown through every activity in my City to see to it that the Army was given every attention, going to war, and coming back.

And so I am glad to be here today to bring you just a little message of cheer from my City and I feel at home here because here I see New York (applause) and the Bronx (applause) and then I live over in Rockland County six months in the year (applause) so I do feel at home and I am glad to be with you.

You know, men, you fought for me, but I have been doing a little fighting for you during the past year. (Applause and cheers.) I had thirty-five thousand letters demanding that I vote against the bonus. I went to New York and I met a friend of mine, a lady,

who said, "I hope you are against the Bonus." I said, "Which one?" "Well," she said, "are there several?" I said, "There are two — the soldiers' bonus and Mr. Mellon's bonus for the rich." (Applause and cheers.) I said, "If you want me to be against the bonus, meaning Mr. Mellon's bonus, I am with you. But if you want me to be against the bonus for the soldiers, I am against you to death."

Because I feel that this country owes this Adjusted Compensation to the men. There isn't any word I resent more than the word "bonus." It isn't a bonus. It is what we owe the Legionnaires for what they did for us. And so I made that fight and I, among other places, got in front of the American Silk Association (laughter) and they hissed me and booed me and yelled at me. They didn't happen to have any ancient egg. (Laughter.) But I said, "I am going to stay here and finish this speech of mine in favor of the Adjusted Compensation for the soldiers of this country unless you carry me out first." (Applause and cheers.) And it was my pleasure to make the first speech for Adjusted Compensation in the 68th Congress, and after we got licked on the cash bonus I introduced that amendment which came almost within carrying in the Senate, and the reason I wanted it to carry with the cash option was because I felt that if we owe the money to the soldiers it is their business to tell what they are going to do with it. That is the reason I felt that way. (Applause.) Now, Congress didn't see fit to pass that and so when it came up after the veto by the President of the United States — and we are keeping cool with Coolidge — (laughter); after it came up I was glad to vote for it, because at least some measure of justice has been done for these men.

Now, I had a great session with the editor of one of the great Metropolitan newspapers. He said, "Why are you so enthusiastic for the bonus?" "Well," I said, "in the first place when I made my campaign for Senator I promised that I'd be for the bonus and I have an old-fashioned idea that when men are elected to office they ought to keep the promises they make when they are running for office." (Applause.) "And," I said "in the second place I favor it because I have gone and visited the places where these men suffer." I went to Ypres and saw a place where there isn't a piece of wall standing as high as this, a city the size of Albany shot to pieces. How anybody lived is more than I could understand. I saw sections where every bit of pavement had been shot out of the street. I went to Chateau-Thierry, where the American troops demonstrated for the first time in history on foreign soil the qualities of their military ability. And after the last shot was fired at Chateau-Thierry and the people who lived there came back —

I ought to say, Mr. Chairman, that I never went anywhere in my life to make a speech that it didn't rain. (Laughter.) Greatest rain-maker in history. (Laughter.) Whenever there is a dry time anywhere they send for me. (Laughter.) That is the reason they wanted me to come here on the first day of the Convention.

(Laughter.) But I sent some of my emissaries and I understand you have been getting along very well.

When the last shot was fired at Chateau-Thierry and the people who lived there came back, among others was a certain woman. She came to find her home in ruins. She went around this ruined house in the garden in the rear and there were twenty-four dead soldiers. Twenty-three of them were in the khaki of the United States and one in the blue of France. And since she was a French-woman naturally she went to this boy in blue first and she found her own son.

Ah, my friends, the mothers are the ones who suffered, and I would be for the American soldier if there were no other reason than because I don't want the mothers of the American soldiers to suffer because of anything which might be said about the boys of the American Army. (Applause.) Ah, those Gold Star Mothers. In Washington there is a Mrs. Hunt, a Gold Star Mother. Mrs. Copeland and I are under the greatest debt of obligation to her. These mothers, how they suffered. Not alone the Gold Star Mothers, but every mother suffered when her boy was away.

But it isn't alone because of the sentiment that I am for the soldier and for what he wants. It is because of real debt that this country owes to the soldier.

You men when you went abroad you established the determination of the world that there should be orderly government in the world. You determined that anarchy and chaos should not rule anywhere. You stood for orderly government and, my friends, you must continue to fight for orderly government. There are many persons abroad in America who are all the time making attacks upon the Courts. There are those who make political issue of what shall be done with the Supreme Court of the United States. They point to the fact that certain decisions have been made by a five to four vote on the part of the Court. They want that power taken away from the Court. My friends, how many times do you think in the history of this country from the adoption of the Constitution in 1787 down to this time there have been five to four decisions? You know, there have been thousands upon thousands of decisions on the part of the Supreme Court. And what are these people getting excited about over the five to four decisions? There have been in the entire one hundred and fifty years of our history but thirty-seven five to four decisions. Do you think we had better get excited over that?

Now, what do you suppose they want to do, these politicians? They want to fix it so that if the Court decides by a five to four decision that a law is imperfect, that it then shall go to Congress and if they vote it over again that it is a good law. They don't know Congress as well as I do. You never can make anything good out of something bad by any act of Congress. It can't be done. (Applause.) It is hard enough to get Congress to do a good thing about something that is good. Why, friends, the idea if a Court

decides that a law and an enactment of Congress is not law, that it is violative of the fundamental principles of law, how are you going to make it good by an act of Congress? Congress couldn't determine by an enactment that two plus two would make five. God Himself — and I say it reverently — couldn't make two and two five. And any time that you expect Congress, by re-enactment of something violative of the fundamentals of law, to make it law by enactment of Congress, I say there is something wrong in the upper story of a man who proposes that. (Applause.)

If there is anything that we need in this country — and I want to say it to you men because you fought to preserve the country — if there is anything we need to have in this country it is respect for the Courts. (Applause.) We want every man, rich and poor, to feel that in the Courts there is a place where justice shall be rendered and so you fought for orderly government and for the preservation of the Courts.

Now, that isn't all you did. You fought for equality of all men. I went down on the thirteenth of April to speak at the grave of Thomas Jefferson. It was his birthday. They have somebody go down and speak every time and it happened to be my turn this year, and I went down to Charlottesville, Virginia, to Monticello, and here is this plain shaft of marble and inscribed upon that shaft are certain words which Jefferson asked might be placed upon his tombstone. And what do you suppose he said should be placed upon his tombstone? Did he say, "Here lies Thomas Jefferson, formerly Governor of the State of Virginia"? He did not. Did he say, "Here lies Thomas Jefferson, formerly President of the United States"? He did not. He said, "Here lies Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, the author of the Statute of Religious Freedom for the State of Virginia, and founder of the University of Virginia."

It seems almost heresy to say that the Declaration of Independence was not perfect. As a matter of fact, the Declaration of Independence, my friends, was enough to keep our country cemented during the great Revolutionary War, but after that war was over we broke down into sections, we broke down into States. Our State of New York attached the firewood that came from New Jersey, and New Jersey in her turn charged the City of New York sixteen hundred dollars a year to put a lighthouse on the Jersey shore. And finally Washington was discouraged and he wrote to a friend, "America has become a stench in the nostrils of Europe. We haven't sense enough to know how to run our country."

And so the Declaration of Independence was not sufficient and it took the Constitution of 1787 to perfect it and then a lot of amendments to that Constitution — made in early years — (laughter) — to perfect it. Further than that, the witness does not testify. (Laughter.)

So I don't think Mr. Jefferson's greatest achievement was the writing of the Declaration of Independence. But what did he

do? He wrote the Statute for Religious Freedom for the State of Virginia and since that time that statute has been written into the Constitution of every State and it prescribes that no man shall be discriminated against because of his race or religion. (Applause.) And why should it be necessary, why should it be necessary for every generation to have to fight over that great question? Why, men, you fought a great war. You carried these armies to victory, fighting for the equality of the human family. And when I went to Belleau Woods, I saw there sixteen thousand graves, row after row, row after row of graves. You see there the cross and the star of David, where Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant, were buried. There was equality in the Army. And, friends, there must be equality in all of our human dealings in this country from now until the end of time. (Applause.)

And then you fought — and this is my last point — you fought for physical and political freedom for all nations. A couple of years ago I went up to the Russian border in Poland to study health conditions. When I got to Warsaw I found that the government knew I was coming and they had assigned a member of the cabinet to look after me. That was all right, then, but never would it do now for a United States Senator to be looked after by a member of the cabinet anywhere. He might spill oil on him. (Laughter.) But this cabinet officer was very kind. He wanted to make it easy for me to get up to the Russian front and it was pretty difficult to do, and he gave me a private car to ride in. Now, don't get any idea in your head about any kind of a private car that Harry Sinclair rode in on his way to Three Rivers, New Mexico, to see Mr. Fall. It wasn't that kind of a car, but it was like a caboose on a freight train. (Laughter.) And they put a Ford auto on it and gave me a chauffeur, cook, servant and doctor. And then the Minister got red in the face and said, "Doctor, I am sorry we have no appropriation for food. The government will supply the food and cook it for you but you will have to pay for the food." I said, "That is fair." I was gone on that trip four days and when I got back to Warsaw I paid this retinue of servants so liberally they bowed to the floor in gratefulness of my generosity. And I paid for the food for the entire party. And the whole bill was three dollars and fifty cents. (Laughter.)

Well, now, I want to tell you just a little bit about that trip. There were four of us sat around that table. We weren't doing what you may imagine — (laughter) — although there were enough, the fixings were there. (Laughter.) Well, here was one man who could speak Polish and German. Another one who could speak Russian and Polish. Another who could speak English and Polish and Russian. And I could speak English and a little German. Now, you see, we couldn't have any very fluent conversation. Now, these three men with me were young Poles, and I never in all my life witnessed such fervid enthusiasm of patriotism as these men showed. I asked them if they knew about Washington

and Hamilton and Jefferson and they knew all about them. They told me things about them that I didn't know. But they were there making plans, those young men, just as the founders of our country made plans for liberty in America. They were making plans for the liberty of Poland. And so you people who went out in this great army, you made it possible for equality in politics and in national life in every country upon the face of the earth and I congratulate you upon that.

And now you have come back. You are here. You are developing this thought of Americanism. And, friends, I sometimes think that that thought of Americanism needs to be carried to Americans as much as to those who were born on the other side. (Applause.)

Recently I was asked to go over to the Federal Court in Brooklyn to speak to seventy men and women who were coming into citizenship on that day. Naturally I went there with certain ideas in my head as to what I would say to these folks. But when I saw them come up in front of the judge — Irish, English, French, Belgian, Spanish, Italian, Greek, Roumanian, and take a solemn oath to support the Constitution of the United States and to guard her against all enemies, domestic and foreign, I thought what a great thing it would be if on the twenty-first birthday of every boy and girl in America there should be a solemn occasion when we would impress on them what it means to become a citizen of the United States.

I remember when I was twenty-one. I was in college and my father and mother and sister came and brought a cake and we had a bully time, but nobody said a word to me about the responsibilities of being a citizen. And so I think that this great Legion should make it possible in every hamlet in the State of New York to have some ceremony each year when every boy and girl becomes twenty-one, during that time, to have impressed upon them what it means to become citizens of this great Republic, with all its responsibilities. (Applause.)

Ah, my friends, it is a great country, a wonderful country. Whenever I travel about it I am impressed more and more with what it is. And you never quite appreciate it, do you, boys, until you have been in another country and you have been homesick over there. I remember one time when I was a very young man I was in Germany on the Rhine, going down that wonderful river with all these old ruined castles, told of in song and story, all the traditions of all time attached to them, but they didn't mean anything to me, because I was homesick. If I could have seen a yellow dog from Rockland County I would have felt better. (Laughter.) I got up in the boat and looked forward as far as I could see. I strained my eyes to see because that part of the boat would get home first. And then directly on top of that old, funereal castle there streamed out the Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, and I thought then that I would like to make a modification of that old Pinafore rhyme:

“I might have been a Russian,
An Italian or a Prussian,
But in spite of all temptations
To belong to other nations,
I'm glad I'm an American.”

And this is our land and it is the duty, as I see it, of every citizen to take a solemn vow on occasion that he will strive individually to make this country be the best on the face of the earth. It is that now. But to make it, under God, the greatest country that can be conceived of by the mind of man. And I think that that was the spirit of this American Legion and with that spirit you are bound to do good for generations now and unborn. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mr. Senator, you may rest assured that although you may bring rain you also bring sunshine. We have enjoyed your speech and we hope that you will be with us on many other occasions, because usually we shall be meeting where we don't care whether the rain is outside or not. (Applause.)

Mr. V. K. Commons (Chairman, War Risk and Hospitalization Committee):

Mr. Commander, your Committee on War Risk and Hospitalization met as scheduled at 8 p. m. at Convention Hall. There were 13 members present. The temporary Chairman having declined the chairmanship of the Committee, Mr. V. K. Commons was elected Chairman. It was decided that the following recommendations would be submitted to this Convention for favorable action. Inasmuch as the law governing rehabilitation of ex-service men, known as the World War Act, arbitrarily sets the date of completion of all training June 30, 1926; inasmuch as there will be hundreds of ex-service men still confined in hospitals and otherwise not feasible for training at the present time, and have not had the opportunity to avail themselves of training facilities provided by the Government, the Committee is of the unanimous opinion that there should be no arbitrary date set so that all of the seriously disabled men who have been confined to the hospital so long should be given training.

2. In determining the non-feasibility of a man for further training, some attempt should be made by the board passing on the case, to determine the relation of his non-feasibility to his war disability, from a rehabilitation standpoint. Cases have arisen where a man is obviously unable to continue training because of physical or mental disabilities, yet the rate of compensation has been very low. Rehabilitation Committees could function to the advantage of promoting justice by attempting to establish as far as possible the relation of this disability to non-feasibility from a purely rehabilitation standpoint (not from a medical).

3. It should be definitely laid down that upon completion of institutional training (in cases where training in placement is required) whose duty it is to locate placement. In cases where it is decided that the responsibility of securing a placement opportunity lies upon trainee (which should be a rare exception), this fact should be impressed upon the man at least several months before the placement date. But when the responsibility of securing a placement opportunity lies with the representative of the Veterans' Bureau (which normally should be the case), a trainee should not be removed from the payroll because of the lack of opportunity available.

The American Legion, Department of New York, condemns any policy of economy by the United States Veterans' Bureau, such as reduction of personnel and curtailing of supplies and equipment, that reacts to the detriment of the disabled ex-service men.

Further the State Department should be urged to take such steps as are necessary at the State Convention to compel the United States Veterans' Bureau to complete its decentralization, which the Bureau has repeatedly promised The American Legion it would do, but up to the present time it has failed to do.

Inasmuch as the present schedule of compensation allowances does not provide for dependency allowances for the totally and permanently disabled beneficiaries of the Bureau, the Committee feels that a great injustice is being done the men with such permanent and total ratings. This Committee unanimously recommends that this Convention go on record as favoring an immediate amendment of the present act, known as the World War Veterans' Act, Public 242, so as to provide for dependents' allowance for trainees, namely, \$20 for wife, \$10 for first child, \$7.80 for second child and \$5 for each additional child.

This Committee also feels that men who are receiving compensation for total and permanent disability rating cannot possibly maintain themselves and their dependents on \$100 per month, which is the present allowance. This Committee recommends that this Convention go on record as favoring an immediate increase of compensation from \$100 a month to \$150 per month in such cases.

The recommendation of Nassau County requesting this Convention to go on record as favoring the transfer by the United States Veterans' Bureau of the occupational therapy centers, which are at present engaged in giving therapeutic treatment to N. P. and incompetent beneficiaries of the Bureau to and under the direct supervision of the State Hospital Commission was not adopted. It was the opinion of your Committee that the adoption of such recommendation would place The American Legion in the position of favoring the transfer of the responsibility of the care of these men from the United States

Government to the State Government. Your Committee is of the opinion the United States Government should maintain the sole responsibility of the care of these men.

Respectfully submitted.

In presenting this report, Mr. Commander, I move its adoption. Motion seconded. Carried.

Miss Anna B. Duncan (Chairman, Membership Committee):

Following the excellent report of Standing State Membership Committee by Mr. G. Merritt Ward, combined with the results achieved during the last year, any further suggestions seem superfluous, as all methods available to secure members seemed to have been incorporated in last year's plan. However, as problems presenting themselves in various localities are of a different type, it naturally follows that the method adopted to secure new members will also be different and it is difficult for a Committee to formulate one plan to meet all conditions. Although this is true a few general rules may be followed in all localities, such as:

Participation in Local Patriotic movements.

Rendering of service to the families of ex-service persons in need.

Holding of public meetings, where subjects of community interests may be discussed and problems solved.

In view of the exceptional success, as a result of the excellent plan outlined by last year's convention committee, the unanimous opinion of this year's committee was to heartily endorse that plan, as well as the additional suggestions incorporated in Mr. Ward's report, received yesterday.

In endorsing said plan, it is urged that all Posts realize fully that there were unusual circumstances last year which rendered an increase in membership more possible. We refer to the service rendered all ex-service men and women in connection with the applications for the Bonus. This opportunity for service showed conclusively that *Service* is the strongest and most efficient aid in securing new members. Show the potential members that our organization is an organization for service, not only among ex-service men and women, but for the whole community. You will agree that more members will be secured just as soon as they realize that The American Legion is a worth-while organization, unselfish and ready to serve and one which they cannot afford to ignore, as well as one of which they should be proud to be a member.

Your Committee, while endorsing the plan adopted last year, would submit the following additional recommendations:

1. A closer cooperation between the membership, the publicity, and the Post activities committees of all Posts.

2. That a concise tabulated list of "Selling Points" as to *why* men should join The Legion be used, so each new member

as well as the old ones may be able to answer intelligently all queries as to *why* The American Legion is worth while.

Finally, while not a new thought, it is still true that personal work will bring best results and each member should constitute herself or himself an associate member of the membership committee of their Post and consider it not only their privilege but a duty to bring in at least one member.

Strength lies in membership, let us go over the top and beat even the fine record of 1923.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mr. Pitt (New York): Mr. Commander, I move that the report of the Committee be received and accepted and adopted and the Committee be heartily thanked for the splendid work done in the matter. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. A. T. Smith (Chairman, Military Affairs Committee): There are several resolutions in the Resolutions Committee and they will be reported on so we have no resolutions to offer with our report.

Your Military Affairs Committee respectfully submit the following report:

That this Convention recommend increased and adequate appropriations to carry out the provisions of the Defense Act of 1920 and oppose reduction in the Military and Naval Armament or forces.

That this Convention recommends support and cooperation with local committees by individual Post and County organizations in the observance of Defense Test Day on September 12th.

That this Convention recommend cooperation by individual Posts with the National Guard and Naval Militia by encouraging enlistment, also urging employers in their respective localities to encourage such enlistments by permitting vacations with pay for guardsmen and Naval Militia-men during the summer training period.

I move the adoption of the report. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Frank A. McNamee, Jr. (Chairman, Resolutions Committee): Mr. Commander and Delegates:

Be it resolved, That this Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, express its appreciation of the hospitality extended to its members and guests by the President, officials and citizens of the Village of Alexandria Bay and of the courtesy shown by its organizations.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Whereas, In 1912 a Bill was passed by Congress authorizing the expenditure of \$1,500,000 for the erection of an Archives Building in Washington; and

Whereas, This building has never been erected and the money appropriation has been allowed to lapse; and, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the National Officers of The American Legion be urged to use every endeavor to induce Congress at an early date to provide a suitable Archives Building.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Resolved, That the New York delegates to the National Convention of The American Legion at St. Paul be instructed to submit a resolution favoring such changes in the system of general courts martial of the Army and Navy as may better serve the ends of Justice and the efficiency of those services.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Resolved, That The American Legion, Department of New York, in Convention assembled, approve the Endorsement of the National organization of The American Legion with reference to National Defense Day.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Be it resolved, That at all future State Conventions of The American Legion, Department of New York, the programme committee be urged to arrange for an appropriate Memorial Service in honor of those Legionnaires who have died since the last State Convention.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Whereas, The Empire State Legionnaire, the official publication of The American Legion, Department of New York, has been a pronounced influence for good in the Department since its initial issue; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, urge all Legionnaires support it by subscribing to it.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Whereas, By the terms of the Charter of the Veterans' Mountain Camp, ex-service women are entitled to its benefits; and

Whereas, The ex-service women of the State have, by their

tireless labors and many gifts contributed materially to the Endowment Fund and current expenses of the Veterans' Mountain Camp; and

Whereas, Up to the present time no provision of any sort has been made for the care of ex-service women; and

Whereas, There are women now in need of the care which the Camp affords; therefore, be it

Resolved, By the American Legion, Department of New York, that in convention assembled the time has come to make provision for the care of any ex-service women eligible for such care and that when funds are available steps be taken to provide a place in the Camp for women entitled to its privileges; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Directors of the Camp.

I move the adoption of the resolution.

Dr. Samuel Lloyd (New York): Mr. Commander, I would be glad to second that resolution, but in seconding it may I say a word — this resolution should have come before the Corporation meeting this morning. I shall vote against the resolution.

Motion carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Whereas, A principle subscribed to and supported by The American Legion has been vindicated by the passage into law of the Adjusted Compensation Act; therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion, Department of New York, in its Sixth Annual Convention assembled, pledge itself to a policy of opposition to any future claim for compensation for other than disabled veterans, their dependents or the dependents of those who made the supreme sacrifice; be it further

Resolved, That the delegates from New York exert every effort to secure the adoption of this resolution by the National Convention of The American Legion at St. Paul, Minnesota.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Be it resolved, That this, the Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, approves the splendid work that is being done in the Scout Movement and urges each Legion Post of this Department to encourage and assist in the organization of troops and Patrols.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Be it resolved, That the delegates from this Department to the National Convention of The American Legion at St. Paul,

Minnesota, be instructed to urge that in the future the National Convention be held not later than the first week in September of each year to encourage and facilitate a large attendance.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Resolved, That the Incoming Department Commander be urged to appoint a committee to confer with the Grand Army of the Republic and other veteran organizations, to perfect plans for the permanent care of veterans' graves.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Whereas, The Immigration Act of 1924 frequently bars the parents, wives, brothers, sisters and children of veterans of the Wars of the Republic; therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion, Department of New York, in convention assembled, hereby urge Congress to amend the Immigration Act of 1924 to the end that the parents, wives, brothers, sisters and children of veterans of the Wars of the Republic may immigrate to the United States, irrespective of any quotas fixed by the said Act; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented to the National Convention at St. Paul, Minnesota, for adoption by the National organization.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Whereas, Under the National Defense Act of June, 1920, Citizens' Military Training Camps have been established in various parts of the country; and

Whereas, Said camps are instituted to instruct young men in matters pertaining to building up a strong, virile American manhood, physically and mentally, for the defense of our country; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That The American Legion in the Department of New York endorse the Citizens' Military Training Camps as thoroughly American and necessary to the preparation for the defense of America; and be it further

Resolved, That each Legion Post be directed to assist in recruiting for the Citizens' Military Camps. And that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the National Convention of The American Legion at St. Paul, Minnesota.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Whereas, General John J. Pershing has reached the age at which it becomes necessary for an officer of the United States Army to retire; and

Whereas, He was our Commanding Officer in the great world conflict, leading us to victory in such manner as becomes an officer of a great democracy; and

Whereas, During his period of active membership in The American Legion he has worked earnestly and assiduously for its aims and purposes; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That this, the Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion express admiration and respect for the retiring Chief of Staff of the United States Army and General of the Armies of the United States and its sincere regret that the regulation of the War Department compels his retirement from the position which he has so capably filled; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution, suitably engrossed, shall be sent to General Pershing.

(Applause.)

I move the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Resolved, That we, the delegates to the Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, recognizing the splendid record of work accomplished and results achieved, in behalf of The American Legion on the part of the Department Commander, Mr. Edward E. Spafford, do hereby express our deep and sincere appreciation to him.

I move the adoption of the resolution by a rising vote. (Applause.) Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Clarence E. Pitts (Secretary, Constitutional Amendments Committee): Mr. Commander and Comrades: In making certain proposed amendments to your Constitution and By-Laws, it is largely a case of technical wording. All of you who have had documents, if you will turn to page 265, at the bottom, will be where the first proposed amendment comes. It will assist very materially and possibly save the asking of many questions if you will all follow them.

Your Committee on Constitution and By-Laws has carefully considered all suggested changes in our State Constitution and State By-Laws called to its attention, and herewith recommends the following amendments thereto, to bring about the following results:

A. To secure elimination of seniority among Vice-Commanders;

B. To provide for an appointive Adjutant;

C. To prevent continuous holding of the same office by the same persons;

D. To provide the procedure for the carrying out of Article IV, Sections 1, 2 and 3, of the National By-Laws relative to trials of accused members; and

E. To secure uniformity in titles of Legion officers.

Mr. Pitts:

Article V, Section 4, of the Constitution — that the third and fourth sentences thereof be amended so as to read as follows:

The State officers shall be a Commander, three Vice-Commanders who shall be without seniority, an Adjutant and a Treasurer, all of whom, with the exception of the Adjutant, shall be elected annually by the State Convention. The Adjutant shall be annually appointed, after the State Convention, by the Commander, by and with the consent of the Executive Committee, and may be removed in like manner. No person who has served a full term as an elective State officer shall be eligible to re-election to the same office for the next succeeding term thereof.

Mr. Commander, that covers those parts of the Constitution and By-Laws which stand together on this proposition. In substance, if adopted, it will eliminate seniority among Vice-Commanders, it will allow the State Commander and the Executive Committee to appoint and remove an Adjutant, thereby having a man whom the Commander wishes to work with and be his lieutenant, and, third, it will prevent the continuous holding, the holding of two terms in succession of any State office by the same man, but it does not bar that proposition if a man has been filling a vacancy he can still be elected for the new term.

Mr. Commander, in behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of the proposed amendment, already read, to the State Constitution and to the State By-Laws.

Mr. Pitts: Mr. Commander, the first proposed amendment is that "The State officers shall be a Commander, three Vice-Commanders, who shall be without seniority, an Adjutant and a Treasurer, all of whom, with the exception of the Adjutant, shall be elected annually by the State Convention. The Adjutant shall be annually appointed, after the State Convention, by the Commander, by and with the consent of the Executive Committee, and may be removed in like manner."

Mr. Baar: I move an amendment to the motion by striking out the words referring to the appointment of the State Adjutant, "with the exception of the Adjutant," I think it reads, who shall be appointed. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Now the question is on the adoption of the amendment which provides, in substance, for the three Vice-Commanders without seniority. Motion carried.

Mr. Pitts: The remaining part of this is a new paragraph:
No person who has served a full term as an elective State officer shall be eligible to re-election to the same office for the next succeeding term thereof.

On behalf of the Committee which desires to see the honors passed around, I move the adoption of this proposed amendment to the State Constitution. Motion seconded.

Mr. Leffingwell (Watkins): I move to table the report of the section we are now discussing. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Pitts: The next proposition, as we go down, is the matter of amending the State By-Laws, Article V, Section 5, by simply saying that this clause shall be stricken out — "Vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired term." That is the tail of a single section which refers to the election of a State Historian and State Chaplain and there is no provision anywhere which fills the vacancy in case any of the other officers die. We are then inserting a brand new section, following:

Section 6. Vacancies in State offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired terms, provided, however, that in filling a vacancy in the office of Commander, such election shall be from among the then Vice-Commanders.

I move the adoption of the amendment. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Pitts: Mr. Commander, Article V, Section 2, of the By-Laws be amended so as to read:

The Commander, and in his absence, a Vice-Commander, requested by him so to do, shall preside at State Conventions and at meetings of the State Committee and of the State Executive Committee.

That is required because the original rule said that the Vice-Commander shall preside in order of seniority and you wiped seniority out.

I move the adoption of the amendment. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Pitts: Mr. Chairman, the next is that the following sentence be added to Article V, Section 3, of the By-Laws:

He (the Adjutant) shall perform such other and further duties as the Executive Committee shall from time to time direct; and the Executive Committee is empowered to fix the amount of, and cause to be paid to him, suitable compensation for his services.

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of this proposed amendment. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Pitts: Now, coming up to another matter altogether, and that is, providing for the carrying out by the State organization

of the mandate of the National By-Law; in connection with this the National By-Laws provide that each Post shall be a judge of the qualifications of its members, may take who it pleases into membership and turn out who it pleases, subject to the restrictions of the National Constitution and By-Laws, but provide that no man may be expelled from any Post by The American Legion until he has had a fair trial under the form and in the manner provided for by the Department itself.

Now, in one of our counties we tried to turn a man out, and God knows he ought to be put out, but we got up against the fact that while the Post had a right to indict him and put him out, we had failed to provide any method, as directed by the National organization, whereby the man could be brought on trial, as a result of which you could indict a man for murder, but couldn't try him. Now, we didn't have any time to draw a code of procedure. And as the National organization has said that it could be handled either by the By-Laws or by a State Executive Committee, we are making this recommendation, all but the last part being in practically the same wording as that of the National organization:

State By-Laws, Article II—that, for the purpose of providing a procedure for the trial of accused members of The American Legion in this Department, pursuant to the direction of Article IV, Section 2, of the National By-Laws, Article II of the State By-Laws be amended by adding a new section, reading as follows:

Sec. 3. Each Post shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and of the New York Department Constitutions and By-Laws, respectively; but a member may be suspended or expelled from The American Legion only upon due conviction of disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty or other conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion. All charges must be made under oath in writing by the accusers and no member in good standing may be expelled unless and except upon a fair trial in such manner and form as the Department Executive Committee shall, and which it hereby is authorized and directed to prescribe.

On behalf of the Committee I move the adoption of that amendment. Motion seconded.

Mr. Flynn (Queens): Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask this: If a man is expelled from one Post on charges as per read, will he be eligible for admission to membership in another Post?

The Chairman: If he is expelled from The Legion he is not eligible for membership in any other Post. If he is expelled only from his Post he will be eligible for membership in another one. Motion carried.

Mr. Pitts: Mr. Commander, at the request of one of our County Conventions we took up the matter of the names, the titles, given

to our officers. We have a National Commander, National Vice-Commanders and a National Adjutant, a State Commander, State Vice-Commanders, State Adjutant, Post Commanders, Post Vice-Commanders and Post Adjutant, but under our present By-Laws we have a County Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Now, for the purpose of having the same thing down the line, completing the four different units, all alike, and having four sets of Commanders instead of three, we have moved to amend that clause of our By-Laws which will make the names uniform, reading as follows:

(Reading.)

Article V, Section 5, that the second sentence thereof be amended so as to read as follows:

Each County Committee shall provide the method of electing a Commander, one or more Vice-Commanders, an Adjutant, a Treasurer and an Executive Committee, of as many members as may be deemed desirable, in such manner that each Post in the County has a proportional voice in their election, such proportion to be on the same basis as that of the Post representation in the County Committee, and may elect such other officers as it may desire.

Mr. Murray (Kings): I think that should include District Commanders.

Mr. Pitts: Mr. Commander, we move the adoption of this resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Pitts: One additional paragraph in regard to that same matter, along the line of the previous recommendation as to appointive Adjutant of the State, which you decided not to do. We provided above here for the election of the County officers and we say, "except that the County Committee may authorize the appointment of the Adjutant by the Commander, by and with the approval of the Executive Committee, and for his removal in like manner."

On behalf of the Committee, Mr. Commander, we move the adoption of this suggestion.

Mr. Leffingwell (Watkins): I move to table this amendment. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Pitts: Mr. Commander, we will now make the most interesting part of the report. Mr. Commander, your Committee had referred to it a resolution by Kings County requesting us to amend the Constitution and By-Laws so as to widen the eligibility of the ladies to the Auxiliaries. We make this report:

Your Committee has referred to the Convention Committee upon Resolutions the matter of the change (recommended by the Kings County Convention) in the State Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary of this Department, in rela-

tion to eligibility to membership therein, for such action that the Committee on Resolutions deems proper, for the reason that such eligibility being fixed and "limited" by Article XIII of the National Legion Constitution, a Legion Department has no power to change same.

Your Committee earnestly recommends that the Executive Committee appoint a special committee to carefully edit the present Constitution and By-Laws and report to the next Convention proper proposed corrections and amendments thereto.

Mr. Commander, on that point our present Constitution has had alterations of the National Constitution and By-Laws, and we have altered our own and if you have studied it critically you will find a lot of things that are inconsistent and need ironing out. Therefore, we move the appointment by the Executive Committee of a special committee to study it and report at the next Convention. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Scheiberling (Chairman, Time and Place of Next Convention Committee): Mr. Commander and Gentlemen of the Convention: I hope everybody stays for this because your own personal comfort and convenience is concerned in what you are going to do now, because this is where we are going to determine here and now where we go from here.

The Committee on Time and Place met as per schedule, fourteen members of the Committee being present, four absentees. The report of the Committee is divided into two parts. The first part, the Time of the Next Convention, the Committee acted with unanimity upon. The Committee unanimously selected as the time for the next State Convention, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, September 17, 18 and 19, 1925.

Now, in connection with that a matter has come up in the report of the Resolutions Committee by which the Convention is now upon record as favoring the next National Convention the first week in September, so that if you adopt this portion of our report you are not consistent. I don't know just how the tangle can be straightened out. The reason we selected a later date for the State Convention next year was we took into consideration for one thing that we would not be quite so far north and perhaps not run into quite so cold weather and also the fact that the National Convention next year, the Committee believed, would be held at a later date than the Convention is to be held this year. The Convention was moved up this year, your Committee was informed, on account of the national elections which occur this year.

So for your consideration I submit that portion of the report and move its adoption. Motion seconded.

Mr. Griffin (Rockland): Mr. Commander, I move that the matter of the time of the next State Convention be referred to the Executive Committee with power to act. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Scheiberling: The next portion of the report of the Committee was not achieved with unanimity. The Committee received several whole-hearted and cordial invitations from cities of the State who desire our Convention next year. There were three such invitations extended, one from the City of New York, accompanied by a letter from Mayor Hylan, one from the city of Geneva, which sent a delegation to appear before your Committee consisting of the former Mayor of the city, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Treasurer of Hobart College, and four or five of the members of the Board of Directors of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce. The city of Troy also invites the Convention for next year, presented letters or telegrams from Mayor Clinton, from all the fraternal bodies of the city of Troy, and the citizens generally through the Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee in executive session took a vote upon the three cities. The vote resulted as follows: Troy received four votes; New York received five, and Geneva received five. Under a rule adopted by the Committee Troy was then eliminated in a second vote. The second vote resulted nine for New York and five for Geneva.

The Chairman of the Committee is not going to make any recommendation to the Convention because in conference with the three cities involved yesterday it was agreed, and New York I want to say very graciously agreed to the proposition, that the matter should be thrown into the Convention to decide, notwithstanding that the Committee itself favored New York by a majority vote, and I would, therefore, recommend that the Convention do now vote upon the three cities, New York, Geneva and Troy for the place of the next Convention and that each of the cities be granted time upon the platform to present an argument.

We had originally agreed that the time should be ten minutes for each city but I understand that it is entirely satisfactory now if each city is granted three minutes and it will be very educational to you ladies and gentlemen to hear these arguments if they are presented in the same forceful manner in which they were presented to your Committee. It is really a lesson in geography to get this. You will discover all about what is in the State of New York. We received some very confidential and valuable information as to the wet places in the State and it may be of some value to you in determining where we go next year. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The Chairman will accept the suggestion unless there is objection from the delegates and will hear New York first as New York had the major vote in the Committee.

Mr. Robert E. Condon (New York) (applause): Mr. Commander and Delegates: New York is only too happy to have this Convention for 1925 voted to it twice. New York, through Mayor John F. Hylan, through the Merchants' Association, the Board of Trade, the Knights of Columbus, the Masonic Order, and numerous

other orders joining together with The American Legion asks you to come to the Empire City of the world, that the empire organization of the world may have an opportunity to hold a Convention that will transcend anything that has been accomplished before.

Hotels are always of concern to delegates. It is needless, Mr. Commander, for me to take any of the delegates' time in assuring them that we have at least a new hotel in New York that can accommodate them. Hotel rates are, of course, of interest. The Legion of New York County can assure you that the hotel rates in New York will be from \$2 to \$6. You can for \$3 and \$3.50 enjoy the hospitality of a hotel and have a room that is second in class to none.

Entertainment — of course, I would be here a long time if I told you about the entertainment that New York can offer. But we have assurances already that you will be provided with entertainment free, that ordinarily when you go to New York you pay anywhere from \$3.85 to \$18.72 to see.

Both the National League and the American League, not yet knowing what their schedule will be but certainly having games in New York in September, have said that on one occasion, to be selected in conjunction with their committee, The American Legion delegates will be guests to one of the big league baseball games.

West Point offers you a trip. The city will provide with The American Legion a trip to West Point. Coney Island — the city has stated they would like to give an entertainment at Coney Island, something that had not been known before, for The Legion delegates when they come down there in 1925.

There is one point, ladies and gentlemen, that I want to emphasize particularly and that is the matter of the press. New York can help The Legion, to my humble belief, more than any other city by having this Convention because we have the power of the Press there that will broadcast together with the radio our proceedings throughout the nation as well as in our own communities and States.

We earnestly ask you to come to New York next year. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The representative from Geneva. Mr. Rice, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Geneva, not being a Legionnaire, I should have to ask the unanimous consent of the Convention for him to make his statement.

Mr. Paterson: I move it be given, Mr. Chairman. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Rice (President, Geneva Chamber of Commerce): Mr. Commander, Ladies and Gentlemen: To say the least I consider this a great honor for our city for me as one of their citizens, not a Legionnaire, to be allowed to present our claims for the Convention of 1925 in Geneva. We have got to be brief and I am just going to read you a few of the high spots for our reason for asking you to come to Geneva in 1925.

The Mayor, the city officials, the Chamber of Commerce, and the local branch of The Legion are back of me in this movement. Now, the location — we happen to be located on a beautiful lake known as Seneca. Our city is especially favored that way. We are one of the oldest cities in the western part of the State. It is the center of the richest agricultural district in the State, largest nurseries' center in the State; home of the New York State Experiment Farm; college for men and college for girls; heart of the Finger Lake District; State roads leading in every direction; thirty miles of street paving; and, of course, located nearly in the center of the State; interurban trolleys in and out; many passenger trains in and out; on two of your leading railroads in the State, the New York Central and the Lehigh Valley. We have fifty clubs and social organizations and, of course, fourteen churches. We happen to be also in the center of the grape juice district and it produces plenty of — buttermilk. (Laughter.) Convention hall to accommodate 3,000, and ample accommodations at reasonable rates. Hobart College alone can house 500 delegates to say nothing about the house of our accommodations. We have ten dance halls, Dancing Inn at the lake, a place for water carnivals, block dances, theatrical entertainment, golf club, and country club on the lake shore, also the Rod and Gun Club.

We raised last spring \$22,500 at a *Mardigras* for The Legion for a home, toward a home. (Applause.)

I just want to say that we are just as much behind The Legion now as we were behind those same fellows when they left for the World War. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Troy.

Mr. McCarthy (Troy): I am here as a delegate to The American Legion Convention and also as the Comptroller of the city of Troy; so far as finances are concerned we can pledge you anything almost.

First of all I want to say that Troy is admirably located for a Convention city. It is at the head of navigation of the Hudson river. It is easily reached by boat or train. There are twelve hotels in the city of Troy which will accommodate 2,000 delegates. It is the home of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, which is the superior of any engineering institute in the country. It is the home of the Emma Willard College for girls, one of the leading girls' schools in the city. It manufactures more collars than any other city in the world and we hope to collar the Convention.

We withdrew last year after a ten to two vote in the Committee on Time and Place in favor of Alexandria Bay when it was shown to us that they had gone to expense to secure the Convention. We withdrew for the honor of the Department of the State of New York and we hope that the honor of the Department of the State of New York will allow us to say to our friends and citizens in Troy that The American Legion upholds its good name and honor. I yield to Mylod of Dutchess. (Applause.)

Mr. Mylod (Dutchess): Mr. Commander and Fellow Legionnaires: I was on the minority in the Time and Place Committee and I have but one word to say. I was for Troy because I fully believe that The American Legion of the State of New York owes a moral obligation to the City of Troy and to the people of Rensselaer County. Last year Troy attained the convention in the Time and Place Committee by a vote of 10 to 2 and out of courtesy and out of a recommendation based by the delegates in convention assembled in Saratoga it was understood that Troy would have the 1925 Convention, and I say that we owe Troy a moral obligation to accept their hospitality extended to us last year. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Now you have heard the charms of the three cities. What is your pleasure as to the method of determination.

Mr. Deegan: I call for the roll call.

The Chairman: The roll call has been requested and is granted. I will appoint Mr. Rackoff, Mr. Farrington and Mr. Fairfax as the tellers.

Mr. Baar (Kings): I move that a majority vote be necessary. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Rackoff: Mr. Commander, Ladies and Gentlemen: The tellers are agreed on the total number of votes cast for Troy and for New York. New York has received 253 votes, Troy has received a total of 240 votes. (Applause.)

Mr. McCarthy (Troy): Mr. Chairman, I move that the selection of New York be made unanimous. Carried.

Mr. Brady (New York): I move that this Convention take a recess for one hour and that we reassemble at 3 o'clock. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Saturday morning session adjourned for luncheon at 1:50 p. m. to reconvene at 3 o'clock.

The Fifth Session of the Convention was called to order at 3:15 p. m., Saturday, September 6, 1924.

The Chairman: The Convention will come to order.

Mr. Schieffle (Chairman, Special Committee on Child Welfare):

Mr. Commander and Comrades of the Convention:

Sixty years from today nine-tenths of the earth's human population who have today reached the age of twenty will have joined the millions who have gone — we know not where, but, thank God, we are strong of faith and full of hope.

Sixty years ago we were just entering upon the reconstruction days following the Civil War. Today, we are struggling

with the problems which confront us as a result of the World War.

Sixty years from today a great change will have come to the United States of America. Today, those whom we term super-intelligent are not bringing very many children into the world. Statistics prove, hence argument is superfluous. Many children are born, however, but the proportion born in good homes, homes where they will receive the right kind of moral and patriotic training, is, we are told by good authority, too comparatively small in order to preserve anything like a safe and constructive civilization balance.

At the Fourth National Convention of The American Legion at New Orleans, a mandate authorizing the organization of the National Children's Welfare Committee of The American Legion, was passed. And since that time the National organization has made great strides and much has been accomplished about which I shall speak later.

We have tried to follow as nearly as possible the outline as presented to the National Convention at San Francisco by our National Committee and the work that we have been doing this year during the short time that this Committee has been organized is as follows:

1. We have made a careful study of the history of the care of dependent children in America, particularly those of service men of previous wars.

2. The analysis of the experience of State Child Welfare Associations and other organizations responsible for the care of dependent children.

- a. We have made a careful study of five of the larger institutions in America now taking care of dependent children, namely, Mooschart, which has 1,055 children; Girard College, with 1,527 children; Hastings-on-the-Hudson, with 210 children; Hershey Institutional School, with 124 children; and Carson College, with 90 children. We have studied these institutions in regard to relative value of institutional plants, as well as per capita cost of interest charges on plants, per capita cost of housing and overhead, per capita cost of home care of children and per capita cost of schooling furnished.

3. We are studying and examining records of the various State Departments dealing with the problem of dependency, particularly as they relate to children.

The Committee is agreed upon certain fundamentals, which should be strictly adhered to in carrying out our program, which are as follows:

1. The rational home life, duplicating family relationships as they exist in the normal home should be provided just as far as this is possible.

2. That institutional care of children involving the herding of large numbers of children together with little or no attention to individual needs, without recognition of individual

differences, is deplorable and fails utterly in producing results most desired, and most eagerly sought for.

3. That whenever conditions permit, and it seems advisable, the integrity of the home should be maintained in order that children may be kept together and left in the care of their own mother.

4. That experience in general has demonstrated that the factors involved in the problem confronting The Legion are so varied and so complex, that conditions and needs in the various sections of the same state differ so greatly, that no one plan or method of procedure can be depended upon to work equally well in all cases. The necessity for adopting a policy permitting a study of particular situations and working out the best method for each one is generally recognized. Such a policy naturally must permit of variation and expansion as may be demanded by the conditions met, and problems encountered.

5. That the primary purpose of care and training of children should be to develop them into sturdy, vigorous manhood and womanhood, fitted for efficient citizenship, and useful members of society. This requires something more than providing children with home care, academic education and vocational training. It is of the highest importance that children's lives be so directed, that their activities and experiences be so organized, that it will insure the development of the standards and ideals that will guide and inspire them to appreciation, not only of their rights and privileges, but also of their duties and obligations as citizens of the community, state and nation.

I could spend easily eight to ten hours telling you about what some of the various State Departments have been doing. For instance, the Kansas Department, upon receipt of a gift of a three hundred and eighty-eight acre farm site worth twenty-five thousand dollars, containing twenty-five thousand dollars worth of improvements, a cash pledge of twenty-five thousand dollars from the donor, promptly turned this over to the National Committee with a pledge from the Kansas Department of The Legion and Auxiliary of one hundred thousand dollars for a regional home. I could tell about what is being done in other states, and the history of the care of dependent children of the veterans of other wars would fill a good sized library, and I can assure you is not one of which we can feel proud.

Conservatively speaking, there must be hundreds of cases needing attention among the half a million ex-service families in this State, among the hundreds of families of battle dead, among the hundreds of families of comrades who are still in the hospitals and insane institutions. We talk of service, of citizenship, of comradeship. Here is an opportunity to actually live it.

It is the dream of this Committee to establish in this State

a regional home for this section. Another year will see New York State, though we have been slow in organizing due to so many vital problems facing this Department, second to none in Child Welfare Work.

The work this year has been carried on without expense to the Department. Another year will see the need of funds. We propose to send every member a pledge card, as follows:

I believe in The American Legion's fine program for the care and education of the orphaned sons and daughters of war veterans and gladly send an initial contribution of \$..... to help start the good work in New York.

So far as the actual construction of a home is concerned, we first must acquire the necessary land, which must be well located.

There would be two separate units under one head, a unit for girls and a unit for boys. Between these two communities would be the school building or place of central community interest. The children would be housed in cottages, twenty-four to the cottage. Living with them would be a house mother, in case of girls, and a house mother and house father in case of boys. Those in charge would, of course, be Legion people. Each cottage, then, would make a home for a really complete family. Each cottage would contain a basement playroom, a reading room and a game room, matron's room, bath, kitchen, dining room and a combination sleeping room and a study room for each two children.

The school building should contain regular class rooms for each grade, ranging from the first up to and eventually including the high school grades. Besides rooms for regular school work, the building must have space for teaching manual training, domestic science, printing, blacksmithing, painting, steel and wood turning, and other practical trades. This building would also have a gymnasium and indoor swimming pool, hand ball courts, bowling alley, etc. The top floor should contain a large assembly for chapel services, entertainments and general get-together meetings. Each child would have his time divided among class room exercises, religious instructions, music, vocational training, military drill and plenty of opportunity for free play.

We would also expect him to engage somewhat in agricultural and dairy pursuits, as we would hope eventually to make the home school, with its vast acres, as nearly self-supporting as possible through these avenues.

The advancement of a child should only be limited by his capacity of advance. If a child finished his or her high school work and showed marked ability along professional lines, he would be sent to college. If he got all we could give him along trade lines and showed marked ability in technical matters, then he would be sent to a technical school. Every

child in the home school would be given every chance in the world to become a good American citizen, ready to serve and capable of serving. A school of this kind would not only be an asset to The Legion, but it should also be a big asset to the community, state and nation.

We want the world to know that we are ready, willing and capable of taking care of our own under-privileged children in such a way as to make them real citizens of the future. We want every comrade's child to be trained and educated to its fullest capacity. We want none of our children to become public charges. We very much want to insure to every ex-service man, dead or alive, that no matter what happens, his children will be tenderly and efficiently cared for by sympathetic and understanding comrades, not in the spirit of charity, but in Justice and brotherly love.

It is in this way that we will memorialize and outwardly express our real gratitude and appreciation to that comrade who was shot down in the shell hole next to us, to that comrade who died in the cot next to ours; and to those buddies with us today, who may be gone tomorrow.

This is the kind of a program that will typify our unselfish interest in helpless youth, good citizenship by a devotion to mutual helpfulness, all of which can be summed up in real service to God and Country.

Let us try drawing on the imagination and see if there is not a deep appeal in the long rows of little children kneeling at their clean, white beds, after a pleasant useful day amid clean surroundings, helpful occupations with fine supervision, healthful food and comfortable clothing, asking God to bless The American Legion for taking them away from the squalid surroundings, dangerous environment, a half starved, hopeless childhood. And what if they are the children of our buddies — our own children, perhaps?

It would certainly make a Legionnaire feel as though he were doing something in the world, if he were permitted to administer such care; something fine and unselfish, serving in the final analysis, community, state and nation.

Respectfully submitted.

Mr. Gumpertz (New York): I move the report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Resolved, That this Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, extend to the President and Mrs. Coolidge its sincere sympathy for the loss of their son, Calvin Coolidge, Jr., a young American whose life was an inspiring example to the youth of this Country.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee:

Whereas, In the death of Woodrow Wilson we have lost a great war president, a glorious Commander-in-Chief and an inspiring leader of fearless determination; be it

Resolved, That this Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, when it shall adjourn do so in honor of Woodrow Wilson and stand for one minute in silent tribute.

I move the adoption of the resolution. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. McNamee: Mr. Commander, that completes the work of the Resolutions Committee.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Flynn of Queens to finish or continue the acceptance of money for the band to go to the National Convention.

Mr. Flynn (Queens): Now, since I spoke to you ladies and gentlemen this morning we find it is going to cost in the neighborhood of three thousand dollars to convey that band down to St. Paul and back. And in my remarks this morning I said that I had been led to believe that the people in Alexandria Bay had promised to furnish the money with which to send that band down there and back. And that I found that they would not be in position to do so. But since that time I have again been led to believe that I made a mistake this morning. In other words, the people of Alexandria Bay do not want to be put on record as having said they would defray the expenses of that band and then have that remark passed before this Convention. In other words, they feel as though they want to contribute something, and I don't think that the delegates of this State would attempt for one minute to saddle any such expense on one particular place. I am pretty sure that when all of the donations are in, and we find out that we are short, I am pretty sure Alexandria Bay will come in and do its share. I think they will make up the difference between what we collect and what we need.

Now we haven't got much time to think about this matter and while the iron is hot I am here now pleading for money — although it isn't Sunday (laughter) — and we would like to call the roll, if that would be permissible, of all the counties and ask if we have, since this morning, any word as to whether they held any conversation among their delegates as to how much they would have. If you think it would be too long I would be more than pleased to abide by the decision of the Chair. What would be your opinion, Mr. Commander?

The Chairman: My opinion is what the Convention desires.

Mr. Walsh (Albany): Mr. Commander, I wish to report to Mr. Flynn that Albany, as usual, is over-subscribed.

The Chairman: For how much?

Mr. Walsh: Still there is more to follow, as we used to sing in a Methodist Church, but we are over-subscribed now.

Official Reporter's Note: The following pledges are made: Clinton, \$10; Essex, \$10; Cayuga, \$10; Rensselaer, \$10; Columbia, \$10; Franklin, \$10; Suffolk, \$25; Onondaga, \$10; Dutchess, \$10; Ulster, \$10; Erie, \$25; Orange, \$10; Greene, \$10; Wayne, \$10; Nassau, \$10; Westchester, \$50; Niagara, \$25; Madison, \$10; Warren, \$10; Chautauqua, \$15; Orleans, \$15; St. Lawrence, \$25; Washington, \$10; Delaware, \$10; the band itself, \$10; Oneida, \$10; Sullivan, \$10; Schoharie, \$10; Montgomery, \$10; Herkimer, \$10; Otsego, \$10; Seneca, \$10; Wyoming, \$10; Allegany, \$10; Steuben, \$10; Broome, \$10; Judson-Galloway Post (Newburgh), \$5; Fraternity Post, \$25; Stewart-Whiting-Huber Post, \$5; Nassau, \$15 more; Cattaraugus, \$10; Lynbrook Post, \$5; Room No. 105, Crossmon House, \$10; Colonel Charles Young Post, \$5; Voiture No. 537, Westchester, \$10; Post No. 665, Buffalo, \$10; Tuscania Post, Buffalo, \$5; Voiture No. 11, Rochester, \$10; Bayshore Post, \$5; Fulton County Voiture, \$10; Post No. 368, \$5; Boland Post, \$5 (Buffalo); Voiture No. 51, \$5; Henry C. Wilson Post, Bronx, \$10; Voiture No. 463, Clinton, \$5; Jane Delano Post, Buffalo, \$5; Bevotsky Post, Buffalo, \$5; Old Navy Post, Rochester, \$5; Voiture No. 533, Bronx, \$10; Oneida County Voiture No. 92, \$10; Malone Post, \$5; John W. McCartal Post, \$5; Auxiliary of Yonkers Post No. 7, \$10; Kings County Voiture No. 17, \$25; John Mark Post, \$5; Moses-Taylor Post No. 136, Westchester, \$10; Forest Hills Post No. 630, Queens County, \$10; William A. Leonard Post, Flushing, \$10; Hudson Post No. 184, \$5; Elmhurst Post, \$5; Richmond Hill Post No. 212, \$10; Far Rockaway Post, \$15; College Point Post, \$10; Woodhaven Post, \$10; Riverside Post, \$5; Utica Post, \$10; Chatham Post No. 42, \$5; Astoria Post, \$10; Wadsworth Post No. 271, \$10; Old Glory Navy Post, \$10; Cedarhurst Post \$5; Patchogue Post, \$10; Montgomery Post, \$5; New York Voiture 40-8, \$10; Herkimer Post, \$10; Grand Voiture, New York State, \$50; 13th Post, Kings County, \$10; Arkville Post, \$5; Post No. 26, \$5; Monroe, \$25 additional to the \$110 already subscribed; Post No. 8, New Rochelle, \$10; Dowd Post, Monroe County, \$10; William Clinton-Story Post, \$5; Roger William Paterson Post, \$5; Post No. 534, \$5; Warwick Post, \$5; Tarrytown Post, \$10; Brooklyn Marine Corps Post, \$5; Past Commanders of Queens County, \$25; Florence Nightingale Post of Rochester, \$10; General Lafayette Police Post, \$25; Albany County Voiture, \$10; New York Fire Department Post No. 930, \$15; Harold G. Daniel Post No. 871, Bronx, \$10.

The Chairman: Is there any more unfinished business to come before this Convention? If not, we will proceed with the election of officers. (Applause.)

Nominations are in order for the State Commander. The Adjutant will call the roll for nominations. The nominating speeches are limited to three minutes and the seconding to two and only

two seconding speeches are allowed. Before proceeding with the election, I will announce the tellers: Mr. Cohen, New York County; Mr. McWhorter, Kings County; Mr. McKelvey of Queens County. All of them are experts at figures.

The Adjutant calls the roll.

Albany —

Mr. Scheiberling (Albany): Mr. Commander and Fellow Delegates: Albany County really does not feel that it requires the three minutes allowed to present to you its candidate for the office of Department Commander. His qualifications have been so well set before you in this Convention, first, by the distinguished Speaker of the Assembly of the State of New York, and again by our Department Commander, that his work for The Legion is well known to all.

Five years as Chairman of the State Legislative Committee, seven or eight months in the position of Department Adjutant, his attendance at every State and National Convention, have brought him into close personal contact with every Legionnaire in the State of New York. His name is a very by-word among all of us. When anything is to be done for the good of The Legion he is the first man consulted.

My friends, I believe you are all going to agree with me that the State Department will be in most excellent hands during the next year with Samuel E. Aronowitz of Albany in the position of Department Commander. (Applause.)

Allegany —

Chairman, Allegany Delegation: Allegany yields to New York.

Mr. Brady (New York): Mr. Commander and Fellow Delegates: After that warm and wonderful ovation that you have just given to the nominee of Albany County it requires very little from me to say to you that, not only the County of New York, but the rank and file of The Legion throughout the Empire State feel that we are highly honored to draft into the service of this position as State Commander the gentleman who has just been nominated by Judge Scheiberling.

He has been a great and potent factor in the success of the administration of our worthy Commander. He has aided and assisted the President of the Veterans' Mountain Camp in making that Camp a success. He has represented us since the inception of The Legion in the halls of the Legislature of this State.

And it gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of that worthy and distinguished gentleman from Albany, Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz. (Applause.)

Cayuga —

Chairman, Cayuga Delegation: Cayuga yields to Monroe.

Mr. Rothjen (Monroe [applause]): Mr. Commander and Fellow Legionnaires: Be not afraid, because I am not going to deliver any speech. All I want to do on behalf of Monroe County

is just let our heart overflow, so to speak. We have got a good, live bunch up there in Monroe and we have been feeling for quite a while that there are a good many Legionnaires don't know that there is a part of New York State west of the Hudson River. It was aptly said here this morning that there is lots of good material among Legionnaires, and I add to that that the good material is, some of it, in the western part of the State.

Monroe County has made a mighty good showing this past year and has been leading up to it. We today are the second largest county in point of membership in the State. We'd like to have that taken into consideration. Too, we have in mind this fact — I am expressing to you the thoughts of the Monroe County Legionnaires — that the first Commander was from the City of New York, then it came up to Broome, then it went back to New York, then up the Hudson to Columbia, and then it went back to New York. Now, we feel that New York State west of the Hudson River is entitled to some consideration, so we advance for your consideration the name of a man upon whom Monroe County has united, a man who enlisted in the United States Navy the day war was declared and so from that we believe he is a man who would be prompt to respond to any demands made upon him by The Legion. The fact that he is not known prominently in the State today does not make much difference, because we have had other instances in the past where men have become Commander who haven't been known particularly in the State before their term began.

It is a great pleasure for me on behalf of the Monroe delegation to present for your consideration the name of Clement G. Lanni, of Memorial Post, Monroe County. I thank you. (Applause.)

Wayne —

Mr. Fleckenstein (Wayne): Mr. Commander, it gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of Clement Lanni for State Commander.

The Chairman: Are there any other nominations? If not, nominations are declared closed.

The Adjutant will call the roll for election of Department Commander and the tellers will please come to the platform.

During the balloting Mr. Lanni was recognized.

Mr. Lanni (Monroe): I respectfully ask permission of the floor for one minute.

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Legionnaires: Monroe County has honored me with the nomination and I appreciate the honor which my County has given to me. I also appreciate the fact that there is an overwhelming sentiment in this Convention for a man who is highly honored throughout the State and I take this opportunity, Mr. Commander, to request, through the Chair, before congratulating Sam Aronowitz, that you give the privilege of the floor

again to Monroe County so that our Chairman may ask that a unanimous vote be cast for Sam Aronowitz of Albany. (Applause.)

Mr. Rothjen (Monroe): Mr. Commander, I again appreciate the honor of addressing this assembly and I at this time move that the election of Sam Aronowitz be made unanimous by this Convention. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I will request our Past Department Commanders, Mr. Callan and Mr. Deegan, to escort Mr. Aronowitz to the platform.

Mr. Aronowitz is escorted to the platform, the Convention rising amid prolonged applause and cheers.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, your new Department Commander. (Applause.)

Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz (Department Commander-Elect): Legionnaires, I thank you. I believe I appreciate the heavy responsibilities of the office and I pledge that to the utmost of my ability I will carry them out. I also appreciate the responsibility that would be mine if I detained you here with a speech. I am merely going to say that if this administration is to even approximate the previous administration I will need an immense amount of help and I am going to call on the Legionnaires throughout the State and ask for assistance, and I feel that I will get it. Thank you once more. (Applause.)

The Chairman: To the Legionnaires I wish to state that there has been raised \$1,870 for taking a band to the National Convention. Will those who desire to pay right now come to the platform at this end and do so? I hope that you will be prompt about it.

The next order of business is the nomination for Vice-Commanders. The Adjutant will call the roll for the nominations.

The roll is called by the Secretary.

Allegany yields to Chautauqua.

Mr. Galloway (Chautauqua): Mr. Commander and Fellow Legionnaires: Chautauqua County presents a pioneer worker in the ranks of The Legion, a man of ability, an executive, a man that has come up through the ranks, who has spent his time, his energy and his very high ability in organizing his Posts in our section, in organizing the county committee in Cattaraugus County. He has served as deputy in the 8th District for the past year.

Gentlemen, I think at this time in the history of The Legion it requires men to carry out the work, men who have had experience, men who show a willingness and an ability to carry on for The Legion. Chautauqua County believes in rewarding faithful, earnest and able service by promotion.

I say in all sincerity that I come here and present the name of John S. Leonard of Jamestown for the consideration of this Convention because he has done big things for The Legion. He has merited the position of Vice-Commander. The Commander comes from the eastern section of this State. We have a broad expanse in the west that should have some executive representation and I respectfully submit the name of Mr. Leonard to this Convention feeling that it is a personal privilege and honor for me to do so and that I am serving The Legion by offering his name to this Convention.

Mr. Hines (Bronx [applause]): Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen of the Convention: My candidate is right in harmony with the spirit that prevails here. He is a man who has been able to work down in the southern end of this State and get Kings and Queens together. (Laughter and applause.) And I'll tell you he is a regular he-man.

I take great pleasure in nominating Al Ward of the Bronx. (Applause.)

Broome yields to New York.

Mr. Mehla (New York): Mr. Chairman, Delegates and Alternates to this Convention: New York, the big County, at the south end of the State is indeed happy to be able to present to you for your earnest consideration the name of a gentleman, midway in the State, who has been tireless in his efforts for the ex-service man who is no longer really able to take care of himself. This gentleman has divided his time between his home town and his business, between that point and Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake. He has been indefatigable in his efforts for welfare work in this State.

I, therefore, on behalf of the New York County delegation, take pleasure in presenting to you the Chairman of the Fourth Judicial District, Mr. Harry C. Wilder of Malone. (Applause.)

Cattaraugue yields to Erie.

Mr. Hart (Erie): Mr. Commander, Fellow Legionnaires: I believe that the gentleman from New York has fully covered in every detail the qualifications of Harry Wilder, and nothing that Erie County or myself could say would add anything to the qualifications of Harry Wilder, and, therefore, it gives me personally great pleasure, and I know it gives Erie County great pleasure, to unanimously second the nomination of the gentleman of New York for Harry Wilder for Vice-Commander. (Applause.)

Clinton yields to Queens.

Mr. Pasta (Queens): Mr. Commander and Delegates to this Convention: Truly it has been said of the man who I am going to second in behalf of Queens County, that he is a harmonizer. But he has been more than that. Down there in the large section known as the Metropolitan District he has by his work in the

County of the Bronx shown to us that he is a capable and efficient administrator, and what is more, he is affable and likeable. He is a real fine sort of a fellow and a man who will bring to The American Legion the sort of men we want to it. He is going I know, if elected to this office of Vice-Commander to bring to it an ability that we want there. And I do certainly hope that the Convention will register in no uncertain terms the approval of this Convention of the man I am going to second in behalf of Queens County, that fine, outstanding Legionnaire, Al Ward of the Bronx. (Applause and cheers.)

Columbia yields to Kings.

Mr. Murray (Kings): Comrades, after all that has been said about Al Ward there is very little more that Kings can say, except that we appreciate the honor of being able to further second his nomination and help to elect him. (Applause and cheers.)

Franklin —

Mr. Leister (Franklin [applause]): Mr. Commander, I have so very little to say that really I should not come up here, but I just want to say that I think you all know the very good work that Mr. Leonard has done as Chairman of the Eighth District, and also as a Director of the Veterans' Mountain Camp, and I, therefore, take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mr. Leonard. Thank you. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Fronzack (Erie): Mr. Commander, in view of the fact that there are only three candidates for the offices of Vice-Commander, I move you that the Adjutant cast a vote as the ballot of this Convention for these three candidates — Leonard, Ward and Wilder. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The Adjutant has cast one ballot and finds that the following have been unanimously elected Vice-Commanders for the ensuing year: Leonard, Ward, Wilder.

Will the new District Chairmen bring them to the platform?

The newly elected Vice-Commanders, Mr. Albert L. Ward, Mr. John S. Leonard, and Mr. Harry C. Wilder, are escorted to the platform, the Convention rising amid applause and cheers.

The Chairman: We will proceed with the roll call, nominations for Department Adjutant.

The roll is called by the Secretary.

Bronx yields to Suffolk.

Mr. Rasquin (Suffolk): Mr. Commander and Delegates: My voice has gone with that of Mike Flynn's of Queens. We clam diggers from Nassau and the politicians of Queens are more accustomed to the Cuban and Scottish winds than we are to the Canadian winds. (Laughter.)

Suffolk county recognizes the position of State Adjutant to be an important one and we appreciate the necessity of continued efficiency in that office. The secretaryship of every organization is a vital part in its administration. Unlike our unlawful brothers from Nassau county we can boast of no great secretary nor do we allege that we have a Navy in the daytime. (Laughter.) But in Suffolk we have some hard working Legionnaires, foremost of whom is the man that we will present to you for election to the office of State Adjutant.

He has an enviable record for untiring and valuable Legion service. He was the second commander of his Post and the second commander of Suffolk county. And with the exception of the year in which he served as Post commander he has served since the organization of his Post and still serves as its adjutant. And from this we know and you cannot doubt the qualifications of this man. He has the widest State acquaintance and a vast knowledge of State affairs, gained through his important work and successful work as District Chairman of the Second District, the reins of which he just laid down this morning.

And so on behalf of Suffolk county, it gives me great pleasure to present to you in nomination for the office of State Adjutant of this Department that little, big Legionnaire — Albert S. Dayton of Patchogue. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Wessels (Greene): Mr. Commander, Delegates and Alternates: It is with a great deal of personal pleasure that I have the opportunity and privilege to second the nomination of Albert S. Dayton for Adjutant of the State of New York. (Applause.)

Mr. Tappan (Nassau): Nassau takes great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Al Dayton from our sister county of Suffolk. (Applause.)

Mr. Pasta (Queens): Mr. Commander, in view of the fact that but one name has been presented to this Convention for the office of Department Adjutant I move you, sir, that the Secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for Albert S. Dayton for that office. Motion seconded. Carried.

The newly elected Department Adjutant, Mr. Albert S. Dayton, is escorted to the platform, the Convention rising amid applause and cheers.

The Chairman: The next order of business is the election of the Departmental Chaplain for the ensuing year.

Mr. G. Merritt Ward (Monroe): Mr. Commander, I move you in order to save time that we dispense with the calling of the roll by counties and ask for nominations from the floor. Motion seconded. Carried.

Rev. Father Bellamy (Franklin): Mr. Commander and Fellow Legionnaires: I wish to place in nomination a man for the office

of State Chaplain who served in the Spanish-American War, who spent a year with the United States Engineers at Porto Rico, who at the beginning of the World War was requested by the government to assist in recruiting service. Occupying the pulpit in a church in the city of Brooklyn, he resigned his church and entered the service at the age of forty-three years. He recruited his son of eighteen years for the service and that son went with him soon after to France. He served a year with the Italian Army. He saw action on the Italian-Austrian front. He was associated with the General Staff under command of General Diaz, and he received the Italian War Cross for merit. He was commended by his own Colonel for the efficient service that he rendered for his country.

He is now pastor of a Universalist Church in Oneonta, and he is always ready and willing to work for the ex-service man and The Legion man. When it is a question of the ex-service man and The Legion man, it is not a question of race, color or creed. He practices what he preaches. (Applause.) He is ever ready, ever willing to give his time and money when the ex-service man and The American Legion is concerned.

And I, a Catholic priest, take great honor and great pleasure in presenting before this Convention for the office of State Chaplain the Rev. G. A. Judge of Oneonta, the Sixth District. (Applause.)

Rev. Father Quinn (Queens): Mr. Commander, Fellow comrades: Father Bellamy and I met for the first time in Alexandria Bay since our school days in Maryland. He didn't recognize me because in those days they used to ask me to jump through their pipes to clean them. (Laughter.)

And I want to say that while Father Bellamy has far better expressed his nomination than I can my seconding to tell you that it is my honored privilege because I don't usually mingle with white trash, I am the colored priest of Brooklyn, and I take great pleasure in the name of all the colored men of The Legion and as a Catholic priest in seconding the nomination of Dr. Judge of Oneonta. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The Adjutant informs me that he has cast one ballot and finds that it is for the Rev. J. A. Judge for Chaplain for the ensuing year and he is duly declared elected. Will Father Bellamy and Father Quinn conduct the Rev. Dr. Judge to the platform?

The newly elected Department Chaplain, Rev. Dr. J. A. Judge, is escorted to the platform, the Convention rising amid applause and cheers.

The Chairman: The Rev. Dr. Judge, your new Chaplain. He desires to say a word.

Rev. Dr. J. A. Judge (Department Chaplain-Elect): Mr. Commander and Fellow Legionnaires: I don't know that but what

we have broken history here today. I think perhaps the most sportsmanlike thing that ever has been done at a Convention of any kind was pulled off just now. And I feel under a sacred debt of friendship to Father Bellamy and to our brother, Father Quinn. It is an answer to what The Legion is going to stand for in the future — the flag first, and every man that answered roll call for it. And if the same spirit prevails through the United States that is shown here we can rest assured that things won't be in the mess that they were when the boy in camp with the homesick look on his face held a tin cup at mess time. I said to him, "What's wrong?" He said, "I want you to taste this." And I tasted it. I said, "It's good soup." He said, "Yeah, that's what you say; the corporal says it's coffee; the cook swears it's tea; and I found a scrubbing brush in the bottom of the damned pail." (Laughter.)

Now, today you have handed me something that I didn't want and my men know that in my District, but I take it with pleasure and I will answer roll call along the line for every man in Legiondom to the extent of my ability. Thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: In the usual form the Treasurer should have been elected just previous. Nominations are in order for Department Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Chair recognizes the Past Department Commander, Mr. Callan of Chatham. (Applause.)

Mr. Albert S. Callan (Past Department Commander): Mr. Commander, Ladies and Gentlemen: This morning in his magnificent address to this Convention General Harbord referred to the fact that this was the anniversary of General Lafayette. Today in the County of Columbia, which I come from, they are celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the day in which he visited our county. And we feel the right that The Legion should join in this celebration even if it is one hundred years afterward. And therefore on behalf of my comrades of the County of Columbia, a county in whose membership there is enrolled 80 per cent of the ex-service men of that county, a county whose Legion members and whose non-Legion members contributed 90 per cent of their bonuses to the Veterans' Mountain Camp — (applause and cheers) — we have had in that county a man who has served us loyally as our County Treasurer in The Legion since its inception. I am sorry that he is not here today. Fortunately, he has a splendid connection. He is the cashier of a bank. (Applause.)

And therefore on behalf of Columbia county I take great pleasure in naming Harold L. DeWald of Philmont. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Mylod (Dutchess): I only have one word to say. Dutchess county takes great pleasure and satisfaction in seconding the nomination of Mr. Harold DeWald for Treasurer of the Department. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The Adjutant informs me that he has cast one ballot and finds that Harold L. DeWald is unanimously elected Department Treasurer for the ensuing year. Unfortunately, we cannot present to you your new Treasurer. You will see him next year in action.

Nominations are now in order for Historian.

Mr. Dan Edwards (New York) (applause): Harmony is a beautiful thing, Mr. Commander, and we have had it here today. I don't need to tell you who I am going to offer for the position of Historian of this State. There is no other Historian than Sidney G. Gumpertz. (Applause.) He is a tireless, capable, yet modest worker.

It gives me great pleasure, Mr. Commander, to place in nomination the name of Sidney G. Gumpertz of New York. (Applause.)

Mr. Hines (Bronx): Bronx desires to second the nomination of Sidney G. Gumpertz for Historian. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The Adjutant informs me that he has cast one ballot and finds that Sidney G. Gumpertz has been unanimously elected Historian for the ensuing year. (Applause.)

Now, the next order of business is the election of delegates-at-large to the National Convention. The Chair recognizes Mr. Flynn of Queens.

Mr. Flynn (Queens) (applause): After collecting all the money that I did and waiting for some more, I am not going to make any nominating speech. It has been customary during past years that the retiring Commander of the State of New York be elected by acclamation as a delegate-at-large to the National Convention and I therefore place before this Convention the name of Edward E. Spafford as a delegate-at-large to the National Convention and also embody the fact that he be designated the Chairman of the delegation to the National Convention.

At this point, Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz, Department Commander-Elect, assumes the Chair.

Mr. Paterson (New York): Mr. Chairman, it gives me a great deal of pleasure on behalf of New York county, who has had such great pride in her State Commander this year, to second that motion. Motion carried.

The Chairman: Nominations for the others.

Mr. Eastland (Clinton): Without any speech I wish to nominate Edward J. Riley of Schenectady.

Mr. Paterson (New York): Mr. Commander and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention: On the world's many battlefields there has always been one figure whose fame has been as great as all the generals, and that has been the figure that has worn the

insignia of mercy, that has gone forth and closed the eyes of the expiring soldier—the great army nurse—Florence Nightingale, Jane Delano, all of them immortal.

And it gives me great pleasure to present the name of an Army nurse for delegate-at-large from this Department to the St. Paul Convention, the name of Mrs. Rose F. Taylor of General Lafayette Police Post. (Applause.)

Dr. Gow (Warren): I want to second the nomination of Edward Riley of Schenectady.

Mr. Bennett (Jefferson): Mr. Commander, John B. Landers Post of Alexandria Bay, Jefferson county organization of The American Legion, and the Fifth Judicial District, desires to place before you the name of F. Gould Lyman of Alexandria Bay, who has had upon his shoulders practically all of the work for the arrangement of this Convention in this village, as one of your delegates-at-large to the National Convention. (Applause.)

Mr. Hines (Bronx): Mr. Commander, the Bronx takes pleasure in seconding the nomination of that heroic worker, Mrs. Taylor. (Applause.)

Mr. Osburne (Cayuga): Cayuga county desires to place in nomination the name of G. Merritt Ward of Monroe county.

Mr. Tumes (Franklin): I desire to second the nomination of Mr. G. Merritt Ward.

Mr. Henderson (Herkimer): I second the nomination of Mr. Lyman.

Mr. Pasta (Queens): I am glad to make the motion that in view of the fact that only four names have been presented that the Secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for these four names for delegates-at-large to the St. Paul Convention. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The Adjutant informs me that he has cast a ballot and finds that Edward J. Riley, Mrs. Rose F. Taylor, Mr. F. Gould Lyman and Mr. G. Merritt Ward have been duly elected delegates-at-large to the National Convention. (Applause.)

Mr. Dykeman (Kings): Mr. Commander, I move that the tellers be discharged with the sincere thanks of this delegation for their arduous duties. (Laughter.)

The Chairman: It has been my pleasure to work for you during this past year. I have shared your sorrows. I have broken bread with you. And through all a happiness has come to me. I have enjoyed the work and I know that you are going to give the same wonderful, loyal support to my successor that you have given to me, and I therefore turn over the gavel to your new Department Commander, wish him Godspeed, good luck and will ask him to close this Convention. (Applause.)

At this point, Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz, Department Commander, assumes the Chair.

The Chairman: Mr. Past Commander, I feel that it is not saying too much to state that the result of the voting today is largely due to the harmonizing influence which you have been on the Department during the past year. I know that every Legionnaire in the State respects and loves you for the work which you have done so well for The Legion, and I trust that The Legion may be fortunate in having your active work during this present year.

Mr. Edward E. Spafford (Past Department Commander): You may depend on it.

The Chairman: Is there any unfinished business to come before this Convention?

Mr. Brady (New York): I move that the delegates to the National Convention selected by the several districts be the delegates from this Convention, and also the alternates. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Is there any further business to come before this Convention?

The Convention will rise, the Chaplain will pronounce benediction and then we will stand in silence for one minute in honor of our departed Commander-in-Chief, Woodrow Wilson.

The Convention rises.

Rev. Dr. J. A. Judge (Department Chaplain): Almighty God, as we close this Convention and depart for our homes, we pray that we may be overshadowed by the wings of Thy love. Keep us faithful to our trust, loyal to one another, and bring us successfully to another Convention. We ask it in Thy great love. Amen.

The Convention remains standing in silence for one minute in honor of its Commander-in-Chief, Woodrow Wilson.

The Chairman: The Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, is hereby adjourned sine die. (Applause and cheers.)

The Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, adjourned at 4:55 P. M., Saturday, September 6, 1924.

APPENDIX A

American Legion Auxiliary Convention Proceedings

The First Session of the Convention was called to order Thursday morning, September 4th, at 11:15, Mrs. M. Ann Seymour presiding, and Mrs. Ella B. Ransom, Secretary.

The Chairman: The Convention will please come to order.

The Invocation by The Reverend Father M. E. Fogarty, formerly Chaplain, 17th Infantry, 11th Division, U. S. A.

The Reverend Father M. E. Fogarty: Madam Chairman and Ladies of the Convention: I am constrained to express to you the great honor which is mine in opening your convention with prayer. It has always been a pleasure to recall the many splendid achievements of your wonderful organization. Each one of you imbued with the noble spirit of sacrifice has undertaken the sacred duty of alleviating pain and suffering and bringing to the troubled and mentally distressed, solace and comfort. The spirit that possessed you in the time of war is manifest now in the days of peace. When others failed to give proper aid you were not wanting in your devotion to the care of those who came from the field of battle, scarred and maimed and ill of mind. You are in convention that this spirit of helpfulness may persevere and become more perfect. May God bless your noble efforts and free your deliberations of uncertainty and doubt and inspire you with justice and truth. May the fanaticism of unreasonable peace find no place in your decisions. Let God and Country be your inspiration and your guide and call forth from your patriotic hearts, the Lord's prayer —

The Convention joins in reciting "The Lord's Prayer."

The Color Guard presents the colors and the Convention recites the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag;" thereafter singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and reciting the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion.

The Secretary:

Convention Call — American Legion Auxiliary Units,
Attention:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, I, M. Ann Seymour, Department President, do hereby call the Fourth Annual Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, to be held at Alexandria Bay, N. Y., on September 4, 5, 6, 1924, to convene at 10 A. M.

(daylight saving time) on the 4th of September, for the following purposes:

1. To elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention to be held at St. Paul, Minn., September 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19, 1924. (The Department of New York is entitled to five (5) delegates-at-large and five (5) alternates-at-large and one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each one thousand (1,000) members whose dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the date of the National Convention.)

2. To elect one member and an alternate to the National Executive Committee to represent the Department of New York, to hold office for one year from the date of the Annual National Convention following their election.

3. To elect officers for the Department of New York for the ensuing year.

4. To elect in district caucuses nine district chairmen to serve on the Department Executive Committee for the following year.

5. To amend the present Department Constitution and By-Laws, if so desired, and to transact such other business as may come before this Convention.

M. ANN SEYMOUR,

Department President.

Attest:

ELLA B. RANSOM,

Department Secretary.

Mrs. T. R. Pritchard (New York): Madam Chairman, I move we adopt the programme. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The address of welcome by Mrs. J. T. Collins, President of the local Auxiliary.

Mrs. J. T. Collins (President, Alexandria Bay Auxiliary Unit): Madam Chairman, Officers and Sisters: I greet you. Just a year ago our delegates returned from the Convention held in Saratoga Springs and brought the happy message that Alexandria Bay was to entertain The Legion and Auxiliary this year. It fired our pride and ambitions, for we realized the benefits as well as pleasure to be ours. And from that day up to the present time the Auxiliary, under the supervision of our able Chairman, Mrs. O. B. Eichhorn, has planned and worked to make your stay with us pleasant and this the best Convention held in the history of The American Legion Auxiliary.

As presiding officer I have been permitted by the members of the Unit to John B. Lyman Post No. 104 to bid you welcome to our town, hearts and homes. Many of you are doubtless visiting the beautiful and historic St. Lawrence for the first time. We are so pleased to have you with us that we hope in viewing the scenic beauty of the Venice of America you will feel inclined to spend

at least a day on each of the Islands. May your stay be long, pleasant and memorable. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mrs. Collins, in behalf of the members of The American Legion Auxiliary, in Convention assembled, it gives me great pleasure to respond to your hearty welcome. I assure you we are most happy to be your guests today. We know you are proud of your Thousand Islands, and we are proud of them, too. It is the first visit for many of us and we will long cherish these few days we are spending with you as a bright spot in our hearts, grateful to you for the wonderful preparation that you have made for our comfort and pleasure. We hope you are as happy to have us with you as we are happy to be here, and we hope you will be happy when we leave.

Secretary:

1. With the following modifications, Robert's Rules (Revised) will be followed.

2. When a delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention, she shall address the presiding officer as "Madam Chairman" and give her name and the name of her County.

3. But two delegates from any one Unit shall be permitted the floor on any one subject.

4. No member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on any one subject, except by unanimous consent, and then not until all others are given an opportunity to speak.

5. State Officers, including District Chairmen, are entitled to all privileges of delegates, except that they may not vote unless delegates from their own Units.

6. Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker.

7. Nominating speeches shall be limited to three minutes, seconding speeches shall be limited to two minutes and only two seconding speeches may be made for any one candidate.

8. Nominations shall be from the floor by roll call, alphabetically by counties, except by unanimous consent this rule may be abrogated to save time. Nominations once closed shall not be reopened.

9. Each County shall be entitled to a total vote equal to that granted under the State Constitution and By-Laws, provided a majority of the delegates to which the County is entitled be present. When a majority is not present, the county will then vote the number of delegates present, only.

10. Voting shall be by acclamation, except when a roll call be demanded by the acting chairman of at least three county delegations.

11. The vote shall be announced by the Chairman of each county delegation, such chairman to be chosen by each delegation.

12. Alternates will have all privileges of delegates, including that of serving on committees, except the privilege of voting.

13. Alternates may vote only in the absence of the regular delegates, selection of such alternates to fill such delegates' places to be made by the Unit delegation in question.

14. Any candidate for any office must receive a majority of the votes of the Convention before elected, successive ballots to be held until such candidate receives a majority.

15. All petitions, resolutions or amendments shall be presented in writing and signed by the member or members presenting same, and shall be read by the Secretary before reference to the proper committee. The Convention may, by a majority vote, immediately consider any document presented.

16. Any resolution not introduced to the Convention at the close of business on the morning session of the first day must be placed at the bottom of the list of previously submitted resolutions.

17. All resolutions must be in written form, bearing the signature of the author, designating her Unit and County.

18. The Convention may, without motion, revert to any previous business where, upon the report of any committee, it is shown that there is necessity for action in conformity with such report.

19. Convention committees shall consist of nine members each, one from each district, appointed by the Convention Chairman after recommendations have been made to her by the District Chairmen.

20. All contests on seats shall be referred to the Committee on Credentials, and neither party in the contest may vote prior to the report of this committee.

Nominations shall be Friday; election Saturday.

The Chairman: Report of the Convention Arrangements Committee by the Chairman, Mrs. O. B. Eichhorn. (Applause.)

Mrs. O. B. Eichhorn (Chairman, Convention Arrangements Committee): Madam President and Members of The American Legion Auxiliary: It certainly is a great pleasure to see so many familiar faces. When I accepted this position, as Chairman of this Convention, it seemed like a huge undertaking, but selecting the committees was the most difficult part. It is quite a task to choose the right person for the right place. I think that this has been accomplished, for each committee has worked very hard to make this Convention a success. We have kept in close touch with Mrs. Seymour and Mrs. Ransom and tried to follow out their instructions. We have endeavored to please you and we may say that we have done the best we know how. We have had contributions from five of the Units of our County, \$10 each. The rest of the money has been raised by our Unit, the members of which are distinguished by the blue and gold Alexandria Bay badges. They are wearing these so you will know who are your hostesses and I am sure you will find them ready to aid and direct you at all times.

The folders which you received with your badges will give you a little of the history of the Thousand Islands and we hope you will enjoy your stay here with us so much that you will come again and often. I would like to call special attention to the courtesy of Mr. Ogden, who has so kindly donated to us the use of this room for our meetings. I know a great many of you remember the interest he manifested at Saratoga last year in securing the Convention for Alexandria Bay this year and you who care to remain here for meals will find the dining room just around the corner.

We also thank the proprietors of the Crossmon House, who have donated their ball room and orchestra for our reception this evening. I know from past experience you are all wondering who the housing chairman is. Now, she is all human, and if you ever want a real job at a Convention just try housing about 600 ladies in a summer resort who all want twin beds and a bath. May I present Mrs. Britten to you so you may know (applause) to whom to go with your grievances.

And now, as you all know, the red rose symbolizes love. The Committee on Arrangements presents these to our most efficient President, Mrs. Seymour. (Applause.) We thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: A short time ago I made an official visit, Mrs. Ransom and myself, to Alexandria Bay. We came up to look over the women in Alexandria Bay, and when we looked them over we never had another worry about our Convention. I thank you girls so much.

Mrs. M. Ann Seymour (Department President):

A little less than a year ago, your Department President stood before you and pledged her best efforts in behalf of The American Legion Auxiliary. To this end she has endeavored during her administration to keep before her that pledge and its fulfillment. Whether or not she has been successful will be for you to decide from the following report:

Rehabilitation—By Convention vote at San Francisco, the Welfare, Hospital and Reconstruction Committees were merged, and now are grouped under one heading, "Rehabilitation," corresponding with the same work of The Legion. For various reasons, and at the suggestion of Mrs. Loyhed, the National Chairman, we deemed it best to carry on the work this year in this State under two committees—Welfare and Rehabilitation. The Veterans' Bureau has said that the material progress that they have made this year has been brought about in no small measure by the practical help given by our Rehabilitation Chairman.

Our work at the Veterans' Mountain Camp has known no let-up. We have kept in constant touch with the management of the Camp and have contributed money and all kinds of supplies, because our hearts are with the boys in this. We

are pleased to note the wonderful cooperation with all organizations in our Poppy Drive. Amount realized, \$117,000. In connection with our activities for the Camp, we are grateful to Mrs. J. Christopher Marks, of New York City, for the "Dollar Roll Call," similar to that of the Red Cross. In some parts of the State we have been slow in taking this up, but we hope for greater success another year.

The work of Welfare and Rehabilitation has been splendid and covers so much that it would be difficult for me to outline it briefly, and I, therefore, will ask you to turn to the reports of these two committees.

Constitution and By-Laws — A uniform unit constitution and by-laws has been distributed to all units for their use, which has helped to bring about a uniformity of understanding. Not more than half of the units have adopted this set of rules, but it is hoped that they may be brought to realize the necessity of this.

Adjusted Compensation — When The Legion all over the country was doing its utmost to make the people of this country see and understand its Compensation Bill, the Auxiliary saw an opportunity to serve, and we immediately began bombarding our Senators and Congressmen with letters and telegrams, urging the passage of this bill.

Commander Quinn expressed his appreciation for the cooperation and assistance given by us during this fight, and John Thomas Taylor, National Chairman of Legislation, expressed his gratitude and said that we played no small part in the combat.

Mrs. Walter Beals, National Auxiliary Chairman of Legislation, said: "I told the men we could do it, and you did not fail me." And our National President, Mrs. Bishop, personally thanked each and every one of us who responded so loyally, and as a result of our work, The Legion and the Auxiliary have been more firmly established as a factor in your community.

Publicity — We have been given a page in the Empire State Legionnaire, a new paper just issued by The Legion of the Department of New York and this has been taken care of by our Historian. This is a splendid and dignified way of broadcasting Auxiliary news, and your Department President recommends that we get back of The Legion in this by subscribing to The Legion paper. It will help the boys and us, too.

Membership — While the Department of New York is not where it should be, we are proud that we have never "gone back." You will hear from the report of the Secretary that we have nearly 13,000 members, which places us in fourth place. With 50 new Units this year, this places us in the lead of all other states in point of organization work. The President's Cup, awarded in the first drive, ending April 30th,

was won by Fort Orange Auxiliary No. 30, of Albany, and the lamp, given by the Department in the second drive, was won by Binghamton Unit No. 80. Splendid work was done by many Units, with the result that the James F. Brengel Auxiliary of Sea Cliff has exceeded the number of members of its Post.

Cooperation — We realize that the foundation of all success is cooperation, and splendid work has been accomplished this year by the women who have kept this in mind.

Gold Star — We have been honored this year in having one among us, Mrs. Eva Lyman, State and National Chairman of the Gold Star Committee. We have made an earnest endeavor this year to persuade all women eligible under the Gold Star to join our Auxiliary, realizing how much they might strengthen our organization. There is one debt that we can never repay, and that is the debt which we owe to all who sacrificed their own upon the altar of the great war.

Memorials — The Memorials endorsed by this Department are Legion club houses, hospitals, libraries and such buildings as will lend service to the living in the name of the ex-service man.

Service Club — At the Regional Conference in April, Dr. Kate Waller Barrett presented to us the great need of an American Legion Auxiliary Service Club at Washington, D. C.

A Hostess House for the hospitalized veterans in and near Washington, which shall also furnish assistance to ex-service men and women and their families when visiting Washington, especially to make provision for the families of ex-service men and women visiting Washington to attend funerals and to visit hospitalized veterans; this building to provide accommodations for meetings of Legion Posts and Auxiliary Units; this building to further render assistance in any activity, local or national, connected with The Legion or Auxiliary.

New York pledged \$1,000 to furnish the lounge or rest room and we are happy to report that to date we have received \$1,038.50. The President of the Department of D. C. writes that the house is open, beginning to look fine and invites us all to visit them.

Child Welfare — The war left in its wake many hundreds of orphans of ex-service men and women. It is and has been our duty to care for these wee ones, but just how to go about it was a problem. Michigan finally came to the front and started what is known as the "Cottage Plan," and is now taking care of a great many boys and girls, but not in an institutional way. A mother, with one or more children of her own, and who have been left without a father, is placed in charge of a few children in a really, truly home, and are taught all the "homey" things our own children learn.

The Eight and Forty, which is the Auxiliary's organization

of the Forty and Eight, have made Child Welfare their objective and already plans are under way whereby these little orphaned children will be taken care of in the very best possible way.

New York has started her Eight and Forty and the coming year will undoubtedly create a large fund for this purpose.

Parley - Aloha Fund — The San Francisco Convention endorsed the action of The Legion to build a memorial to American War Women, in the nature of a hospital for the treatment and cure of tuberculosis. In order that we might have some definite way of raising money for this, the National Executive Committee, at its January meeting, approved the plan as submitted by the Past Presidents' Parley. This National Fund is known as the Parley-Aloha Fund. Your National Executive Committeewoman presented this to your Department Executive Committee and they immediately adopted it, and therein we have accepted our responsibility to the ex-service women. April 6th has been set aside as the day each year on which to put on a drive, or hold an entertainment, under the direction of the Past Presidents, the profits to be used for this fund.

Your President heartily recommends this because its sole object is the welfare of the ex-service women.

Convention Proceedings — We are grateful to The American Legion for publication of the proceedings of our last Convention. This was brought about through the efforts of Vice-Commander Samuel Aronowitz and we surely appreciate this cooperation.

During the year your President has made many visits to Units, Legion Posts, County and District meetings and has traveled over 15,000 miles. A list of official visits follow:

September 27th. Guest of honor at a dinner-dance given by Binghamton Post No. 80, its Auxiliary and "Father's Council."

In October, together with the Executive Committee and the New York delegation, attended the National Convention of the Auxiliary in San Francisco. We boarded the train at Utica and the hours spent in that city were made pleasant by the 5th District Chairman and members of the Auxiliary.

Following your instructions given at the Saratoga Convention, we were proud and happy to return from San Francisco with a National Vice-President, our own Jane Keens.

November 11th. Guest of Binghamton Post No. 80 at their regular Armistice Day celebration.

November 12th. Guest of Norwich Post at their "Days of '49" and judged the Beauty Contest.

November 14th. Guest of the United Spanish War Veterans with their Department Commander and the Department Commander of the G. A. R. at Binghamton.

November 19th. Attended a reception and banquet given by the Boonville Auxiliary.

December 4th. Regular Executive Committee meeting of the Department of New York was held in Albany at the Hotel Ten Eyck, where the Albany Units entertained with a reception and Mrs. Keens with a luncheon.

January 16th and 17th. With our National Vice-President attended the meeting of the National Executive Committee at Indianapolis, and on the trip home we stopped in Buffalo and on the 18th attended a luncheon given by the 8th District Chairman and the Buffalo Auxiliaries at the New Statler.

January 22d. With the 6th District Chairman visited the Ithaca Unit.

February 5th. With the 7th District Chairman was a guest of the Monroe County at a banquet held in Rochester.

February 11th. Regular Executive Committee meeting, held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City.

February 15th. Veterans' Mountain Camp Committee held a meeting in New York City and I attended this meeting at the invitation of Dr. Lloyd.

February 20th. Represented the Department of New York at a special memorial meeting in honor of the birthdays of Washington and Lincoln and the sinking of the battleship Maine.

February 23d. Jefferson County meeting and luncheon in Philadelphia.

March 5th. Made an informal call at a committee meeting of the Syracuse Unit.

March 6th. Attended the Joint Jefferson County banquet with Commander Spafford.

March 7th. At Alexandria Bay, met Mrs. Ransom, your Department Secretary, where we were entertained by the John B. Lyman Auxiliary at a luncheon and afterward attended an informal meeting of the Unit, followed by afternoon tea, and a meeting with the Convention Arrangements Committee.

March 20th. Gold Star meeting in Syracuse and a luncheon given by the Syracuse Unit.

March 24th. With Commander Spafford visited Norwich, attending a joint meeting of the Chenango County Legion and Auxiliary.

April 8th. Guest of Broome County with Commander and Mrs. Spafford, banquet held in club house at Binghamton.

April 22d and 23d. Attended the Regional Conference held at the Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, at which time the Department of New York acted as hostess to the women from the other states. On the 24th we held our regular Executive Committee meeting in New York City, and on the 25th, with Mrs. U. G. M. Keeley, Americanism Chairman; Mrs. A. L. Burnham, Chairman of the 2d District, and Mrs. Ransom, Department Secretary, attended the Birthday luncheon of the James F. Brengel Auxiliary at Sea Cliff.

May 5th. "Get-together" dinner and dance at Binghamton

club house. This is an annual affair, a joint session of Post, Auxiliary, Father's Council and Forty and Eight.

May 22d. With 6th District Chairman organized Unit at DeRuyter.

On the same day your President sent Mrs. Ransom to Buffalo to represent her at the Chautauqua County meeting.

Decoration Day was spent in New York City.

June 9th. Together with many women from all over the State, we visited the Veterans' Mountain Camp at Tupper Lake and became more than ever enthused with the wonders and possibilities of this, our own Camp. We had hoped that our Chapel Fund would be completed this year, but although many of our Units have responded, still we have not reached our \$10,000 mark. We pray that the day will soon come when our Chairman, Mrs. Keens, will realize her ambition. While we were at the Camp, we were impressed with the great need of a Chaplain, and after consultation with Drs. Lloyd and Cosgrove, your President pledged \$500 for the services of a Protestant and a Catholic Chaplain. We ask your hearty cooperation in this.

June 18th. With the 7th District Chairman attended a banquet at Auburn, given by the Auxiliaries of Cayuga County.

June 19th. Guest of the Veterans of Foreign Wars' Auxiliary luncheon and presented greetings to their organizing State Convention.

July 1st. Regular Executive Committee meeting was held in Utica and luncheon given by Mrs. H. J. Cookinham, Jr., to the entire Committee. The evening of same day was guest of honor at a reception given by the Utica Auxiliary.

August 23d. Attended the Queens County Convention, held at College Point.

August 29th. My last visit was to the Jefferson County luncheon and meeting held in Alexandria Bay.

It has been impossible to attend all affairs to which invitations have been received, but wherever I have been I have received fresh inspiration from the reports given, from the exchange of ideas and from having touched elbows with you. Regrets and greetings have been sent on several occasions, some of these follow:

Presentation and dedication of the Flag Staff in memory of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt at Roosevelt House in New York City.

Westchester County Annual luncheon, Hastings-on-Hudson.

Winnek banquet at Geneva. Mrs. Taylor, Department Vice-President represented me at this affair.

New York County Victory ball at the Waldorf-Astoria.

Dedication of the Memorial to Frederick W. Galbraith, Past National Commander, in Eden Park, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Breaking of ground for the Veterans' Memorial Hospital at Kings Park, L. I.

Adrean Post Auxiliary, Third Birthday Anniversary.

Richmond County meeting at St. George, S. I.

Memorial services of New York County.

District Conference at Kingston.

May I submit a few recommendations?

1. That Legislation, Immigration and Americanism Committees be combined under one committee, namely, Legislation, inasmuch as the work of these committees overlaps.

2. That inasmuch as the Welfare, Hospital Relief are combined with Rehabilitation, and inasmuch as New York State has many hospitalized veterans outside the State, and the responsibility for one Chairman, accordingly, is heavier than in the majority of departments, we recommend that a Vice-Chairman be chosen, whose chief duty shall be the securing of information concerning New York's veterans hospitalized without the State and the supervision of the Department's and Units' work in their behalf.

3. That the expenses of the District Chairmen to the National Convention be paid by the Districts which they represent, and that this money be collected by the District Secretary-Treasurer and turned over to the District Chairmen.

4. That a uniform county Constitution and By-Laws be adopted.

5. That there be greater cooperation between County and District Chairmen.

6. That we join the Post in rounding up every ex-service man, helping them to increase their membership.

7. Unit, County and Committee Reports! No Chairman is endowed with any supernatural gifts, therefore she will be restricted to the information that you send her.

8. At Fitzsimmons the patients gathered up 500 pounds of candy after Christmas and gave it to the Salvation Army. May we urge a little thought in the matter of gifts to save criticism. These gifts need not be expensive, but they should show more of a desire to please than an effort to fulfill an obligation.

9. That we should give more attention to Child Welfare, realizing that in the young of today lies the welfare and future of America. A country without its young cannot exist and the future of our country depends upon the kind of children it produces and trains. Child Welfare is one of our greatest needs today if we are looking for a sane and normal America.

10. That we use more care in obtaining members for the Auxiliary, making sure of their eligibility.

11. More consideration of Mother's Day. It is the influence of the American mother that has made the world today what it is. Abraham Lincoln said, "All that I am, or can be. I owe to my Angel Mother."

The loyalty and devotion of officers and members have helped in the task which you gave me one year ago.

The advice and the whole-hearted cooperation of Commander Spafford and members of The American Legion have been invaluable.

I count as a joy the privilege of having worked with Ella Ransom. Much credit is due her as Secretary-Treasurer for her splendid business methods, her promptness and courtesy at all times. Her answers to me have always been — "All right, Ann, I will."

We would be remiss in our duty if we failed to mention the splendid condition of this Department when you gave to me the leadership one year ago, due to my efficient predecessors, Miss Thais Magrane and Mrs. William G. Keens. Let us each one remember that the purpose of a convention is not alone to say and do, but to take stock in ourselves and to determine the progress made. Our reports, which will follow, will show a growth and advancement in every department. During the past year our success is due largely to the efforts of the individual Units, who are the life blood of the Department.

After our Saratoga Convention and immediately following my return home, a message came to me in this way — "May the Dreamboat launched by you as presiding officer return to you at the end of the year with your every wish fulfilled," My dreamboat is in and I realize that the vision toward which I reached has always been just ahead, not quite within my grasp.

With the ideals and principles of The American Legion Auxiliary in mind, I accepted this trust from you and today I would pass the leadership on to another with this message — "I have tried to do my best." (Applause.)

The Secretary:

To Department President, Members of the Department Executive Committee, Fourth Annual Convention of the Department of New York:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I submit to you my third annual report as your Department Secretary. This has been the best year in the history of The American Legion Auxiliary in this State — and in the United States.

When the Department of New York was organized, in October, 1921, there were in the neighborhood of 250 Units, and approximately 7,500 paid up members. Each succeeding year has shown a steady and consistent growth, and it is most interesting to report that at the close of business on August 4th of this year, our membership had crept to 12,942. This is a gain over last year of approximately 1,200 members. This is distributed among 464 Units, not all of which are active, and shows a gain of over 5,000 members in three years, and a gain of 200 Units in that same time.

During the year 1923, 93 permanent charters were issued and this year, so far, 82 Units have applied for and been issued their permanent charters. We are a long way, still, from 100

per cent, and I recommend that each Unit, on returning home, take steps toward securing its permanent charter.

There have been 50 new Units formed since the last Convention, placing us in the lead, nationally, for organization. This is the result of splendid work on the part of the District Chairmen.

Fifty-three of the 62 counties in this State are organized. Of the 9 unorganized, 5 have no Auxiliaries, and the 4 remaining should be brought into the ranks before the end of the calendar year.

The work at Department Headquarters has increased tremendously in the past year, and at times it has been almost impossible to handle the many details. Mrs. A. L. Burnham, Chairman of the Second Judicial District, has been most cooperative in offering to assist at Headquarters, and it has been a pleasure to have had her there from time to time.

During the year your Department Secretary has written thousands of letters — just how many it would be very hard to say. There have been issued five general bulletins, ranging from two to three pages in length, and comprising over 2,500 pieces of mail; six special bulletins, one and two pages long, and comprising about 3,000 pieces of mail. These special bulletins have been on the subjects of Welfare, Rehabilitation, Adjusted Compensation, Veterans' Mountain Camp Roll Call Drive, Poppy Drive, two membership drives and the Convention Call.

Over 13,000 membership cards have been distributed, and between 400 and 500 pads of remittance sheets and application blanks, not to mention the permanent and temporary charters. A copy of the proceedings of the Third Department Convention was sent to each Department Officer, County Chairman and Unit President.

When work at Headquarters had become so congested, Mrs. Seymour, your Department President, personally addressed over 11,000 envelopes, containing copies of the Veterans' Mountain Camp News.

The Membership Drive, for which Mrs. Seymour offered a silver loving cup, was won by the Ft. Orange Auxiliary No. 30 of Albany, N. Y., whose membership was increased in the given period from 69 to 134. The successful Unit in the drive from July 10th to August 4th, was the Binghamton Unit No. 80, who sent in 65 new members in that time.

The largest Unit in the Department is the Binghamton Auxiliary No. 80, of Binghamton, Broome County, which has a membership of 248. The second largest Unit is the James F. Brengel Auxiliary No. 456, of Sea Cliff, Nassau County, Long Island, which has a membership of 167.

The District having the largest number of paid-up members is the Second District, having a paid-up membership of 2,375.

The Seventh District is second, with a paid-up membership of 1,908.

Queens County, in the Second District, has the largest membership in the State, 866, and Westchester County of the Ninth District is second, with 667 members.

Executive Committee meetings have been held at Albany, Utica and New York City, and due notices of these meetings and copies of the minutes of same have been regularly sent to each member of the Executive Committee.

The Department of New York has not had a great amount of extra money this year, but it has given liberally and wisely of what it has had. A check of \$100 was sent to the National Rehabilitation Committee; \$25 was contributed to the Aloha Fund and \$10 sent toward the furnishing of a room at the Palo Alto Hospital in California, in memory of the National Convention having been held in that State.

New York pledged to furnish the lounge room of the Service Club at Washington, D. C. This was originally started by the Department of District of Columbia, but it became such a gigantic task, and would ultimately benefit so many, that the National Executive Committee asked all states to help. The purpose of this club is to render assistance to men and women who find it necessary to go to our Nation's Capitol to attend to insurance claims, burial of their loved ex-service men, and in fact, any member of an ex-service man's family who must go to Washington and cannot afford to stay at hotels. New York has, to date, sent in \$743.50 toward the furnishing of this lounge, and enough additional has been pledged by the Units to make this amount reach \$1,000 before very long.

I have had the pleasure of visiting many of the Units throughout the State this year, and have attended the Conference of the 6th Judicial District at Binghamton, the Chautauqua County meeting and the Queens County Convention. Everywhere I have found the true Legion spirit — a desire to do for our men, sick or well.

The equipment at Headquarters, which is the personal property of the Department of New York, consists of the following: One steel Storall supply cabinet, 1 steel letter file, 1 steel combination typewriter and bookkeeper desk, 1 Underwood No. 5 typewriter, 1 set of Auxiliary Colors, miscellaneous supplies.

In closing my report, I would like to make the following recommendations:

That the Units be more prompt in submitting to the Department Headquarters information which is requested for filing.

That dues be paid more promptly and that county treasurers be urged to send Unit dues through at once, thus avoiding the holding up of membership cards, etc.

That stricter attention be paid to data contained in Depart-

ment bulletins and that they be read at Unit and County meetings for the benefit of all in attendance, and then filed for future reference, not destroyed.

That these bulletins be consulted from time to time, relative to rules and regulations, thus obviating delays, etc.

To the members of this Convention, who represent the Units of this Empire State, let me tell you what a privilege it has been to work with and for you for so long. May the Department of New York be ever in your hearts and minds.

To the members of the Department Executive Committee, who have been my pleasant associates for the past year, and some for three years, I extend to you my thanks for your confidence and good will at all times.

To Mrs. Seymour, our beloved Department President, I wish particularly to thank you for all that you have done for me since you became Department President. We have worked harmoniously and happily together, and it has been a joy and a source of comfort to know that always, even when things appeared to be darkest, there was "Ann Seymour" to understand and appreciate.

Respectfully submitted.

The Secretary: Annual report of the Treasurer.

Balance forwarded from other Convention.....		\$1,355 92
Receipts during the year as follows:		
1922 dues	\$3 00	
1923 dues	381 25	
1924 dues	9,795 75	
1925 dues	75	
Charter fees	214 50	
Regional Conference receipts.....	16 85	
Eight and Forty dues.....	10 00	
Second District Convention Fund.....	61 20	
Aloha Fund	10 00	
Service Club	738 50	
Miscellaneous receipts	156 53	
		<hr/>
Total receipts for this year.....		11,588 33
		<hr/>
And total, including the balance brought forward.....		\$12,944 25
		<hr/> <hr/>

I would like to say in explanation of the receipts from the Service Club — the rest of the \$1,000 was received after the books were closed and after we arrived at Alexandria Bay.

Disbursements:		
For dues	\$3,224 75	
Charter fees	117 45	
Stationery and printing.....	442 89	
Telephone and telegraph.....	285 47	
Stamps and postage.....	491 40	
Salary	2,000 00	
Executive Committee meetings, expense.....	1,437 72	
Refunds on charters and overpaid dues.....	74 00	
Department Convention expenses, 1923-24.....	426 67	
National Convention expense, 1923-24.....	1,711 63	

Entertaining distinguished guests.....	58 30
Regional Conference for 1923.....	16 50
District chairman traveling expenses.....	525 97
Transferred to interest account for the 2d District.....	61 20
Service Club	743 50
Miscellaneous	323 51

Total disbursements	<u>\$11,940 96</u>
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Making a balance on hand August 30, 1924, of \$1,003.29.

I would like to add that this has been audited and approved by the Finance Committee, as follows: Mrs. Isabelle C. Burnham, Chairman; Mrs. Lula D. Little, Mrs. Clara B. Smith.

Miss Gleason (Kings): I move it be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Secretary: These names have been handed to me by the District Chairmen to serve on the following committees. I will name the Chairman of the committee first and then the members:

Finance Committee: 1st District, Mrs. J. M. Farrell; 2d District, Mrs. Burnham, Chairman; 3d District, Miss M. Mearns; 4th District, Mrs. E. H. MacMullen; 5th District, Mrs. Snyder; 6th District, Mrs. W. G. McHugh; 7th District, Mrs. N. Unger; 8th District, Mrs. L. Young; 9th District, Miss A. Vincent.

Constitution and By-Laws Committee: 1st District, Mrs. W. Godfrey; 2d District, Mrs. A. W. Stone; 3d District, Mrs. T. A. Smith; 4th District, Mrs. Ellithorp, Chairman; 5th District, Mrs. Reed; 6th District, Mrs. D. R. Reilly; 7th District, Miss C. W. Sanny; 8th District, Mrs. Ostertag; 9th District, Miss Beatrice Smith.

Resolutions Committee: 1st District, Mrs. Bissell; 2d District, Mrs. A. M. Bell; 3d District, Miss J. Holstein; 4th District, Mrs. Gage; 5th District, Mrs. P. L. Ryan, Chairman; 6th District, Mrs. G. A. Silliman; 7th District, Mrs. H. C. Hatch; 8th District, Mrs. Johnson; 9th District, Mrs. A. L. Simons.

Mrs. A. L. Burnham (Chairman, 2d District):

Madam President, Officers and Delegates: It gives me much pleasure at this time to present my report for the Second Judicial District, which comprises the counties of Richmond, Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk, each working under County Organization.

Richmond has a membership of 130, with 5 Auxiliaries, and is 100 per cent permanent charter. While small, it has done its part in all activities. They have two hospitals to care for, the Marine and Seaview, both of which are caring for disabled boys. Christmas and Easter gifts have been sent to both, besides monthly contributions of fruit, candy, cigarettes and magazines, also donations of woolen socks. The County Organization has a sum set aside each month for its welfare work. Recently a party was given to 200 men at the Marine Hospital, 40 of whom were World War veterans. Ice cream and cake were served and a musical programme rendered. This committee distributed flags and poppies to the patients of both hospitals on Memorial Day and flowers

on Mothers' Day. It has also contributed second-hand clothing to the Borough Benefit Shop and the Salvation Army. One Unit has taken special interest in the wife of an ex-service man who is a patient at Seaview. These visits were much appreciated, as the woman was a war bride and has no relations in this country. This Unit also assisted one of its boys to go to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. Units have taken part in Memorial Day ceremonies, the County placing a memorial wreath upon the tablet at Borough Hall. Also purchased and presented a flag to the Flag Day Committee to be awarded to one of its schools. One Unit has interested itself in the Girl Scouts and Camp Fire Girls, and have given large entertainments for same; two of the Unit members being Scout Captains.

All Units have assisted their Posts in raising funds for purchasing or building club houses, one Unit having contributed within the year \$2,000 toward the building fund of its Post.

Contributions have been as follows: National Graves Memorial, \$5; Chapel Fund, Veterans' Mountain Camp, \$50; Sale of Poppies, \$917; Roxie Radio Fund, \$5; County Visiting Nurses Association, \$5; also jellies and preserves have been sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp.

To the Lounge or Rest Room Fund, Service Club at Washington, \$20.

Kings has a membership of 473 with 21 active Units and 9 Permanent Charters. It has been very active during the year. Twenty-five hundred helmets were sold for the Dug-Out on Armistice Day. There is the United States Naval Hospital within the county to which all the Units have contributed Christmas Cheer and assisted in its decoration. The County in conjunction with the Memorial Tree Committee was successful in having Veteran trees placed along its Eastern Parkway and have bronze tree boxes and name plates for each tree. There were approximately 864 of these trees decorated with poppy wreaths on Memorial Day. The Units also placed wreaths on the Honor Roll on Americanism Day. They also contributed to help defray the expenses of the Bonus Parade and obtained signatures for the passage of the Adjusted Compensation Bill. One Unit furnished tickets to the veterans in a hospital to attend a theatre and also furnished them with candies. Still another assisted in donating an ambulance to one of the local hospitals. Each Unit has been busy with its own local activities in the care of sick veterans, and in the case of death, looking after the widow, providing clothing for the children and taking care of compensation. Paying rent, furnishing clothing and supplying groceries to the families of veterans out of work. Also giving dinners to veterans at Thanksgiving and Christmas, filling stockings for hospitals and the Dug-Out. Taking care of the crippled father and mother

of a deceased veteran and getting compensation for same. Obtaining work for a veteran released from hospital in Texas and looking after his compensation. One Unit presented a Flag to one of the public schools. The Roxie Fund has been contributed to, one Unit having made a patchwork quilt upon which was realized \$100 for this fund.

All the Units have been of great assistance to the Posts, one having procured furniture and draperies for the Club House; two others having raised money by way of entertainments for purchasing Club Houses.

The entire County has been very actively engaged in working for the Veterans' Mountain Camp. Several auxiliaries have released the lean-to money for the maintenance fund of the Camp, one Unit has donated a box of linens, one a box of wearing apparel and one a blanket.

Contributions from this County have been as follows: Veterans' Mountain Camp Chapel Fund, \$86; Dime Books, \$143; 7 subscription books, \$125; Cash Donation, \$50; Poppy Sale, \$6,188.08; to the Service Club direct at Washington, \$35; to the District Chairman for the Service Club Lounge, \$65.

The County has organized the first Eight and Forty in the State of New York.

Queens has 22 active auxiliaries with a membership of 866 and has 15 Permanent Charters. Two of its auxiliaries have been reorganized within the year and one new Unit has been formed.

A central office for Welfare Service has been established in Maspeth for the County which is open daily in charge of an American Legion Auxiliary member. Cases requiring relief of any kind may be reported to this office and immediate action taken. Those in need of employment may register and apply for work. Discarded clothing may be sent to this office and will be distributed wherever needed. Christmas Cheer was given in conjunction with the County Legion. One hundred and fifty packages were wrapped and a number were sent to hospitals to ex-service men throughout the country. The Welfare Committee visits hospitals that care for sick and wounded ex-service men. There have been over 100 visits made to veterans in hospitals by six of the auxiliaries of this County. Fruit, flowers, candy and books were distributed by one auxiliary at Fort Totten and the Flushing Hospital. Two auxiliaries sent flowers and fruit to Civil War veterans. Another has taken care of a deserted wife and child; another has sold articles made by a veteran in California, proceeds being sent to him.

Some auxiliaries have been very busy in giving assistance in the way of citizenship instruction to immigrants; obtaining citizenship papers for them. Both Girl and Boy Scout Troops have been adopted by the Posts and auxiliaries, the general headquarters of one district being the Club House of the

Post. One Post has organized a Boys' Club which includes all nationalities.

Co-operation on the part of the auxiliaries and Posts is very marked. One auxiliary held a carnival and turned over \$1,852 to the Post building fund; yet another has subscribed \$600 and individual members \$150; another auxiliary presented its Post \$100 at the County Convention. The auxiliaries have helped the Posts in filling out bonus blanks; many of the auxiliaries have subscribed to the Roxie Radio Fund. In community service all auxiliaries have lent their efforts.

Much work has been done by this County for our Veterans' Mountain Camp. Five boxes containing linens, outfits for patients, besides rugs and other necessary articles have been sent to the Camp, amounting in value to \$595.17. Two boxes containing 178 books were sent by one Unit to the Veterans' Mountain Camp.

Memorial Day has been well observed throughout this County. Seventy-one memorial trees are being planted in Forest Park, one of which was for a Gold Star Mother, a wreath of seventy poppies having been placed upon this tree by the Girl and Boy Scout Troops. Wreaths were placed upon the memorial trees within every community in the County by Post and auxiliary members.

Contributions are as follows: Veterans' Mountain Camp Chapel Fund, \$292.90; Dime Cards, \$533.33; Subscription Books, \$350; Maintenance Fund from entertainment, \$340; Poppy Sale, \$38,478.65; Roxie Radio Fund, \$44.

To the Service Club at Washington toward furnishing the Lounge by New York State, \$65.

Nassau has 9 auxiliaries with a membership of 430 and is 100 per cent Permanent Charter. This County has the second largest auxiliary in the State and what is most worthy of note, has 35 members more than its Post. The work of this county has been centered upon Kings Park and Nassau County Sanatorium at Farmingdale with occasional visits to Central Islip State Hospital, and one Unit visiting the Woodhaven Hospital in Queens County. Each month there have been visits made by the different auxiliaries together with the Posts to Kings Park, taking with them refreshments; one unit serving ice cream, home made crullers and lollypops to 300 men and providing a magician to entertain; another unit took 1,000 daffodils and 400 records; this same unit also furnished a band concert; one of the units served 400 men with ice cream and cake donated by the Post; this same unit on another occasion took canary and cage for the "Habit Forming Class." Several of the units have visited the Farmingdale Institution, one unit taking eight comfort bags. The County maintains a Welfare Fund which is donated to by monthly contributions from individual units and supplies chocolate for the men at Kings Park as well as other needs. From this fund has

been supplied material for Occupational Therapy at Farmingdale; they also provided a film for an evening's entertainment. The amount expended from this County Fund during the year was \$226.80. From the sale of articles made by men at Kings Park one unit realized \$25 and another \$135.

Aside from the above, its welfare work done by their units in their own communities, and the amount expended for this throughout the County was \$3,537.66. On Americanism was expended \$1,342. Along these lines some of the units have taken up the Girl Scout and Camp Fire Girls. One unit has adopted a Girl Scout Troop and its President presented the Golden Eaglet (the highest award in Scouting) to a Girl Scout, who was the daughter of one who made the Supreme Sacrifice.

And again comes the great and pleasant duty of service to the Posts. All of which have been materially assisted by its units, both in services and the raising of funds toward the purchasing of Club Houses, presentation of Post Colors and joining with the Posts in Memorial and Flag Day Ceremonies; one unit is preparing a cradle roll of all the children of ex-service men and Legionnaires.

And for our Veterans' Mountain Camp the following contributions have been made: Cash Donations to Maintenance Fund, \$575 (one Unit giving \$500). To the Chapel Fund, \$119.75; Dime Cards, \$64; Annual Subscription Books, \$158; Poppy Sale, \$1,772.92; to the Roxie Radio Fund, \$25.

Contribution to furnish the Lounge or Rest Room in Washington, \$125.

Suffolk has 18 Auxiliaries with a membership of 476, coming up from fourth to second place, having seven Permanent Charters. Four new Units have been organized within the County within the last year. Suffolk, like its sister County, has centered its work on Kings Park, also making occasional visits to Central Islip and also to Holtsville Sanatorium. Eight Units contributed to a Christmas Fund to the last named institution, two Units a Christmas card shower and one a magazine subscription. This County also has an emergency fund of upwards of \$200 for the needs of the men at Kings Park; one Unit has sent 25 dozen cookies; another 10 pounds of nuts and raisins; still another two cartons of cigarettes, sweet chocolate, 24 pounds of candy, sandwiches, 6 dozen neckties and has given three moving picture shows. This Unit started an emergency fund for the Habit Forming Class. Another Unit gave a show for the boys and brought homemade fudge for 300 boys; also gave the ex-service men a canary bird; another Unit sent 20 cakes, 300 easter eggs and gave \$73.45 for the emergency fund, also contributed \$70 for the relaxation suppers; another Unit gave 20 cakes and donated \$18 in cash. There have been 6 relaxation suppers given to the boys under the auspices of the County Auxiliary, in all of

which one Unit assisted in serving and contributed \$25 in cash. One unit entertained the Central Islip patients; another sent 6 dozen eggs. There has been general welfare work done by the several Units in their own communities. Also Memorial Day ceremonies by one Unit placing a wreath on its Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on every national holiday. One Unit contributed \$10 to the Boy Scout Movement and one Unit gave another troop a picnic. Another the play of "Buddies" nine times for various Posts. Then there is the general work for their Posts by the several Units by the way of raising money for the Post Club Houses; several of the Units have assisted at carnivals; others have furnished dishes and cooking utensils; interior decorations for Club Houses; one Unit helping to pay the rent of Post Headquarters; another unit presenting its Post with a gavel; another with a piano.

The County has also done its bit for our Veterans' Mountain Camp, three cases of jellies and jams have been sent; a case of bedding, and a box containing the necessary outfit for one patient, also \$25 worth of poultry.

There has been contributed by this County to the Veterans' Mountain Camp the following: To the Maintenance Fund, \$45; Subscription Books, \$100; Dime Cards, \$315; Poppy Sale, \$1,420.14.

Contribution toward furnishing the Rest Room at Washington, \$15.

In summing up, the District has a membership of 2,376, increased by 229 in drive from July 10th to August 4th, with 75 active Auxiliaries and 45 Permanent Charters; 5 new Units formed within the year; a voting strength at this Convention of 101; and the second largest Auxiliary in the State, whose membership is greater than its Post. One notable instance is that four Units (two each in adjoining counties), held a joint installation of officers at which our State Secretary was the installing officer.

District contributions to the Veterans' Mountain Camp:

Chapel Fund	\$593 65
Dime Cards	1,100 35
Subscription Books	783 00
Maintenance Fund	1,010 00
Poppy Sale	18,776 79
	<hr/>
Total	\$22,263 79
	<hr/> <hr/>

Added to this is 16 cases containing linens, jellies and jams, outfits for patients, bedside rugs, books and poultry.

To the Roxie Radio Fund, \$174.

To the Service Club Rest Room at Washington, \$290.

In closing, I wish to extend to our State Secretary my most earnest and sincere thanks and appreciation for her kindly co-operation and assistance,

On behalf of the Second District to say, that the Units and Counties have shown an earnestness and purpose in spirit in the work of the year, as this report has shown; and I am proud to have been its Chairman.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please conduct the Gold Star members to the front?

The Convention rises as the Gold Star members are escorted to the front of the room.

At this point Dr. Kate Waller Barrett conducts the service for the Gold Star members.

The session adjourned at 1:20 P. M.

Thursday afternoon, September 4th, 1924.

Official Reporter's Note: At this session Dr. Kate Waller Barrett, Past National President, addressed the Convention.

A model Unit Meeting and Initiation was held by the Department Executive Committee.

At this session Mrs. Jane Keens, Past Department President of New York, and National Vice-President, gave a report on the Chaplain and Chapel Funds at the Veterans' Mountain Camp.

By motion, Mrs. Keens was elected President of the Chaplain and Chapel Fund of the Camp.

The Third Session of the Convention was called to order Friday morning, September 5th, at 10:55.

The Chairman: The Convention will come to order please.

Mrs. T. R. Pritchard (Chairman, First District):

Madam Chairman and Delegates: The First District is composed of 2 Counties, 32 Units. Our first combined effort was to dispose of the Dime Cards for the Veterans' Mountain Camp. To date these have been turned in to the Camp, 104 with 74 still out.

At Thanksgiving the disabled veterans in the following hospitals were very generously taken care of: Kingsbridge Hospital No. 81, 300 mental; Seton Hospital, where there are 300 T. B. ex-service men; Wards Island, also mental cases, 1,500 or more; Reconstruction Hospital, St. Lukes, each patient receiving a package. The needy families of ex-service men were sent baskets containing chickens, vegetables, groceries and fruit and candy, also clothing. Hospital and doctors' care for the tubercular wife of an ex-service man,

the mother of two children and another one expected, new layettes for the new arrivals. Rents paid for several families in distress, coal, milk and food throughout the winter.

New York, Mrs. Walter Godfrey, Chairman, gave a Christmas party to 500 children of ex-service men and their mothers at the Nurses' Home in West 45th Street, New York City. There was a beautiful Christmas tree, a real live Santa Claus, who presented each boy and girl with a gift. There was a splendid entertainment, a wonderful Punch and Judy Show, slight of hand performance, fancy dancing, singing and funny stories. Home-made cake and ice cream was served to everyone present by the ladies of the various Auxiliaries. On leaving each child received a large rosy apple, orange and candy. All present had a wonderful time, including the doctors and nurses.

Twelve compensation cases were taken care of and all back payments adjusted.

One man whose insurance had lapsed, through poverty, caused by sickness, was given money to pay up back premiums and was reinstated. A fortunate thing for his family as it was but a few months before his death.

Christmas was made extremely cheery for the sick and disabled men in the hospitals and the Mountain Camp. Many thousands of Christmas packages were distributed containing socks, handkerchiefs, tooth paste and brushes, smokes, candy and stationery, postage stamps. Inwood Auxiliary distributed 5,000 packages of cough drops through the courtesy of the Smith Brothers Cough Drop Company to the boys in the Seaton Hospital at Christmas. Christmas boxes were sent to boys in and out of town hospitals as well as money, also Christmas cards. Tuscano, Arizona, and Saranac men were also remembered. The men in Wards Island, mental patients, have been given concerts and parties every month.

The Auxiliaries of Bronx County have given dances, supplying the music and refreshments and being present to dance with the boys in Hospital No. 81.

Cosmopolitan Auxiliary presented Ward "B" in Hospital No. 81 with a piano, paying for the cartage and tuning of same.

Balcom Auxiliary has donated sixty pairs of socks to No. 81 in July.

Bronx has made a splendid record for themselves this year in its welfare work — the hospitals are visited weekly. Fruits, candy and smokes are distributed, also Victrola records. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, Bronx County donated to Hospital No. 81, 2 barrels of cider, 100 pounds of candy, 60 pounds of raisins, Seaton Hospital receiving 48 cushions for the 4 dozen rocking chairs that they gave last year. In July of this year \$50 for more cushions. To Hospital No. 81, 123 rocking chairs and one desk chair. At Easter \$50 worth of plants to each hospital which was used for the religious services, afterward being distributed through the wards.

New York and Bronx were very active during the Poppy Drive. So far I can only report of a part of the proceeds of the sale, which was \$2,294.46, many more Units still to be heard from.

During the Eastern Conference Mother Davison of the Second Division Auxiliary entertained the National and State officers at several theatre parties. Mother Davison also devotes all her time and a great deal of her money making the lives of the ex-service men and the men in the Regular Army a little happier by her visits and splendid entertainments. She has made as many as 1,400 visits this year, giving pleasure to 2,500 men in one day.

Miss Mary Devlin of New York has started two chapters of the Needle Work Guild of America, which will supply new linens to the local hospitals with little or no expense to members.

My district is now working on the subscription books for the Mountain Camp. Most of our Units have made donations to the Chapel Fund, also Chaplain's Fund. Bronx County donated \$100 to the Service Club at Washington to the furnishing of the Lounge. This is one-tenth of the total donated by the whole State. New York County has pledged \$50 so far and hopes to go over the top very soon. I have attended 13 County meetings, visited 7 Auxiliaries, attended 2 memorial meetings and 1 Americanism meeting at Town Hall, New York. On Washington's Birthday, New York and Bronx decorated 1,500 memorial trees and tablets. Also took part in the Memorial Day parade.

I have enjoyed working with such splendid women and shall ever cherish my association with them.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. Clara B. Smith (Chairman, Third District):

Madam Chairman, Ladies of the Convention: I wish to submit the following report of the Third Judicial District, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, to the Fourth Annual Convention.

The Third Judicial District is comprised of the Counties of Albany, Greene, Rensselaer, Columbia, Ulster, Schoharie and Sullivan.

I am very sorry that I cannot give exact data regarding our largest county. There is little question but what you are familiar with some of the work done by Albany, such as the Fort Orange Unit winning the President's Cup for the largest increase in membership. My visits to the Albany Units impressed me that this County is doing things. I feel that I should be justified in reporting Albany in excellent shape. I must report, however, while the County has been doing so much praiseworthy work, they have neglected the small matter of making the required reports, answering letters and keeping in touch with the rest of the District.

Since arriving at the Convention I have been handed a report from the Fort Orange Unit. They have a sewing circle organized within their Unit which has made over a thousand garments since January 1st. The Welfare Chairman visits the hospitals and obtains the names of the ex-service men there who have families. The families are visited and their wants looked after. Where clothing is needed the sewing circle provides it. This Unit also helps some of the men to pay their insurance where otherwise it would have to go down. Other Units in Albany County have reported excellent welfare work. The Capital City has a committee to visit the hospitals and ten visits a week are made, from that Unit, and the families in need looked after. It gives me great pleasure to be able to add this paragraph showing the fine system of welfare work.

I am sorry to report that after a year's work I have been unable to organize any Units in Greene.

Columbia is exhibiting a little of the old "up and at 'em" spirit. The County has been organized and has a large increase in membership. The Units have sent boxes of clothing and bedding, filled subscription books, and sent magazines to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. They have cared for families in need by sending food and clothing. Philmont Unit takes a basket of goodies to each ex-service man in the Philmont Sanitorium once a month and at Chatham the Unit sends papers, smokes, candy, and roasted chickens.

Ulster makes the excellent report of \$1,299.35 worth of poppies sold during the drive. One of the Units sent clothing to Hospital No. 81. At Christmas boxes were sent to New York State boys hospitalized outside of the State. Boxes of clothing, groceries and books were sent to local ex-service men.

I now come to Rensselaer County of three Units and I wish every County in the Third District could make as good a report. They have one new Unit, one reinstated and have more than doubled their membership. Fort Cralo Unit filled out over 500 applications for State bonus and the first bonus check issued went to this Post. Through the courtesy of the members to the veterans, contributions to the amount of \$400 were received for the Veterans' Mountain Camp. The members have opened their homes and entertained ex-service men who have had to come to Albany for medical examinations and treatment, necessitating a stay of several days at a time. The historic Fort Cralo in the City of Rensselaer has been purchased by the Post and Unit for a memorial, and will repair it and use it for a club house. The State has appropriated \$1,000 for repairs on this building.

I am glad to report Sullivan 100 per cent organized, the only one in the District. The County Committee gave \$50 to the State Welfare Fund. The Units packed 17 boxes at Christmas time for boys in Hampton Hospital, Virginia. The

Monticello Unit has helped the Post raise a debt of \$600, and as the Unit has only 24 members they have had to spend all their efforts along this line. Liberty has approximately 15 men hospitalized there and the Unit of 43 members sees that these boys have Christmas boxes, gifts at Easter and any who have families there are cared for concerning their rent, fuel, food and clothing. An Occupational Therapy School is located at Liberty. Clothing, jellies and magazines have been sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp by the other Units in the County.

The Third Judicial District has sold \$11,069.07 worth of poppies, giving \$75 to the Service Club at Washington, D. C. and given \$561.25 to the Chapel Fund; \$435.25 given by the Units and \$126 as personal gifts to Mrs. Keens. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts helped in various places with the Poppy Drive.

Over 200 ex-service men are being cared for in hospitals in the District. Philmont Sanatorium looked after by the Philmont and Chatham Units; Pawling Sanatorium at Troy visited by the Units of Albany County and Fort Cralo Unit; 150 men at Liberty looked after by the Liberty Unit exclusively; St. Peter's at Albany visited by the Albany Units. There are 45 men in Nappanoch Prison who receive all the attentions allowed, by the Ellenville Unit.

When the Legislative Bulletin was sent out asking that we get in touch with our Congressmen concerning the Adjusted Compensation Bill, nearly every Unit sent telegrams or letters favoring the bill. One Unit sent three petitions with 240 names on each asking that their Senators and Representatives favor the bill. Resolutions were passed in some of the Units adopting the legislative program as recommended by our Chairman.

The Memorials Chairman was furnished with all the data I had concerning that line of work and you will hear that report from her.

Several Units have purchased the Flag Bulletins and distributed them in the public schools, and in other places the Unit sees that all flags on public buildings are displayed correctly on patriotic days and during public bereavement.

All units in the District that did not have permanent charters have obtained them, and many have had their treasurer bonded. The four County organizations have a Constitution and By-Laws and many of the Units have revised their Constitution and By-Laws to correspond with the uniform ones put out by the Department a year ago. Four new Units have been organized and four delinquents reinstated during the year. The membership of the District has increased.

There are many more things I would like to report, that the Units have done, but it is impossible at this time. I have

greatly enjoyed the work and associations of the past year and tried to bring before each Unit the ideals for which our great organization stands, realizing to the fullest measure that it is co-operation, not strife, that is the secret of success in every phase of life.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. J. C. Little (Chairman, Fourth District):

Madam President, Officers and Delegates: The Fourth District is composed of eleven Counties — Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, St. Lawrence, Saratoga, Schenectady, Warren and Washington. During the past year two Counties have been organized — St. Lawrence and Franklin. I am sure that the one County which is not yet organized will be organized in the near future.

All our Units have been working most earnestly for the betterment of the Veterans' Mountain Camp, and have given generously to the Chapel Fund. Boxes of knitted garments, men's clothing, candy, fruit, jelly, preserves, maple sugar, sheets and pillow cases and magazines have been sent to the boys at Tupper Lake. The boys in other hospitals have been remembered at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter with boxes of candy and smokes, and many cards have been sent to them by members of the Auxiliary and their friends.

Malone, Franklin County, realized a very substantial amount of money by conducting a booth at the Franklin County Fair, where they sold ice cream, coffee, cigars, etc. They also maintained a checking room. This unit also conducted a cafeteria for four days and nights in the State Armory while the Associated Dealers' Automobile Show was in progress. During the early spring months the members of Malone Unit ordered a number of "Little Daisy" Salad Books, containing salad recipes and the sale of these books is still going on, with a profit of 10 cents on each book.

The Auxiliary of Malone has assisted The Legion in many ways, and has contributed to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, to the Chapel Fund, and to the Ex-Service Club Fund.

Gouverneur, St. Lawrence, has done its share cheerfully and generously by contributing toward the Service Club Fund, Chapel Fund, and by sending boxes of eats, clothing and bed linen to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. Gouverneur bought desk flags made of silk with standards which they presented to the public schools of the town.

Fort Plain, Fulton, has been assisting The Legion in furnishing their new rooms, and has raised several hundred dollars by holding community dances, and indoor fair. Their club rooms are among the finest in the District.

The Auxiliary at Canajoharie, Montgomery, has contributed \$75 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, \$50 to the Chapel Fund and \$2 to the Ex-Service Club. This Unit has

sent sunshine boxes, pillows and heavy paper pads to the boys in the hospitals. Bright colored ties and silk hosiery have been collected and sent to the boys to make rugs and mats. Poppies were sold, the proceeds of which were sent to the Mountain Camp. Canajoharie has bought dishes and provided other furnishings for The Legion, and has co-operated with The Legion in many ways.

Bloomington, Essex, is our baby Unit, having been organized only since January, starting with ten members. They helped The Legion maintain a Community Skating Rink, conducted a Poppy Sale and were able to send \$50 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp and \$5 to the Children's Welfare Fund, besides assisting The Legion in various other ways. I feel that this little Unit is to be congratulated on its wonderful progress.

The chief work of the Schenectady Unit this past year has been for the Veterans' Mountain Camp and for local welfare. One thousand five hundred dollars was realized from the Poppy Drive, all of which was sent to the Veterans' Camp; \$200 was sent to the Camp earlier in the year together with boxes of food, candy, smokes and magazines; sheets and pillow cases were sent too. At Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets were packed and taken to the ex-service men in local hospital, and to the boys at the tuberculosis hospital just outside of the city.

Schenectady gave \$25 to the Chapel Fund and contributed to the Ex-Service Club and Child Welfare Funds. They assisted the Red Cross in their annual drive and contributed toward the G. A. R. Convention Fund. Much local work has been done, such as helping an ex-service man and his family who were down and out, food and clothing were provided, work found for the man, a house was rented and furnished for them, and valuable advice given the wife, as how to conduct her home. This Unit conducted a bargain shop or rummage sale for a month, which netted them several hundred dollars. They have this year, as always, assisted The Legion in every possible way.

The Gloversville Unit has, this past year, sent \$50 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, also \$26 in Dime Cards, and \$750 from the Poppy Drive was sent to the Camp Fund. Ten dollars was given to the Red Cross for the Japanese relief and \$5 given to the Service Club Fund. They assisted The Legion in giving a successful amateur show, redecorated the Post rooms and bought new shades and overdrapes. The Gloversville Unit remembered the needy families of the community at Christmas time with baskets of food and sent flowers to the Gold Star Mothers on Memorial Day.

I cannot give a complete report on the money turned in to the Veterans' Mountain Camp by the Fourth District, as many of the units failed to send me that information, but I

can assure you that everyone of the units of this District have been working to the very best of their ability for the Camp, for the boys in the hospitals and for their local welfare cases.

The work has been a pleasure and privilege and I am happy to have served as a District Chairman and to have known the wonderful women who have been your State officers for the past year. (Applause.)

Mrs. H. J. Cookinham, Jr. (Chairman, Fifth District):

During the past year it has been my privilege to serve as the Chairman of the Fifth Judicial District of your Department.

It has been my most earnest endeavor during the year to bring to the members of the Auxiliaries of the District the messages, activities and the deepest meaning of The American Legion and of The American Legion Auxiliary.

This duty has been a privilege indeed, and a pleasure, though not always an easy task. Easy things are seldom worth while, but such a mission for service brings a feeling of satisfaction for real effort and accomplishment as the only reward.

Greatest of all is the satisfaction that the women of the Auxiliary are daily living more of the true spirit of the American Legion Auxiliary.

We have reason to be proud of our activities and also reason to be proud and thankful we have had the privilege to serve in the noble organization of which we are a vital part.

This year has not been one of great growth, but we feel it has been one of great strength and assistance in building the foundations of our part in the great structure which should be and is the memorial to all the men who served in the World War.

It has been my constant effort to remind the women of the Auxiliary we must build securely as our fine efforts and monuments of service are for all time, and therefore a most sacred undertaking. We have stressed the great principles of the Auxiliary—Justice, Freedom, Democracy, Loyalty and Service.

The Fifth District includes the following Counties: Herkimer, Lewis, Jefferson, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego. All of the Counties are well organized. Each of the Counties have their own local problems both in organization and welfare work.

Membership.—The membership of the District has increased this year; and though not a great increase it has been a firm growth. In 1923 our membership numbered 1,630; this year our membership is 1,755. Two Units of the District had every member paid by last of January, a fine record for which we rejoice.

New Units.—Oneida is the possessor of two new Units this year:

Auxiliary to the Clifford Fulmer Post No. 92, Waterville, N. Y., charter members, 44.

Auxiliary to the William Russell Post No. 404, Vernon, N. Y., charter members, 25.

Onondaga also has two new Units:

Auxiliary to Robert Hydon Post No. 239, Skaneateles, N. Y.

Auxiliary to the Ralph Share Post No. 297, Marcellus, N. Y.

Jefferson has our newest Unit:

Auxiliary to the Elias Getman Post No. 847, Theresa, N. Y.

To recount the full history of the activities of all the Units of the Fifth District would require a volume, therefore only the high points of achievement can be given in the brief space of this report.

Welfare.—The members of the Auxiliaries have had as their first consideration the welfare of the disabled veteran. Practically every Unit has had a vast amount of local welfare work and many local problems in this work. Systematic visitations are made to most of the hospitals and every assistance is rendered, cheer and sunshine carried to the sick, which means life in many cases. Aid is given the men by selling the wares made by the disabled in the hospitals, which means double service.

Many Units have reported, beside regular visits to local hospitals, the adoption of New York State men in hospitals in distant States. Letters have been received by many Units from these men expressing gratitude for the loving care of our women.

Caring for the families of service men in their communities has been the responsibility of many Units; young children cared for and in several Units complete outfits are kept ready for new infants.

Many Units have contributed to State Welfare Fund most bountifully in clothing and money. Auxiliaries having no local welfare problems, welcome this opportunity for service. Several hundred comfort bags, pillows, hospital pads for beds and chairs, books, games, magazines, homemade candy, chocolate, stationery, stamps, cards and many other needs have been supplied by the fine Units of our District.

Onondaga and Oswego feel justly proud of their joint gift of a fine radio to the Orwell Sanatorium at Richland, N. Y., for the use of the service men hospitalized there. The cost of the radio was \$250.

One Unit has sold over \$800 worth of wares made by the disabled men in this hospital.

Service Club.—When the Department of New York started the fund to furnish the Lounge room in the Service Club in the City of Washington, your Chairman pledged to the Depart-

ment she would be responsible to raise not less than \$50 of the \$1,000 pledged. I am happy to announce this District has already given \$167.50 for this worthy and much needed National Service Club.

Veterans' Mountain Camp.—Just preceding Memorial Day your Chairman met many engagements in behalf of the Veterans' Mountain Camp. These included joint meetings of Legion and Auxiliaries, also other organizations, and a meeting of the New Century Club, to combat the propaganda against the Veterans' Mountain Camp.

On May 3d, speaking to the Federation of Women's Clubs of the Fifth Judicial District in interest of the Camp, one hundred copies of the Veterans' Mountain Camp News were given out. These meetings were not pleas for funds, but rather to create interest in Camp and give insight into its wonderful accomplishments and future needs and usefulness. It has been most gratifying to learn these women are taking active interest in the Veterans' Mountain Camp.

It has been your Chairman's good fortune to interest several Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the Mountain Camp also. Five hundred dollars have been sent from these Chapters and many delicacies, large quantities of clothing, bedding, books, magazines, subscriptions to magazines, and numerous articles also sent to the Camp.

Another effort of the District has been centered on the assisting The Legion in securing assignment from the World War Veterans of some portion of their State Bonus to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. The women have aided in developing a sentiment in our veterans for the Camp, and these women have been a vital aid in the victory to forever maintain our memorial to the veterans of this war and all the wars to come.

The Auxiliaries of the District have given generously to the Chapel Fund. The Camp was remembered at Christmas time and Easter by many Units of the District. Two Units of one County remembered every man at the Camp with a personal gift, cigarettes and homemade candy. We feel the Camp is ours to work for and we will ever do our part to see that it is forever secured. We are at the very gateway of the Camp and feel a keen responsibility in its operation and success for all time.

Three Auxiliaries of the District have endowed beds at the Mountain Camp this year, and two Units have endowed rooms.

A bed is to be endowed in memory of the men who served from the City of Utica.

Auxiliaries last year sent many boxes of bedding and clothing, while others have gone forth this year.

The Chaplain Fund was created and started in this District for the Veterans' Mountain Camp. The Chapel Fund was started in this District last year.

Many Units are rejoicing by the possession of Unit Flags, as well as National Colors.

Auxiliaries have many ways of earning their funds for local and State work. Card parties, dances, suppers, benefit movies, fairs, bazaars, sales and selling chances on everything from clothespins to an automobile. One Unit spends much time preparing carpet rags for weaving of rugs; so many have been sold the supply cannot equal the great demand. Bake sales have been reaping a harvest the past year, and the returns have been most substantial for the Unit activities.

Cooperation with Legion Posts has been general this year. The Units have assisted The Legion with the Federal and State Bonus whenever possible.

In many cases Auxiliaries have assisted in paying rent for Legion rooms. Others are busily engaged in earning money to buy a Legion Home, furniture, or otherwise equipping Legion Headquarters in most complete manner. It means much to Units to continue efforts along these lines, for not until a Legion possesses a home do they realize what an asset is their own Auxiliary to them.

Americanism.—Activity in the Americanization program of The Legion and Auxiliary has received attention in many parts of the District. Units have distributed the leaflets on the Flag Code throughout their towns with most effective results. Other Units have placed these leaflets in public reading rooms, schools and business houses.

One Unit in Jefferson had personal letters written relative to the history of the Flag, and, with the leaflet, had it placed personally in the homes of their town.

Other Units have given assistance in the night schools, teaching English to our foreign-born prospective citizens.

Far greater stress is needed in this important phase of Legion and Auxiliary activities the coming years to combat the vast amount of work being done by the radical and pacifist organizations in every community today.

Memorials.—This District has made an effort to report memorial for our service men to the Chairman of Memorials, and you will hear of them in the report on Memorials.

Memorial Day.—Recommendations were made to Auxiliaries that they give special attention this year to Memorial Day—holding special meetings on or near Memorial Day.

It has been gratifying that so many Units did hold special meetings and many were held jointly with The Legion Posts.

One Unit gave a dinner in honor of the Gold Star Mothers before Memorial Day.

Many Units have remembered families with flowers at this time in remembrance of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

The aim is in every way to participate with The Legion in proper recognition of the day.

Defense Day.—At a District meeting, held in Utica

August 2d, the County Chairman of the Auxiliary went on record as heartily endorsing the National Defense Day program.

Your Chairman recommends that the Units of the Fifth District participate actively in this day; that you give your enthusiastic support and cooperation to any and all local organizations who have planned programs for Defense Day.

It is most fitting that The American Legion Auxiliary give this day unlimited sanction and encouragement.

The keeping of our National Defense Day is keeping a law. The National Defense Act, as amended in 1920, states very clearly that all men of military age are members of the militia of our Nation and must meet the obligation as citizens to defend this Nation from all enemies from within and from without.

Legislation.—The Fifth Judicial District has started a legislative program and took active interest in the work to aid the enactment of the Adjusted Compensation Bill.

Every County Organization in the District took action on this bill. Letters and resolutions were sent to Washington by these County Organizations.

The majority of the Auxiliaries have also taken action, sending letters and telegrams by the hundred. Four Units of the District, every member sent a letter to their Congressman and Senator.

We confidently feel that the many appeals from this District had much to do with the change of one of our Congressmen, who finally voted for the Adjusted Compensation Bill. However, after the President's veto this vote was changed to sustain the veto.

When the last call came from our National Legislative Committee of The American Legion for assistance on the bill, it appealed to the Counties in both Legion and Auxiliary. The Fifth District responded with over fifty telegrams and night telegrams to their Congressmen and Senators to use their efforts for the enactment of the Adjusted Compensation Bill. The women of the District justly feel they had a very effective part in the great victory for Compensation Law.

Letters of approval were also sent to Washington to Congressmen and Senators in behalf of the Bill for Retirement of Emergency Army Officers, the Johnson Immigration Bill and the Reed-Johnson Bill.

It is confidently anticipated that an intensive study of legislation will be carried on in the Fifth District during the coming year.

The detailed report of the Counties you will hear from the various committees. However, at this time some of the condensed figures are given. It is regretted that the full amount for local welfare cannot be reported, as many Units have not recorded this item.

State Welfare	\$494 77
Local Welfare	738 00
Service Club	167 50
Veterans' Mountain Camp	639 00
Poppy sales in District.....	14,997 03
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	\$17,036 30
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More than 1,200 articles have been sent to hospital from this District this year.

This year the Fifth District has had the honor to have one of its members the First Vice-President of our Department, Mrs. Robert G. Taylor, of Herkimer County.

Jefferson County has been honored with Mrs. Eva Lyman as Chairman of the Gold Star Committee.

At this time I wish to express the deep appreciation of the Fifth District to Mrs. O. B. Eichhorn and her able coworkers for their untiring efforts to make successful arrangements for this Convention.

To Mrs. J. T. Collins and the John J. Lyman Auxiliary, our hostesses, our thanks are extended for their gracious hospitality.

To Mrs. Clarence Reed, whose able hands made all the county signs which adorn your chairs, and

To Mrs. L. L. Britton, who has looked after every detail of our comfort as Chairman of the Housing Committee. It has been a tremendous ordeal and we are heartily grateful to her.

To the Auxiliaries of the District I wish to express my deepest gratitude for the ready and willing response to the calls for service from the State and National Departments, and also to express my pride in them that their hearts were so generous to these many needs.

Your Chairman has regarded the leading of the Fifth District as a most sacred trust. It has been a joy to have served this great District as your Chairman, and I have endeavored to carry high the torch of trust you bestowed upon me.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. C. V. Parkhurst (Chairman, Sixth District):

Madam President and Delegates: The past two years during which it has been my pleasure to serve you as Sixth District Chairman, has marked the development of real growth, both in membership and interest. Last year was one of organization, with a membership of 1,368 and every county organized.

We now have a membership of 1,551, a gain of 183 over 1923.

Broome has the largest number of members. Consequently their donations have been large in proportion to the rest of the District, where Units were small and population scattered.

The total amount of Broome County's donations to the Veterans' Mountain Camp for Poppy Drive is \$5,205.23. Dime cards, \$342, making a total of \$5,547.23. Second largest amount reported in the State.

Chemung has only one Unit at Elmira Heights, but they are such an active lot of women that they deserve special mention. Their activities include many donations to the camp, boxes of clothing and dainties to men who are ill, and their Poppy Drive netted \$144.

Cortland, too, has made decided progress with two new Units to its credit, active particularly in all welfare work, liberal donations to the Camp Chapel Fund and Service Club and a wonderful spirit of cooperation that has been a joy to their Chairman. Their Poppy Drive raised \$310; \$50 donation to the Camp, making a total of \$365.

Chenango is not to be outdone by Cortland County and they, too, have added two new Units, and their Poppy Drive netted \$622.

Delaware is fast coming to the front and has organized two new Units. Their sale of poppies was conducted through The Legion and amounted to \$30.

Madison has a slight decrease in membership, owing to members having left the county; the Units have been active in all branches of the work, particular attention having been given to compensation cases, and many of them have been successfully put through, one new Unit in this county. Poppy sale, \$135.50; donation, \$50; Dime Cards, \$30; total, \$537.45.

Otsego is holding its own with some increase in membership. a newly organized Unit at Richfield Springs sold 1,000 poppies, so presume their drive brought for the Camp \$100.

Oneonta has worked hard for rehabilitation, sending many things to Kings Park, and the County Chairman spends all her spare moments working for the blind service men, conducting a class in Braille, and transcribing the "Life of Lincoln" for the blind boys. This, too, seems worthy of special mention and an example we would do well to follow.

Schuyler as usual is well in the lead, paying close attention to all good work, and the county sent to the Camp \$429.25. This is rather remarkable considering the size of the county and it is said of them that no woman eligible to membership in the Auxiliary can escape from the membership committees of this lively little county.

Tompkins, always efficient, has spent the year doing much local work, giving assistance to their Post, liberally donating to all welfare and rehabilitation work. Groton Poppy Drive brought the Camp \$127.15.

Tioga presented us with one new Unit, the Units in this county are very small but have worked hard and most interested.

The new Units formed are at Cuyler, McGraw, Greene,

New Berlin, Hancock, Margaretville, DeRuyter, Richfield Springs and Spencer. The total net amount of money sent toward the furnishing of the Lounge for the Service Club at Washington is \$125.50. Total amount raised for the Veterans' Mountain Camp in this District in real money, \$7,781.83.

The past two years in the service of this Sixth District have been of real pleasure and profit to me, and now that I have finished the work I have started out to do, I want to thank each and every one of you women who by cooperation and encouragement, together with hard work, have helped to bring the District where it is. To all Legion men, who by their kindly advice and willing help have made it possible to organize in two years sixteen new Units and eight counties; to our "Always on the Job Secretary" and the wise counsel of our Executive Committee we owe much.

We were proud at the beginning of the year when our District was honored by one of our members being elected Department President — now at the close of our year we are more highly honored to know that after a year's service we can truthfully say that she has been just and impartial in her decisions and has worked for the interest of the Department. During these two years I have never missed an Executive Committee meeting and have pretty well covered the 6,446 square miles that make up the Sixth District. I have visited every county once, and several of them a number of times.

It is with a feeling of real regret that I turn over to my successor 1,551 of the best women in the State. Give to her the same loyalty and wonderful support that you have to me and you will continue to grow strong and fine. "For life is a mirror to King and Slave. It is just what you are and do; then give to The Legion the best that you have and the best will come back to you." (Applause.)

Mrs. Ruth Padelford (Chairman, Seventh District):

Madam Chairman and Ladies, Officers and Ladies and the Delegates of this Assemblage: I am going to state in the beginning that it was not necessary for me to condense my report. It had already been condensed.

Madam Chairman, Officers and Delegates: I imagine all District Chairmen when elected to that office have some special line of work they wish to accomplish. Mine has been organization and representation, for our strength and our service depends upon those two fundamental objects. We must have members and active workers to bring about results.

That I have been fairly successful is proven by the following facts: The Seventh District has ten new units, with five more well on the way. We have four of our eight counties 100 per cent in organization — Cayuga, Ontario, Seneca and Yates — have an Auxiliary for every Post. We have 57 units

and 1,908 members, an increase of 225 over last year. Our territory is large, extending from the Pennsylvania line to Lake Ontario, and from the shores of Lake Cayuga to the Genesee Valley. It was my pleasure to attend each county's annual meeting in January and install the county officers and by so doing getting in personal touch with members all over the District which I found of great benefit. Since that time I have made many visits to Units and gained many, many friends. I have been most cordially received and royally entertained on all occasions. In December Mrs. Taylor, State Vice-President, and myself were guests at Genesee's (Ontario) annual banquet. In February Monroe County gave their annual banquet at which our State President, Mrs. Seymour, was guest of honor, and I also attended. February 19th Mrs. Garrison, State Welfare Chairman, was the guest of Ontario County, at which time we gained from her much valuable information on welfare work. In June Cayuga gave a banquet for Mrs. Seymour and myself. And later in the summer Ontario, my own county, entertained me as an honor guest at Clifton Springs. The Seventh District has done much welfare work.

Monroe has a well organized County Welfare Committee, the work being so distributed throughout the nineteen Units in that county that they all do their part taking care of disabled soldiers and their families, visiting our boys in the hospitals, holiday entertainments, outings, keeping in close touch with the work to be done in Rochester where the greater part of their activities are centered. We have in every county a most efficient Chairman, doing everything in her power to promote the interests of her Units, and giving to their District Chairman most hearty cooperation, for which she is very grateful.

The Units in each county are untiring in their efforts to look after all local welfare work besides cooperating with the Department, the money being raised in various ways to carry on this work—shows, banquets, bazaars, dances, food sales, etc. Waterloo in Seneca County. Penn Yan in Yates, and Geneva in Ontario, held four- and five-day bazaars to raise money for a building fund. They very amply paid for their labor, each having a substantial sum in their treasury.

Nearly every Unit has done something for the Veterans' Mountain Camp. Boxes of supplies, canned fruit, linen, clothing and money have been sent in liberal quantities. It is impossible to give even an approximate amount of cash donations owing to incomplete reports; for the same reason I cannot give the exact figures of our Poppy Sale but it was something over \$8,000, a few of the Posts handling the sale independent of the Auxiliary. Six barrels of clothing have been sent to Kings Park Hospital; \$50 to Mrs. Garrison for State Welfare work; \$62 for Chapel Fund, and \$50 for Service Club.

Seneca, Cayuga, Yates and Ontario are watchful in their care of Willard State Hospital. Steuben and Livingston are looking after Bath Soldiers' Home, while Monroe takes care of the hospital in their county. I must not forget to state that the President of Waterloo Unit being of a practical turn of mind sent as a personal gift to the Veterans' Mountain Camp a hair curling outfit, having heard a crying need for such an equipment.

In April I helped organize in Monroe County the first Petite Salon of 8 et 40. They have now 36 members and are planning much good work, child welfare being the object of that organization, as well as lots of fun for the coming year. Their eligibility clause is most drastic and rigidly adhered to. No woman can join who is not able to show active interest in her Unit and who faithfully attends Unit meetings.

I note a vast difference in the personnel of The American Legion Auxiliary since last year. The women are awakening to the importance of taking a more active part in civic and legislative affairs and realizing more and more the benefits derived and the dignity gained by belonging to this organization.

In closing I wish to express my appreciation of the inspiration and knowledge acquired by association with the State Executive Committee. I am richer for having known this fine body of women.

I would also like to state that I have enjoyed the past year more than words can express and I hate to say "good-bye." (Applause.)

Mrs. U. G. M. Keeley (Chairman, Eighth District):

Madam Chairman, Officers and Delegates: The Eighth District includes the following counties: Allegheny, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans and Wyoming. All are organized except one, Orleans, which has one active Unit and one inactive.

The District has grown from 23 Units to 64 and membership from 500 to 1,702. All counties are very active and the Veterans' Mountain Camp is their one great thought. Your Chairman has visited 25 Units and attended at least one or two county meetings; she has written 543 letters this year and has installed most of the officers of the Units and counties. There have been 10 new Units organized in the District since February, and about 40 subscriptions have been sent to "The Empire State Legionnaire."

Allegheny has six Units, two having been organized since January, 1924. The Chairmen of the Poppy Drive sent \$361 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. This was just the Auxiliary. Last year they sold the poppies with The Legion Posts and they only had \$123. They also sent \$139 annual subscriptions to the Camp.

Belmont paid \$50 toward a hospital bed, also \$75 as final payment on lean-to; filled ten dime cards and sent \$5 to Chapel Fund.

All the Units have sent contributions, amounting to \$61.50.

Wellsville sent \$5 to the Overseas Grave Fund and \$5 to the Chapel Fund.

The County has sent \$10 toward the Service Club.

All Units in the County have held card parties, dances, suppers, food sales, musical comedies, bazaars and radio parties to raise money to help The Legion in furnishing their club rooms.

Angelica Unit helped the Relief Corps serve dinner on Memorial Day for the benefit of the Soldiers' Monument Fund. The Units have sent gifts to the ex-service men in hospitals, and sent \$10 to Chapel Fund.

Cattaraugus has nine Units. Gowanda is doing very good work. They give card parties, rummage sales, food sales also, to raise money. They have given the Post \$500 this year and the first of the year will give another \$500. They sent \$102 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, the result of their Poppy Sale, and helped furnish The Legion rooms. They are making comfort bags for the Panama soldiers. They are to have an Armistice Bazaar with The Legion Post.

Allegheny sent \$30 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp from the Poppy Sale.

Delevan has a small membership, but active. They have had baked goods sales to raise money for the Veterans' Mountain Camp, have also sent one barrel containing twenty-two cans of vegetables, twenty-six jars of fruit, one bag of potatoes and a gallon of maple syrup and a box for the hospital, containing sheets, pillow cases and towels. The County sent \$10 toward furnishing the lounge in the Service Club.

Franklinville sent \$22 for Chapel Fund.

South Dayton sent \$1 for lounge in Service Club and \$10 to Chapel Fund.

Chautauqua has sixteen active Units, and one not doing anything. Not having received a report from the County, all I can give is what I have gotten from the monthly reports received from the Welfare Chairman. Three boxes of bed linen were sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp.

The money from the Poppy Drive amounted to \$1,868.68, from which \$406.39 was sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, leaving a balance of \$1,462.29 in their own County. Bemus Point and Mayville were the only two to send the entire amount received from the sale.

Fredonia has given two pairs of rubber boots, one pair of shoes and one pair of rubbers to children of ex-service men, \$50 to the County Welfare, \$154.50 to Newton Memorial, \$77.25 to Chautauqua County Legion Disability Fund and \$77.25 kept in their Unit for local welfare work.

Westfield sent clothing to ex-service men's families, and sent a yearly subscription of The American Magazine to a disabled ex-service man away from home; gave \$10 to Chapel Fund, \$50 to County Welfare and \$63.32 to County Legion Disability Fund, one-half of proceeds of Poppy Sale.

Money sent to Veterans' Mountain Camp from dime cards at Sinclairsville amounted to \$20; from Clymer \$10. Clymer also sent \$17 to Chapel Fund and \$18.34, the result of the Poppy Sale, to County Legion Disability Fund.

Jamestown gave \$100 to County Welfare, sent Christmas greeting cards to twenty boys at Tupper Lake, \$10 and groceries to parents of a Jamestown boy killed in service, and a basket of fruit to a Gold Star Mother. The proceeds of the Poppy Sale amounted to \$985. From this, \$200 was sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, \$200 to the Chautauqua County Legion Disability Fund and the other half kept for local welfare work.

Celeron had \$44 from the Poppy Drive, which was given to the County Auxiliary Welfare Fund. Birthday gifts of books and greeting cards were sent to ex-service men at Newton Memorial.

Silver Creek gave a hospital bed to an ex-service man whose back was broken three years ago. Cigarettes were given to ex-service men at Newton Memorial for birthday gifts; \$72.81 was given to Chautauqua County Legion Disability Fund, one-half of the proceeds from the Poppy Sale; they also sent \$9 to Chapel Fund.

Falconer sent \$3 toward lounge in Service Club, \$20 to Veterans' Mountain Camp, also eight sheets and four pillow cases to the Camp. From the proceeds of the Poppy Sale \$42 was sent to Chautauqua County Legion Disability Fund, \$21 to the local Post and \$33 for Auxiliary welfare work.

Dunkirk has given \$5 to County welfare work, fruit and neckties to ex-service men at Newton Memorial; \$386 was realized from the Poppy Sale and one-half was given to Chautauqua County Legion Disability Fund and the other half kept for local welfare work.

Bemus Point has given \$23 to Chapel Fund, sent birthday greetings to ex-service men at Newton Memorial also.

Frewsburg Unit sent \$10 to Chapel Fund. The proceeds of the Poppy Sale amounted to \$22 and one-half was sent to Chautauqua County Legion Disability Fund and the other half used for local welfare work.

Erie has eighteen Units with two inactive Units. Parties have been given all year at both State and Marine Hospitals. They have also been supplied with candy and cigarettes on every holiday. Christmas presents were given to all the boys in these hospitals, money supplied to cover cost of movies and the operator for the City Hospital. Boys are supplied with cards and stamps on Mothers' Day; thirty families were taken

care of at Christmas time by sending coal, clothing, money, bedding, arctics, shoes and stockings. A community Christmas tree was given by one of our Auxiliaries. A banjo was given to a boy at State Hospital, and one of the boys at Veterans' Mountain Camp has been adopted by one of our Auxiliaries.

The Units in the County Committee tell of various ways in which they have increased their membership, such as house to house canvassing, joint parties with The Legion to promote interest in both, and friendship. One Auxiliary offered a prize for the most members.

Two Auxiliaries are entitled to two delegates to the County Committee — Brechat, Buffalo and Washington, Lancaster.

Some of the Auxiliaries have purchased Legion markers for all of the members of the Post who have passed on.

The County donated \$25 to the Quinquennial Convention; \$10 to the Service Club in Washington for furnishing the lounge; \$50 to Chapel Fund.

Four ex-service men have been taken care of by Semper Fidelis Auxiliary by donating their meals. Another organization, closely allied, "The Friends," gave them beds. The Auxiliary has also sent thirty pairs of moccasins to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, visited hospitals and served refreshments to all the men there.

Troop I Auxiliary made over 20,000 poppies. They sent \$1,708.74 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp and \$100 to the Chapel Fund. They also sent 300 pounds of literature to the Camp; twelve years' publication of the National Geographical Magazine — not one copy missing. A box was sent containing 20 sweaters, 24 helmets and a box with 21 one-pound boxes of stuffed dates and five pounds of candy. They gave a Christmas party at the State Hospital, expending \$52 for Christmas gifts and refreshments. They also provided refreshments and entertainment at the Marine Hospital, and gave them a subscription to a weekly radio magazine. The Auxiliary also presented the Marine Hospital with a most wonderful pool table and the boys got a great deal of enjoyment from it. The Auxiliary served refreshments to the members of Troop I at its annual meeting and installation of officers. Several monthly luncheons were given at the Hotel Statler, with a view to bringing the members of Troop I Auxiliary in closer touch. These luncheons were paid for by the individual members. The Auxiliary members assisted Troop I Post Committee during Bonus Week at both stations. Ten dollars was sent to Welfare Chairman for cookies for the cookie jar at Marine Hospital.

Our President of the Auxiliary, Mrs. Henry Altman, was honored by being made Chairman of the Buffalo Memorial for the boys of the World War at Erie County meeting, held in Lancaster. The Chairman, Mrs. Altman, recommends at the

next meeting of the Erie County Committee that the County Commander be informed of the action taken by the County Auxiliary Committee, and to lay it before his Legion County Committee, with the suggestion that they take the initiative, and say that the Auxiliary would gladly assist them in securing of an appropriation from the Council. The Presidents of the Auxiliaries wrote Mrs. Altman their acceptance to serve on her committee. They thought she was too generous in offering to assist, instead of to lead, the movement for the local memorial, which is to be in the form of a building for the local Posts and Auxiliaries to meet in, and in which to entertain County war veterans. It was felt that the Posts and Auxiliaries would in this way become more united and that excellent work and mutual understanding would be sure to follow. No finer memorial to our boys could be thought of.

Lancaster has 80 paid-up memberships, and is a very active Unit. They have held two lawn fetes this year and cleared \$276.48; gave an Armistice Day dinner, the proceeds of which were \$128.65. A military card party was given, clearing \$48.53. Little afternoon card parties have been given at The Legion Home to purchase the Auxiliary colors; \$72 has been taken in. One party was given to raise money for the Auxiliary lamp, which was \$10, leaving \$62 toward the Color Fund. The Post gave a bazaar, and the Auxiliary had charge of the fancy work booth, candy and parcel post, clearing \$569. Luncheon was served to the Civic Club, the proceeds were \$47. From a dinner served to the Rotary Club \$82.33 was realized. Six dollars and a half came from the renting of card tables; \$86 from the Poppy Sale, this amount being sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. The Auxiliary cleared \$1,302.22 this year. They have given The Legion \$819; Chapel Fund, \$10; Service Club, \$10. The Auxiliary has had parties at the hospitals in Buffalo once a month for the past two years, always taking home-made cookies and cakes. The members assisted the Post every night for two weeks with the State Bonus. Lancaster Presbyterian Church sent \$33.15 to the Chapel Fund.

Genesee has three Units, all very active.

Batavia sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp \$100 from the Poppy Sale, \$75 benefit by Order of Eastern Star and \$13.50 benefit by Majestic Rebecca Lodge.

Oakfield is doing very good work. They presented a book to The Legion for the library—"Why America won the War"—also money for their room rent. They have held several baked goods sales and cleared over \$30 from their Poppy Sale. They have given \$5 toward the Chapel Fund. Genesee County sent \$10 toward the furnishing of the lounge in the Service Club at Washington, and LeRoy sent \$20 for the Chapel Fund.

Niagara has four Units. Lockport was organized in Feb-

ruary with a total membership of ten. Today they have fifty-seven full-fledged members, using their own words. They have done some wonderful welfare work. They assisted the Post in the Poppy Drive and the money received from the sale was sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. They have sent baskets of fruit to the ex-service men at the Niagara Sanatorium, as well as flowers, and entertained the children from the Home for the Friendless, the Rebecca Orphanage and the Tuberculosis Hospital. They have purchased enough geraniums to fill a bed on the soldiers' plot in a local cemetery, have given financial aid to a local comrade, and also to the wife of an ex-service man who came there during The Legion's Fourth of July celebration and was taken ill and had no money for a doctor. The President of the Unit personally took care of an ex-service boy who was ill at the Niagara Sanatorium for nine months, and stayed with him for two weeks just before he died. After his death she had his remains brought to her home, from where he was buried with full military honors. They report that all schools have American flags in class rooms. They have purchased a large silk flag for use in their meetings and several small silk flags which are used in their floor work. They have purchased dishes for use in The Legion Headquarters, and also a piano.

Niagara Falls did wonderfully well with their Poppy Sale. The entire amount realized, \$980.96, was sent to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. They have held two card parties for the benefit of The Legion, from the first one they cleared \$63.70. The second, a joint party and entertainment on February 22d, for which tickets were sold by the Auxiliary, brought \$32. They also gave a 3-cent birthday party on their third anniversary, receiving \$6.36. They held a food sale and cleared \$19.05. They assisted The Legion with the State Bonus, and served lunch each night for two weeks to all stenographers assisting in the work. They are raising money for the Chapel Fund.

Niagara County Committee gave \$10 toward furnishing the lounge in the Service Club, and \$5 to the Chapel Fund.

Tonawanda Unit conducted a membership drive for 1924 and increased its membership 38 over last year, making a total to date of 104 members. This is the largest Unit of Niagara County. They have sent \$152.29 to the Chapel Fund. This amount was raised by canvassing the various churches in the Tonawandas by the ladies of the Unit. This Unit was the only one in the District to send a delegate to the Veterans' Mountain Camp on June 9th. She reported conditions satisfactory. At a bazaar held by The Legion, the Auxiliary ladies furnished the fancy work and took charge of three booths, turning the proceeds over to The Legion for its Building Fund.

Wyoming has five Units. Attica has a number of knitted

garments ready to send to Veterans' Mountain Camp. They have sent \$10 to Chapel Fund and gave \$2 toward furnishing the lounge in the Service Club at Washington. When The Legion held its annual Armistice dance the Auxiliary had charge of the supper and cleared over \$60.

Perry has 25 paid-up members. During the winter they held many tureen suppers and socials among their own members. At one card party a charge was made and a few non-members invited. The money received paid for their emblem lamp, which they will use for degree work. Their Poppy Drive was a great success. They sold \$70 worth of wreaths to the business men and \$90 worth of poppies, making a total of \$160, which was sent to Veterans' Mountain Camp. They served dinner at noon to 50 Legion members and to the Boy Scouts who assisted The Legion on Memorial Day. The Auxiliary members took part in the parade. A quilt has been made and will be sold in the near future and the proceeds will go toward the purchase of the linen to furnish their hospital box for the Veterans' Mountain Camp. They are collecting canned fruit to be sent to the Camp, and they have given \$5 for the Service Club at Washington.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. E. V. Murphy (Chairman, Ninth District):

Madam President, Officers and Delegates: When I was elected District Chairman last year, my predecessor, Mrs. Garrison, recommended the Ninth District as one of the best and most loyal in the State, and after my year of service I agree with her most heartily. I have received the most perfect cooperation from the County Chairmen and Units and wish to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude and love for the members of the Ninth District.

Our membership has increased, one County and four new Units have been organized, two Units have been reorganized and one Unit revived, making a total of 38 Units with a membership of over 1,500. In organizing three of these Units I made numerous visits to the towns to interview the eligible women. Have also attended their first two or three meetings to see that they received the proper start. I have made 38 visits to the Counties and Units in the past year.

Our County meetings have been most successful and interesting. The meetings are held each month in a different town and each Unit gives a report of its activities during the month, which helps the County Chairmen to keep in close touch with their Units. Refreshments are always served by the Auxiliary that entertains and the proceeds from the "Dark Horse" usually helps to swell the Welfare Fund.

Welfare work is our principal interest. I wish there were time to tell you what each Unit has accomplished in that line, but as there is not, I am going to give you an idea in a general

way of their splendid work. Three victrolas have been sent to the hospitals and two radios have been installed at Seton Hospital by two of our Units. One Unit donated \$30 to the Radio Fund for the Walter Reed Hospital, and chocolate, victrola records, plants, bulbs, clothing and many other things have been sent to the boys in various hospitals. One of our Units has a Veterans' Mountain Camp Fund which is quite large, having been instituted three years ago, the proceeds being realized from sales, dances and donations. Each year \$100 is sent from this fund to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. They have also planned to have a rose garden at the Camp, and last spring many of the members sent rose bushes and expect to send more in the fall. Another Unit realized \$352 for their welfare work by serving suppers at an Auto Show and Better Homes Exhibit. A few of the Units have adopted ex-service men in the various hospitals and endeavor to supply their wants.

Where there are hospitals in the vicinity the members visit the boys regularly, taking various delicacies, clothing, etc., to them. Several of our Units have taken care of the families of disabled service men, and in one case, where the wife of a disabled man has become insane, the Auxiliary is taking care of the children. In one of the Counties the Units cooperated and sold 1,000 pounds of candy, the net proceeds of which were donated to the "Carry-On Service" of one of the Posts.

Our District has contributed \$140 toward furnishing the lounge at the Service Club in Washington, D. C., and has donated generously toward the Chapel Fund. One of the Counties has contributed \$103 to Mrs. Eva M. Hay for her prison welfare work. I cannot give you the exact amount realized on the Poppy Sale in the District, but one County remitted \$9,536.55, which was an increase of \$4,000 over last year. Most of the Units are still working on the subscription books for the Veterans' Mountain Camp and we hope to show results in the fall.

The Units have given their Posts splendid cooperation, assisting with their entertainments and helping them to obtain and furnish their club houses. In one instance, besides assisting in other ways, the Unit has furnished the kitchen and has dishes and silver to serve 150. Several of the Units have instituted building funds and are having chain card parties to realize money for this purpose, and I expect at the Department Convention next year several new memorial buildings will be reported from the Ninth District. Members of the various Auxiliaries have assisted the Posts with the State Bonus applications which has been greatly appreciated by The Legion. They have also taken part in the Memorial Day exercises with The Legion.

Membership drives have been launched by the majority of The Units and one of the Counties presented a \$10 gold piece

to the Unit that showed the largest increase in membership in a given time. This prize was donated to the Service Club by the winning Unit.

One of the Units had a "Mother's Night" and provided entertainment and refreshments. It was a huge success.

In closing, I wish to state that this has been a very happy year for me and I am exceedingly proud of the Ninth District.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

The Secretary: I have a letter from Mrs. Flora A. Spaulding, Department President of New Hampshire, who was the National Vice-President from this District last year.

How I wish it were possible for me to accept the kind invitation of the Department of New York to attend its Convention. This is impossible, partly because of the nearness to the National Convention and partly because I have already accepted invitations to other New England Conventions, which really fills my time full — my own Convention coming August 26-27.

I remember so pleasantly my visit to you last year, and the inspiration I received as a Department President, to go home and copy some of your organization plans. I might say that I have used your District plan this year with great success.

I wish for you a wonderful meeting, a good attendance and fine weather — that makes the kind of Convention New York always has.

Cordially yours.

Also a letter from Mrs. Hobart.

Your cordial invitation of August 25th just received, owing to the delay in forwarding to Milford. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than attending your Fourth Annual Department Convention, but it will be impossible to go East just at this time.

You know that the Department of New York is very dear to me, and I regret more than I can say that there are so many reasons why I cannot be with you.

It is necessary for me to be in Columbus, Ohio, for the 3d and 4th, and from then until it is time to go to St. Paul it is very necessary that I stay at Milford on account of the many workmen who are remodeling the house.

Will you be good enough to extend my greetings and very good wishes for a successful Convention to Mrs. Seymour and those in Convention assembled?

With kindest personal regards, I am yours sincerely.

Mrs. Clara S. Ellithorp (Chairman, Department Constitution and By-Laws Committee):

To the Officers and Delegates, American Legion Auxiliary,
Department of New York:

Ladies: The activities of your Committee during the past

year have been confined to the consideration, correction and approval of new Constitutions and By-Laws of our Auxiliary Units.

We have examined and approved 76 complete Constitutions and By-Laws for our County organization and Units.

With the valuable assistance of our esteemed President, Mrs. Seymour, and efficient Secretary, Mrs. Ransom, we prepared and issued to all Units a complete, proposed uniform Constitution and, following its issue, the many Constitutions received were copied from it. We believe at present nearly all Units are working under uniform laws.

Previous to this we were guided by a "Handbook," issued by National Headquarters, and as we carefully considered the various sections in the Suggested Form of Unit Constitution shown on pages 8, 9, 10 and 11, we discovered many necessary changes were needed before this Constitution would be applicable to our Units.

We are proud of the fact that we were first to discover what we believed was a serious error, and when this was called to the attention of our Past National President, Dr. Barrett, at the Regional Conference held in New York, she admitted the error and complimented New York State for first discovering and correcting it.

Under caption "Management" it reads as follows: "The government and management of the Auxiliary Unit are entrusted to an Executive Committee of three members."

In our judgment this was not advisable. Any organization to function properly and hold its membership should control itself, and no committee should be invested with such power. Your Committee arbitrarily changed this section to read: "Between meetings the government and management of the Unit shall be entrusted to an Executive Committee," etc.

By making this change we give to each individual member of any Unit a full voice in the affairs of the organization.

In our examination of the many Constitutions and By-Laws submitted we found many proposed By-Laws made no provision for regular meeting of their Unit, and by again referring to the "Handbook" we found provisions were made only for an annual meeting. In our suggested By-Laws we have prescribed regular meetings to be held at least monthly, which, in our judgment, is absolutely necessary. We also found various and sundry dates named for annual meetings. The fiscal year begins January 1st and ends December 31st. Therefore, it is the opinion of your Committee that we should amend our laws to specify that an annual meeting of all Units should be held during the month of December.

A question of quorum came up many times. One By-Law provided that 20 per cent of the membership should constitute a quorum. We believe a certain number should be specified, such as 6, 8, 10 or 12.

On two occasions By-Laws provided that the Treasurer should be a member of the Finance Committee. This is contrary to the established precedent in any organization, and should be prohibited.

Our suggested Constitution and By-Laws is not perfect and there should be added to Article III, Section I (By-Laws) a specific rule for admission of candidates to membership. This is a question that many State Departments disagree on and we expect it will be fully discussed at our National Convention. We believe in a liberal arrangement for a restricted membership, but are firmly convinced that members should be admitted upon a majority vote of each Auxiliary and not be subjected to a secret ballot of any nature.

Our State Constitution and By-Laws provides for a Department Executive Committee, consisting of our officers and one member from each Judicial District in the State of New York. The duties of this Executive Committee, as such, are fully prescribed, however each member from the several Judicial Districts are now called and recognized by us as District Chairman, and as such they should oversee the activities in their Districts. We find no provisions for this. Therefore, we submit a proposed amendment covering this point. In the judgment of your Committee, a District Chairman should be a supervising head over the County organization as well as the Units in their respective Districts.

County organizations are of valuable assistance to the Units in their jurisdiction, but we are of the opinion that no County should be entitled to a County organization until there are two or more Units in such County. It may be advisable, however, for two Counties adjacent to combine in one organization, and this should be permitted, subject to the approval of the State Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee directed your Committee to submit a form of proposed By-Laws for County organization, but owing to the fact that the National Convention will be held in a very short time and that this Convention might make important changes in our laws, we decided it advisable to withhold for the present the adoption of any "Suggested Constitutions."

We respectfully recommend that the Constitution Committee appointed at the close of this Convention prepare and issue a proposed Constitution for the guidance of both County organization and Auxiliary Units, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee.

We submit for your consideration a number of amendments to our Constitution and By-Laws as prepared by your Committee. Many of the various changes are for the purpose of defining more clearly the present laws. However, there are some radical changes proposed and we earnestly trust you will consider them carefully.

As Chairman of the Committee I extend to my associates, Mrs. Seymour and Mrs. Ransom, my deep appreciation for their loyal assistance.

Respectfully submitted.

I have several proposed amendments.

Whereas, There is no provision in the Constitution and By-Laws of our State Department as to where the Auxiliary State Headquarters shall be; therefore, be it

Resolved, That there be an amendment to said Constitution and By-Laws to the effect that

The Headquarters of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, be located in the same town or city as that of The American Legion State Department, and its offices be in the same edifice.

Whereas, At the present time only ladies whose relatives are members of The American Legion or who died in the World War are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary; and

Whereas, A large number of women otherwise qualified by relationship to ex-service men are thereby barred from service and membership in the Auxiliary; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention take suitable steps to the end that the National Convention of the Auxiliary makes such changes in its Constitution and By-Laws as will permit election to membership in the Auxiliary all ladies suitably qualified by relationship to ex-service men, irrespective of The Legion membership of those ex-service men.

Auxiliary, Greenwich Village Post No. 18.

MARY N. G. BISSELL.

Resolution presented by the Herkimer County Committee of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York.

Whereas, The Herkimer County Committee of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, believe that the offices of Treasurer, Historian and Chaplain should be elective; it is, therefore,

Resolved, That Article V of the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, be changed to read:

Section 1. "The Department Convention shall elect President, three Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, Chaplain and Historian."

These officers shall be members of Department Executive and Department Convention Committees. The Department President and Vice-Presidents shall be the Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively of both bodies. A Vice-President shall on the request of the President act as Chairman of either of said bodies. No person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of Department President.

Section 2. "The Department Secretary shall be appointed by the Department President subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee."

Section 3. "Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Department Convention, and thereafter, until their successors are chosen. Vacancies occurring between Department Conventions shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee."

Section 4. "The Executive Committee shall elect such officers and standing committees as may be necessary and shall authorize or approve all expenditures. All appointed officers shall hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. A bond shall be provided to cover all persons handling funds. The Department Executive Committee shall have power to remove any official for just cause."

Section 5. "All past Department Presidents shall be members for life of the Executive Committee without vote, and shall also be life delegates to the Department Convention with vote. This does not apply to any individual not a member of a local unit in good standing."

Whereas, Article III, referring to eligibility in the Woman's Auxiliary, reads "Membership in the Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of members of The American Legion"; and

Whereas, This phrase automatically bars out a large number of very active women, due to the fact that their sons, etc., have not as yet become members of The American Legion; and

Whereas, This phrase also has direct bearing on The Legion itself by reason of the fact that these women becoming imbued with The Legion Spirit would be a strong factor in bringing their men relatives into The Legion; therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion, Kings County, in convention assembled, go on record to change Article III, Constitution of the Woman's Auxiliary, to read: "Membership in the Auxiliary shall be open to mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of all men and women who were in the military or naval service of the United States between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, or after honorable discharge, and to those women who of their own right are eligible to membership in The American Legion," and be it further

Resolved, That the delegates to the State Convention at Alexandria Bay be instructed to present this resolution for further action.

The Chairman: Our Commander and Boss. Commander Spafford. (Applause.)

Commander Spafford: Madam President, my friends of the Auxiliary: I have put over something today that I never believed could be put over by any man in their approach to the hearts of women. But I have brought you rare treasures, people of much greater distinction than your Department Commander, for I have brought with me from our Convention and to present the greetings of The Legion to our wonderful Auxiliary, not only our Teddy,

the Honorable Theodore Roosevelt, Secretary of the Navy, but our National Vice-Commander, William B. Healey (applause), and the man whom I almost lost as I started down here, because other women tried to steal him — our own Bill Deegan. (Applause.)

Therefore, with these able speakers to express their thought to you and occupy your time, I am simply going to say, Greetings from The Legion and a thousand thanks to you all for the heart and soul support which you have this year given to The Legion. It has been wonderful, it has been an inspiration to me and when the fight was at the hottest, when they were attacking our Veterans' Mountain Camp, the President of your Auxiliary sent me three lines. She said, "Why don't you tell them to go to blank?" (Applause.) And she said, "You have 13,000 women behind you." (Applause.)

The Chairman: Our Teddy. (Applause.)

Honorable Theodore Roosevelt: Now, I have always thought very, very highly of The American Legion. It would almost be impossible for me to increase the good opinion I have of The Legion. But looking around here today, I don't mind telling you, makes me think higher of The Legion than I did before I came here. I am not going to make a speech. I don't want to take up your time. But what I do want to say is — all joking aside — the fact that you all are here, that you are all the type that I see is a guarantee of what I just told The Legion just fifteen minutes ago, namely, that The Legion has in itself the seeds of being one of the greatest and most beneficial organizations the country has ever seen, and you are an integral part and an important part of that. We couldn't get along without you and we know it. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Yesterday we were honored by having with us our own National Vice-President of the Auxiliary. Today our National Vice-Commander of The Legion, Mr. Healey. (Applause.)

Mr. William B. Healey (National Vice-Commander, The American Legion): Madam President, my friends of the Auxiliary: It is indeed a profound honor and privilege to be given the pleasure to bring to your Department Convention of the Auxiliary the greetings of our National Commander, John R. Quinn. I am somewhat timid to stand up here before this Convention and to say a few words. Because this is the first time in the history of my activities in The Legion that I have been allotted this delightful pleasure, to talk to an Auxiliary Convention. And as a bachelor. (Laughter.)

The reason for keeping within that scope is due to the fact that when you are active in The Legion you are away from home night and day and I did not want to bring any shame upon The Legion by bringing divorce procedure into the courts.

I am placed in the position of the young fellow in the story they tell of the first American Doughboy that arrived in Paris,

and after receiving his furlough he rambled down along the river bank, coming face to face with one of the mademoiselles. She was very fond of Sammy, so much so that she started to inquire about America. He started to tell her about the great things in America and she cuddled up very close to Sammy, and as a very heavy wind started to blow it carried a large percentage of sand. And while Sammy had his mouth open he picked up quite a bit of the sand. The mademoiselle was quick to see the point. She laid her arms gently around Sammy's neck and said, "Sammy, I love you, kiss me." He mumbled back, "I can't, my mouth is full of sand." And she said, "Swallow it, you need it." (Laughter.)

The Auxiliary and The American Legion is not an organization banded together for their own selfish purposes. We are banded together to make the citizen of tomorrow, because we realize that unless we give the proper foundation to that citizen that flag will not be able to go on and uphold the principles that it is upholding today. The Legion is organized, and the Auxiliary is backing it up 100 per cent, to try and build bodies, minds, ideals and characters, to build in strength a body as well as in steel and stone and strength in mind as well, and beauty of thought as well as beauty of design and with all that we realize that we are only humble servants who will go after our work in a careful manner and be proud of the part we play.

In the Preamble of our Constitutions we find the beautiful, unwritten creed to at all times love justice, to long for the right to love mercy, to pity the suffering, to at all times assist the weak, to be able to see the beautiful in art and in nature, to at all times be able to see the calm beyond the storm and the dawn beyond the night. That is the unwritten creed in the Preamble of the Constitutions of The American Legion and the Auxiliary and we can carry on this wonderful work because we have The American way of doing things and not the European way. We have the American's broad mind of justice, the American's big heart of charity. These are our traditions, and are equal to tackle any task and conquer. (Applause.)

The Chairman: And now a man who was with us during the first year of our organization, not old enough to be our father, not young enough to be our child, but our own Bill. (Applause.)

Mr. William F. Deegan (Past Department Commander, The American Legion, New York): Madam President, the Big Commander, the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, National Vice-Commander and Ladies: When Spafford told you he left me behind, and I was struggling up a hill, he didn't tell you all of it. I met a couple of Alexandria Bay beauties, and he said, "Bill, who are they?" I said, "Beat it; go on." (Laughter.) And he hung on for a short time and, of course, I finally caught up. And I just want to say — because I think possibly you are all hungry — that I am mighty glad to be here and I trust the invitation will be extended again next year and the year following. Even though

I am not old enough to be father I am in the same class as poor old Bill Healey, both of us bachelors. (Applause.)

The Chairman: We will continue the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Mrs. Ellithorp: I will read this one amendment from the beginning, because I was in the center of it when we stopped to receive our distinguished guests.

Mrs. Lee: I move we entertain no amendments pertaining to the eligibility clause. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: The following amendments to the By-Laws and Constitution are proposed by the Chairman of Constitution:

Article IV, Section 2, amend to read:

In the Department Convention each Unit organized shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for the first ten paid-up members, and one additional delegate and alternate for each additional fifty members or major fraction thereof, paid up thirty days prior to the date of the Convention. The President of a Unit, by virtue of her office, shall become the first delegate. A Unit entitled to additional delegates shall elect such delegates and one alternate for each accredited delegate. Such election shall be held at a regular or special meeting of the unit to be held not less than two weeks before the Department Convention. Each Auxiliary will be required to pay the expenses of its delegates to the Department Convention.

Constitution, Article V, Section 6, amend to read:

A Department Treasurer and such other officials as may be necessary shall be elected by the Executive Committee. The President shall appoint all necessary standing committees, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. All expenditures, except those ordered and approved by the Department Convention, shall require the approval of the Executive Committee. A bond shall be required and provided to cover all persons handling funds of the Department. The Executive Committee shall have the power to remove any appointed official for just cause.

Constitution, amend Article VI, Section 1, by adding thereto:

Such Judicial District members shall be designated as District Chairmen for the District she represents.

Amend Section 3 by substituting:

“Presiding Officer” for the word “Chair” in the last line.

Constitution, Article VII, Section 1, amend to read:

In a County where two or more Units are organized, there shall be a County Committee, which shall consist of one member for the first ten members and one additional member for each additional fifty members or major fraction thereof from each Auxiliary in said County. The President of each Auxiliary shall become a member of this committee by virtue of her office, with the privilege of a vote.

Amend Section 3 to read:

Two or more adjacent Counties not otherwise entitled to a County organization may, with the approval of the Department Executive Committee, consolidate and organize a County Executive Committee as described herein.

Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, amend to read:

The Department Convention or the Department Executive Committee may, by a two-thirds vote, levy an assessment on the membership, not to exceed twenty-five cents per member. Any assessment thus ordered shall be paid by the Auxiliary Units within sixty days after an official notification.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Amendment to By-Laws.

Amend Article VII; add new section immediately following Section 1, to read:

The President shall preside at the Department Convention and at all meetings of the Executive Committee. She shall appoint all committees, sign all warrants on the Treasurer for disbursement of any and all Department's funds, and perform all other duties inherent with her office not contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Department.

Amend Section 4; add, in the twelfth line, after "organization":

She shall issue and sign all warrants on the Treasurer for the disbursements of its funds, as directed by the Department Convention or the Executive Committee.

Amend Article VII, Section 4, after the word "annually," in the eleventh line, amend to read:

She shall disburse the Department funds only upon proper warrants issued by the Secretary and President, as directed by the Executive Committee or the Department Convention. She shall give a sufficient surety bond as approved by the Executive Committee for the faithful performance of her duties as Department Treasurer.

By-Laws, amend Article VIII, Section 1; add, after "Constitution," in the fifth line:

A district Chairman and one Vice-Chairman, representing each Judicial District, shall be elected by the delegates to the Department Convention representing such District, at a meeting to be held during the annual Department Convention and prior to the close of its sessions. A District Chairman shall exercise supervision over all County organizations and the Auxiliary Units in her respective District. They shall hold office until the close of the next Department Convention and the election of their successors.

Amend Section 4 to read:

The President shall appoint Department Standing Committees on Americanization, Finance, Immigration, Legislation, Membership, Publicity, Rehabilitation, Welfare and Hospitalization, and such others as she may deem advisable to conform with the standing committees of The American Legion. She shall also appoint special committees as necessity requires.

It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to audit the books of all financial officers at the end of the fiscal year and at such other times as may be necessary. The Secretary or Treasurer shall not be appointed on the Finance Committee. Of course that will have to be changed, because yesterday you changed three into one. You amended it.

Amend Section 6 by adding:

The President, by virtue of her office, shall be a member ex-officio of all committees.

Amend Article X; add Section 4, to read:

Units shall hold regular meetings at least once each month on the day and hour provided in their By-Laws. An annual meeting for election of officers shall be held during the month of December of each year.

Add Section 5, to read:

The financial year for all Auxiliary Units shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

These are signed by Clara Ellithorp.

Mrs. Volk (Queens): I move the Chairman's report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The motion has been made and seconded that we recess for lunch, to convene at 2 o'clock. Carried.

The Third Session of the Convention was called to order Friday evening, September 5th, at 8:35.

The Secretary:

Madam President, Officers and Delegates: We have four hundred and sixty Units in the Department of New York and only 65 have appointed Chairmen of Americanism. I have heard from about 10 out of the 65, but they are all doing good work, whether it is Americanism or not.

Sea Cliff was the first to send in a report of the "Children's Day Party."

Kings Park has been doing a great deal of Americanism work. They gave the local Boy Scout troop an outing, with eats. They attended in a body the flag raising at the Hospital for Insane Soldiers on Memorial Day and are going to place flags in the class rooms at the same hospital. They also have the largest "cradle roll," with 35 names on the roll.

Philadelphia made a house to house campaign on Flag Day with the Flag Code and this circular letter:

Dear Friend:

Just 147 years ago "Our Flag" was adopted. Do we know our flag?

We are inclosing a leaflet concerning the flag. One of these is being sent to every home in our town with the hope that it will be read carefully and preserved as a

reference. It shows the correct use of the "Flag" on all occasions and the proper respect which it deserves.

We would call your attention to the revised Pledge of Allegiance printed in *italics* on the first page.

On the last page is a short history of the flag which is interesting and instructive.

Sincerely yours.

Inclosed in envelopes, personally addressed, they did the same thing in the country. People called to ask if there was an extra copy they might have. On patriotic holidays they have had suitable articles in the local papers. A number of the Units have purchased a thousand copies of "The Flag" and distributed them to school children and others.

Freeport Unit members aided the Post in filling out the State Bonus blanks and also sent cards to Congressman Bacon urging his support of the Adjusted Compensation Bill. New flags have been placed on the local Honor Roll when needed. It was through the Unit a young man has been made a citizen of the United States. The Unit aided in obtaining his papers and paid the required fee. A prize of a five dollar gold piece has been offered to the students of the Junior High School (7th and 8th grades) of Freeport for the best essay on "What the Flag Means to You."

Through the efforts of the Far Rockaway Post Auxiliary, Queens, the Girl Scout movement has been launched in Far Rockaway. A troop of thirty-two girls has been organized which is attached to the Unit and the General Headquarters for the Rockaway District is the club house for the Post. Here it has been made possible to hold all the weekly meetings of the Auxiliary troop and also tests for merit badges for the District without the necessity of going to County Headquarters in Jamaica. This troop raised money enough, through putting on an entertainment, to furnish equipment for the merit badges, buy a troop flag and turn over \$35 in cash to the Post for its house furnishings. The Auxiliary helped to obtain the charter for the Queens' Council of the Girl Scouts. The troop participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies of The Legion, assisted the Auxiliary in the Post Carnival, acted as ushers at the entertainment for the Veterans' Mountain Camp and assisted in the Poppy Sale.

Elmira Heights distributed Flag Code pamphlets to all schools, Boy Scouts and fraternal organizations.

Rockaway Beach cannot foster a troop of Girl Scouts, as they lack permanent headquarters, but they have their cooperation. One of the local troops participated in the Memorial Day ceremonies by placing the wreaths and flags on the memorial trees dedicated to the fourteen men who paid the supreme sacrifice in Rockaway Beach. One of the local clergymen had a big jubilee, it being the 25th anniversary in the priesthood. In token of the appreciation of his cooperation with the Aux-

iliary in many ways they presented him with an American Flag. He was so deeply touched by their simple but expressive gift that he was almost unable to express his thanks. The presentation speech was made by one of the active workers and her words rang so true and sincere, and the Flag represented so fully our American Legion Auxiliary, that cheers arose from the audience amid the thanks of the worthy clergyman. They are going to distribute pamphlets and give instructions of the Correct Display of the American Flag.

Syracuse Post Auxiliary No. 41 has distributed the Flag Code among their members and the Post is going to distribute the same on Armistice Day to all school children in the city. The Legion also sends speakers to the schools on Memorial Day. Syracuse has an Americanization Department and under their guidance much social work has been done among the foreign born, many classes in English, home-making, etc., have been conducted and through their efforts many have become good American citizens.

Fredonia has taken much interest in the proper display of the flag; since the last Convention it has been taken up with both The Legion and Auxiliary. One of the ladies went into the schools and gave talks on the flag and its use. The suggested outline in The Legion Bulletin each educational week has been used in the public schools, together with the observance of the birthdays of all our great men. The Legion and Auxiliary have full charge of the Memorial and Armistice Day services.

One Unit on Staten Island has charge of the Girl Scout troops and one of its members is guardian of two groups of Camp Fire Girls. Several of their younger members belong to these organizations. The Scouts and Camp Girls have assisted in the annual Poppy Drives. They always march in the Memorial Day parade.

The Chairman of Americanism at Tonawanda visited three schools in the Twin Cities (that is, Tonawanda and North Tonawanda) and distributed one thousand of "The Flag" pamphlets, which were greatly appreciated. During the Fourth of July parade this Unit distributed one thousand flags to the school children. On Memorial Day this Unit took part in the parade with The Legion, having a float which represented the "Unknown Soldier." The Auxiliary also took part in the Fourth of July parade and their float represented George Washington and Benjamin Franklin reviewing the first American Flag being made by Betsy Ross.

During education week Hicksville purchased two thousand Flag Codes, which were distributed through the following channels:

Public School, 500; Parochial School, 200; Odd Fellows, 125; Masons, 100; Civic Club, 100; Order Eastern Star, 100; Rebecca's, 100; Legion, 100; Boy Scouts, 100; Girl Scouts, 100; Republican Club, 100; Democratic Club, 100.

The Unit was present at the laying of the cornerstone exercises of the new High School and each member signed her name on one of the programmes, which were then deposited in the cornerstone. One of the Auxiliary members organized a troop of Girl Scouts and is their captain. The Unit gave a three-act comedy, in which only Auxiliary and Legion members took part, for the benefit of raising money for a flag pole and flag on the new High School, which will be seventy feet high, set in cement, monument bearing a bronze dedication tablet. The dedication exercises will take place on Armistice Day, with a float parade representing all of the organizations. There will be patriotic speakers, a community ball and fireworks in the evening. The cost of the celebration will be over \$1,000, but it is worth it, as it will put The Legion and its Auxiliary in the first rank of Hicksville, where The Legion was never very popular. Many organizations were wondering how we come to think of such a splendid idea and would have been glad of the opportunity which we secured from the Board of Education.

Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. Volk (Queens): I move that it be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. E. V. Murphy (Chairman, Department Committee on Immigration):

Report of the Immigration Committee.

I am very sorry not to be able to give a very glowing report on immigration, but as all the immigration bills are handled by the Legislative Committee, and it has been impossible to receive any information from the National Chairman, although I have written her repeatedly without receiving the courtesy of a reply, and during the Regional Conference in April I spoke to her in reference to this subject and she promised to send me the necessary literature within a few days, same never having arrived, my report must necessarily be brief.

One Unit, beside the Ninth District Units, has reported that they have no field for work of this kind. I made a recent visit to Ellis Island and found conditions most satisfactory.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. Senstrum (Kings): I move it be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ruth E. Padelford (Chairman, Department Committee on Memorials):

Madam Chairman and Ladies of The American Legion Auxiliary Department of New York:

I submit the following nucleus of a report of the Memorials to the World War Veterans of New York State. I call it a nucleus, for the material furnished me was so small, in comparison to the vast amount that has been accomplished, and

the greater amount that will be done in the future, that this is only the beginning of a history that will grow with each year as time goes on. It is fitting that our Veterans' Mountain Camp should head the list. A beautiful home and hospital combined, by virtue of its location in the Adirondack Mountains, particularly adapted to treatment of tubercular diseases. It is owned by The Legion and Auxiliary and their friends; has a steadily growing endowment fund and bids fair to out last this and later generations.

In many towns the memorials have taken the form of Legion homes or club rooms, the Auxiliaries contributing no small part in their equipment, particularly the dining rooms and kitchens, thereby rendering it both possible and expedient to prepare spreads, large and small, over their own gas. In many instances the towns proper have assisted in securing these homes, by so doing strengthening the bond which ever holds The Legion to the American people. These club houses are steadily increasing in number and soon every Post will have its own headquarters in which each Legionnaire will feel a personal proprietorship.

It is a general custom now that every Auxiliary shall take a prominent part in the Memorial Day exercises, of which The Legion have formally and reverently taken charge, taking from the hands of the Civil War Veterans the heavier part of the work, but according them the place of honor on all programmes, which rightfully belongs to them. The Auxiliaries assist in decorating the graves, in the parade, in whatever ceremonies the Posts need their cooperation and in serving a luncheon to all ex-service men.

The sale of poppies Memorial Week has grown to be a yearly function, looked forward to with reverence and carried on almost exclusively by the Auxiliary, the money derived being loyally turned over for welfare service.

Memorials take many and varied forms. In avenues and groups of trees, each bearing the name, outfit and date of going West of a beloved soldier or sailor. Astoria, Far Rockaway, Rockaway Beach, Greenwich, Geneva, Lackawanna, Herkimer, Seneca Falls and Penn Yan each have Memorial Hospitals dedicated to World War Veterans. At the Masonic Home in Utica a beautifully equipped hospital is known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Hospital, a refuge for all sick soldiers or sailors belonging to their order.

There are many tablets and monuments. Utica, Fulton, Monticello, Astoria, Little Falls, Paris, Durhamville, Rome, Clarence, Herkimer and Long Island City have memorials of this kind. Bayside has a tree, with tree guard, on which is a bronze tablet bearing the name of Charles B. Stone. This memorial was placed there by the boy's mother. A street in the same town was also named in his memory. Binghamton has a magnificent bridge in course of construction that

will span the Chemung River and built in memory of all soldiers and sailors who died in service.

Little Falls has two streets named for boys who marched bravely away, but who will never return. Newpont and Dolgeville have memorial parks. Binghamton has a wonderful club house, owned by Binghamton Post and dedicated to former Commander. Endicott has two, given by George T. Johnson of the firm of Endicott and Johnson. These and many more of which I have no record are being reverently cared for throughout our State.

But the strongest, the most lasting and the most beautiful memorial of all is entrenched in the hearts of the American people. There we hold it closer to have and to hold forever. And we, the women of this Department, united by the divine bond of motherhood and wifehood, sister and daughterhood, are glorified by the knowledge that we are permitted the sacred privilege of carrying on.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Motion is made, seconded and carried that the report of the Memorials Committee be accepted.

Mrs. Kathryn Garrison (Chairman, Department Welfare and Hospital Relief Committee): Madam Chairman, Delegates: I would like to almost make a motion that these reports be eliminated, because today when some of the District Chairmen were giving their reports I heard several sighs about smokes and tobacco and chocolate, and I would like to do away with that. But if we knew how important it is to give smokes and tobacco and chocolate to the boys we must hear about it.

In presenting this report of Welfare and Hospital Relief, I want to say it was only through the splendid cooperation of the workers in each Unit that has made it possible to accomplish this amount of work, and in behalf of the service men I want to thank each one for their part.

At this time we have over three thousand men in hospitals in our State, besides the many New York State men in other hospitals that the Auxiliaries have helped.

First, by personal contact, which means so much to the men and women who must of necessity spend their time more or less isolated from the outside world, after sacrificing their health for us in the Great War. In making a visit to the patient, one soon learns to know their needs and wishes so much quicker and better than can be learned in any other way. It has been found, through these visits, that growing plants, cut flowers, smokes, candy, jellies, books, home-made cakes, fruits, nuts, victrola records, writing materials, magazines, newspapers and clothing are needed, and these have all been supplied. There have been some wonderful boxes of clothing, both new and second hand, sent, including underwear, shirts, pajamas, trousers, coats, hats, socks, sweaters, shoes, neckties, bathrobes and comfort slippers.

Christmas found each Unit anxious to do and doing for the men in hospitals and the families of service men. Christmas trees were furnished and decorated and a gift for each patient in the hospital, also community trees, where the children of the service family and others in need were given gifts and the spirit of "Good will to all," was spread by The American Legion Auxiliary.

Baskets containing all the good things for a Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner were sent to the service families. This included men of the Grand Army of the Republic, as well as those of the World War.

Our having lived during the World War has made us think more of the men of the other wars and many of the men of the Grand Army of the Republic are having comforts that they have never had due to the realization of what they too suffered for us.

At Easter, cards and flowers were sent to the men in hospitals.

Mother's day was observed in the same manner, but with flowers and cards for the mothers as well as the men.

Memorial Day found most of the Units had been or were selling poppies for the Veterans' Mountain Camp, helping The Legion decorate the graves of the departed comrades. Many have marched a distance of seven miles to help with these ceremonies.

July 4th saw most of the Units helping with their own Post affairs, serving ice cream and cakes, picnic lunches, etc.

The Units have helped finance summer camps and outings for children, not only of the service men, but other children that could not have the pleasures or benefits without The American Legion Auxiliary.

The importance of the Victrola and the need of records was soon spread throughout the State, and as far as reports have been received by your Chairman, ten Victrolas and over 900 records have been sent to various hospitals. One Unit was able to secure and place a piano in one of our hospitals where there are 700 mentally sick men.

Flower bulbs and money to purchase these have been sent to the hospital where the men have enjoyed working near to nature, and the results of their efforts have been well worth seeing.

Chocolate bars and smokes have been sent regularly to Wards Island, Kings Park, Hospital No. 81, Pawling Sanatorium, Nassau County Sanatorium, Seton Hospital, and many others where the service man is found.

Entertainments have been given, which have been greatly enjoyed and appreciated by the patients as well as those in charge.

Where ball games by the patients have been played, the Auxiliaries have served ice cream and cake, doughnuts and

other good things, serving as many as 300 at one afternoon's game.

Units have adopted men in other than New York State hospitals, and the packages sent have contained smokes, writing materials, magazines, playing cards, puzzles. These packages have opened the way for some very interesting letters; there has even been some rivalry among members as to whom the man would write first!

We must not forget the radio. Several have been purchased by the Units and placed in hospitals, one Unit with a membership of sixteen placed a \$250 radio in one of our T. B. hospitals.

The bed pads and especially the small pillows have been of great service and comfort to the men. About 150 pads and 200 pillows have been made and sent to the hospitals, and was said in one of the letters acknowledging these pillows—"aching joints have been made more comfortable through your efforts."

A bird was needed in one of the habit forming classes. With the gift of five dollars from a Gold Star Mother and the balance from a Unit this was obtained.

One of the nurses that was seriously injured, at the base of the spine, while in France, was in need of a brace.

A young wife and baby was in need of rest. A family where the father and mother were both in a State institution needed help. These are the things that your State funds have been called upon to furnish.

X-ray pictures have been made and necessary treatment for T. B. furnished. Units have cooperated with Veterans' Bureau by investigating home conditions of service families. Compensation has gained for the men.

Articles made by the men have been sold and the money returned to buy more supplies. This has helped; the men have more interest in the work they are doing. Names of men from other States in our State hospitals have been sent to the Chairman of their own State.

Scout Captains and Camp Fire Guardians have been members of the Auxiliary, thus creating a spirit of cooperation between the several organizations.

Sunday school classes, bridge clubs, literary society and Red Cross have shown an interest in our work with both time and money.

One town in which there was no Post or Auxiliary the Civic Club became interested, and sold 500 poppies and filled a subscription book for the Veterans' Mountain Camp and bought \$28 worth of articles made by the service men in one of our hospitals.

The following is a report of the State Welfare Fund:

Balance on hand September 17, 1923..... \$55 48

Received from:

Sullivan County Auxiliaries	\$50 00
Yonkers Auxiliary No. 3.....	25 00
Herkimer Auxiliary	21 00
Kingston Auxiliary	10 00
Utica Auxiliary	10 77
Mrs. Maude Burrows	5 00
Athenia Club (Washingtonville)	25 00
Port Jervis Auxiliary	10 00
Orange County Auxiliary	10 00
Monroe Post (boxes in stores).....	5 82
Orange County Auxiliaries (Dark Horse).....	6 08
West Point Auxiliary (Dark Horse).....	85
Alpha Kappa Psi (Little Falls).....	25 00
Onondaga Auxiliaries	5 00
Dover Plains	5 00
Westchester County Auxiliary (Dark Horse)...	3 05
Utica Auxiliary	15 00
Orange County Auxiliary (Dark Horse).....	4 00
Thursday Auction Club (Little Falls).....	25 00
Sigma Sigman Sorority (Little Falls).....	5 00
Dolgeville Auxiliary	15 00
Kingston Auxiliary	5 00
Dutchess County Auxiliaries	10 00
Livingston County Auxiliaries	25 00
Burton-Miller Auxiliary (Rochester)	25 00
Pleasantville Auxiliary	6 00
Mizpah S. S. Class (Little Falls).....	5 00
Dansville Auxiliary	5 00
Cortland Auxiliary	10 00
Total	\$428 02
Disbursements	425 82
Balance on hand	\$2 20

The work done by the Units cannot be made in a report of this kind, just a summary can be given of the work in general.

The need for this work has increased with the increase of men being hospitalized.

I would like to thank at this time all those who have sent reports, and those who have helped to make this work the success, I think, it has been this year.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. Lee (Queens): Madam Chairman, I move the report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Maude G. Parkhurst (Chairman, State Rehabilitation Committee):

Madam President and Delegates: I am not at all satisfied with the close of the year's rehabilitation work. I sincerely wish there were a few more months in the year. In the first place, it meant reorganizing the welfare work in the State to conform with The Legion Committee, and I am sure no one knew less about rehabilitation than myself; since more or less misapprehension exists about this committee, I might preface my report with the suggestions set forth by the National Chairman of Rehabilitation, Dr. Helen Hughes Heilcher of Mankato, Minnesota; like all the Minnesota women she is very wholesome in her ideas and her keen mind outlined work that no one woman could do, so it was deemed wise by our Department President to cut this Committee in two — Hospitalization and Welfare being looked after by Mrs. Garrison and the rest turned over to my supervision under the Rehabilitation Committee, and after a year's struggle with my share of it I think the work should have been divided among three or four instead of two women. Many times I have been completely discouraged and on two occasions I asked our Department President to release me, but she sternly demanded that I "March On."

Dr. Heilcher recommended decentralization of work, but this did not seem to work out well this year, so I have been obliged to depend on receiving individual reports from 457 Units, and I believe this Committee should be placed on a more businesslike basis, having a sub-chairman for each State Hospital District (as divided by the State of New York), each sub-chairman to be under the direct supervision of the Department Chairman, then with a proper filing system your Department Chairman could at a moment's notice give an accurate report of all hospitals, Veterans' Mountain Camp, prisons, State hospitals, compensation cases, employment, etc., pertaining to this branch of work. We are growing so rapidly and expanding in welfare activities in proportion to our growth so that we must conserve time to the better accomplishment of a general good.

I have received many excellent reports which give figures only, so if my committee will forgive me for just this once, I will make this report more from the standpoint of the Department Chairman. We have been favored by association with Dr. George F. Lawrence of Flushing, the Legion Rehabilitation Chairman, with his ideas. We added our own, and received his approval before making any decisive move.

I have personally visited many State hospitals, prisons, and the Veterans' Mountain Camp, and could judge very well the counties doing the most active work. Much valuable time has been spent in refuting the propaganda against the Veterans' Mountain Camp. People who have not visited the Camp and do not understand a thing about it can sit down and tell you more things about the Camp than the ones actively

engaged in the work know. These people who never have, and never will, give a dollar toward the biggest and finest thing The American Legion has ever sponsored, are the ones who are making the criticisms. But thanks largely to you women, who refused to listen to these impossible tales, our Poppy Drive was a success, and we can "Carry On" for another year and continue to care for our Tubercular Service Men at the Veterans' Mountain Camp until the time comes when their disability can be traced to the service and they will be transferred to a government hospital.

Onondaga leads all the counties in the State in the Poppy Drive, having sent in over \$6,000.

This is absolutely incomplete but I want you to know counties reported to your State Chairman.

"Does it pay to conduct this Camp?" It most certainly does in my opinion if the only good we have accomplished in the past year is the treatment of 200 discouraged boys, tubercular, with no funds for their care. I think it is wonderful that we have been privileged to help them to their chance to live, that out of this number are 61 arrested cases and 62 improved; 5 entirely cured. Is it not worth while to feel that we have had a hand in this and that we helped to put the Poppy Drive over the top and net the Camp \$72,000.

The mental cases come under Rehabilitation and perhaps the most interesting of all the State hospitals is Kings Park. Through the courtesy of Senator Thompson, I spent a day there and came away amazed at the wonderful good being accomplished. They have very splendid classes in Occupational Therapy. The work accomplished in these classes was a revelation to me. From the Habit Forming Classes to classes in woodwork, cement work and arts and crafts. The Auxiliary of Suffolk and Nassau Counties are doing wonderful work there, and constantly planning for their entertainment, and one of the men there spoke to me of the wonderful treatment they had when Jefferson women sent them maple sugar.

Many other State hospitals are so impressed with the good work at Kings Park that their teachers visit there to observe the Habit Class work and the State Aides receive instruction in Occupational Therapy. Central Islip and Kings Park exchange athletic activities and the last report I have speaks of a series of baseball games, each team having won two games, and on September 6th they have a field day and play the final game.

There are some improvements that another year may bring us; no doubt when the three million dollar buildings are completed these changes will be made. I saw the plans for the new buildings and they called for twenty new buildings. Among them are an isolation building, two convalescent cottages, administration building, two continued treatment, one

acute medical, four cottages for occupational training and an assembly hall and five cottages for doctors. It is said that the doctors and attendants are the most poorly housed of any at Kings Park. The boys have plenty of cake, candy, cigarettes, every day; movies and entertainments. Much credit is due Mr. George Dignan, Occupational Director, who works tirelessly in the interest of our boys. Kings Park officials are most courteous and willing to give all necessary information.

Central Islip has eighty-seven service men.

Base Hospital No. 81 has similar classes in occupational work and I saw exquisite etchings on brass which were quite unusual, otherwise the work was much the same. I feel very much indebted to Hospital No. 81 for cooperation with this Committee. They have been prompt to act on all requests. Any time I have requested a report it has come back by return mail. On one occasion, after a most difficult brain operation on a service man, whose case had been turned over to us, they were good enough to send me a report of his condition every other day. This attention to detail is worthy of special mention and to Major Hansen, Dr. George Brewster, and Dr. C. R. Miller I extend most hearty thanks.

At this hospital there are now 770 in (or resident patients) and 955 out (or non-resident patients). Six thousand cases were treated at this hospital during the past year. The Metropolitan District is doing splendid work for Base Hospital No. 81. Bronx, Queens and New York Counties are very active.

So much for the large State hospitals, but do not forget the small ones scattered throughout the State. We will go in our thoughts just for a moment to Willard State Hospital. There are twenty-four service men there. I talked with all of them and they were so glad when I told them I was from the Auxiliary. I am glad to say that Schuyler County has adopted this hospital and the Auxiliary women visit them regularly. Do look up the boys in the smaller hospitals. There are thirteen State hospital districts in the State and work for all of you to do. Their wants are pitifully small — a magazine or newspaper — sometimes music, candy or cigarettes mean a lot to them.

Then too there are 60 of our boys in Elmira Reformatory, where, under the care of Dr. F. L. Christian, they are learning to be better citizens. Twenty-six trades are taught there and inmates include only boys between the ages of 16 to 30. When these men are ready to be paroled, we can help to find work for them in proper environment. Dr. Christian says in this way the women can be of great value to the institution. In Auburn Prison there are about 225 service men. The Warden tells me that several service men have asked that no record of their service be made and that he has in his keeping for them several Distinguished Service Crosses.

There is one woman who is a member of this Committee who is doing much to keep up the morale of the men. It is our dear Mother Davison who, in memory of her distinguished brother, Charles Frohman, is spending a beautiful life completely in the service of the service men. She has modestly omitted a report, but having accompanied her on one of her trips I know something of how eagerly she is greeted by boys who look forward to the entertainments she provides. She seems to have a faculty of getting together musicians and artists who have the same big hearts that she has, and whether it is a hospital, prison, or barracks, when the boys want an entertainment they have only to say so and Mother Davison and her talented friends provide it, and are greeted with rousing cheers.

To the work of this Committee has fallen disallowed compensation cases and we have spent two years on two of these cases — one was finally put through and the second is still (after repeated appeals) under consideration. I am glad to report complete cooperation with the Veterans Bureau and they have been good enough to write me that we have been of great value in tracing out many obscure cases that otherwise could not have been completed.

This Committee is national in every sense. When the Department of Texas reported to me a New York State lad who had been mentally unbalanced but was about to be paroled and wished to locate his mother in Brooklyn, we found her through the energetic efforts of the Kings Chairman.

A little mother in Vermont whose husband is serving a sentence in New York State, was tenderly cared for by the Department of Vermont when we wrote the Rehabilitation Chairman of the Department of Vermont the circumstances, and they gladly provided the little things she needed and showed by their interest that she was their sister in truth.

I could cite many cases but my time is limited. There is a constant interchange of letters and ideas between the various Department Chairmen. Just now they are beginning to plan Christmas Cheer for New York State boys in western hospitals and you cannot do too much for them to my way of thinking.

All honor to our National Chairman, Dr. Heilcher, to her has been given a wonderful vision of service, and to have served under her leadership has been a privilege and an inspiration.

If it were only possible to arouse the interest and enthusiasm of every Auxiliary member to a sense of their duty to our boys there would not be a service man out of work. The boys discharged from prison after they had learned their lesson, would see women ready to help them to gain their self respect. Boys discharged from hospitals would be given light employment until they were strong enough to do heavier work.

They would not have to grovel and beg for compensation, but interested groups of women would put these cases up to the Veterans' Bureau in true form so that compensation could not possibly be disallowed, and, if every woman would have the courage of their convictions they would go to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, see conditions as they are, and fight to a finish the propaganda that tears down a splendid effort and gives us nothing in its place.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. Crowsher (Monroe): I move that this report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Robert Taylor (Department Historian):

Madam President, Department Officers and Delegates: The report of your Department Historian for this year, 1924, may be divided into two parts, first an explanation in regard to the plan of the questionnaire which the Unit Historians have been requested to answer and secondly a summary of the more interesting and important facts which seem to be general throughout the State as given in these replies to the questions submitted.

Upon being appointed Department Historian I assumed that my duty would be to secure a record of the events of each Unit for this current year. I found, however, that there was no complete history of the Department since its organization nor any arrangement made whereby a permanent record might be kept. Believing this to be important and realizing that each year will add to the difficulty of establishing such a record, I wish to offer a plan which will be submitted to you for approval.

Past Historians as well as myself have collected a group of reports from the various Units. These reports are in groups, one for 1922, one for 1923 and one for this year. Hence it would be difficult to secure the history of any one Unit without going through all this material. As the years go on this will become almost an impossibility as there has been no uniform system of questionnaire or report, but merely a group of facts concerning the Units on various sizes of paper and with no logical arrangement. For this reason I wish to suggest that a Department History file be established at State Headquarters and a uniform questionnaire be sent to each Unit annually by the Department Historian and that these reports be filed each year so that the complete record of every Unit will be on file. In this manner the entire history of each and every Unit will be available at State Headquarters at any time. Each successive year the record of that Unit can be added to its past history with a minimum of effort and expense.

The questionnaire sent out this year was based on that sent to each Department by the National Historian together with

some additions which seemed appropriate to a permanent history and which were not included in the past records. It was not given as a standard questionnaire but as one that would result in a uniform report from each unit. I have received 142 Unit reports which are accurate, complete and uniform. These, together with reports from previous years, form a satisfactory nucleus for our Department History and can be kept intact only by systematic filing.

As a summary of these reports I wish to call your attention to some of the outstanding facts and interesting accomplishments. The most important work which we have done for the Legion has been the support given to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. From other reports you will know the exact amount of money and supplies contributed by the Auxiliary. I wish also to bring to your notice the fact that I have failed to find a single Unit that has not contributed to this magnificent project. Such a universal effort and accomplishment is certainly worthy of commendation. Probably no other Department has raised the amount of money for any one purpose that has been contributed by the Auxiliary of New York to this Camp. A new phase of this work has been that of maintaining a chaplain at the Camp. This is entirely in addition to the Chapel Fund that is being raised by our members.

In regard to membership, I find that more than 50 per cent of the Unit reports show an increase for this year. In addition there have been 50 new Units organized this year. There is a most substantial increase of members for the Department.

I realize that much of this history will be given in detail and at length by the various committee chairmen and I am trying to be as brief as possible.

It is gratifying to know that every Unit shows marked activity in caring for veterans in hospitals and their families. This is one of the chief reasons for our existence and calls for assistance are readily answered. Many of the Units which are in close proximity to hospitals have more opportunities to serve the veterans, while those farther away have fulfilled their obligation by sending money and supplies through our State Welfare Chairman, who has greatly stimulated our efforts to serve those in need.

One of the questions revealed the fact that many of our Units are not familiar with the new feature of the Department — that of the cradle roll. This is a plan to enroll the baby girls and boys, up to age of five years, of members of the Units as members. Since they cannot take active part in meetings, the plan is to have their names displayed in the club rooms along with the charter.

May I mention just a few of the interesting things done by some of the Units in various parts of the State? One Unit holds a Christmas party for the children of service men.

Another has a get-together dinner, including the Post, its Auxiliary, The Dads' Organization and the members of the Forty and Eight. Some of our members give a reception for Gold Star Mothers. Still another Unit presents a silver cup to each baby born to its members. A Girl Scout troop has been adopted by a Unit and provided with a meeting place and its general welfare promoted. On Memorial and Armistice Days dinners are provided for members of The Legion. I mention these because I have found some Units which were anxious for something definite to do and because the busiest Unit is the most successful.

There is a new branch to our organization which is yet in its infancy. This is the order known as the Eight Chapeaux and Forty Femmes, familiarly called the Eight and Forty. Its primary object is child welfare work, and it is planned so that there can be one organization in each County. Additional information concerning the Eight and Forty will be given during this Convention.

In closing this report I desire to express my appreciation to the Unit officers for their splendid reports and for their hearty cooperation. I am glad to have had the opportunity of helping to establish the Department History.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. Warnock (Kings): I move this report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Isabel Burnham (Chairman, State Finance Committee):

Madam Chairman: The State Finance Committee has met and audited the Treasurer's books before each executive meeting this year and found them to be correct as reported.

The final audit was made Wednesday, September 3, 1924, and the balance on hand of \$1,003.29, as reported by the State Treasurer, was found to be correct.

Mrs. Pritchard (New York): I move the report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. P. L. Ryan (Chairman, Resolutions Committee): Madam Chairman, Members and Delegates of The American Legion Auxiliary assembled in Convention: I have the pleasure to submit the following resolutions as given to me and their approval and disapproval as decided by your Committee:

Whereas, Both The American Legion and the Auxiliary have on numerous occasions expressed themselves in favor of adequate preparedness; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention pledge its unqualified support to Defense Test Day, September 12, 1924, and its proper observance, and calls upon its membership throughout the State to participate in the ceremonies incident to its observance.

Your Committee approves that. We feel this has been approved throughout the country by The American Legion and we could not do otherwise. I, therefore, move that the report of this Committee be adopted by you. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan:

Whereas, Despite the wide circulation by Units of the pamphlets on the proper display of the American Flag many flags are still hung incorrectly and draped; and

Whereas, We believe that this is due, to a large extent, to a lack of knowledge on the part of professional decorators; be it

Resolved, That the Unit of the James F. Bringel Post No. 456, of The American Legion Auxiliary of Sea Cliff, requests the Department of New York to recommend to the National Department that the Americanism Committee, sometime during its next term, distribute these pamphlets to all the hotels and decorating houses in the United States of America.

I move that the approval of this report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan:

Whereas, The Bonus Bill, as passed by the State of New York, makes no provision for the "Gold Star Mothers and Wives" of ex-service men; and

Whereas, When the Legislature again convenes this matter may be taken up by them and an amendment made to this bill; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That we, the members of the First Judicial District, American Legion Auxiliary, petition the members of the Department of New York, in Convention here assembled, to take the necessary steps to have included in this bill all "Gold Star Mothers and Wives."

I move that this resolution be adopted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan:

"Whereas, There is no provision for an official officers' badge for the County organization of The American Legion Auxiliary in the Emblem Division at National Headquarters; be it, therefore,

Resolved, That this matter be brought to the attention of the National Emblem Division, asking that such a badge be issued for the County organization of The American Legion Auxiliary, and that such badge shall have the same top bar as that of the County organization of the American Legion, and that the ribbon be a blue and white stripe to conform with the top bar.

I move the adoption. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan :

Resolved, That the expenses of the Judicial Chairmen to the National Convention at St. Paul, Minn., September 15 to 19, 1924, and to all future National Conventions, be defrayed by the State Department of The American Legion Auxiliary, and not by the District as heretofore.

This was disapproved by the Committee. Therefore, I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan :

Resolved, That The American Legion Auxiliary of Bronx County is unalterably opposed to any fee being charged for registration of delegates and alternates at this State Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary, held at Alexandria Bay, New York, September 4, 5 and 6, 1924, or at any future Convention of said body.

Mrs. Leffingwell (Schuyler) : I move the resolution be disapproved. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan :

Whereas, There was enacted at the recent sessions of the State Legislature an act authorizing the creation of a debt of the State and the issuance and sale of bonds to provide for the payment of bonuses to honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines of the World War, who were actual residents of the State at the time of their enlistment or induction into the Military or Naval Service of the United States; and

Whereas, There was no provision made for the heirs of those veterans who died prior to February 28, 1924, when this act became a law; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the State Department of The American Legion Auxiliary urge the necessity of the passage of this bill providing for those who were left out of the above entitled act.

I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan :

Whereas, In the World War there were regular and emergency officers in the United States Navy, United States Marine Corps and United States Army; and

Whereas, All of the officers above mentioned, who were disabled in active service, have the privilege of retirement, except the disabled emergency officers of the United States Army; and

Whereas, It is the opinion of The American Legion Auxiliary of the Department of New York in Convention assembled that such discrimination should not exist; therefore, be it

Resolved, That The American Legion Auxiliary of the

Department of New York in Convention assembled hereby record themselves as favoring a law which will grant to disabled emergency officers of the United States Army, who were disabled in active service, the privilege of retirement equal to that now granted to the other officers above mentioned; further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the two Senators for the State of New York and that they be asked to give their active support to the Bursom Bill, S. No. 33; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Congressional delegation for the State of New York and that they be asked to give their active support to the Lineberger Bill, No. 684.

Mrs. Leffingwell: I make a motion the resolution be disapproved. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan:

Be it resolved, That this Unit go on record as not approving the use of Auxiliary money for gifts of any kind to officers, local, State or National, for service rendered; that the funds spent in this way might be used for welfare work.

I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan:

Whereas, The present method of compensating the members of the State Executive Committee at their regular and special meetings has never been equally adjusted; and

Whereas, Some of the officers of such Committee are paid their actual expenses incurred during the time of meeting, while other officers and members receive only railroad fare; therefore, be it

Resolved, That all members of the State Executive Committee be allowed railroad fare and a per diem of eight dollars to defray actual living expenses during the required time of meeting.

I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan:

Whereas, The officers and delegates and members of The American Legion Auxiliary have been so kindly and graciously received and entertained during this time of Convention; and

Whereas, They have enjoyed splendid hospitality; be it Resolved, That the Convention body expresses its appreciation and sincere thanks to the members of the Auxiliary Unit of Alexandria Bay and Jefferson County organization.

I move it be adopted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ryan:

Resolved, That a sincere vote of thanks and appreciation be extended to the Chairman of Convention Arrangements, Mrs. O. B. Eichorn, for extreme courtesy extended the delegates to this Convention through her efficient efforts.

Adopted.

Mrs. Ryan:

Resolved, That the residents of Alexandria Bay receive additional expressions of gratitude from this body for their very generous attitude in opening their homes as a complement to hotel reservations so ably secured by Mrs. L. L. Britton, Chairman of the Housing Committee.

Adopted.

The Chairman: Report of the District Chairmen's elections.

Delegate (New York): Miss Helen M. O'Brien has been elected District Chairman of the First. Mrs. T. R. Pritchard has been elected alternate of the District.

Delegate (Second District): Mrs. A. L. Burnham, of Far Rockaway.

Mrs. Smith (Third District): Miss Julia Holstein, of Rensselaer. Mrs. Clara Wright.

Delegate (Fourth District): Mrs. K. H. Diffendorff. Alternate, Mrs. George Robinson, of Cambridge.

Delegate (Fifth District): The Fifth District will meet immediately after the close of this meeting for election.

Delegate (Sixth District): Mrs. D. R. Reilly, District Chairman, and Mrs. D. A. Silliman, alternate.

Mrs. Paddelford (Seventh District): Mrs. B. Donovan, of Rochester.

Mrs. Keeley (Eighth District): Mrs. M. E. Luke. We didn't elect an alternate.

Delegate (Ninth District): Mrs. M. E. Murphy. No alternate.

The Chairman: May I explain just a word about the Eight and Forty? I wrote to the National President—I can't recall their French names, but I call her president—asking her about information on the Eight and Forty. She gave me quite a bit, and she said, "You have a Unit in New York City; Mrs. Boule understands the work perfectly and she will tell you anything more you want to know about." Afterward I found out there was a Unit in Monroe County. When I was there she told me there was one there. When I was at the Queens County Convention I met Mrs. Boule; I asked her if her daughter would put on an initiation at the State Convention. She said her daughter would not be here, but the Vice-President of the Unit would be here, and they would be very glad to put on an initiation. They are here, prepared to put this initiation on, and they ask any one who wishes to join with them to just stop a moment in the corner until we find a room in the hotel to be assigned to us.

After arriving at the Convention, at our Executive Committee meeting, Mrs. Paddelford told me Monroe was here with their Unit and were going to put on an initiation.

Will you read the Monroe announcement of their meeting?

The Secretary reads the announcement referred to.

The Chairman: The one from New York reads exactly the same, but we haven't received a particular room in the building. You will pardon the explanation of this, but I want to be fair to all, and this is exactly as it is. Both Units will welcome you.

Mrs. Keens has been ill most of the day and she has sent this message to us for us to forgive her for not being here, and at the bottom of the letter she tells us she has received \$25 from the Order of the Gold Star, in meeting assembled here, for the Chaplain Fund.

Mrs. Taylor (Herkimer): Madam Chairman: I make a motion that we have nominations immediately. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Nominations for Department President are in order.

Mrs. Robert Taylor (Herkimer): Madam President and Delegates: I wish to place before you the name of one of our Vice-Presidents for the position of State President. She is known to most of you and to all of you her work is known. She has served as Vice-President this year and prior to that served as District Chairman for the Ninth District for two years and also was the first President of her local Unit.

The reports of the District Chairmen that you have heard have given an account of the work of the Welfare Chairman and the effort has been largely due to the splendid cooperation inspired by this zealous worker of our Auxiliary. She has been the point of contact between the veteran in the hospital and the group of women outside, so anxious to give succor.

The link which joined her with the interest of the service man was formed by the strongest love in life, that of mother for her son, and when that link was broken on the battlefield her love was glorified in service.

Hospitals recognize her capability in the method of approaching those confined. Her District has for four years been a solid unit with her, without a single dissenting voice, and a factor not to be ignored is the fact that those who know her best realize her work.

She is familiar with every phase of the work of our splendid organization. Another advantage is the fact that her home is very near New York and she can be at Headquarters at any time. We are confident that her effort and her work will be inspired solely by devotion to a glorious purpose, that of serving those in need. I am happy to present the name of Mrs. Kathryn Garrison. (Applause.)

Mrs. Mahl (Orange): I second the nomination. We feel Mrs. Garrison, for her service to the Auxiliary for the past three years and her problems and needs for the ex-service man, working as she has for the past seven years, is fully qualified for the duties of President and should receive the hearty support of this delegation.

Mrs. J. S. Little (Schenectady): Madam Chairman: I have the very great honor and pleasure of presenting the name of a woman who is eminently qualified for the position of State Department President. I have known her very efficient work as Chairman of the Fourth District and also her splendid work as Department Vice-President this last year. This candidate has been a very great help and inspiration to me in this past year in my work as District Chairman. I have the very great honor and distinction of presenting the name of Mrs. Clara Ellithorp as President of the Department of New York. (Applause.)

Mrs. Klein (Queens): Madam President and Members of The American Legion Auxiliary: I would like to second the nomination of Mrs. Ellithorp. While Mrs. Ellithorp was District Chairman she organized seven Counties, and we all know what a terrible task that is to try to organize. I think it is harder than anything else. She served as a Unit President for two terms, and ably filled this position last year as Vice-President of the Department of New York, and Mrs. Ellithorp has had the name, and has fully earned it, of fair dealing with all mankind, and, as you know, Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee is no small task. She has served in this capacity with marked capability. It is a well known fact that Mrs. Ellithorp has exceptional executive ability, and it gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of Mrs. Ellithorp. (Applause.)

Mrs. Stone (Queens): Queens would like to second that nomination also.

The Chairman: Nominations for Vice-President.

Mrs. Williams (New York): Madam President: I wish to place in nomination the name of Mrs. T. R. Pritchard, New York County, for the office of Vice-President. New York County, in placing the name of Mrs. Pritchard in nomination, feels that she is fully qualified to fill that office. She has been President of her own local Unit. She has served the District as Chairman for two years and served on important committees in this Department. We feel Mrs. Pritchard is conscientious and will make a very splendid Department officer, and, therefore, I ask the consideration of this Convention assembled for the election of Mrs. T. R. Pritchard as Vice-President of this Department. (Applause.)

Miss O'Brien (Bronx): On behalf of Bronx County I take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mrs. Pritchard, who has ever been faithful in her trust and we feel fully confident that she would be capable of caring for the duties as Vice-Chairman.

Mrs. Cookinham: Madam President and Delegates: I wish to present for your consideration the name of your present Vice-President for Vice-President of the Department for the ensuing year, Mrs. Robert G. Taylor, of Herkimer. Mrs. Taylor is a woman whom you have all had the pleasure of knowing, a woman of convictions that are right. Mrs. Taylor has been unanimously endorsed by the Fifth Judicial District for the office of Vice-President, and it gives me great pleasure to present her name for this office. A position like this demands strong mind, true heart, ready hand, woman sun-crowned, who live above the fog in public duty and in private thinking. I thank you. (Applause.)

Mrs. Murphy (Westchester): Madam President: I take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mrs. Robert Taylor.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Madam Chairman, Members of The American Legion Auxiliary: Two years ago it was my privilege to meet a most wonderful woman, a member of this splendid organization, The American Legion Auxiliary, a woman whom I consider it an honor to know today. She has given of her time and her strength and her means for the benefit of the ex-service men, not only of The American Legion, but to all of our boys. She has won for herself the confidence of our boys, and the Veterans' Bureau say she is too valuable for us to lose. Therefore, I have the privilege and great pleasure to present the name of Maude G. Parkhurst for Vice-President of The American Legion Auxiliary. (Applause.)

Mrs. Wolrad (Cortland): As Chairman of the Sixth District, where all work has been done in unison, the candidate is no stranger to the State. She has been before the public in her wonderful work on the Rehabilitation Committee. I take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mrs. Maude G. Parkhurst for Vice-President.

Mrs. Tucker (Niagara): Western New York feels that the time has come when she should have a division officer in their end of the State. We need it and we feel that we are entitled to it. And I have the honor of presenting to this Convention, for the office of Vice-President, the name of a woman whom I have known and worked with for the past three years and one who has served this Auxiliary faithfully and well. At times, when sickness and death made it almost impossible, she was the first Chairman of the Eighth Judicial District and as a member of the Executive Committee she has had a share in bringing New York State up to its present high standards. So we feel that not only is Western New York entitled to recognition at this Convention, but this woman, who is so well qualified, is entitled to this office. And I take great pleasure in presenting the name of Helene G. Keeley.

Mrs. Fahn (Genesee): Madam Chairman, it gives me pleasure to second Mrs. Keeley's nomination for Vice-President.

Mrs. Sullivan (Ontario): Madam President: For Vice-Presi-

dent I would like to have you consider the name of one of your Past District Chairmen; one who is known as "Mother" throughout her District. Mother Padelford is worthy of support because of her very sincere devotion to the cause and because she has given unselfishly of her time and energy to this work. Mrs. Padelford was the first President of the Canandaigua Unit, and I have been in a position to watch her work for the past three years, and she is considered very capable and efficient. We who know her best appreciate her kindness and her open mindedness and her very good work. She has an indomitable will to succeed in whatever she undertakes, and I know she will wish to give the very best that is in her for the World War veterans through The American Legion Auxiliary. Together with this, she has a personality melled by time and experience which makes her fitted for any office, and I ask you to consider Mrs. Ruth Padelford—I nominate Mrs. Ruth Padelford for Vice-President. (Applause.)

Mrs. Hatch (Steuben): Madam President and Delegates: It is with great pleasure that I second this nomination of Mrs. Padelford. She is a woman so earnest, so conscientious, so capable, that she will be efficient in any work that she undertakes, and she brings to our cause, The American Legion Auxiliary, a wonderful love. You just need to look in her face to know that. And service that grows out of a love of the cause and its ideals is one that spends itself to the utmost, and this is true of our dear Mrs. Padelford. And then, besides, you know her name is "Ruth," and like the Ruth of old she certainly brings a true devotion to the work. She is capable, she is efficient and she is experienced in the work, and so I heartily endorse and wish to second this nomination of Mrs. Padelford.

The Chairman: The next officer, according to your Constitution and By-Laws, to be elected or nominated is your Department Chaplain. Nominations are in order.

Mrs. Reddall (Monroe): Madam Chairman: I nominate Mrs. Ann Seymour. (Applause.)

Delegate (New York): I second the nomination.

The Chairman: Your nominations now for delegates-at-large to the National Convention.

The Chairman: Nominations are in order for the delegates-at-large to the National Convention.

Miss Byers (Jefferson): I wish to present the name of Mrs. Reed, of Philadelphia, Jefferson County, as delegate-at-large. Mrs. Reed has been President of Jefferson County for the past year and the women coming in contact with her appreciate her ability and the sincerity of her intent.

Mrs. Garrison (Orange): Madam Chairman: Due to the splendid entertainment from Jefferson County, I think Mrs. Reed

is entitled to the vote of this delegation. Therefore, I second the nomination of Mrs. Reed as delegate-at-large.

Mrs. Curry: I take pleasure in presenting the name of our retiring District Chairman, Clara B. Smith, as delegate-at-large. We feel she is well fitted to serve as a representative of her State at the National Convention.

Mrs. Lamont (Albany): Seconds the nomination of Mrs. Clara B. Smith.

Mrs. Ryan (Onondaga): I wanted the floor to move the nine District Chairmen and officers go the same as last year. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. McIntosh: I place in nomination Mrs. Ann Seymour as a delegate to the National Convention:

Mrs. Leffingwell: I take pleasure in seconding that nomination.

Mrs. Gallagher (Monroe): I place in nomination the name of Mrs. Peter L. Ryan, of Syracuse, whose work in behalf of The American Legion Auxiliary is known to all of you.

Mrs. Pritchard (New York): I would like to second that nomination.

Mrs. Mills: Seconds the nomination.

Mrs. Stenstrum (Kings): I would like to place in nomination the name of Mrs. Warnock, of Kings, for delegate-at-large.

Delegate: I would like to place in nomination the name of the Steuben County Chairman, Mrs. Hatch.

Mrs. Sullivan (Ontario): Madam Chairman: I'd like to nominate Mrs. Ruth Sanny as delegate-at-large.

Mrs. Walker (Niagara): Nominates Mrs. Leiber as delegate-at-large to the National Convention.

The session adjourned at 11:40 (daylight saving time) on Friday evening.

The Fourth Session of the Convention was called to order Saturday morning, September 6th, at 10:20.

Mrs. K. A. Burtch (Chairman, Credentials Committee): Madam Chairman and Ladies: Total, 330; voting strength, 439; with 90 alternates, making the total registration 420.

Mrs. Altman (Buffalo): I move it be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp:

In the Department Convention each Unit organized shall be entitled to one delegate and one alternate for the first ten

paid-up members, and one additional delegate and alternate for each additional fifty members or major fraction thereof, paid up thirty days prior to the date of the Convention.

This is new, the following:

The President of a Unit, by virtue of her office, shall become the first delegate. A Unit entitled to additional delegates shall elect such delegates and one alternate for each accredited delegate.

That is new. You understand, if you elect your President, by virtue of her office, if you have four delegates to elect you must elect four alternates.

Such election shall be held at a regular or special meeting of the Unit to be held not less than two weeks before the Department Convention. Each Auxiliary will be required to pay the expenses of its delegates to the Department Convention.

The only change in this amendment is that it provides that the President of a Unit shall be elected the first delegate to the State Convention. Many believe a President shall be so recognized. This amendment to the Constitution was approved by the Committee. I move its adoption. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 4, Article V, Section 6.

The President shall appoint all necessary committees. All expenditures, except those ordered and approved by the Department Convention, shall require the approval of the Executive Committee. A bond shall be required and provided to cover all persons handling funds of the Department. The Executive Committee shall have the power to remove any appointed official for just cause.

The Committee on Constitution moves to adopt this amendment. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 5; amend Article VI, Section 1:

Such Judicial District members shall be designated as District Chairmen for the District she represents.

Mrs. Padelford (Ontario): Madam Chairman: I move that the article be read as printed in our present Constitution and then the amendment follows. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Article VI, Section 1, page 5, of the Constitution:

Such Judicial District members shall be designated as District Chairmen for the District she represents.

Then to amend Section 3 by substituting "Presiding Officer" for the word "Chair." Do you all find that? Substituting the words "Presiding Officer" for the word "Chair."

The Committee on Constitution approved this amendment and I move its adoption. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 5, Article VII, Section 1. All the change in that amendment is: "In a county where two or more Units are organized."

I move to disapprove. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Section 3, Article VII. The amended Section 3 to read:

Two or more adjacent Counties not otherwise entitled to a County organization may, with the approval of the Department Executive Committee, consolidate and organize a County Executive Committee as described herein.

The Committee on Constitution voted to disapprove. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 7, Article IX, Section 3; amended to read:

The Department Convention [that is new] or the Department Executive Committee may by a two-thirds vote levy an assessment on the membership not to exceed twenty-five cents per member. Any assessment thus ordered shall be paid by the Auxiliary Units within sixty days after an official notification.

The Committee moves to adopt this amendment. I move you accept. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 11, Article VII. We are adding a new section. The Committee voted to add a new Section 2 and the section that is here now moved to Section 3. Added section:

The President shall preside at the Department Convention and at all meetings of the Executive Committee. She shall appoint all committees, sign all warrants on the Treasurer for disbursement of any and all Department funds, and perform all other duties inherent with her office not contrary to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Department.

This section is new and describes the duties of the President. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 12; amend section 4; add in the twelfth line, after "organization":

She shall issue and sign all warrants on the Treasurer for the disbursements of its funds, as directed by the Department Convention or the Executive Committee.

That is added after the word "organization." That is all new. The Committee approved this added amendment and I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Approved.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Article VII, Section 4; after the word "annually":

She shall disburse the Department funds only upon proper

warrants issued by the Secretary and President, as directed by the Executive Committee or the Department Convention. That is new.

She shall give a sufficient surety bond as approved by the Executive Committee for the faithful performance of her duties as Department Treasurer.

The Committee on Constitution approved this amendment. I move the adoption. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 13, By-Laws; amend Article 8, Section 1; add after "Constitution" in the fifth line:

A District Chairman and one Vice-Chairman representing each Judicial District shall be elected [that is new, just that one portion] by the delegates to the Department Convention representing such district, at a meeting to be held "during the Annual Department Convention" [that is new] and prior to the close of its sessions. A District Chairman shall exercise supervision over all County organizations and the Auxiliary Units in her respective district. They shall hold office until the close of the next Department Convention and the election of their successors.

The Committee on Constitution voted to approve this amendment. I move the adoption. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Section 4, page 13; this Section 4 has been amended to read:

The President shall appoint Department Standing Committees on Finance, Legislation, Membership, Publicity, Rehabilitation, Welfare and Hospitalization, and such others as she may deem advisable to conform with the standing committees of The American Legion. She shall also appoint special committees as necessity requires.

It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to audit the books of all financial officers at the end of the fiscal year and at such other times as may be necessary. The Secretary or Treasurer shall not be appointed on the Finance Committee.

The Committee on Constitution moved to approve this amendment. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 14; add Section 6:

The President by virtue of her office shall be a member ex-officio of all committees.

This last section is in accordance with the National By-Laws. The Committee on Constitution approved this. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Page 15; amend Article X; add section to read [there are three sections; this is a proposed section]:

Units shall hold regular meetings at least once each month on the day and hour provided in their By-Laws. An annual

meeting for election of officers shall be held during the month of December of each year.

This section to the amendment is new and it designates the fiscal year, the annual meeting of all Units and prescribes a regular monthly meeting shall be held. This in our judgment is necessary.

The Committee on Constitution approved this amendment. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Add Section 5 to read:

The financial fiscal year for all Auxiliary Units shall begin January 1st and end December 31st.

The Committee approved this amendment. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp:

That the Unit of which the County Chairman is a member shall elect her as a delegate to the State Convention.

That the County defray the expenses of the County Chairman to the State Convention, but only in the event of her personal attendance at same.

That the County Chairman be the spokesman of the County delegation to the State Convention. In the event of her inability to attend a spokesman to be elected from the delegates prior to the convening of the Convention.

In my report as Chairman of the Constitution yesterday I stated that the Executive Committee at their meeting in Utica voted that the Committee on Constitution draft By-Laws for County organization. In my report at the Executive Committee I stated that due to the fact that our own By-Laws and Constitution as well as the national were liable to be changed this month we decided to wait until after the annual Convention and have the State President appoint her Committee on Constitution and By-Laws and then take up this. Therefore, the Committee on Constitution in session yesterday voted to refer this to the new Committee on Constitution and By-Laws. I move the adoption of the report by the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp:

Whereas, At the present time only ladies whose relatives are members of The American Legion or who died in the World War are eligible for membership in the Auxiliary, and

Whereas, A large number of women otherwise qualified by relationship to ex-service men are thereby barred from service and membership in the Auxiliary; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention take suitable steps to the end that the National Convention of the Auxiliary makes such changes in its Constitution and By-Laws as will permit election to membership in the Auxiliary all ladies suitably quali-

fied by relationship to ex-service men irrespective of The Legion membership of those ex-service men.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws voted to disapprove. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp :

Section 2. The Department Secretary shall be appointed by the Department President subject to the approval of the Department Executive Committee.

The Committee voted to approve. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp :

Section 3. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding Department Convention, and thereafter, until their successors are chosen. Vacancies occurring between Department Conventions shall be filled by the Department Executive Committee.

The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws voted to approve this amendment. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp :

Section 5. All past Department Presidents shall be members for life of the Executive Committee without vote, and shall also be life delegates to the Department Convention with vote. This does not apply to any individual not a member of a local unit in good standing.

The Committee voted to approve. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp :

The Department Executive Committee in regular session at Alexandria Bay, September 3, 1924, ruled as follows :

That only duly elected delegates and alternates, properly segregated, shall sit in District caucuses.

That only duly elected delegates shall be eligible for election to the office of District Chairman.

This is a section added to No. 5, Article IV, page 3. The Committee on Constitution and By-Laws voted to approve. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp :

Whereas, There is no provision in the Constitution and By-Laws of our State Department as to where the Auxiliary State Headquarters shall be; therefore, be it

Resolved, That there be an amendment to said Constitution and By-Laws to the effect that

The Headquarters of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, be located in the same town or city as that of The American Legion, State Department, and its offices be in the same edifice.

The Committee moved to adopt this. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Ellithorp: As Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee I move the adoption of the entire report. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: We will proceed to the election of officers. The Secretary will read the names of the tellers and will they please come to the front here at this table?

The Secretary: Mrs. Labdell, Miss Frances Wain, Mrs. R. Smith.

Mrs. Pritchard (Chairman, First District): Madam Chairman, before we proceed with the election, may I give another report of my District about the poppies? One delegate arrived this morning and stated that General Lafayette Police Post Auxiliary turned in \$10 from the Poppy Sale. (Applause.)

Mrs. Padelford: Madam Chairman, as long as corrections have been allowed, may I make just one on my report on Memorial. The Memorial report stated yesterday that Center Falls had a Memorial Hospital. That should be corrected. Waterloo has the Memorial Hospital in Sullivan County.

The Secretary: The nominees for President, Mrs. E. B. Garrison and Mrs. R. L. Ellithorp.

At this point the Secretary calls the roll by County for the vote on President.

Teller: Mrs. Garrison, 232; Mrs. Ellithorp, 198.

Mrs. Ellithorp (interposing): Madam Chairman, I would like to move that the vote for Mrs. Garrison be made unanimous. (Applause.) Carried.

At this point the Secretary calls the roll by County for the vote on Vice-Presidents.

Teller: Madam Chairman: Taylor, 365; Parkhurst, 310; Pritchard, 265; Padelford, 189; Keeley, 151; totaling, 1,280 votes.

The Secretary: The three highest therefore are Mrs. Taylor, Mrs. Parkhurst and Mrs. Pritchard. (Applause.)

At this point Mrs. P. L. Ryan assumes the Chair.

The Chairman: It is in order now to elect your Chaplain. As there is only one nomination for Chaplain it is perfectly in order for you to direct your Secretary by motion to cast a ballot for that person.

Mrs. Ellithorp: I move the Secretary cast one ballot for Mrs. Seymour for Department Chaplain. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Secretary: The next order of business is the election of your four delegates-at-large to the National Convention.

Mrs. C. D. Reed, Mrs. Clara B. Smith, Mrs. Ann Seymour, Mrs. P. L. Ryan, Mrs. Warnock, Mrs. Hatch, Mrs. Ransom and Mrs. Sanny.

There was a motion made last night that the four receiving the highest number of votes be the delegates and the next four the alternates. Is that thoroughly understood?

The alternate with the highest vote, as I understand, will be the alternate to the delegate with the highest vote. The alternate with the highest number of votes will be the first alternate called upon to serve and so on down in the order elected.

Mrs. Nobee (Queens): I feel, as in the past, the State President should be our National Executive Committee woman. I therefore wish to ask that Mrs. Garrison be made the National Executive Committeewoman of New York. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mrs. McIntosh (Nassau): Mrs. Ransom, our Department Secretary and Treasurer, our own Ella B. from Nassau County. This is just a slight token of love and esteem from Nassau County for our faithful little Secretary of the Department of New York. She has been a very valuable asset to the Department and to The Legion Auxiliary at large. (Applause.)

Mrs. Ransom: Those that know me best know my failing for talking and would laugh if I were to say I was at a loss for words. But I am. It is a complete surprise and a great pleasure; I do want to thank the members of my County for their thought. I have tried to serve them to the best of my ability. Thank you.

The Chairman: May I show you a little picture for a moment? One night in the room of your Department President in New York in the Hotel Pennsylvania a little girl that you have seen a great deal of and heard a great deal about and from was sitting in the rocking chair, rocking. We were talking about presents, gifts, pins, and she was telling me she bought me something. Finally she said: "Isn't it funny nobody never gave me nothing." And I thought what a pretty postal that would make, of this little girl sitting in the rocking chair with a kimona on—"Nobody gave me nothing." And it set me thinking. We often forget who gets all the knocks when things go wrong. The Secretary. Who does all the work—the Secretary. So in behalf of this Convention assembled, Ella, we wish to present you with this little token of our love and appreciation. (Applause.)

Mrs. Ransom: I don't know where she ever got that English from. (Laughter.) They say a good officer never contradicts her

superiors. I don't remember saying it. But if I did I will not take it back, but get credit for it or discredit, either one. I can't say thank you in good enough words I am sure. But I do appreciate this very, very much.

The Chairman: Mrs. Le Mon, the President of the Auxiliary for Orange Unit No. 30. It has been said that no matter what we do, back of it all you will find a little bit of a selfish motive. Increased membership in The American Legion Auxiliary means increased interest and enthusiasm. Fair competition is the spice of life and the basis of unusual success. With this in mind, your Department President offered a rotating cup to the Department to be presented each year to the Unit showing the greatest increase in membership over their total at the preceding Convention. The contest to close April 30th. We are all like children about many things and one of them is that we enjoy remuneration for things we do. There is always a greater incentive to do things and really accomplish if there is something to repay us, something tangible in the end.

This cup is not given to repay you for the hard work you did in increasing membership but that we as an organization may show our sincere appreciation for your splendid success.

To the members of Fort Orange Auxiliary, it gives me great pleasure in behalf of the Department of New York to present you our cup. Your efforts have won our admiration and our gratitude and if perchance clouds come to you during the year you have this bit of silver for the lining.

To the Units who worked so hard and were so faithful in this drive we say God bless you and better luck next time, and to you, Fort Orange, watch your step, there is another year coming. (Applause.)

The President of Fort Orange Unit is presented with the Department Cup.

Mrs. Le Mon (President, Fort Orange Auxiliary Unit No. 30): Madam President, it is a wonderful thing to accomplish what you work for. I have not only worked for the cup, I have worked for the members. But I hope when I bring back the cup to my Unit they will appreciate it as much as I have. Thank you. (Applause.)

Mrs. Garrison (Department Vice-President): Mrs. Hutch, President of Binghamton Unit.

Delegates, the Department of New York offered an emblem, our official emblem to the Unit gaining the most members in a given length of time from July 10th to August 4th. Binghamton Unit gained sixty-five members in that length of time. Mrs. Hutch, in presenting — and I am doing it by proxy, please — in presenting this lamp in behalf of the Department of New York, I hope you will keep its meaning as bright as the light that shines from it.

The point of the star of service study well and may each new member that has brought this emblem to you be ever faithful to the obligation they have taken and in behalf of the Department of New York I place the lamp in your custody as President of the Unit.

Mrs. Hooks (President, Binghamton Auxiliary Unit No. 80): Mrs. Garrison, Officers and Delegates: Just for one second place yourselves in my position and I feel sure that you will all agree I have every reason to be exceedingly proud and happy, privileged, and I deem it a great privilege to be one of the nearly 13,000 women in this State banded together to participate in and to contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion. Our success is due entirely to the loyal support and cooperation of my officers, the members and the members of the Post. On behalf of The American Legion of Binghamton Post I most heartily thank you for this highly appreciated, greatly appreciated and prized lamp. And I trust its light may be a beacon to attract many into our glorious work. I thank you.

Teller: The vote is as follows for the delegates-at-large:

Mrs. Seymour, 391; Mrs. Ransom, 276; Mrs. Ryan, 273; Mrs. Smith, 218; Mrs. Reed, 181; Mrs. Hatch, 138; Mrs. Sanny, 132, and Mrs. Warnock, 130. The total vote was 1,739.

The Secretary: The four delegates therefore are Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. Ransom, Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Smith. The four alternates are Mrs. Reed, Mrs. Hatch, Mrs. Sanny and Mrs. Warnock in the order named.

The Chairman: We have now unfinished business, report of Finance Committee, cooperation, legislation, installation of officers.

Delegate: I move we adjourn. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Fifth Session of the Convention was called to order Saturday afternoon, September 6th, at 3:30.

The Chairman: The Convention will come to order.

Mrs. Bell (Nassau): Madam Chairman, in the event that Mrs. Ransom, our State Secretary, is reappointed for the coming year and therefore becomes a delegate to the National Convention according to our Constitution, I would like to move you that the alternate receiving the highest number of votes take her place as delegate to the National Convention. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: And Mrs. Reed of Jefferson County will be that delegate. She is a member of the Convention Committee and has done such wonderful work and has made this Convention possible.

Mrs. Isabel Burnham (Chairman, Convention Finance Committee): Madam Chairman, your Finance Committee of the Convention has met and after carefully comparing the budget as ac-

cepted by the last Convention with the Treasurer's final report of this year I beg to submit to you for your approval the following budget for the next administration (Mrs. Burnham reads the budget referred to):

Mrs. Burnham: Miscellaneous we have left blank because it is impossible to compute those.

The gross income of the Auxiliary for the current year was used as a basis in preparing the above budget. Per capita tax for the year for 13,000 members at 50 cents per member, making a gross income of \$6,500. And this has been signed by all the members of the Finance Committee. And they have had much to do in considering the Treasurer's report. I found they were as well versed in it as I was myself and move that it be adopted. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: We now have the pleasure of hearing Dr. Lloyd. He needs no introduction to us. (Applause.)

Dr. Lloyd read the same report as at the corporation meeting.

The Chairman: We certainly do appreciate your coming here and giving us this first-hand news. We thank you so much, Dr. Lloyd.

Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please retire the colors? Stand, please.

The Convention rises as the colors are retired.

The Convention is seated.

At this point Mrs. Adrean, newly elected President for New York State of the Order of the Gold Star, is presented to the Convention.

The Convention arises amid applause and is seated.

The Chairman: The Chairmen of some of the Districts have not been announced. The Chairman of the Fifth District, Mrs. H. J. Cookinham, Jr., of Utica.

The Secretary: Your Department President has just received a note from Mrs. Altman. You heard Dr. Barrett speak of the honor conferred upon Mrs. Altman as being the State President of the Quinquennial Council which is soon to be held in Washington. Here is a note which after it is read, with your permission, I will hand to your incoming President for consideration:

In view of the coming National Convention and a pressing call feel it advisable to have the National American Legion Auxiliary take special action and instruct the Departments as to their participation in the Sixth Quinquennial. The hour is so late I fear my appeal would be of little value. Thanking your for your courtesy and greetings at this late hour, I am Sincerely.

Mrs. Ellithorp: Madam President, while at the luncheon table this noontime I was asked to make a presentation to you. It was my privilege last year to present Jane Keens with a gift from her staff of officers. There are four lines which have always impressed me very much that read this way:

The thing that goes the farthest
Toward making life worth while,
That costs the least, that does the most
Is just a pleasant smile. (Applause.)

This year, Madam President, you have always had a kind word and a pleasant smile for your official family. We have enjoyed working under your executive ability for The American Legion through its Auxiliary. We hope that we have made you happy in our efforts to please you. You certainly have been a credit and an honor to yourself and to the Auxiliary to which you belong. Please accept this slight token from the members of your family with their love and best wishes. (Applause.)

Madam President — for the last time I have that privilege of addressing you as such — may you wear this gift in good health and happiness and may it always be a pleasant reminder of your duties as President of the Department of New York, The American Legion Auxiliary. (Applause.)

Motion made, seconded and carried that a message of greeting be sent to Mrs. Lyman, National President of the Order of the Gold Star, at New York City.

The Secretary escorts the newly elected officers to the platform.

The Secretary: Madam President, it is my privilege to present to you the newly elected Department officers.

The Chairman: My sisters you have been chosen to fill the various offices of this Department. You will, I know, vindicate the trust that has been reposed in you and fulfill in every way the obligation that trust entails. You will at once familiarize yourselves with the duties your particular offices carry with them and you must know the welfare and success of this Department depends upon you and you must know also that upon your shoulders rests the burden of preserving the integrity of The American Legion Auxiliary. You must protect its good name before the people of the United States; you must exalt it in their eyes. You must make them know as we now know, its purposes and its policy. Ever remember the spirit that animates The American Legion Auxiliary. Allow no distinction of class or creed to appear in this Department. There is no rank among us for each serves as the equal of her sister and all strive together for the same goal, which is the realization in the life of the Republic of the ideals of justice, freedom, democracy and loyalty.

You will now raise your right hands and repeat after me, giving

your names—I (name), do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office I am about to assume.

Mrs. Garrison, will you step to the President's chair?

My sisters, I present to you the officers of your choice. I congratulate you upon the selection you have made and now that you have chosen them to guide the destinies of this Department it is your duty to aid in every way to help keep The American Legion Auxiliary an organization of free women, faithful to its principles and its ideal.

And to you, I extend the congratulations of the Department of New York and wish you well as you assume the duties of your office.

At this point Mrs. Ann Seymour presents the gavel to Mrs. Garrison, newly elected Department President and Mrs. Garrison officially assumes the chair.

The Chairman: In accepting the gavel of the Department of New York I want to say, and after renewing my pledge as a member and President of this Department, I want to say I will live up to the obligations that I have taken and also want to say that I have always wanted girls in my family but I never expected quite such a big family all at once. I have been used to mothering boys and I do hope I can mother girls. But I cannot do it without the support of every one and I am positive that you will give me your support as you have given it to the Presidents in the past.

The Convention arises amid applause and is seated.

The Chairman: If there is nothing more to come before the meeting, this Convention will stand adjourned.

We will have a meeting of the executive body immediately, just as quick as we can get together, because our train leaves I think—I don't know just what time—but soon enough.

May I see the Committee just a very few minutes?

The Sixth Annual Convention adjourned sine die, Saturday afternoon, September 6th, at 5:20 o'clock.

APPENDIX B

Summary of Legislation Affecting ex-Service Men Through the Session of the Legislature of 1924

Until The American Legion was formed, practically no legislation of value to veterans of the World War was enacted in New York State. At the State Convention held at Rochester in the fall of 1919, a resolution providing for the standing Legislative Committee was adopted, and such committee has been functioning from that time and has been able to secure more legislation beneficial for the ex-service men than has been obtained in any other State.

In this summary the laws are given alphabetically for convenience sake. There are also included for historical reference those matters of legislation which have been declared unconstitutional by the Courts.

AMERICAN FLAG, IMPROPER USE OF:

Using the American Flag for a receptacle for the placing, depositing or collecting of money or any other article is a misdemeanor. (Ch. 428, Laws of 1921.)

Making it a misdemeanor to raffle or pawn the American Flag. (Ch. 276, Laws of 1924.)

BENEVOLENT ORDERS:

Including The American Legion among the lists of corporations receiving the benefit of the Benevolent Orders Law. (Chap. 245, Laws of 1924.)

Including The American Legion in the list of Benevolent Orders. (Ch. 604, Laws of 1924.)

BONUS:

A referendum was passed appropriating \$45,000,000 to pay the veterans of the World War a bonus of \$10 per month. (Ch. 972, Laws of 1920.) This referendum received a favorable majority of over 800,000. The Commission for the payment of this bonus was provided for by Chapter 315, Laws of 1921, and the sum of \$25,000,000 was made immediately available by Chapter 344, Laws of 1921. However, thereafter the Court of Appeals declared the bonus bond issue to be unconstitutional. Counsel for The American Legion appeared with the Attorney-General on behalf of the constitutionality of the issue.

The Legislatures of 1922 and 1923 passed a resolution, providing for a Constitutional Amendment, which was approved by the people at the election in 1923, giving the Legislature the right to vote a bond issue for the payment of a bonus to World War veterans, without submitting the bond issue to the people for approval. This bond issue was voted by the 1924 Legislature.

Providing for the issuance of \$45,000,000 in bonds for the payment of a bonus of \$10 a month to World War veterans, with a maximum of \$150 to any veteran. (Ch. 19, Laws of 1924.)

CIVIL SERVICE:

Martin-Baumes Resolution for an absolute preference to veterans of all wars passed the Legislatures of 1919 and 1921, but was defeated at the referendum to the people in 1921.

Officers and employees of the State who entered Federal military or naval service without consent of the Governor and who received honorable discharges are entitled to the same rights and privileges conferred on those who received the Governor's consent to enter the Federal service. (Ch. 288, Laws of 1920.)

The time spent in military service by any officer or employee of the Civil Service of this State, Counties or Municipalities shall be considered as part of the term of Civil Service entitling such officer or employee to any pension, privilege or immunity. (Ch. 266, Laws of 1920.)

Civil service employees who while in the military or naval forces of the United States were unable to take promotion examinations are given the right to take such examinations upon their return, and upon passing are to be given the medium amount of salary provided for such grade and shall be preferred for any appointment or promotion made in such grade in the Department. (Ch. 282, Laws of 1920; Ch. 589, Laws of 1921.)

The Court of Appeals in the case of *Barthelmeß v. Cukor*, 231 New York, 435, declared this law to be unconstitutional.

Leave of absence to officers or employees of the State or municipalities who are in the National Guard or Naval Militia are granted when such men are engaged in military or naval duty, and during such absence they are to receive the difference between their military pay and that received from the State or municipalities. (Ch. 624, Laws of 1920.)

Officers and employees in the State who entered the Federal Military service without procuring the consent of the Governor and were honorably discharged are granted such part of their salary or compensation paid during their military service notwithstanding the failure to procure such consent of the Governor. (Ch. 630, Laws of 1920, and Ch. 590, Laws of 1921.)

Veterans of the Civil War or World War in the Public Buildings Department who shall have been employed for a continuous period of at least five years and shall have reached the age of seventy years are to be retired on one-half pay. (Ch. 638, Laws of 1920.)

Where physical examination is required for original appointment or promotion in Civil Service, the examination is waived in case of World War veterans suffering from disability resulting from service where such disability does not prevent the veteran from efficiently performing his duty. (Ch. 750, Laws of 1920.)

Veterans of the World War, together with veterans of other wars in which the United States took part, are given a preference in retention in State and Municipal Civil Service positions, and provision is made for transferring such veteran to another department where position is abolished. (Ch. 833, Laws of 1920.)

World War veterans employed in the Adjutant-General's Office for ten years are to be retired on one-half pay on reaching the age of seventy years. (Ch. 843, Laws of 1920.)

Civil Service employees who resigned their positions on entering Federal military service may be restored to their original positions upon application made in one year from the date of their discharge. (Ch. 652, Laws of 1921.)

A person in the Federal military service who was notified of his appointment to a position in the State or Municipal Civil Service and was prevented from accepting such appointment, but was subsequently appointed, the time between the first appointment of any person to such position and the veteran's subsequent appointment shall be considered as part of the term of Civil Service entitling such veteran to any pension, privilege or immunity except compensation for such period. (Ch. 654, Laws of 1921.)

Absolute preference granted to disabled veterans on original appointment and further preference is given veterans over non-veterans receiving the same mark. (Ch. 702, Laws of 1921.) (This section comes within the Barthelmess case and is now considered unconstitutional.)

State and Municipal employees, members of the Military, Naval or Marine Reserve granted a leave of absence with pay when called for active duty, such leave not to exceed more than thirty days in any one year. (Ch. 458, Laws of 1923.)

Honorable service in the armed forces during times of war may be considered in the rating of members of the New York City Police Department on promotion examinations. (Ch. 625, Laws of 1923.)

The Police and Fire Commissioners of New York City are given the right to rehear charges of those who were dismissed or resigned to enter the Military Service of the United States during the World War. (Ch. 783, Laws of 1923.)

Those receiving Civil Service promotion or increases in salary for 1920 because of conditions caused by the World War and who have served in such higher grade for three years shall upon passing an examination be given permanent positions and seniority rating from the date of entry into service. (Ch. 876, Laws of 1923.)

Providing that disabled veterans, having completed a four-year course under the Veterans' Bureau, may be entitled to take examination for architect without the five years' experience in an architect's office, ordinarily required. (Ch. 244, Laws of 1924.)

Providing that in examinations for promotion in the Civil Service, honorable service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Army Nurse Corps may be considered as an item of credit. (Ch. 632, Laws of 1924.)

Providing that time spent in any vocational school of the United States Veterans' Bureau shall be credited as experience in training in all Civil Service examinations in the State. (Ch. 634, Laws of 1924.)

Providing that persons on eligible Civil Service list who were disabled in Federal military service shall be entitled to have his name certified on the eligible list for appointment for a period of two years from the date of his final release from hospital or vocational school. (Ch. 635, Laws of 1924.)

DISCHARGES RECORDED:

The discharge of any honorably discharged soldier, sailor or marine may be recorded in the County Clerk's Office and a certified copy thereof is considered sufficient in lieu of the original for all purposes of this State. (Ch. 214, Laws of 1920.)

Providing for this recording to be done without the payment of any fee. (Ch. 283, Laws of 1922.)

ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE:

Any one convicted of violation of the Selective Service Act can never hold public office in the State of New York. (Ch. 180, Laws of 1922.)

HEADSTONES FOR GRAVES AND RECORD OF GRAVES:

The grave of any veteran who dies without leaving means to defray expenses of a headstone shall have a headstone. Application should be made to the County Treasurer.

The amount of fifty dollars for a headstone, as set forth in chapter 199 of the Laws of 1920, has been increased to seventy-five dollars by chapter 522 of the Laws of 1921.

The City of New York, as well as the Boards of Supervisors in each county, may appropriate funds for the burial of ex-service men, the maximum of such expenses to be one hundred dollars. (Ch. 484, Laws of 1923.)

Providing that the Adjutant-General shall keep a record of the burial place, within the State, of all those who served in military or naval forces of the United States. (Ch. 290, Laws of 1924.)

HISTORIANS:

Cities, towns and villages authorized to appoint local historians and publish history and records relating to World War. (Chs. 381 and 634, Laws of 1921.)

HOSPITAL FOR SHELL-SHOCKED VETERANS:

The sum of \$3,000,000 was appropriated for the purpose of erecting a hospital in the Borough of Queens, to be used by the Federal Government in the care and treatment of New York State veterans suffering from mental diseases. This hospital was to be leased to the Federal Government for a period of ten years at the annual rental of 10 per cent of its cost. (Ch. 893, Laws of 1920.)

The State authorities had plans prepared and were ready to

proceed, but the Federal officials then refused to sign the contract which had been drawn up in accordance with their suggestions.

World War veterans admitted to the Kings Park Hospital under suggestions laid down by The American Legion. (Ch. 420, Laws of 1922.)

One and a half million dollars was appropriated for the construction of a State Military Memorial Hospital at Kings Park, to be used solely for the care and treatment of World War veterans. (Ch. 144, Laws of 1923.)

Providing for an additional appropriation of \$1,500,000 for the completion of the State Military Memorial Hospital at Kings Park. (Ch. 70, Laws of 1924.)

INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS:

Providing for the instruction in the history and meaning of the Constitution of the United States in all public schools beginning in the eighth grade. (Ch. 64, Laws of 1924.)

Providing for instruction in the schools of the proper use and display of the flag. (Ch. 525, Laws of 1924.)

Also a joint resolution directing the Commissioner of Education to investigate the history text-books used in this State and make his reports thereon to the 1925 Legislature.

LOYALTY TEST FOR TEACHERS:

Every teacher in New York State must obtain a certificate of qualifications which shall show that such teacher is loyal to the government of the United States and to the State of New York, and has never advocated a change in our form of government by violence or any unlawful means.

After January 1, 1922, no one can be a teacher in the State without that certificate. (Ch. 666, Laws of 1921.)

No alien may be a teacher in schools of this State without having made application to become a citizen and thereafter having consummated his citizenship. (Ch. 315, Laws of 1922.)

MEDALS:

Where any New York State service medal has been lost the Adjutant-General is empowered to issue a duplicate. (Ch. 219, Laws of 1920.)

A conspicuous service cross is awarded to all New York State veterans who received citations during the World War. (Ch. 627, Laws of 1920.)

A suitable service ribbon for New York State veterans of the World War was authorized. (Ch. 142, Laws of 1921.)

Any one not a member of The American Legion who wears the Legion emblem is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Ch. 42, Laws of 1921.)

(This has been construed by the Attorney-General to mean that any one who has not paid his dues by the time provided for by The Legion authorities has no right to wear The Legion emblem.)

Any person who fraudulently wears any badge, insignia, clasp,

rosette or button issued by the United States, the State of New York or our allies during the World War, is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Ch. 143, Laws of 1921.)

MEMORIALS AND MEMORIAL BUILDINGS:

Municipalities and monument associations are allowed to acquire land for erecting monuments or other structures as a memorial to veterans of the United States. (Ch. 380, Laws of 1920.)

Counties are allowed to appropriate funds for erection of public monuments or other structures in commemoration of those who served in the military or naval forces of the United States. (Ch. 391, Laws of 1920.)

Soldiers' monument corporations are allowed to be formed under the Membership Corporations Law. (Ch. 506, Laws of 1921.)

Town and village boards may acquire land and erect memorial buildings in commemoration of the services of veterans of the World War at a cost not to exceed 1 per cent of the assessed value of such town or village. (Ch. 616, Laws of 1920.)

The sum of \$100,000 was appropriated for fitting up a flag room in the State Capitol at Albany. (Ch. 668, Laws of 1920.)

The county Boards of Supervisors are allowed to appropriate money for the erection of monuments or memorials in commemoration of the veterans of any war. (Ch. 283, Laws of 1921.)

Cities and counties are allowed to construct and maintain memorial buildings, parks or monuments in commemoration of the veterans of any war. (Ch. 421, Laws of 1921.)

Granting of land in Bronx County for a memorial to World War veterans. (Ch. 474, Laws of 1923.)

Allowing town and village boards to acquire lots and erect memorial buildings in honor of the veterans and veteran associations of any war, and allowing such boards to issue bonds for such purposes. (Ch. 286, Laws of 1924.)

Allowing counties to issue bonds for the erection and maintenance of memorials in commemoration of the veterans of any war in which this country has taken part. (Ch. 523, Laws of 1924.)

MEMORIAL DAY:

Town boards are allowed to appropriate \$75 for observance of Memorial Day by The Legion, and in towns of over 5,000 inhabitants, \$100; in towns of over 10,000 inhabitants, \$200. (Ch. 360, Laws of 1920.)

In the City of New York the Board of Estimate and Apportionment may provide for whatever sum it deems proper for the observance of Memorial Day, to be expended by The Legion. (Ch. 366, Laws of 1920.)

Allowing villages to appropriate not to exceed \$200 for the observance of Memorial Day. (Ch. 339, Laws of 1924.)

All veterans employed by the State or the various counties, cities or villages must be given leave of absence with pay for twenty-four hours on the 30th day of May to observe Memorial Day. Ch. 384, Laws of 1920.)

Cities are allowed to appropriate sums for the observance of Memorial Day, to be expended by The American Legion. (Ch. 411, Laws of 1920.)

Cities of the third class are authorized to appropriate a sum not exceeding \$600 for observance of Memorial Day. (Ch. 326, Laws of 1921.)

PRINTING LEGION REPORTS:

The printing of 5,000 copies of the proceedings of the Annual Convention of The American Legion by the State is authorized by chapter 337 of the Laws of 1921.

A deficiency appropriation of \$1,000 for printing the record of the 1921 Convention of The Legion, Department of New York, and a like appropriation for the printing of the proceedings of the 1922 Convention is provided for in chapter 397, Laws of 1922.

An appropriation of \$1,000 for the printing of the record of the proceedings of the 1923 Convention of The American Legion. (Ch. 225, Laws of 1923.)

Appropriating \$1,500 for printing of the proceedings of the 1924 Convention of The Legion. (Ch. 140, Laws of 1924.)

RENT PAID BY TOWN BOARDS:

Town boards in every county are allowed to appropriate not exceeding \$200 for rental of rooms for The American Legion. (Ch. 579, Laws of 1920; Ch. 133, Laws of 1921.)

Municipalities are allowed to lease to The American Legion Posts, for a term not exceeding five years, any public building or part thereof, rent free. (Ch. 230, Laws of 1920.)

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Four hundred and fifty scholarships of tuition and \$100 a year for three years for World War veterans provided for vocational or technical training. Three scholarships are given in each Assembly district under rules provided by the State Commissioner of Education. (Ch. 893, Laws of 1920.)

SOLDIERS' HOME:

World War veterans to be admitted to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath on an equal footing with Spanish-American and Civil War veterans. (Ch. 646, Laws of 1922.)

The Legislature of 1922 and 1923 passed a resolution, approved by the people at referendum, giving inmates of soldiers' and sailors' homes the right to vote.

The Commander of the Department of New York, The American Legion, is made an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath. (Ch. 490, Laws of 1923.)

Giving inmates of the soldiers' and sailors' homes the right to vote. (Ch. 446, Laws of 1924.)

TAXATION:

The section of the State Income Tax Law which provided that the amount of money received from the Federal government must

be deducted from the personal exemption, was repealed. (Ch. 58, Laws of 1920.)

World War veterans who lost a leg or arm in service, or who are unable to perform manual labor by reason of injuries received or disabilities incurred while in service, are exempted from the payment of the village poll tax. (Ch. 412, Laws of 1920.)

Real property purchased with the proceeds of pension, bonus or insurance granted by the United States or the State of New York is exempt from taxation up to \$5,000 if owned by the pensioner, his wife or widow. (Ch. 413, Laws of 1920.)

By chapter 169 of the Laws of 1921, this also applies to property secured from such bonus or insurance and now owned by the mother of a veteran.

Property owned by The Legion is exempted from the payment of tax for the use of water in the counties of New York, Kings, Queens, Richmond and Bronx. (Ch. 607, Laws of 1921.)

Allowing cancellation of last year's taxes, water rents and assessments on Kings County building of The Legion. (A saving of approximately \$1,100 to the Kings County Organization.) (Ch. 560, Laws of 1922.)

Allowing the cancellation of taxes, water rents and assessments on the Kings County building of The American Legion. (Ch. 312, Laws of 1923.)

All real property of Posts of The American Legion, used exclusively for Legion purposes, is exempted from taxation. (Ch. 676, Laws of 1923.)

Exempting honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines of the United States from the payment of a village poll tax. (Ch. 611, Laws of 1924.)

USE OF BUILDINGS BY THE LEGION :

On application to the commanding officer of the Brigade, American Legion Posts will be provided meeting rooms in the State armories of this State free of charge. (Ch. 249, Laws of 1920.)

American Legion Posts in Jefferson County are given the right to meeting rooms in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Hall in the city of Watertown. (Ch. 357, Laws of 1920.)

The American Legion is given free use of school houses for meetings and for entertainments and permission to charge an admission fee is granted. (Ch. 82, Laws of 1921.)

VETERANS' MOUNTAIN CAMP :

One hundred and fifty thousand dollars was appropriated for the construction of a road to the Veterans' Mountain Camp of The American Legion. (Ch. 143, Laws of 1923.)

VETERANS' PEDDLERS' LICENSE :

World War veterans to receive peddler's license from the County Clerk without payment of fee. These licenses are to have photograph of veteran upon them and duplicates are to be issued upon satisfactory proof of their loss. (Ch. 264, Laws of 1922.)

Ex-service men crippled in service are exempted from some of the provisions relative to peddling in cities. (Ch. 42, Laws of 1919; Ch. 494, Laws of 1921; Ch. 35, Laws of 1923.)

VETERANS' RELIEF:

Municipalities are allowed to appropriate funds to be expended by an officer of The American Legion for the relief of indigent veterans of the World War and their families. (Ch. 803, Laws of 1920.)

The State Veterans' Relief Fund, was incorporated, with Legion men as incorporators, to assist needy New York State World War veterans and their dependents. (Ch. 648, Laws of 1921.)

Creation of the Veterans' Relief Commission with an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to give relief to disabled or incapacitated World War veterans whose condition is the result of service and who have been unemployed for at least fourteen days. Payment of \$30 per month to those who are single and \$45 per month to those who are married, provided they do not receive that amount from the Federal government. The maximum to any veteran is \$250. (Ch. 589, Laws of 1922.)

Appropriation of an additional \$1,000,000 for the relief of needy veterans provided. (Ch. 326, Laws of 1923.)

A pension to Peter J. Kogler, a World War veteran, injured while attempting to prevent an escape at Sing Sing, is provided for. (Ch. 237, Laws of 1923.)

Ten thousand dollars appropriated for the payment of \$500 annually to each New York State veteran totally blinded as a result of service in the war. (Ch. 244, Laws of 1923.)

Providing that veterans permanently and totally disabled by reason of loss of sight shall receive \$500 per year, to be paid semi-annually. (Ch. 559, Laws of 1924.)

VICTORY HALL ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED:

Victory Hall Association, Inc., was authorized, empowered to acquire by condemnation proceedings real property in the State of New York for a building to be used as a memorial to World War veterans. (Ch. 361, Laws of 1920.)

VOTERS' REQUIREMENTS:

New voters must pass the literacy test to be given by the State Board of Regents. (Ch. 809, Laws of 1923.)

SAMUEL E. ARONOWITZ,

Chairman, State Legislative Committee.

APPENDIX C

The Constitution of The American Legion

PREAMBLE

For God and country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism: to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the great war; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will upon earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be THE AMERICAN LEGION.

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in The Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention of The Legion.

Sec. 2. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a remunerative elective public office shall hold any office in THE AMERICAN LEGION or in any department or Post thereof.

Sec. 3. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be organized in Departments and these in turn in Posts. There shall be one Department in each State, in the District of Columbia and in each territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may establish additional Departments in the territorial possessions of the United States and in foreign countries.

Note.— Authority covering National Executive Committee contained in Article VII hereof.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION who was regularly enlisted, drafted, or inducted or commissioned and who was accepted for and assigned to active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States, at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the naval, military or air forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War; provided, that no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during said period, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds, to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

Sec. 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Sec. 3. No person may be a member at any one time of more than one Post.

ARTICLE V

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1. The legislative body of The Legion shall be the National Convention to be held annually at a time and place to be fixed by the preceding National Convention.

Sec. 2. In the National Convention each department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the meeting of said Convention; and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegates shall be chosen at Department Conventions to be held not less than two weeks before the National Convention.

Sec. 3. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from his department. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates except that of voting.

Sec. 4. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when 60 per cent of the Departments are represented as provided above.

ARTICLE VI

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, five National Vice-Commanders, who shall serve without seniority, and a National Chaplain. No two Vice-Commanders shall be chosen from the same department. No person shall be

eligible for re-election to the office of National Commander or National Vice-Commander.

Sec. 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint a National Treasurer, National Judge Advocate and National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of funds shall give adequate bonds, which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 4. The National Adjutant shall be elected by the National Executive Committee upon the nomination of the National Commander, and may be removed by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 5. All Past National Commanders while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions of THE AMERICAN LEGION, with vote, to be exercised with their respective departments.

(By vote of the Convention this paragraph relative to National Commanders being life members of the Executive Committee and life delegates to National Conventions was defined to mean that it shall not apply to any individual not a member of a local Post in good standing.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RULING

The Executive Committee in executive session, December 20, 1919, ruled that there shall be no seniority as First, Second, Third, Fourth or Fifth of the National Vice-Commanders. All official reference shall be made by alphabetical order. In the event, however, of the absence of the National Commander a chairman shall be appointed from among the five Vice-Commanders by the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between National Conventions the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander and Vice-Commanders in office and of one representative and one alternate from each department to be elected as such department shall determine.

Sec. 2. The term of office of such representatives and alternates shall be two years. The term of office of each representative and alternate shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing after their election and shall end at the adjournment of the second next succeeding Annual Convention.

Sec. 3. Members of the National Executive Committee shall be delegates to the National Convention, with vote, which vote shall be exercised with their respective departments.

ARTICLE VIII

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Departments shall be chartered by the National Executive Committee and shall be composed of the Posts within their respective areas. Each Department charter shall be signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant.

Sec. 2. Each Department shall have a Department Commander; one or more Department Vice-Commanders, a Department Adjutant, and a Department Executive Committee, and such other officers as the Department shall determine.

ARTICLE IX

POST ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Post shall make application for a charter to the Commander of the Department in which they reside. The charter shall be issued by the National Commander and National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the projected Post, but only when such application is approved by the Commander of the Department, or by the Department Executive Committee. Post charters shall be countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant of the Department.

Sec. 2. The minimum membership of a Post shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Department in whose area it lies.

Sec. 3. Each department may prescribe the Constitution of its Posts. Post charters may be revoked by the Department Executive Committee with the approval of the National Executive Committee. Post charters may be suspended or cancelled as provided in the By-Laws.

Sec. 4. No Post shall be named after any living person.

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION

Department Commanders are respectfully referred to the nineteenth resolution from the approved report of the Committee on Resolutions of our First National Convention, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, THE AMERICAN LEGION as an organization of veterans of the World War may best prove its purpose and most efficiently and practically pursue its policies through community or geographic units; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a ruling be made eliminating in the future Posts of any other class and confining organization to community Posts; and

Resolved further, That the State organization be requested to

endeavor, in so far as possible, to effect combinations or unions of already established unit Posts with others organized on the present regular and recommended basis.

ARTICLE X

FINANCE

Section 1. The revenue of THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by each National Convention for the ensuing year.

Sec. 3. THE ANNUAL DUES SHALL BE COLLECTED BY EACH POST AND TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER.

ARTICLE XI

DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The National Executive Committee, after notice and a hearing, may suspend or revoke the charter of a department which violates this Constitution or which fails adequately to discipline any of its Posts for any such violation, and may provide for the government and administration of such department during such suspension or upon such revocation.

ARTICLE XII

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Section 1. Any member in good standing in a Post removing from his Department shall be entitled to a certificate from his Post, stating his membership and duration thereof.

ARTICLE XIII

AUXILIARIES

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION recognizes an auxiliary organization, known as "The American Legion Auxiliary."

Sec. 2. Membership in the Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of members of THE AMERICAN LEGION, and to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of all men and women who were in the military or naval service of the United States between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and died in line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible to membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION.

Sec. 3. The Auxiliary shall be governed in each department of THE AMERICAN LEGION by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by such department of THE AMERICAN LEGION.

Note.—Eligibility has been defined to mean: Any person related to any member of The Legion, either by birth or law, under the name of mother, wife, sister or daughter, is entitled to membership in this organization.

ARTICLE XIV

RATIFICATION

Section 1. All acts performed and charters heretofore granted by the temporary organization of THE AMERICAN LEGION are hereby ratified and confirmed.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by the vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat. Provided, that the proposed amendment shall have been read at such convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote thereon.

ARTICLE XVI

NATIONAL INCORPORATION

This Constitution is adopted conformably to the act of the Congress of the United States of America of date September 16, 1919.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. In case of death, resignation, or removal by his respective Department of any National committeeman or alternate to the National Executive Committee, the successor shall be selected as such Department shall determine and shall serve for the remainder of such unexpired term.

Sec. 2. The National Executive Committee shall meet within twenty-four hours after the adjournment of the National Convention, and shall also meet during the second week of January, the second week of May, and immediately preceding the holding of the succeeding National Convention. Special meetings may be held upon reasonable notice at the call of the National Commander. The National Commander shall call a meeting upon the written request of fifteen or more members of said Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum of the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 4. The National Commander shall name such committees as he shall deem advisable, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next meeting succeeding the appointment.

Sec. 5. The National Commander shall appoint, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee, a National Finance Committee, to be composed of three members. Of the three members appointed following the National Convention of 1922, one

shall serve for one year, one for two years and one for three years; thereafter, each succeeding appointee shall serve for the full three-year term, or until removed by majority vote of the National Executive Committee. The National Commander and National Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of said Committee, and the National Adjutant shall be ex-officio Secretary of the said Committee. The National Finance Committee shall be charged with the preparation of the yearly budget and the handling of funds under that budget, such other duties as shall be prescribed by the National Executive Committee, all under the direction and subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. There shall be the following standing committees: National Rehabilitation Committee, National Americanism Commission, National Child Welfare Committee and National Legislative Committee. The committee shall consist of such number of members of THE AMERICAN LEGION as the National Executive Committee may, from time to time, determine. Appointments to such committees shall be made by the National Executive Committee. The term of office of each member of such committees shall be three years, one-third thereof to be chosen each year, under such initial regulations as the National Executive Committee shall prescribe.

Sec. 7. The National Executive Committee shall provide for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of the affairs of THE AMERICAN LEGION, and prescribe their duties and emoluments.

Sec. 8. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of National Officers shall be referred to and determined by the National Executive Committee. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of the National Committeeman from any department, or of Department officers or members of Department Executive Committees, shall be referred to and determined by the Executive Committee of the Department involved, which shall be the final authority thereon.

ARTICLE II

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. National Commander.—The National Commander shall be the elective head of THE AMERICAN LEGION with full power to enforce the provisions of the National Constitution, National By-Laws, and the will of the National Convention. He shall be the chairman of the National Convention and the National Executive Committee. He shall appoint all necessary committees subject to ratification of the National Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 2. National Vice-Commanders.—The National Vice-Commanders shall act as representatives of the National Commander on all matters referred to them by him, and shall, on his request,

preside over the meetings of the National Convention or National Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 3. National Adjutant.—The National Adjutant shall be charged with the administration of the policies and mandates of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee and of the National Commander. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. He shall also be authorized in the event of the death or resignation of a National Commander, to summon the National Executive Committee for the election of a successor.

Sec. 4. National Treasurer.—The National Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the National Organization. He shall sign all checks disbursing the funds of the National Organization and shall make reports upon the condition of the National Treasury when called for by the National Commander. The National Treasurer shall furnish a surety bond as hereinafter prescribed. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 5. National Judge Advocate.—The National Judge Advocate shall advise the National Officers and the National Executive Committee on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the National Constitution and By-Laws and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 6. National Chaplain.—The National Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by National Headquarters from time to time.

Sec. 7. National Historian.—The National Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest for the National Headquarters of THE AMERICAN LEGION and shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities. He shall also assist Department and Post Historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials, and shall have such other duties as the National Committee shall prescribe.

ARTICLE III

CHARTERS

Section 1. In addition to the revocation, as provided in the Constitution, charters may be canceled or suspended. The Department Executive Committee in which the Post involved is a member may order the suspension of a charter for a period not to extend beyond the closing of the next succeeding Department Convention, as a disciplinary measure, or pending action relative to final revocation. The cancellation of a charter is a matter of business wholly, the request being taken through proper channels to the National Executive Committee for final action. A cancellation shall be in order where two or more Posts merge, where a Post voluntarily ceases to function or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary within a department.

Sec. 2. Any Post failing to meet the obligations imposed upon it

by the Constitution and By-Laws or ceasing to function for six months as an American Legion Post, or refusing to pay the per capita tax due State and National Departments, shall, upon order of the Department Commander, surrender its charter. Upon failure to surrender such charter, immediate steps may be taken for its revocation.

Sec. 3. American Legion Posts suffering the revocation of their charters may appeal from the decision of the Department Commander and the Department Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee as hereinafter prescribed.

Sec. 4. Upon notice of appeal the National Commander shall appoint a sub-committee of not more than five nor less than three members of the National Executive Committee for the purpose of passing upon the action of the Department Executive Committee in revocation of said charter. This Committee shall meet at least one day prior to the meeting of the National Executive Committee next following such revocation and to this Committee shall be referred the complete record in writing of said revocation, with such exceptions thereto as are made by the Post of which the charter has been revoked. This Committee shall review the case and recommend to the National Executive Committee the action to be taken thereon. The National Judge Advocate shall be an ex-officio member of the said Committee.

Sec. 5. In case of revocation of the charter, the Post of THE AMERICAN LEGION organized under that charter shall cease operations and turn over to the Department Headquarters, not only its charter, but all records and properties in the possession of the Post.

ARTICLE IV

DISCIPLINE OF POSTS AND POST MEMBERS

Section 1. Each Post of THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Sec. 2. Members may be suspended or expelled from The Legion, only upon a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty and conduct unbecoming a member of THE AMERICAN LEGION. All charges must be made under oath in writing by the accusers, and no member in good standing shall lose his membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form as the Department By-Laws and Department Executive Committee shall prescribe.

Sec. 3. Any member who has been suspended or expelled has the right of appeal to his Department Executive Committee, or to the Department Convention, according to the provisions in the By-Laws in such Department. The decision of the Department shall be final.

Sec. 4. Members in arrears four months in payment of dues shall be classed as delinquent, and six months arrearages shall automatically impose suspension from all privileges, and one year's arrearages shall automatically forfeit membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION. Any member so delinquent or suspended who

is not in arrears for as much as one year may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post upon payment of all amounts due by such member to the Post for arrears, in addition to the dues for the current year in which the reinstatement occurs, and any member whose membership has been forfeited for non-payment of dues for one year may be reinstated by vote of the Post upon payment by such member of one year's arrears in dues in addition to the dues for the current year in which such reinstatement occurs.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION is membership in the National Organization of THE AMERICAN LEGION by affiliation of Posts.

ARTICLE VI

MONEYS AND COLLECTIONS

Section 1. All National, Department and Post officials handling American Legion moneys shall be properly bonded with a good and solvent bonding and surety company, as surety, to cover double the average amount of money handled in a single year. In case of delinquencies in the payment of amounts due Department or National Headquarters, action shall be taken at once by the proper officials to bring about a speedy and complete settlement. The bonds provided by National officials shall be approved by the National Judge Advocate and the National Executive Committee, and those provided by Department and Post officials shall be approved by the Department Judge Advocate and the Department Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. National Headquarters shall, should it be deemed advisable, detail special auditors to investigate the membership roll and financial statement of any department, and should that department so desire, assist in a similar audit of Posts within that Department.

ARTICLE VII

TRANSFER OF POSTS

Section 1. Posts of THE AMERICAN LEGION formed within units of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or other organizations liable to transfer from one place to another, and which are organized under the department in which they are located, may transfer to another department in a manner similar to the transfer of individuals from one Post to another.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by any National Convention of THE AMERICAN LEGION by the vote of the majority of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been read at said Convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote thereon.

APPENDIX D

Constitution and By-Laws, Department of New York, The American Legion

As amended in the Sixth Annual Convention, American Legion, Department of New York, Alexandria Bay, N. Y., September 4-6, 1923.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be THE AMERICAN LEGION, Department of New York.

ARTICLE II

OBJECTS

The objects of this organization shall be: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION who was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted, or commissioned, and who served on active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States, at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the Naval, Military or Air forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War. Provided, That no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States during said period, refused on conscientious, political, or other grounds, to submit himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

Sec. 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership as hereinabove provided.

ARTICLE IV

NATURE

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in The Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any Convention or meeting of The Legion.

Sec. 2. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a salaried elective public office shall hold any office in THE AMERICAN LEGION or in any subdivision or Post thereof.

Sec. 3. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

ARTICLE V

ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The Legislative Body of the organization shall be a State Convention to be held annually at a place and time to be fixed by vote of the preceding Convention, or in the event that the preceding Convention does not fix a time and place, such shall be fixed by the Executive Committee, hereinafter provided for.

Sec. 2. The annual Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each county. Each county shall be entitled to four delegates and four alternates and to one additional alternate for each two hundred and fifty memberships or the major fraction thereof paid up thirty days prior to the date of the State Convention. Each county shall be entitled to a total vote equal to that granted under the State Constitution and By-Laws regardless of the number of delegates present, provided a majority of the delegates to which the county is entitled be present.

Sec. 3. The delegates to the State Convention and the alternates shall be chosen by each county. Each County Committee shall provide the method of election of the delegates and alternates from its county in such manner that each Post in the country has a proportionate voice in their election, such proportion to be on the same basis as that of the Post representation on the County Committee.

Sec. 4. The Executive power shall be vested in the State Executive Committee which shall be composed of the six State officers hereinafter mentioned the National Executive Committeeman and a District Chairman from each of the Judicial Districts as established by the Constitution of the State of New York, to be elected by the delegates from each District to the State Convention. At the time of the election of the District Chairman an Alternate District Chairman shall be elected. The State officers shall be a Commander, three Vice-Commanders, who shall be without seniority, an Adjutant and a Treasurer. These officers shall be elected annually by the State Convention.

Sec. 5. There shall be a County Committee in each county which shall consist of one member from each Post in said county and at least one additional member for each additional hundred members in excess of the minimum membership. Each County Committee shall provide the method of electing a Commander, one or more Vice-Commanders, and Adjutant, Treasurer and an Executive Committee of as many members as may be deemed desirable, in such manner that each Post in the county has a proportionate voice in their election, such proportion to be on the same basis as that of the Post representation on the County Committee and may elect such other officers as it may desire. The State Executive Committee may prescribe provisions of the County Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI.

LOCAL UNIT

Section 1. The local unit shall be termed the Post, which shall have a minimum membership to be determined by the State Executive Committee. Those who desire to form a Post shall make application for a charter to the County Organization of the county in which they intend to have their headquarters. The charter will be issued by the National Commander and the National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the projected Post, but only when such application is approved by the State Commander or by the State Executive Committee. Post charters shall be countersigned by the State Commander and the State Adjutant.

Sec. 2. The State Executive Committee may prescribe provisions of Post Constitutions and By-Laws.

Sec. 3. No Post shall be named after any living person.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Each Post shall pay annually to the County Organization on or before January 20th, for each of its individual members the sum of fifty cents, in addition to whatever amount is required to be paid to the National organization. A similar payment shall be made on the 20th of each month for all members who have joined the Post since the 20th of the previous month. On the 10th of the following month, each County organization shall pay to the State organization the sum of twenty-five cents per member, in addition to whatever amount is required to be paid to the National organization on account of each member. The State organization shall pay to the National organization whatever sum is required for each individual member. The minimum annual dues of individual members to be charged by each Post shall be two dollars per member.

ARTICLE VIII

QUORUM

A quorum shall exist at a State Convention when there are present thirty-two or more counties partially or wholly represented as hereinbefore provided.

ARTICLE IX

RULES

The procedure at the State Convention shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended by the State Convention to be held annually. It shall also be amended from time to time by the State Executive Committee whenever and in so far as necessary to conform to changes hereafter made in the National Constitution.

BY-LAWS

The American Legion, Department of New York

ARTICLE I

NAME AND OBJECTS

Section 1. The name of this organization is THE AMERICAN LEGION, Department of New York.

Sec. 2. The object of this organization is that set forth in the Constitution.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership provided for in the State Constitution shall be divided into Posts as described therein. The Post may restrict its membership as it desires, subject to the approval of the County Committee of the County in which it is located. The maximum number of members may be fixed by the County Committee. Only persons eligible to membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be members. Applicants for membership must enroll in THE AMERICAN LEGION and pay their dues to the Post before becoming members.

Sec. 2. A member in good standing in one Post can become an associate member in any other Post or Posts. He shall pay full dues in the Post in which he is a regular member and his membership shall be counted in the County and State total only in that Post. In the Posts in which he is an associate member, he shall pay the amount required by its by-laws. He shall be entitled to all privileges of the Post and shall be entitled to vote on questions of local affairs and can vote for officers of the Post. He cannot vote for members of the County Committee or delegates to

the County Convention. He shall be eligible to hold office or be on a committee to handle local affairs, but is not eligible to become a member of County Committee or a delegate to a County Convention.

Sec. 3. Each Post shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and of the New York Department Constitutions and By-Laws, respectively; but a member may be suspended or expelled from THE AMERICAN LEGION only upon due conviction of disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty or other conduct unbecoming a member of THE AMERICAN LEGION. All charges must be made under oath in writing by the accusers and no member in good standing may be expelled unless and except upon a fair trial in such manner and form as the Department Executive Committee shall, and which it hereby is authorized and directed to prescribe.

ARTICLE III

Posts

Section 1. Each Post shall have a headquarters with a post-office address to which all notices and documents may be sent. It shall be the duty of the Post at time of application for a charter or at any time of changing its headquarters to notify its County organization of such address, and all notices and documents shall be held to have been duly sent to or served upon such Post when mailed to it at the address so furnished. In default of a Post having furnished such address, any notice or document shall be held to have been duly served upon a Post if the same is mailed to it at the address of its Commander or Adjutant or other member signing the application for charter.

Sec. 2. Each Post shall have a Constitution and By-Laws to govern its affairs and shall have officers to be known as Commander, three Vice-Commanders, an Adjutant, a Treasurer and an Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be bonded. The Post shall subscribe to the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of its County organization and of this organization, and shall not incur any obligation in the name of any other Post, subdivision, organization, branch, committee, or group of members of THE AMERICAN LEGION.

Sec. 3. Posts shall submit copies of their Constitution and By-Laws and all amendments thereto through their respective County organization for approval of the State organization.

ARTICLE IV.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The County organization shall be that prescribed in the State Constitution.

Sec. 2. Upon organization each Post shall elect its member or members of the County Committee and thereafter as its membership increases shall elect such additional member or members of the County Committee as it is entitled to under the State Con-

stitution and shall certify to the County Committee over the signature of its Commander and Adjutant the number of its individual paid-up members entitling it to such additional representation.

Sec. 3. The County organization shall pass upon each application for the charter of a Post in its county and upon the proposed Constitution and By-Laws of each such Post. It shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws for its own government. In addition to the officers provided for a County organization by the State Constitution each County organization shall have an Executive Committee, comprised of as many members as may be deemed desirable, including said officers which shall have power to act in the interim between meetings of the County Committee, provided that not less than 80 per cent of the Executive Committee shall be members of the County Committee.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the County organization to see that Posts are properly organized and conducted in each city, town and village in its county.

Sec. 5. Each County Committee shall provide for standing committees on Finance, Publicity, Membership Credentials, Conventions, Post Activities and Welfare, Post Applications for Charters, and Post Constitution and By-Laws, or on such subjects as may seem desirable. The power of these standing committees shall be to recommend appropriate action to the County organization or to the County Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. The County Treasurer shall be bonded.

Sec. 7. All payments to be made to the County organization shall be made to the County Treasurer.

Sec. 8. Each County organization shall pay from the funds remaining in his hands, after payment of the amount required to be paid per member to the State organization, as provided in the State Constitution, all necessary and actual railroad and Pullman fare of its delegates to the first and subsequent annual State Conventions, as well as the necessary and actual lodging expenses of such delegates while in actual attendance at such conventions; the method of payment to be prescribed by each County organization.

ARTICLE V

STATE OFFICERS

Section 1. The State Commander, the three Vice-Commanders, the Adjutant and Treasurer, shall hold office for one year and until the close of the Convention at which their respective successors shall have been chosen, as provided in the State Constitution. They shall perform the customary duties pertaining to their respective offices. The State officers shall be members of the State Committee and of the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The Commander, and in his absence a Vice-Commander requested by him so to do, shall preside at all State Conventions and at all meetings of the State or State Executive Committees.

Sec. 3. The Adjutant shall give notice of all State Conventions and of all meetings of the State Executive Committees, and shall conduct the correspondence and keep the records of the State organization including lists of names, serial numbers and addresses of all Posts in the State of New York and list of members, officers and committeemen of the State and of each County shall keep the minutes of such Conventions and meetings. He shall furnish to the Treasurer the names and addresses of the officers and the address of the headquarters of each County organization. He shall notify the State officers and committeemen of their election.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall, subject to the control of the Executive Committee, be charged with the collection and custody of the funds of the State organization, including the payments to be made by each County organization, according to the State Constitution, and he shall keep the accounts of the State organization and report thereon at each regular meeting of the State Executive Committee. His accounts shall be audited annually. He shall pay all bills when audited and approved in such manner as the Executive Committee shall prescribe. He shall give bond with sufficiently surety, to be approved by the Executive Committee for the faithful performance of his duties as Treasurer.

Sec. 5. In addition to the six State officers named above, the annual Convention shall elect a State or Department Historian and a State or Department Chaplain, who shall perform the duties usually attached to their respective positions subject to the control of the Executive Committee. They shall hold office for one year and until the close of the Convention at which their respective successors shall have been chosen. They shall not be members of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. Vacancies in State offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired terms, provided, however, that in filling a vacancy in the office of Commander, such election shall be from among the then Vice-Commanders.

ARTICLE VI

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive power and management of this organization is entrusted to the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The State Executive Committee shall consist of six officers of the State organization, the National Executive Committeeman and nine other members to be elected on the basis provided in the State Constitution. The member representing each judicial district shall be elected by the delegates to the State Convention representing such district at a meeting to be held prior to the close of the State Convention. They shall hold office until the close of the next State Convention and the election of their successors.

Sec. 3. A vacancy existing in the State Executive Committee, other than the officers thereof for any cause other than the expira-

tion of a term shall be filled by the Alternate District Chairman from the district concerned.

Sec. 4: The State Executive Committee shall meet at regular periods or on five days' previous written notice to all members by the Commander and Adjutant, or upon the written request of a majority of the Committee.

Sec. 5: There shall be State Standing Committees on Finance, Publicity, Membership, Credentials, Convention Program, Convention Arrangements, County and Post Activities, Welfare Legislation and Military Affairs, or such subject as the State Executive Committee may determine, each composed of from five to fifteen members who shall be appointed by, and shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as may be directed by the State Executive Committee from time to time. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to examine and audit the Treasurer's accounts at the end of each fiscal year and at such other times as it may deem necessary.

Sec. 6. All such committees will keep regular minutes of their transactions and cause them to be recorded in a book kept for the purpose and report the same to the State Executive Committee when called for.

Sec. 7. In the event that a District Chairman of the State Executive Committee is unable to attend a meeting of that committee his alternate shall serve.

ARTICLE VII.

STATE CONVENTION

Section 1. The annual meeting of the New York State Organization of THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be a convention called pursuant to the provisions of the State Constitution.

Sec. 2. County organizations will be notified sixty days in advance of the time and place of such convention and will in turn notify the Posts in their respective counties accordingly within ten days after the receipt of such notice.

Sec. 3. Alternates will have the privilege of voting on the floor of the Convention only in the absence or inability of the regular delegates, but they shall have all other privileges of delegates including the right of serving on committees.

ARTICLE VIII

REPRESENTATION IN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The State organization shall be represented on the National Executive Committee of THE AMERICAN LEGION by one member and one alternate to be elected at the Annual State Convention and to hold office for one year from the time of the Annual National Convention immediately following their election or until their successors are chosen.

Sec. 2. The State Organization shall be represented at the National Convention of THE AMERICAN LEGION by five delegates

at-large and five alternates-at-large, and one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each one thousand memberships paid up to the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the date of the National Convention, who shall be elected at the annual State Convention.

ARTICLE IX

EXPENSES

Section 1. From the funds remaining in his hands after payment of the annual dues per member to the National Executive Committee of THE AMERICAN LEGION as provided in the National and State Constitutions, the Treasurer is authorized to pay the current expenses of the State Organization, including stationery and printing, rent of offices, salary of employees, and other necessary expenses of the State Organization, as may be directed by the State Executive Committee. He is also authorized to pay the necessary and actual railroad and Pullman fares of the delegates from the State of New York to the National Convention and also the necessary and actual lodging expenses of such delegates while in actual attendance at the National Convention under regulations established by the State Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X

REGULATIONS

Section 1. The State Executive Committee is authorized to make and publish regulations for the organization, management and conduct of this organization and of the county, Post and all other organizations of the New York State Department of THE AMERICAN LEGION. Such regulations shall not be inconsistent with the State Constitution or these By-Laws and shall be complied with by all concerned.

ARTICLE XI

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The Women's Auxiliary shall be organized in accordance with the provisions of the National Constitution and shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and approved by the State Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XII

AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws may be made at any meeting of the State Convention by a majority vote of the members present. They shall also be amended from time to time by the State Executive Committee whenever and in so far as necessary to conform to changes hereafter made in the National Constitution.

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STATE OF NEW YORK

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

OF

THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

NEW YORK CITY

THURSDAY, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

September 10, 11 and 12, 1925



ALBANY

J. B. LYON COMPANY, PRINTERS

1925



SAMUEL E. ARONOWITZ,
Commander

STATE OF NEW YORK

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THE AMERICAN LEGION

DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Officers, 1924-1925

Commander, Samuel E. Aronowitz
Vice-Commander, Albert L. Ward
Vice-Commander, John S. Leonard
Vice-Commander, Harry C. Wilder
Adjutant, Albert S. Dayton
Treasurer, Harold L. DeWald
Judge Advocate, Thomas J. Brady
Chaplain, Rev. John N. Bellamy
Historian, Sydney G. Gumpertz
National Executive Committeeman, Donald C. Strachan

District Chairmen

First Judicial District, Charles Hann, Jr.
Second Judicial District, Michael J. Flynn
Third Judicial District, Clyde F. Gardner
Fourth Judicial District, Dr. E. C. Gow
Fifth Judicial District, Dr. R. P. Huyck
Sixth Judicial District, H. R. Fuller
Seventh Judicial District, James F. Ball
Eighth Judicial District, Benjamin C. Rhodes
Ninth Judicial District, Harry R. Williams

Auxiliary Officers

Mrs. E. B. Garrison, President
Mrs. Robert Taylor, Vice-President
Mrs. C. V. Parkhurst, Vice-President
Mrs. T. R. Pritchard, Vice-President
Mrs. Arthur A. Ransom, Secretary-Treasurer
Mrs. Charles R. Seymour, Chaplain

District Chairmen

First Judicial District, Miss Helen O'Brien
Second Judicial District, Mrs. A. L. Burnham
Third Judicial District, Miss Julia Holstein
Fourth Judicial District, Mrs. K. Diefendorf
Fifth Judicial District, Mrs. H. J. Cookinham
Sixth Judicial District, Mrs. D. R. Reilly
Seventh Judicial District, Mrs. Beulah Donovan
Eighth Judicial District, Mrs. Minnie Luke
Ninth Judicial District, Mrs. George Murphy

STANDING COMMITTEES

Hospital and Welfare Committee

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Harold L. Downey	Dr. A. J. Capron
Dr. William Lenetska	Thomas J. Hargrave
Gen. Geo. A. Wingate	Dr. C. C. Nesbitt
Dr. A. E. Shipley	Dr. F. M. Chaffee
Dr. George J. Lawrence	W. F. Lent
Dr. John J. Purcell	Dr. F. E. Fronczak
F. Trubee Davison	Porter Richardson
Alfred J. Homan	Casper W. Hahnel
Dr. Reynolds	James F. Arbuckle
Fred Toombs	E. H. Jeffries
Nelson Moss	Dr. A. W. Thomson
Leo Hennessey	Dr. Thos. W. Salmon
Dr. Peter Noe	Harry Joseph
Dr. W. H. Ross	John P. Hayes
John D. Henderson	Levi Quick
Rev. R. S. Snyder	Lewis King
Dr. Osgood	Melvin C. Eaton
Dr. Edward Danforth	

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Joseph J. McMullin	James Sullivan
Irwin I. Rackoff	William Wingel
Cornelius Bregoff	Jacob Fries
Frank A. McNamee, Jr.	David Jeffrey
Patrick H. Clune	J. Russell Rogerson
Charles Harrington	Arthur E. Brundage
Harold E. Blodgett	Gilbert H. Crawford
Frank W. Banre	John R. Schwartz

Finance Committee

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Nicholas Engel	Francis Clark
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Charles F. McWhorter	F. E. Monnin
Theodore T. Christmas	Norman S. Peverill
Milton Saulspaugh	Benjamin M. Marcus
Oscar Munson	Allen Oppenheimer
J. B. German, Jr.	John B. Ulmer
C. D. Reed	Joseph W. Gott
Harry P. Wood	B. A. Freyfogle

County and Post Activities Committee

W. A. H. Ely, Chairman	Jesse E. Lewis
James F. Lavery	J. N. Dolan
William B. Lamb	Dr. Murray Bartlett
Benjamin F. Fink	Arthur W. North
James Pasta	William Leffingwell
Margaret Doherty	Rev. Father Ganey
David H. Walsh	Clarence Smith
Vailie S. Baldwin	George Fleckenstein
Sylvester Smith	Leo W. Pike
E. J. Riley	L. W. Verness
John Hinds	B. Francis Champlain
C. F. Peterson	William J. Burke
Henry Brewster	John R. Schwartz
Justin J. D. List	Hugh Lown

Membership Committee

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William A. Smith	Morris Clause
Chas. E. Warren	Robert Bebe
E. A. Simmons	Robert Frazer
Herman Ringe, Jr.	James Wright
Dr. L. P. Hoole	Dr. J. F. Bowen
Francis T. McNamara	Robert J. Murphy
Lynn D. Wessels	Dr. R. C. Hill
Luis DeHoyos	G. E. Munger
Allan Taylor	Jack Mursell
W. H. Kelleher	Fred Chendgren
Guy Tobey	Daniel F. Taff
George Traver	Willis Ryder
J. B. Lape, Jr.	Philip Mylod

Convention Program and Rules Committee

Charles Hann, Jr., Chairman	Fred Galliger
V. K. Commons	Howard Eggleston
Edward T. Giefer	Arthur Rathjen
Herman I. DuBois	T. H. Evans
E. M. McCabe	Edward Lowry

Americanism Committee

Robert W. Bowman, Chairman	Percy W. Davis
Martin Kornbluth	Richmond D. Moot
Arthur W. Proctor	Leo Olmstead
Valentine D. Wilder	Fred Eastland
Peter S. Seery	Father A. Bellamy
Everett Woodruff	Henry J. Semo
Peter J. Neubauer	John W. Currie
Thomas Driscoll	Floyd Lotheridge

Americanism Committee — Continued

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Harold M. Clements	Garnet G. Williams
Thomas D. Kennedy	James S. Chaffee, 2nd
Dr. E. Sayre	H. S. Huyler
O. Frank Mancuso	C. E. Kene
Robert Ferguson	Alfred A. Rejall

Publicity Committee

R. P. Van Vlack, Chairman	Ray Willard
S. G. Gumperts	L. E. Mintz
Joseph H. Lyons	John O'Neil
Frank L. Lent	Clement G. Lanni
Charles A. Hauck	Robert Downing
Oscar Hendricksen	Vincent G. Hart
Paul Manchester	George Luke
John Hammond	Thos. H. Smith
Thomas S. Bushnell	W. C. Gray
J. J. Connors	Wm. Lown
Francis X. Coughlin	Franklin Uhlig
C. J. Bray	

Special Committee on Civil Service

Frank H. Hines, Chairman	Bart Hunt
Park Johnson	Walter Ingalls
George Schopf	Fred G. Norman
Henry C. Bradford	Ralph Jones
Maynard K. Van Deusen	Irving J. Murnane

Military Affairs Committee

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Pelham St. George Bissell	John D. Kinney
Gen. James G. Harbord	Arthur E. Kaepfel
Gen. George W. Berry	A. T. Smith
J. A. S. Mundy	W. T. Tennant
Robert Guggenheim	John S. Thompson
James McCarthy	John J. Harris
Charles N. Morgan	George L. Clarke
Frank L. Meagher	Albert Towner
Joseph Bondy	Clayton Jones
G. F. Roy Wheat	

Legal Committee

Thomas J. Brady, Chairman	Gen. John F. O'Ryan
Norman S. Marks	James T. Carroll
Edward F. Bennett	Thomas F. Hyland
Emil Baar	Hilary Corwin
Henry D. Valentine	Chester A. Blauvelt
David A. Ticktin	Percy W. Decker

STANDING COMMITTEES

7

Arthur D. Mann
R. C. Prime
Irving Goldsmith
E. H. Bennett
Miller B. Moran
H. J. Cookinham
B. F. Sovocool
Anthony Fischette

Milton A. Block
Russell B. Griffith
James S. Pierce
Ralph K. Robertson
Ward Hopkins
Chauncey T. S. Fish
A. J. Williams
Raphael Egan

Nation Convention Arrangements Committee

Ralph B. Seward, Chairman
Miss Edna Malmgren
Ben Fox
William Clark
Andrew J. Murphy, Jr.

Philip S. Perkins
Carl Pick
George Bertach
Sherman Thursby
William G. Blake

PROCEEDINGS OF CONVENTION

The Seventh Annual Convention of the Department of New York, The American Legion, was called to order at 10 o'clock, Thursday morning, September 10, 1925, Samuel E. Aronowitz, Department Commander, presiding, and Albert S. Dayton, Department Adjutant, acting as Secretary of the Convention.

The Chairman: The Convention will come to order.

The State Colors.

The Convention rises as the Colors are advanced to the platform.

The Chairman: The invocation will be pronounced by the State Chaplain, the Reverend Father Bellamy.

Rev. Father John M. Bellamy (Department Chaplain). Almighty and Eternal God, we adore Thy Supreme Majesty, and thank Thee for all the blessings we have received. We pledge ourselves to Thy Divine Will. We who are gathered here pray Thee to banish from the hearts of mankind all thoughts of hatred and jealousy and give peace and good will to the nations of the world.

Inspire our representatives to enact laws and to discharge their duties in a conscientious manner to the end that our Country, so dear to each of us, will prosper and hold its place among the nations of the world. We pray Thee, O God of Wisdom and Justice, to direct the proceedings of this Convention, to assist us to faithfully carry out the principles of the American Legion—for God and Country.

Finally we pray Thee, O Lord of Mercy, to have pity on the souls of our departed Comrades and to inspire us to live, work, and die for God and Country and when this life is over to lead us to the eternal harbor of Heaven. Amen.

The Chairman: The Department Adjutant will read the call of the Convention.

Mr. Albert S. Dayton (Department Adjutant): Comrade Commander, and Delegates and Alternates to the Convention:

Official State Convention Call—Pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws, The American Legion, Department of New York, I, Samuel E. Aronowitz, Department Commander, do hereby call the Sixth Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, to be held at New York City, New York, on September 10, 11, 12, 1925, to convene at 10 a. m. (daylight saving time) for the following purposes:

Business—(1) To elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention to be held at Omaha, Nebraska, on October 5th to 9th inclusive. (The Department of New York is entitled to five delegates-at-large and five alternates-at-large and one delegate and one alternate for each one thousand members or major fraction thereof, paid up at National Headquarters thirty days prior to the National Convention.)

(2) To elect officers for the Department of New York for the ensuing year, viz: Commander, three Vice-Commanders, Adjutant, Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian.

(3) To elect in district caucuses nine District Chairmen to serve on the State Executive Committee for the following year.

(4) To elect the Board of Directors of the Veterans' Mountain Camp as provided for by the Constitution of that body.

(5) To amend the present Department Constitution and By-Laws, if so desired, and transact any other business that may come before the Convention.

Representation—In this Convention, representation shall be by counties. Each county shall be entitled to four delegates and four alternates and to one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each 250 memberships or the major fraction thereof paid up at State Headquarters thirty days prior to the date of this Convention. (Per capita tax and cards must be in State Headquarters not later than midnight of August 10, 1925, to be credited to Convention representation.) Alternates will have the privilege of voting on the floor of the Convention only in the absence or inability of regular delegates, but they shall have all other privileges of delegates, including the right to serve on all committees.

Election of Delegates—The State Constitution and By-Laws provide that the delegates and alternates to the State Convention shall be chosen by each county in accordance with the County Constitution and By-Laws, and in such manner that each Post in the county has a proportionate voice in their election, such proportion to be on the same basis as that of the Post representation on the County Committee.

Notice to Posts—All County Chairmen must, within ten days of the date of this call, notify the local posts in the county of the time and place of the State Convention.

SAMUEL E. ARONOWITZ,

Commander, Department of New York.

OFFICIAL:

ALBERT S. DAYTON,

Adjutant.

The Chairman: "The Roll Call" will now be blown by the Boy Scouts followed by a Moment of Silence which will then be followed by the blowing of Taps. The Convention rises.

"The Roll Call," by S. Walter Krebs, is sounded by buglers of the Boy Scouts.

The Chairman: The Convention will stand at attention for one minute in silent memory of departed comrades.

The Chairman: I desire to extend a most cordial welcome to the members of The American Legion Auxiliary, the Gold Star Mothers, the Grand Army of the Republic, the United Spanish War Veterans and all other veteran and patriotic organizations. I trust that they will find our sessions sufficiently interesting to remain throughout our Convention.

The report of the Standing Committee on Convention Program and Rules by First District Chairman Charles Hann, Jr.

Mr. Charles Hann, Jr. (Chairman, Standing Committee on Convention Program and Rules): Mr. Commander, I believe everyone attending the Convention has received a copy of the program and also a copy of the rules proposed for the guidance of this Convention. Everyone may not have had time to read the program very carefully. However, I am going to move you, Mr. Commander, that this program be adopted and placed on file and printed as part of the official minutes of this Convention. Motion seconded. Carried.

Mr. Hann: Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of proposed rules which will be found in the latter part of the program. Motion seconded. Carried.

Agreeably to the desires of the Department, the Committee on Rules has formulated the following rules which will be submitted for the approval of the Convention:

1. With the following modifications, Robert's Revised Rules of Order will be followed:

2. A delegate desiring to make a motion or address the Convention shall address the presiding officer as "Mr. Commander" and give his (the delegate's) name and the name of his county.

3. Only two delegates from any one county shall be permitted the floor on any one subject.

4. The floor shall be permitted but once to any individual delegate on any subject, except by the unanimous consent of the Convention.

5. State officers, including District Chairmen, are entitled to all privileges of delegates, except that they may not vote, unless delegates from their counties.

6. Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker.

7. Nominating speeches shall be limited to three minutes. Seconding speeches shall be limited to two minutes and only two seconding speeches shall be made for one candidate.

8. Nominations shall be from the floor by roll call, alphabetically, by counties, except that by unanimous consent, this rule may be abrogated to save time.

9. Each county shall be entitled to a total vote equal to that granted under the State Constitution and By-Laws, regardless of the number of delegates present, provided a majority of delegates to which the county is entitled be present. When less than a majority of the delegates of any county are present, such county shall be entitled to as many votes as there are delegates present.

10. Voting shall be by acclamation except when a roll call be demanded by the chairmen of at least three county delegates.

11. The vote shall be announced by the chairman of each county delegation, such chairman to be chosen by each delegation.

12. Alternates shall have all privileges of delegates, including that of serving on committees, except the privilege of voting on the Convention floor.

13. Alternates may vote only in the absence of regular delegates, selection of such alternates to fill delegates' places to be made by the county delegation in question.

14. Any candidate for any office must receive a majority of the votes of the convention before elected, successive ballots to be held until one candidate receives a majority.

15. All resolutions offered on the floor of the Convention or otherwise shall be automatically referred to the proper committees without reading, or, in the absence of such committees, to the Committee on Resolutions for proper consideration.

16. Any resolution not introduced to the Convention at the close of business of the morning session of the first day must be placed at the bottom of the list of previously submitted resolutions.

CHARLES HANN, JR., Chairman,
Committee on Rules.

The Chairman: Since the organization of The American Legion we have held conventions in many places in this State. In none of them, however, have the municipal authorities done so much toward insuring the success of our convention as has been done in New York City. As a further token of the esteem in which The American Legion is held by the officials of the City of New York the Mayor has taken time from his varied duties to come to this convention to personally welcome the delegates assembled here.

I have the honor of introducing His Honor, the Mayor of the City of New York—Honorable John F. Hylan. (Applause.)

Honorable John F. Hylan (Mayor, City of New York): Mr. Commander and Delegates—Before I begin my address I must first find out whether the radio is our radio. I want to know whether it is cut off or not, because there is an injunction restraining me from speaking over the Municipal radio and I must see that it is cut off before I make any address for fear I may be hauled before Mr. Justice Levy or some other Supreme Court Justice during Primary times and be jugged, because I want to **continue on the job until after the 15th.**

On behalf of the City of New York, it is my pleasure and privilege to extend a most cordial greeting to the members of The American Legion, Department of New York, who are here assembled in their Seventh Annual Convention. New York City is grateful for the opportunity to receive and entertain those who made so substantial a contribution to the continuance, unimpaired and unsullied, of national sovereignty through the example of a sturdy and intrepid American citizenship.

We haven't forgotten the valorous and patriotic military service you rendered to the nation when the nation was in need of such service, nor are we unmindful of the zeal with which you have applied yourselves to the less dramatic but none the less vital activities of the work-a-day world. It is also a source of gratification to us that The American Legion should have decided upon the City of New York for its Annual Convention. This is a compliment to the capacity of New York to meet every requirement essential to the success of a great assembly as well as to the contentment and enjoyment of those participating.

It isn't within the purview of an address of welcome to dilate upon the excellence of our hotel accommodations, the variety of amusements and recreations, or the obvious evidences of respect for law and order. These are known to all, either from report or personal experience. Reference is made to them only to place our visitors in that happy frame of mind which helps one to get the most out of a business or a pleasure trip.

I feel that this body of Legionnaires, who were and who are the chief promoters of peace, will be interested to know that nowhere in the world is there such a diversity of racial groups as exist in the city. Fifty to one hundred languages and dialects are being spoken within the confines of Greater New York. And yet harmony and good will, peace and concord, everywhere prevail. We are always anxious to promote every good work which aids in uniting our many racial populations closer together; so that this city, which has drawn from the best of all races and builded upon this solid foundation, may be as hopeful of its future as it is proud of its past.

We see in your stay among us an advantage of great value in the promotion of civic righteousness and a more intensive appreciation of our institutional government. Our six million people, engrossed in the daily task of life, will see the Legionnaires during their stay here or will read of them through the press. This will help to bring home more vividly to all the obligations as well as the privilege which are bestowed upon American citizenship. We are reminded of patriotism and its sacrifices, and these turn our thoughts to the patriotism of the prosaic times of peace, when obedience to the civil law is an absolute requirement to the continued progress and prosperity of local, state and national government.

We are imbued with the more aggressive and unselfish devotion to the American institutions which the Legionnaires have aided in preserving, and we find a more constant incentive to continue

in the works of upright citizenship which glorifies itself with the protection of the glory of the nation in peace as well as in war; a citizenship which honors and reveres the Flag of our country, and would sooner subsist on the most meagre fare with honor and manhood as companions than dwell in a palace of luxury and idleness gained by disloyalty to country or treachery to brother.

Legionnaires, we are confident that the hospitality which will be accorded to you will leave no doubt in your mind as to the wisdom of having selected New York, the ideal convention city of America, for your annual assemblage; and I am personally of the conviction that you will go back to your respective home towns pleased with your reception, charmed with the city, satisfied with your success, and will carry away pleasing and permanent recollection that the City of New York is among the safest as well as the most interesting and agreeable of all cities. And I want to say to the Legionnaires during their stay in the City of New York that if any courtesy can be extended to them or to the members of their family we are at all times ready, and willing, to extend that courtesy.

And I say now to you, I haven't the key of the city with me, but, figuratively speaking, I turn over the key to your Commander here and every courtesy that can be extended will be extended to you and your families during your stay in the great City of New York. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: The report of the Commander:

Fellow Legionnaires—In presenting the report of my term as Commander of The American Legion, Department of New York, I have considered that it should be largely devoted to suggestions, based upon the results of experience, and recommendations for the better conduct of our organization during the ensuing years. This, in my opinion is of far more value than a lengthy recital of accomplishments that may, or may not, have been achieved. The American Legion must constantly strive to increase its scope of service and its value to the community if it is to occupy, in the eyes of our people, that position of regard and esteem to which it is justly entitled. Accordingly, I will stress those changes which I believe will make for an organization more virile; an organization more unified; an organization more fervently animated with the desire to serve; an organization with a clearer consciousness of its duties and its opportunities.

At the beginning of this administration a fourfold program of activities was outlined for all posts in this Department. These were: care for the disabled, child welfare, a broader view of Americanism, and community service. The foremost plank was aid to the disabled. That must always be the principal duty of The Legion so long as there are any disabled veterans who are not receiving proper consideration. Each post should have a committee to aid these veterans in having their claims approved, securing immediate hospitalization, encouraging them through

their vocational training, and procuring jobs for them when they have completed their courses of study. This is so well understood by Legion posts as to need neither comment nor argument. During the past year this work has been carried on by The Legion in New York State in a most admirable manner as will be shown later in the reports of the various committees dealing with this important service.

Closely akin to our duty to our less fortunate comrades is The Legion's sacred obligation to the orphans of veterans. Not enough attention has been given to this phase of Legion activity in this State—due largely to the liberal provisions made in our State laws for widows' pensions. I believe, however, that Child Welfare should receive our most careful thought and that the incoming administration should appoint a special Child Welfare Committee. The individual posts should also be urged to appoint similar committees; their duties to be to check up the conditions of the orphans and other dependents of veterans and see that their lot is made less difficult to bear. Encouragement and assistance should be given to those widows who are endeavoring to provide home life for their children. Where home surroundings are not suitable or proper, immediate arrangements should be made for sending the children to our Legion billets. There they will receive the benefits of Legion affection until the home conditions can be bettered; and where that is impossible they will be adequately provided for until they are adopted by real Americans of the same religious faith as their fathers, who will rear them with the same patriotic background which would have been theirs had their fathers lived.

In speaking of these two phases of our State program we naturally must refer to The American Legion Endowment Fund which has been obtained during the past year for the purpose of insuring the perpetuation of The Legion's rehabilitation service for the disabled and the care of the orphans of veterans. The National Commander decided that a Five Million Dollar Endowment should be raised this year. New York State was given a most generous allotment—our quota being thirty per cent. of the total. The Legion in this State did its part in a manly fashion; but we were handicapped by the slowness of the campaigns in other states, which made it impossible for the National Organization to give the assistance upon which we relied. The National Organization was accordingly forced to ignore practically all of our requests as to the manner of campaign to be made and the number of field secretaries to be sent here. This made our task more difficult. There were some few posts which did not give that cooperation which should be displayed toward efforts sponsored by the National Organization. The action of those posts leaves them open to censure. In spite of these obstacles, through the loyal efforts of the real Legionnaires in this State the raising of our quota of the Endowment Fund is practically assured. Too much credit for this cannot be given to Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt, the State Chairman of the Drive, and to the loyal group of leading citizens who assisted him

in this work. I recommend that in the event of any future nationwide project being undertaken by The Legion, this Department insist upon handling the New York end with New York men and with the National Organization merely acting in an advisory capacity.

The third phase of our program for this year was a wider understanding of Americanism. Our posts know of their duty to aid and encourage the foreigners in our midst to learn our language, to know our institutions and traditions and to value and cherish our citizenship. It is now time that The Legion give its attention to re-Americanizing Americans. There has been growing up in this country among our own citizens an amazing lack of understanding of the meaning and of the duties of citizenship. The opinion is entirely too prevalent that citizenship consists solely of privileges without responsibilities. There has been altogether too small a response to the call to duty upon the part of our citizens. This does not refer merely to paying proper homage to our flag, respecting the rights of others, and urging support of our laws. It is imperative that our citizens should perform those two most important duties of citizenship—exercising the right of suffrage and rendering uncomplaining jury service.

The Legion in its Americanism work should spread the doctrine that those who refuse or neglect to vote and so to protect the institutions of our country from the onslaught of un-American influences are slackers just as truly as are those who would refuse to take up arms to ward off an enemy assault on our shores. Our country is built upon confidence in our courts and that confidence can only be maintained provided there is a willingness on the part of our intelligent citizens to serve on juries. By teaching the necessity of voting and of giving time to jury service can we bring home to our own citizens those ideals which we attempt to inculcate in the aliens who come to our land.

The fourth plank in our program for the past year was community service. The importance to The Legion of this activity cannot be overestimated. Every Legion post should be active in every movement looking toward the advancement, the betterment and the progress of the community in which that post is located. With Legion posts taking the lead in certain efforts, and cooperating with other organizations in all steps for good, the influence of The Legion in every locality will be felt. That influence must ever be for right. In many places at the present time The Legion post is even now considered the leading civic organization; and the number of communities where that is so must constantly increase.

I recommend the inclusion by the incoming administration of these four planks in any program it may adopt: justice for our disabled; care for the orphans and the dependents of those of our comrades who have gone to their reward; a more intelligent meaning of Americanism; and the widest possible community service. That constitutes a program which should appeal to all good citizens; and a platform upon which all Legionnaires should feel proud to stand.

The American Legion Auxiliary has cooperated to the fullest extent with The Legion in the carrying out of this program. During the past year this organization has been truly an auxiliary to The Legion in every sense of the word. It has aided every effort of The Legion and has become indispensable to The Legion. Under the leadership of Mrs. E. B. Garrison, of Monroe, The American Legion Auxiliary has had the most successful year in its existence. The time when there was any doubt as to the value of the Auxiliary is now past. During its early existence the Auxiliary naturally depended upon The Legion for support and guidance. It has now reached the stage where it no longer needs to come to The Legion for assistance, but where The Legion officials gladly request its aid in solving Legion problems. I recommend that the fullest liaison be maintained between all Legion posts and their Auxiliary units; and where no Auxiliary exists, that special efforts be made to organize a unit. This will help the post and the locality and react to the benefit of the entire Department.

The Forty and Eight has also more than justified its existence. Created with the twofold purpose of aiding The Legion and of providing extra social features for its members, it has remained steadfast to the principles upon which it was founded. The Forty and Eight during the past year has had as its Grande Chef de Gare, Reginald H. Wood, of Albany. His energetic personality applied to the problems of The Legion through the various Voitures has been of untold value. I desire to extend to him and the Grande officers my heartfelt thanks for their hearty cooperation in all Legion affairs during the past year. The assistance given the Department by the Forty and Eight should not be overlooked. With the State Commander and the Grande Chef this year in constant touch with one another, the fun-making branch of our organization was at all times kept informed of Legion plans. That this may continue, I recommend that the Grande Chef de Gare of the Forty and Eight be an ex-officio member of the State Executive Committee.

Membership is of extreme importance to The Legion because only through a large membership can The Legion maintain its influence; and because the per capita tax is at present our only means of securing revenue to enable us to carry on our multiplicity of activities. However, membership must not be the end and the aim of any Legion post. No worthy activity should be sacrificed or subordinated merely for the securing of a large membership. The ideal membership is that in which every individual is earnestly and whole-heartedly striving to assist in one or more of the organization's interests. The American Legion is rightfully called the representative organization of World War Veterans, and in order that there may be no question as to our claim to that title, we must have a membership of sufficient strength to justify it.

I am thoroughly convinced of the logic of the recommendations made at our last Convention by Past Commander Spafford, that

all post and county officers should assume office not later than September or October so that their terms might more nearly coincide with the terms of the State and national officers. This year in many cases post commanders did not take office until sometime in January, and consequently were entirely ignorant of the bulletins sent out by the Department during the first four months of the present administration. I recommend that all posts and county organizations be urged to have their elections and installations of officers before the last of October. This is of sufficient importance to justify its inclusion in our State Constitution.

The membership of The American Legion in this State is not quite so large as that of a year ago, but it is larger than our membership of two years ago. There were undoubtedly some who became members last year only for the purpose of securing aid in obtaining the State Bonus and the Federal Adjusted Compensation Certificates. But the fact that our membership has decreased but slightly this year proves the falsity of the assertion that our organization consists solely of those who have joined for purely selfish purposes. The loss of membership this year is largely due to the falling off in the Metropolitan District. This condition should be investigated by the incoming administration with the view of working out a plan of keeping a more constant Legion membership in this great metropolis. Some idea may be obtained of our size when it is considered that The American Legion in the State of New York has a membership exceeding the national membership of any other veteran organization in this country. Our present membership includes only those who are interested in The Legion, and in my opinion should form the basis of a still greater membership in the future.

Shortly after our last Convention a challenge was received from the Department Commander of Illinois for a contest based upon the percentage of paid-up membership received at National Headquarters by April 15th as compared with the greatest membership our respective Departments ever had. The contest aroused intense interest throughout the State and had the effect of securing the dues of many members early in the year. I believe such a contest, appealing as it does to the sporting instinct, which is present to a more or less pronounced degree in nearly all of us, has a most beneficial effect upon membership. I recommend that a similar contest be held during the coming year; that it be made a three-cornered affair among New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania; and that the closing date of the contest be June 1st instead of April 15th.

It is a source of gratification to me that the county which has shown the greatest increase in membership over last year is Albany county. County Commander David H. Walsh through his efforts has obtained for Albany county 128 per cent. of last year's membership. Other counties which have increased their membership during the past year are: Herkimer with 119 per

cent.; Greene with 117.5 per cent.; Montgomery with 113.9 per cent.; Rockland with 113.2 per cent.; Orange with 112.3 per cent.; Schenectady with 109.8 per cent.; Essex with 109 per cent.; Lewis with 107.5 per cent.; Putnam with 105.9 per cent.; Orleans with 101 per cent.; Chemung with 100.7 per cent. I would also refer to the ten largest posts in the State and recommend that at each Convention the Commander do likewise. The largest post in New York State is the one which has held that honor for some time, the General Lafayette Police Post of New York City with a present membership of 1082. Second in the list, I am most pleased to announce, is the post of which I am a member, Fort Orange Post No. 30, of Albany, with 801 members. The others in the first ten are: Memorial Post of Rochester with 769; Binghamton Post with 728; Syracuse Post with 689; Schenectady Post with 648; East Side Post of New York City with 590; Utica Post with 577; Kingston Post with 507; and Lafayette Post of Poughkeepsie with 488.

Our success in retaining so large a percentage of our last year's membership is very largely due to the indefatigable efforts of Past Commander Edward E. Spafford. After a most faithful year of service as Department Commander, Mr. Spafford willingly accepted the position of Chairman of the Membership Committee, knowing full well what arduous duties that entailed, and our membership this year is a testimonial to his devoted service. There has never been a State Commander in this or any other State who after the termination of his office rendered such splendid service during the following year as has Mr. Spafford. Legionnaires owe him an everlasting debt of gratitude.

In traveling through the State, I have found that membership has increased in those posts which have remained alert and which have engaged in many activities to keep their members interested. A system of having ready for reference all bulletins and information also makes for a better spirit of understanding. In addition to the usual interests of Legion posts, the adopting of Boy Scout troops by the posts which furnish the Scoutmaster and the Scout Committee; providing vacations for poor children; and taking part in movements of civic interest have been of great value in stimulating and retaining Legion enthusiasm. Bowling leagues and similar intra-post contests also have a pronounced effect upon post morale.

One of the greatest detriments to Legion membership has been the sending out of tickets at numerous times during the year for disposal or purchase by the members. This and the practice of taking up collections at meetings should, so far as is possible, be discouraged in order that those not able to make these donations should not be embarrassed—which invariably causes first dissatisfaction and then resignation.

Our Department and the entire Legion sustained a great loss in the untimely death of John L. Riley, Chairman of the Americanism Committee who, though ill for a long time, resigned but two

weeks before his death. Mr. Riley was the outstanding authority on Americanism in this Department, his merit being recognized nationally. He was secretary of the National Americanism Commission and had a principal part in arranging the various flag conferences called by The American Legion, resulting in the adoption of the Code of Flag Etiquette now in common use in this country. His efforts and his accomplishments in this most important part of Legion endeavor will be a perpetual memorial of his useful life.

We were fortunate that one of Mr. Riley's associates was able to assume the task which he so unwillingly relinquished. Mr. Robert Bowman of Watertown succeeded to the chairmanship of this committee. Placed in a very awkward position in the middle of the year, Mr. Bowman has carried on splendidly.

In this connection, emphasis should be laid upon that part which The Legion should play in the observance of our national holidays. Where no public ceremonies are held, The Legion should take charge of the program; and where exercises are conducted the posts should cooperate to the fullest extent. Especially should The Legion be most interested in keeping alive the traditions of Memorial Day and Armistice Day. Memorial Day must always be a day devoted to reverential remembrance of those who gave up their lives, in the various conflicts in which this nation participated, that our Republic might continue along the path of justice and right; and Armistice Day ever for rejoicing and celebrating the important part our country was enabled to take in successfully bringing to a decisive close a war which threatened civilization itself.

Due to the fact that in the past there had been constant conflict between the Hospitalization and the Welfare Committees, they were combined this year under the name of the Welfare Committee. With Wallace J. Young of Freeport as chairman, this committee has accomplished much of a constructive nature. It has made constant visits to all hospitals housing veterans and has supervised the work of the posts in their hospital service. Its fight for a thousand bed neuro-psychiatric hospital has been successful and the purchase of land at Northport for this purpose has now been authorized. The incoming administration must be constantly alert that there is no undue delay in the construction of this much needed institution.

Through Mr. Young's efforts both the Federal and State authorities have consented that the occupational therapy of veterans in state institutions should be under the direction of the State with the Veterans' Bureau reimbursing the State for the attendant expense. This was brought about largely through the great interest displayed by Dr. Floyd Haviland, Chairman of the State Hospital Commission. Dr. Haviland personally recommended this course to Governor Smith who as ever was most eager to do all in his power to aid the condition of disabled veterans.

The Welfare Committee has cooperated in every respect with the Veterans' Bureau and has secured most favorable results. While the Veterans' Bureau is not functioning perfectly, it is safe to say that its efficiency has increased markedly during the past year, at least so far as this State is concerned. This is in no small part due to the efforts of our committee. There is a most friendly feeling between The Legion officials and the Veterans' Bureau which has resulted in disabled men receiving their just rights without unnecessary delay and that is the end most earnestly to be desired. Mr. M. E. Head, Area Control Officer, whose jurisdiction includes this State, has displayed a most admirable desire to correct any faults which were shown to him. The main difficulty in the administration of the Veterans' Bureau is caused by the inadequate salaries paid, which are not commensurate with the responsibility. There are also certain changes in the law which must be made.

"The Welfare Committee has prepared an excellent three-year building program for the Veterans' Bureau. The construction in the near future of the thousand bed hospital for neuro-psychiatric cases should not end The Legion's demand for adequate hospital facilities. Efforts should be started at once for securing an additional thousand bed hospital in the Metropolitan District and a five hundred bed hospital upstate, both for mental cases. In addition, an insistent demand should be made that Hospital No. 81 in The Bronx, instead of being abandoned, should be continued as a reception and diagnostic hospital. All cases in the Metropolitan area could be sent there to determine to which institution they should be admitted, and emergency cases could also be handled there. I recommend that resolutions be adopted urging the National Organization to work for such additional hospital space in this State.

The Legislative Committee headed by Judge Edward N. Scheiberling of Albany has had a most successful year. The passage of the law including relatives of those who died in service and those who died before the bonus act of last year became law among those entitled to the bonus and extending the time for making application until July 1, 1926, was of chief importance. The other legislation will be dealt with at greater length in the report of the Legislative Committee. Great care should be exercised by this Convention in the resolutions calling for legislative action, lest by unfair and improper demands our well deserved influence in the legislative halls at Albany be lessened.

A special committee on civil service was appointed this year with Frank T. Hines of The Bronx as chairman. In addition to clarifying the sections of this law so far as they relate to veterans, attention must be given to those denied promotion because of their military service. Many men left the State Civil Service to enter the Federal Military Service and upon returning found that the men who stayed at home had during their absence changed from subordinates to superiors. This is a sad commentary upon the patriotism of our State. Very strenuous efforts should be made

that the next Legislature correct this condition. A powerful opposition is sure to be encountered but that should not prevent insistence on fair treatment for those veterans who find themselves penalized because of their having entered the Federal Military Service during the World War.

The Publicity Committee has had a live wire chairman in R. P. Van Vlack of Poughkeepsie, who took over his position at the end of January and has since done much constructive work. The rendering of service of itself brings satisfaction to those who do the work, in the knowledge that they have done something worth while and have done it well; such service, however, does not procure the favorable reaction of the public generally unless the suggestions which Mr. Van Vlack will outline are followed.

Caution that the publicity received should be proper is essential. It is most harmful to burst into print relative to some proposition and then have to recant what has been said. The present administration has been criticized because of the lack of spectacular publicity this year. I believe, however, that as a result of our accomplishments and the seeking of publicity only for constructive purposes, we have made a better name for The Legion than could have been secured by irresponsible methods.

The Post Activities Committee has confined its efforts this year to arousing posts to an understanding of the possibilities for service which lie before them. Mr. W. A. H. Ely of Tarrytown has devised an excellent system of rating posts. In an effort to increase the usefulness of posts, prizes were offered for those which have been most active in a favorable manner—with particular stress being laid upon community service. The posts have not responded quite in the spirit that was expected, especially in relation to filing monthly reports detailing their activities. I recommend that this system of awarding prizes be still further developed during the coming year and that special efforts be made to secure a wider community service by all posts than has ever been had heretofore.

The Military Affairs Committee with Vice-Commander Harry C. Wilder of Malone as chairman has carried on in an excellent manner. It has sent out to the posts bulletins on the policies of the Legion as laid down at our national convention. Particular stress has been given to the importance of the Citizens' Military Training Camps and this committee has had an important place in their success this year. The committee has also aided the building up of the Reserve Corps and the observance of National Defense Day. This policy should be continued.

One of the very important service efforts under the auspices of the Legion in this State is that of prison welfare. This has been conducted solely by Mrs. Eva Hay of Ossining. With a very small allowance from the Department for expenses, Mrs. Hay has secured donations from other sources to enable her to keep on with this most worthy cause. Her influence has been marked. Many a veteran who made a false step after returning to civil life is now carrying on as a law abiding citizen; and many of those

who today are inmates of penal institutions will upon their release lead upright lives because of the beneficent influence of Mrs. Hay who has been nicknamed by these unfortunate veterans as "Joy" Hay. When our finances permit, an additional allowance should be made for this service.

The Finance Committee has labored under a distinct handicap because of the death of Mr. C. Royce Sawyer, shortly after his appointment as chairman. Mr. Sawyer had given over a year's study to the problem of State finance and would undoubtedly have been able to have presented a sound financial policy for this Department. It took some time to persuade Mr. Clarence E. Lichtenstein of Westchester to succeed to the chairmanship. During the short time that he has had charge the committee has done considerable work in investigating methods for easing our financial difficulties.

The convention Program Committee under the chairmanship of Charles Hann, Jr., of New York and the Convention Arrangements Committee with Past National Adjutant Lemuel Bolles at its head have done their work in a manner of which you are all aware and for which all who attend this Convention should be extremely grateful. The thoroughness of their work is contributing largely to the success of this convention.

The committee to make arrangements for the New York delegation to the National Convention has planned one of the most interesting trips that any New York delegation has ever had the details of which will be presented to you by Ralph B. Seward of Westchester.

These committees have all worked faithfully and I personally feel extremely grateful to the chairmen and all the members for their complete support and untiring devotion to duty, which have been of the greatest assistance to this administration.

However, I believe that the functioning of these committees could be considerably improved by following the scheme adopted at the last National Convention for the appointment of National committees. The committees should have a continuity of life to enable them to continue their work without interruption. At present, no matter how soon the new Commander may hope to start it takes him one month at the very least to make his appointments and the committees have additional delay before becoming organized. If two-thirds of each committee remained in office after the convention they could meet at the close thereof and without any delay or interruption in their work decide upon their future activities based upon the dictates of the convention. Such a change would improve the efficiency of the committees and be of inestimable value to the Department. I recommend a change in our State Constitution providing that the incoming Commander appoint all committees so that one-third of those appointed on each committee will serve for three years, one-third for two years and one-third for one year, and that thereafter one-third of each committee be chosen by the newly elected commander for a period of three years.

During the past year and a half the State of New York has been paying a bonus to its veterans. In no state in this country has a bonus been paid so rapidly and with so little confusion as has been the case here; this in spite of the fact that our law contained technical restrictions relative to residence and was not passed until six years after the War. I believe that it is but right to make public acknowledgment of the fact that this bureau has functioned so efficiently and to pay respect to the excellent judgment and the executive ability of Adjutant General Edward J. Westcott who has been the chairman and the administrative officer of the commission handling the bonus.

I would also call attention to the registration of the graves of veterans being compiled by the Adjutant General. With no provision made for this work in the budget, General Westcott has secured the lists of the burial places of a large proportion of the veterans whose graves are in this State. Considerable assistance has been given by some of our posts, especially the 107th Infantry Post which furnished a complete list of the burial places of all departed veterans who had at any time served in that regiment. In order that the list, which will be a public document might be as complete as possible, all posts should make special efforts to forward to the Adjutant General the list of the location of all veterans' graves of which they have a record.

Another duty performed this year by the Adjutant General has been the distribution of captured war trophies. No one could have acted fairer from a Legion point of view. In conducting the bonus payment, registering the graves of veterans, and distributing captured war trophies, General Westcott has shown a fairness and an earnestness that arouses the admiration of all who are familiar with his administration.

In my opinion, we might well adopt from the National Organization the use made of Past Commanders. Every year the State Commander after becoming thoroughly familiar with all the problems relating to the Department has been allowed to drop out of active Legion service. That is poor business judgment. During the past year, I have invited all Past Commanders to attend meetings of the Executive Committee and the Department has benefited greatly from their advice and suggestions. The National Constitution provides that Past National Commanders are ex-officio members of the Executive Committee without vote. I believe that future administrations would be greatly aided by having the Executive Committee receive the views and advice which their experience has given the past State Commanders. By being ex-officio members of the Executive Committee they would merely present their ideas without being privileged to vote. I recommend that our State Constitution be amended so as to provide that Past Department Commanders be rewarded and made use of as is done by the National Organization with its Past Commanders.

The National Constitution provides for a Department Judge Advocate. Therefore at the first meeting of the Executive Com-

mittee held immediately after the convention at Alexandria Bay, I suggested that this Department comply with the provisions of the National Constitution and select a Judge Advocate who should be nominated by the Commander and approved by the Executive Committee. This suggestion was adopted and Mr. Thomas J. Brady of New York was appointed as the first Judge Advocate of The American Legion in this State. Without the benefit of the services of Mr. Brady I would have been unable to have carried on the work of Department Commander this year. His clear judgment, remarkable vision, absolute fairness, willingness to take on all burdens assigned have proved of the utmost value to the Department. This Department will never have a more able or efficient Judge Advocate than Mr. Brady who has blazed the way for those who follow. I recommend that our Constitution be amended by adding to the Department officers, a Judge Advocate who should be nominated by the Commander and approved by the Executive Committee.

The Veterans' Mountain Camp has undergone a radical change during the past year. With the passage of the Reed-Johnson bill there was no longer a necessity for an institution admitting veterans with active tuberculosis, as that law provided that veterans so afflicted are entitled to treatment at a Government hospital. Consequently, the camp reverted to the original purposes for which it was founded—that of being a convalescent camp where veterans recovering from sickness or disease might go to recuperate before resuming the battle of life. This change in policy naturally resulted in some confusion and delay. The camp now is firmly established and is filling a real need. It has had the most careful guidance during the past year by President G. Merritt Ward of Rochester. Unfortunately, the poppy drive has not been as successful as in other years due partly to the conflict with the endowment drive and partly to a lack of proper organization. It is to be hoped that a way may be found so that the camp may continue during the entire year without facing a deficit.

As Department Commander, I have been ex-officio member of the board of trustees of the Soldiers and Sailors Home at Bath. During the past year the Home has been conducted in a most excellent manner under the able direction of Colonel J. C. F. Tillson, Commandant. This Home was started by the G. A. R. who turned it over to the State as a Home for Veterans who were in any way incapacitated. The eligibility for admission has been extended until now not only veterans of the Civil War but also of the Spanish-American and World War are admitted. With a capacity of nearly two thousand in the home there are at the present time fewer than three hundred—most of them Civil War Veterans, whose ranks are rapidly dwindling. Some thought should be given to the future of this home. It is probable that there will come a time when a Home of this sort will be needed for World War Veterans. There is sure to be some legislation on the question of the continuance of this Home brought before the next Legislature. I recommend that the incoming Commander ap-

point a special committee to investigate the advisability of keeping this Home going until the need for such an institution for World War Veterans can be determined, and to urge their findings upon the Legislature through our Legislative Committee.

There is at the Home a cemetery containing the graves of some 4,500 veterans—practically all Civil War Veterans, some fifteen hundred of them being of the Confederate Army. This cemetery should be taken over and maintained by the Federal Government as a National Cemetery. I recommend that this convention approve turning over this cemetery by the State of New York to the National Government for perpetual care as a National Cemetery.

During the past year an effort has been made to have a number of statewide gatherings at which there would be meetings of the State Executive Committee and of all standing committees. These standing committees present their suggestions to the Executive Committee for immediate action. This year three of such meetings were held—the first in New York City early in December; the second at the time of the annual Legislative dinner in Albany in January; and the third in Rochester early in March. They all proved to be successful.

Similar conferences should be held frequently in different parts of the State and at each an effort should be made to have all committees meet. This would give the committees the opportunity to become more familiar with their work and one another. The meetings being in the nature of a convention, without the distraction of electioneering, would prove of the greatest value to the Legion by stirring up local interest in various parts of the State and stimulating a spirit of comradeship among our members. I recommend that the incoming administration endeavor to have at least five of these quasi-conventions at intervals of about two months.

Legionnaires in this State have come to expect entirely too much of the State Commander. I was particularly unfortunate in following those most energetic Commanders, this Department has had in the past few years. It was an impossibility for me to maintain the pace which they had set and I believe it is an injustice to expect anyone to attempt to even approach their record. In addition to obeying the mandates of the State Convention, cooperating with the various requests of the National Organization, overseeing the conduct of Headquarters in New York City, straightening out disputes, preparing bulletins and messages for the posts, the Commander's presence is desired at every part of the State whenever any affair is given. I attended more than 200 Legion functions during the past year and was forced to decline three times that many invitations.

I believe that the State Commander should not be expected to attend Post affairs, but should be present only at county functions and that one visit to a county is all that should be requested. The Posts in the county should arrange among themselves as to where this visit will be. At the same time, I recommend that the

Vice-Commanders to a large extent attend these county affairs where the Commander might otherwise be expected. It should be considered the duty of the district chairmen and the district vice-chairmen to represent the Department in their districts. Each district chairman and vice-chairman should visit every county in his district at least once in each year. With the Commander or one of the Vice-Commanders attending a county meeting and with the district chairman and district vice-chairman each also attending a function, that will provide for three visits annually in each county by State officers. I recommend that these suggestions be embodied in a resolution expressing the sense of the convention.

While entirely too much has been required of the State Commander, to an even greater extent is this true of our National Commander. This year all invitations to the National Commander to attend affairs in this State were sent through the Department Commander. I recommend that the same policy should be followed during the coming year.

Each district chairman should call a district conference at least every other month and each conference should be in a different county, wherever possible. These gatherings are of the greatest assistance to all participating and tend to bring the posts in closer touch with one another and with the Department. In this connection, I would urge upon the delegates that extreme care be used in the selection of district chairman and district vice-chairman. Only those should be chosen who are willing to devote considerable time to their office.

The Vice-Commanders elected last year have been of the greatest assistance to the Commander. I felt free to call upon them at any time and they have always responded. I doubt if this Department has ever had three more willing workers than Vice-Commanders Albert S. Ward of the Bronx, Harry C. Wilder of Malone and John S. Leonard of Jamestown.

I also desire to commend the district chairmen for their faithful performance of the many duties of their offices. Michael J. Flynn, 2nd district chairman, not only visited every county in his district at least three times but also spent considerable time in other districts. Dr. R. P. Huyek, was also most active in getting to every part of the 5th district. Dr. E. C. Gow, 4th district chairman; Harry Williams, of the 9th; James F. Ball of the 7th; Charles Hann, Jr., of the 1st; H. R. Fuller of the 6th; Ben Rhodes of the 8th; and Clyde F. Gardner of the 3rd have all done excellent work. The Executive Committee this year was one of the strongest the Department has ever had. In attendance at meetings, acceptance of responsibilities, and all round Legion work there never was a more conscientious group gathered together. I feel grateful to every one of them for their loyal support.

At the present time the position of Department Commander means not only giving up a great amount of time but also spending a considerable sum for expenses. This should be changed, because a man giving his time and energy to the position of Commander or any other office on the Executive Committee is doing all

that should be required. It is necessary that the present policy be changed in order that we may avoid the danger of having it stated that no one can become Commander in this Department unless he is able to pay his own expenses. The amount in the budget for the expenses of the Commander and the Executive Committee should be used solely for the Executive Committee meetings and for the expenses of the Commander when engaged in Department business. I recommend that this convention decree that whenever any State officer, whether Commander or any other member of the Executive Committee, attends any meetings his entire expenses be paid by the Post or the county which is giving the affair.

These observations on the responsibilities of the Commander must not be construed as a complaint. I have enjoyed my term more than anything else in which I have ever participated. The friendship of Legionnaires is a priceless possession. Add to that the knowledge that one is engaged in worth while service and the ensuing satisfaction is so great as to make the efforts put forth hardly seem to justify the results obtained.

The financial condition of the Department at the present time is in first-class shape. This is due to the watchful eye of our Treasurer, Harold L. DeWald of Philmont, and our Adjutant, Albert S. Dayton, of Patchogue, and to the devoted services of Mr. Charles McWhorter of Brooklyn who as heretofore has made audits of the accounts of the Legion and of the Veterans' Mountain Camp without charge. At the last convention a budget was adopted based upon a membership, which we have not quite reached, and which also took into consideration the receipt by the Department of the sum of at least \$1,000 from the publication of the Annual. The Annual was not approved for this year, because of our disinclination to accept money from advertisers in the Annual who were not getting real value for their investment. Furthermore we are printing a State paper and should endeavor to secure for it as large an advertising support from the public as possible, where we can feel that the advertisers are receiving actual value.

To make up for the loss in expected revenue from these sources we have received more than was anticipated from the official source records. By strict economy and cutting down wherever possible we have been able to keep within the budget and to place a substantial amount to the credit of the new administration. This has been done in spite of the fact that we have purchased a considerable amount of equipment this year. State headquarters had been gradually accumulating discarded furniture which was more or less useless and discreditable and which gave the appearance of a second-hand shop. Much of this was disposed of and a certain amount of new equipment purchased, including a steel cabinet for storing supplies and a three section steel unit for the beginning of a Department Library. I recommend that an additional allowance be made for equipment for the ensuing year.

I believe it wise for us to look ahead in our plans. A certain amount should be placed in a special fund each year and the interest thereon allowed to accumulate until there is at least \$25,000 in the fund. At that time this deposit to become an endowment fund, the interest only to be used, except in case of an emergency and upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire Executive Committee when a portion of the principal might be borrowed for Department purposes. There will come a time when the membership of the Legion in this State will decline rapidly. Unless we provide now for the day when our organization becomes old, in the years to come we will have great difficulty in maintaining our activities. I recommend that \$1,000 of this year's surplus of approximately \$5,000 be placed on deposit at this time under the conditions above outlined.

The National Constitution provides that all national, department and post officials handling American Legion moneys shall be bonded and that in the case of department and post officials such bond be approved by the Department Judge Advocate and Department Executive Committee. The posts of this department have not always complied with this provision. I recommend that all county and post officials handling funds be bonded through a blanket policy taken out by the Department. The amount of the bond to be determined by the post and counties, and the cost thereof to be paid by them to the Department.

The Empire State Legionnaire, the official State paper, started under the administration of Commander Spafford has progressed until it is now recognized as one of the leading Legion periodicals in the country. The Editor, Sydney G. Gumpertz, has produced a newsy paper which fills a long felt need of the Legionnaires in this State. It gives the news of the posts in our Department in a manner that could not otherwise be secured. If every member of the Legion in this State would subscribe to the Empire State Legionnaire at the modest subscription price of fifty cents per year, there would be a worth while profit accruing to the Department. It would then be possible to secure more advertising and higher rates. The entire profits from this paper after paying the expenses of editing and printing go to the Department. With additional funds we would be able to allot increased amounts to the various committees which are now handicapped through lack of funds. This added revenue would make possible much work which now necessarily must be curtailed. Many posts have already increased their dues fifty cents and have sent in a subscription for their entire membership. If this practice were followed by more posts the advantage to the Legion generally would be so great as to justify this action; while at the same time the members would be receiving a paper which they would feel was worth the price.

For a number of years as chairman of the State Legislative Committee, I have suggested that Department Headquarters be moved to Albany. During the past year I have had an opportunity to investigate this matter more thoroughly and especially

from a State point of view. As a result of my study this year, I am convinced that Department Headquarters should be moved to Albany. It is the place where one naturally expects headquarters. It is more centrally located than any other point in the State and more easily accessible. The advantages are well known and have been oft repeated. I recommend that the incoming Executive Committee investigate this thoroughly and when suitable quarters in Albany are offered the change be made.

During the last year a very serious misfortune has befallen the Department. Joseph A. Burns for three years Assistant State Adjutant, in full charge of Department Headquarters, a man who gave of himself to Legion work, who did not confine his efforts to the time spent in the office but who was always at the beck and call of Legionnaires, whose hobby was aiding the disabled, was stricken with tuberculosis. A special committee composed of Past Commander William F. Deegan, as chairman, Judge Advocate Thomas J. Brady, as treasurer, and Past Commander Edward E. Spafford succeeded in raising a fund from certain of Joe's friends to aid his wife and four small children. More money will be needed and can be sent to this committee. Joe Burns has since been at the Veterans' Bureau hospital at Castle Point and his health has improved to a great extent. His position as Assistant State Adjutant has been kept open in the hope that he may at some time be able to resume where he left off.

Carl W. Sudhoff, during the absence of Joe, has been temporarily acting in charge of Headquarters. He had a particularly hard task following a man of Burns' worth and ability, but he has nevertheless done all that could be expected. Clifford Novelli was appointed as service officer and has served well. The Department was most fortunate in having Miss McCauley on the staff. She has been of the greatest assistance, especially since the illness of Mr. Burns. She is soon to be married, and while regretting that the Department will lose so efficient an employee I would publicly congratulate the man who is to have her manage his household. Her loss will not be so keen as might otherwise have been the case in view of the fact that Miss Grisch will remain at Department Headquarters. She has shown unusual ability and should prove a most valuable aid to the next administration.

A year as Commander of the American Legion in this State is an experience worth all the time and effort it entails. There is no finer group of men and women in any association than is found in the Legion. Loyalty is easy for those who were in service and who accordingly know the necessity of discipline. With loyal co-workers, no task is difficult. It is needless for me to urge that the entire Legion membership and especially those chosen as members of the State Executive Committee and county and post officers to give my successor that loyal and whole-hearted support and cooperation which constitutes the essence of real Legion spirit. I trust that the experience of this year may prove of some value in helping the next administration secure an unprecedented success, and I pledge myself to the limit of my ability to aid in realizing that goal. (Applause.)

The Chairman: We have as our next speaker a man born in Norfolk, Virginia, who was educated at Southern colleges, ordained to the ministry, and has been a successful preacher and a successful author. He is one of the leading citizens of his race and I have the pleasure of presenting Mr. Robert W. Bagnall, publicist and lecturer. (Applause.)

Mr. Robert W. Bagnall: Mr. State Commander, Members of The American Legion—I bring you greetings from 12 million of black American citizens, real Americans, devoted to the Constitution of this country, loyal to all its ideals, and I bring you at the same time congratulations from them, greetings because your organization in its principles so wonderfully expressed in the Preamble of your Constitution, your desire that law and order may be enforced, your desire that there may ever be loyalty to the Constitution of this country, your desire that right may triumph over might, your desire that freedom, justice and democracy may prevail forever in this land, has ideals and desires near and dear to the heart of every negro in this land, for we are proud of the fact that there never has been a negro traitor in America in spite of many hardships and wrongs visited upon them.

They love their country dearly. They believe in their country's ideals. Congratulations, because the Department of New York has always carried out in fact the fine expressions which are in your Preamble. Congratulations because it has stood sternly against prejudice. It has stood against much pressure at times.

I recall the wonderful showing made by the delegation of the Empire State at the great National Convention in New Orleans and how you stood for comradeship, for brotherhood, for justice, for freedom from prejudice at that time, and so twelve million black men congratulate you.

I say twelve million Americans. They are among the oldest Americans, for it is not generally known that when Christopher Columbus came to this country, to this new world, he found that there had preceded him black men. He found many customs from Africa. He found a peculiar coin, a Mandingan coin, a gold coin called "gupnan," and when he asked the Indians where they had procured it they answered from black merchants who had come from the East, and when later in this country, just twelve years after the Anglo-Saxon had landed here, a black man came to this country he at once began the great work that has been his, hewing down the forests, tunnelling the mountains, making much of the prosperity of the land, until today one-third of all the organized coal miners are negroes, one-tenth of all the transportation workers are negroes, a large percentage of the workers in prepared foodstuffs are negroes, and in the time of stress and need they have always done their part, these black citizens, for their country.

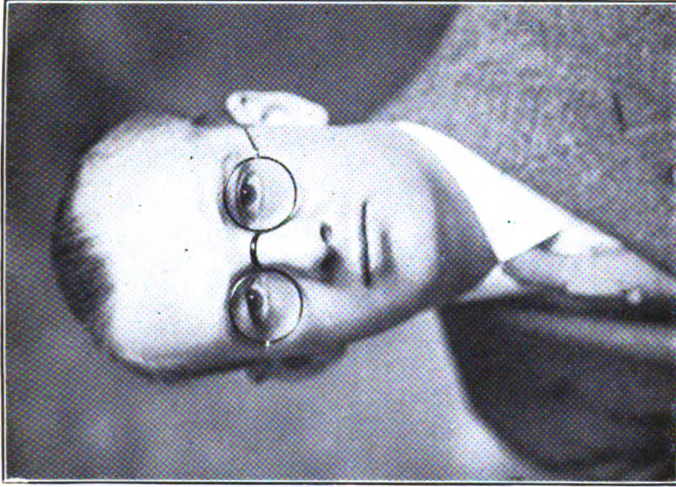
In the Revolutionary War two black regiments fought and fought bravely. When we read of the bloody footprint of the patriots at Valley Forge we want to remember that black men left

their blood in the snow at that time as well as white, and when we remember the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, you have it the tale goes that all day long Cornwallis' headquarters had been shelled. There was a colored soldier in Washington's troops and after the battle was over he said, "His name aint Cornwallis; we done shell all the 'corn' off him; his name is Cornwalloped.'" (Laughter.)

In 1860 we played the part and the Commander-in-Chief, the great martyred President of this country, the President whom we must love forever, Abraham Lincoln himself said that the balance of power furnished by the two hundred thousand black troops of this country made victory for the Union arms possible, and made therefore possible the preservation of this wonderful country of ours.

They have done their part, and in the great World War you know how they fought with you as comrades and our great General Pershing was most extravagant in his commendation of their gallantry. General after general, both American and French, were loud in their praise of their bravery and of their gallantry. They were glad and willing to make the great sacrifice, the utmost sacrifice, that democracy might come to the world. Theirs was not an easy task at that time. Here in this country four thousand of their fellows had been lynched by mobs. Here in this country a million of them had been practically disenfranchised. Here in this country they had been insulted and reviled by those who did not understand, but they believed that this country which was their country ultimately would do full justice to them and although tons of literature were rained down by German airplanes, although German spies tried to spoil their morale, yet they remained true to a man, remained true to the only country they knew, the country they loved, to America which they knew, sooner or later, would come to full justice to every man, black as well as white.

And after the World War there are problems, problems which you who have so splendidly demonstrated that the ideals expressed in words can be carried into facts have your duty to teach among your fellows in order that these problems may be met. There is a problem of the disabled veteran among negroes, with the exception of Tuskegee, the hospital at Tuskegee, there being hardly a hospital in the South where they can receive treatment. There is the problem of compensation and insurance. Not fifty per cent., of negroes have ever taken advantage of the war insurance. And they have not taken advantage because they haven't known about it and they haven't known about it because in many parts of this country it is exceedingly difficult to organize Legion posts among them. They aren't encouraged among them. Men have forgotten the bullets of the Hun did not recognize color or race and that loyalty in time of need is loyalty which should be honored in time of prosperity. There are many of them who are denied training in the various military camps and so much is being left undone to prepare for any great emergency which may come



JOHN S. LEONARD,
Vice-Commander



ALBERT L. WARD,
Vice-Commander



THOMAS J. BRADY,
Judge Advocate



DONALD C. STRACHAN,
National Executive Committeeman

to this country, for one-tenth of the population of a land cannot be ignored.

They have ever been loyal. We pray to God that they may ever be loyal. But nobody can tell how men may change. And it is the duty of every American citizen to do all in his power for fair play and equity, and you have demonstrated that you believe in these things and I ask you to influence others for these fundamental things that made America glorious.

I have talked to them in the war period from camp to camp. I have heard them—"I don't care if I do die, if my fellows of my race may have a larger chance." They have made the great sacrifice. We do not believe that their sacrifice is going to be in vain. We believe that America will answer that challenge of the negro poet when he said, "How will you have us? As we are, our eyes fixed forward on a star, or gazing blankly at despair, rising or falling, men or things, with dragging pace or footsteps leaped, strong, willing sinews in your wings, or tightening chains about your feet?"

We believe in America. We believe that America will answer the challenge. We believe that you will do your part, that the ideal of Lincoln concerning all men may be realized, a democracy for all the people, by all the people, of all the people, and that the dreams of the splendid Legion may be true, and America, the glorious, may be the country of full opportunity and full liberty for all men. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: Mr. Bagnall, on behalf of The American Legion I desire to thank you for your most inspiring talk.

The report of the State Adjutant, Albert S. Dayton of Patchogue. (Applause.)

Mr. Albert S. Dayton (Department Adjutant): Mr. Commander and Delegates—This report for the Legion year just ending, at the request of your Department Commander, sets forth briefly the observations of your Department Adjutant, rather than detailed information as has been the custom in the past to make, leaving the compilation of relative details to the several State Chairmen in the reports of their various activities and to one of the most capable State Commander this State has ever had who has kept in close contact with the affairs of the Department throughout the year.

We have met pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and for the purpose of exchanging views and it is my fervent hope that when we have left this great city we will go to our homes feeling that this reunion has marked another step forward in the achievements of The American Legion in this State, and as we are touching elbows with our comrades and neighbors, let us always remember that our greatest endeavor should be to leave the proper impressions upon those human lives with which we come

in contact so that the reflection of our activities may be favorably and indelibly impressed upon our friends.

Your Department Adjutant considers that the year just passed has been a particularly successful one for our organization. As we learn of our failure to secure the increase in membership sought for, let us not feel any concern over the stability of our organization in this State. In this there is no occasion for concern; there is little for surprise. It was the hope that there would be a marked increase in membership this year, but I believe it was frankly anticipated by all thoughtful Legionnaires familiar with conditions, that there would be a substantial decrease, it being recognized that the growth of The Legion in this State last year was phenomenal and abnormal in that many thousands of the neophytes were drawn to us because of the payment of the State Bonus and it was plainly inevitable that many thus attracted would drop out from active participation in Legion affairs. The actual result, however, showing but a few thousand difference, should be entirely satisfactory and shows the great work of your Department Commander, who was so earnestly, faithfully and ably assisted by Past State Commander Edward E. Spafford, Chairman of the Membership Committee, both of whom should receive the highest commendation from the delegates of this Convention.

Under the heading of membership comes new and discontinued Posts. Creation of new posts and discontinuance of inactive ones is important. Your Department Adjutant would suggest that the incoming Department Adjutant make a careful survey of conditions in this respect upon information received from post commanders through county commanders and that a special report be made to the new Executive Committee at an early date.

The meetings of the Executive Committee during the year have been interesting and fully attended, and in complete accord with our State Constitution. I would suggest that the incoming Department Adjutant carefully scrutinize all matters to come before the new body at its various meetings beforehand in order that business may be expedited and the Department Commander relieved of much responsibility incident to an examination thereof at the opening of each session.

Your Department Adjutant should be notified of each district conference, and if possible should attend and keep the records, in order that Department Headquarters may have first hand information of the work of each district whenever it is desired.

During the year just passed, the Department lost, temporarily only we hope, one of its greatest assets, assistant State Adjutant Joseph A. Burns, whom we all loved as a true and faithful Legionnaire. This was indeed a great loss, for Joe, as he was affectionately and familiarly known throughout the Department, was acquainted with the most intimate details of The American Legion. It was a pleasure at all times to do business with him. He was a repository of the traditions of The American Legion and to no one could we look with a feeling of greater security for an ac-

curate statement of the affairs of The Legion in this State. He was always attentive and responsive to the calls of those who needed him. He was always active and punctual in his interpretation of The American Legion spirit and I believe that it was because of his great devotion to the cause of The American Legion that hastened his retirement from among us.

Following the forced retirement of Joe Burns, fortunately for the Department there was a most capable man available and Carl W. Sudhoff, then Service Officer, was appointed to fill the vacancy by the Department Commander and this action was approved by a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee. The Commander's selection was a wise one and without question the services of Mr. Sudhoff have been highly satisfactory to the Department. Clifford N. J. Novelli, in turn appointed Service Officer, in my opinion is an excellent attaché to Department Headquarters, being a most faithful, competent and conscientious worker in the position he holds. Your Department Adjutant cheerfully endorses these selections and proposes the retention of both of these men during the coming year, with a recommendation, if considered advisable, of a readjustment of their salaries commensurate with their faithfulness and the work which they have to perform. I also wish to highly commend Miss McCauley and the other attachés for their efficient work at Department Headquarters.

In view of the fact that each year brings different problems and creates new conditions, I would suggest that the incoming Department Adjutant personally make a careful study of the affairs at Department Headquarters at the beginning of the new administration with a view to making any changes which may be found necessary because of changed conditions and that his report be submitted to the Executive Committee with recommendations. I would also suggest that he invite inspection and suggestions from impartial observers.

We all believe that expenses of conducting the necessary business of Department Headquarters should be cut to a minimum thereby avoiding the possibility of running into debt at some future time, keeping in mind at all times the necessity for continued efficient service.

There are many ways which the Department Adjutant may be of service to The American Legion, outstanding among them his availability and willingness at all times to accept speaking engagements at Legion and other community functions. Information should be disseminated from time to time from Department Headquarters advising Post officials of this service and of the opportunity of securing the other members of the Executive Committee for such purposes.

From a financial standpoint the Department is in excellent condition, having on hand a balance in excess of any previous year, and I believe it would be for its best interest to retain that most capable Treasurer, Harold L. DeWald, for another term.

I shall always look back with pride to the year spent as Adjutant of The American Legion of the Department of New York and regret that fitting words to properly express my feelings to the Legionnaires who were responsible for my selection do not come to me at this time as I wish they might, but I assure you all that I have enjoyed the association with such men as have been members of the Executive Committee during the year and the little work that I have been able to do for The Legion and that my appreciation shall always stand before me as a reminder to call forth every bit of energy, sincerity and devotion to The American Legion in the fulfillment of the great purposes for which we are organized and if I have in any slight measure approached the standards established by my predecessors in office, then I will have been fully compensated for the efforts which I have made. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The report of the State Treasurer, Mr. Harold DeWald of Philmont. (Applause.)

Mr. Harold L. DeWald (Department Treasurer): Fellow Legionnaires — I bring you the report of the State finances and say your Department is in a sound and solvent condition. We have a balance of \$5,017.94. It was not my pleasure to be at the Alexandria Bay Convention at which time you chose me to be your treasurer. Do you realize that the Department was near not having a treasurer? Possibly our beloved Past Commander Spafford thought we needed Godliness more than a treasurer and hastened to elect a chaplain before a treasurer.

There are suggestions I would like to make. First, I would suggest that a blanket bond be procured covering all county treasurers payable to the State treasurer. Second, I would suggest that when the budget of 1926 be made up that several items be changed; viz., National Convention appropriation be raised from \$100 to \$300, State Convention reports be raised from \$250 to \$350, welfare be cut from \$250 to \$100, Americanization be cut from \$250 to \$150.

I would suggest that the check of the State treasurer be made in voucher form so that cause of disbursement as well as purpose be completely detailed thereon.

I want to have it known that the splendid cooperation of Joe Burns, Carl W. Sudhoff, Charlie McWhorter and Miss McCauley are gratefully appreciated and acknowledged.

I quote you report in figures.

The Chairman: If there are no objections, this report will be referred to the Convention Finance Committee. Hearing no objection, it is so referred.

EXPENSES

	Current	Budget	Disbursements	
	Expenses	Total	Over	Under
<i>Administration</i>				
Salaries	\$9,669 50	\$10,000 00		\$333 50
Printing and Postage.....	1,839 95	2,000 00		160 05
Telephone and Telegraph....	490 50	500 00		9 50
Office Sundries	514 80	250 00	264 80	
<i>Organization Work</i>				
Commander's Travel	696 26 }	1,500 00		132 17
Executive Committee	671 57 }			
Legislative Committee	97 71	200 00		102 29
Publicity Committee		100 00		100 00
Membership Committee	30 66	250 00		219 34
<i>Convention</i>				
National	314 92	100 00	214 92	
State	60 12	250 00		189 88
Reports	359 77	250 00	109 77	
<i>General</i>				
Equipment	571 92	500 00	71 92	
Miscellaneous	17 50	250 00		232 50
<i>Americanization</i>	18 12	250 00		231 88
<i>Welfare</i>		250 00		250 00
<i>Prison Welfare</i>	231 06	250 00		18 94
		\$16,900 00		
Excess Receipts over Budget.	15,581 36	19,751 27	661 41	1,980 05
				<u>661 41</u>
Net under Budget.....				<u>\$1,318 64</u>
<i>Not in Budget</i>				
St. Paul Band short.....		\$1,912 88		
Less received		1,892 16		\$20 72
<i>Membership Prizes</i>				
Posts		375 90		
Individual		532 78		
		908 68		
Less received		491 54		417 14
<i>Over and Short</i>				8 25
<i>Endowment</i>		\$7,933 96		
Less received		7,506 41		427 55
County and Post Activities.....				217 25
Pershing Memorial				35 00
District Conferences				30 38
State Commander's Badge.....				22 34
Dr. Lloyd—Flowers.....				10 00
				<u>\$16,789 99</u>

AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

Statement of Condition, Year Ended August 31, 1925

Balance September 1924.....		\$1,685 78	
Receipts			
1923 Dues 2,036			
1924 Dues 1,694			
1925 Dues 57,404			
	61,134 @ \$1 25.....	\$76,417 50	
Paid National Organization.....		61,394 00	
		<u>\$15,023 50</u>	
Less, due National Organization.....		318 00	
State Share			\$14,705 50
Buttons on hand, 534 at \$0.20.....		\$106 80	
Buttons sold		328 50	
		<u>\$435 30</u>	
Buttons purchased		340 00	
Button profit			95 30
Adjusted Compensation Fund.....			196 00
Source Records			2,966 89
State Song			19 10
Interest net			98 08
Legion Annual			1,500 00
Caps, Badges and Supplies.....			15 56
Borrowed money		1,000 00	
Less repaid		1,000 00	
Drain Dinner Committee.....			134 70
Refund of Dues.....			24 00
Emergency Fund		100 00	
Paid out		100 00	
Disbanded Post			53
Railroad Refund St. Paul Convention.....			23 49
National Convention Arrangements Committee.....			5 00
			<u>\$19,784 15</u>
Amount available for expenses.....			\$20,102 15
National dues received not paid out.....		318 00	
			<u>21,787 95</u>
Disbursements for expenses per detail attached.....			16,769 99
			<u>\$5,017 94</u>
Bank balance	\$4,761 14		
Petty cash	150 00		
Buttons on hand.....	106 80		
	<u>\$5,017 94</u>		

Audited and found correct
 (Signed) Charles F. McWhorter,
 C. P. A.

Mr. Robertson (Erie): Mr. Commander, in view of the extended program which this Convention has and the necessity of maintaining its schedule I move that the Convention now adjourn until 2 p. m. Seconded. Carried.

The Thursday Morning Session of the Seventh Annual Convention of the Department of New York, The American Legion, adjourned at 12:15 p. m.

The Second Session was called to order at 2:15 o'clock, Thursday afternoon.

The Chairman: The Convention will be in order.

Those of our members who attended the first Convention of The American Legion in this State, held in Rochester in 1919, will remember that it was a rather tempestuous affair. But for the able guidance of the presiding officer no one can say what might have happened. Everyone who was present felt deeply grateful to our first Department Commander who presided over the Convention of 1919.

This afternoon we are to have the privilege of hearing from our first Department Commander, a man who has distinguished himself in public service as a member of the Legislature, where he was considered an authority on tax matters, and as a representative in Congress, where during his first term his ability was so well recognized that he was placed on the important Ways and Means Committee.

It is my pleasure to present to the delegates the first Department Commander of The American Legion — Honorable Ogden L. Mills. (Applause.)

Honorable Ogden L. Mills (Past Commander, Department of New York, The American Legion): Fellow Members of The American Legion — I have not come here this afternoon to inflict a speech on you, because as I looked over the program I realized that you were prepared to take all of the punishment possible in the way of oratory during this Convention.

But I do want to say a word of congratulation at this splendid Convention which I think distinctly emphasizes the strength and the enduring qualities of this great organization and I want to congratulate, in the second place, the members from New York county for bringing this great Convention to the City of New York.

It's a fine thing for The Legion. It is a fine thing for the city. Your presence here for three days will necessarily have an inspiring effect on all of our city members and on all of our city posts, whereas so far as the city is concerned we in years always gladly welcome any representative group of citizens from any part of the country. We welcome the opportunity to show them our city first hand, and to send them home to distant parts of the country as missionaries to dispel some of the misapprehension which exists in respect to this great metropolis. We want to show you all we have. We want you to have as good a time as possible and we want to send you home with the feeling that New York City is second to none in the warmth of its welcome and in its gladness to welcome the stranger within our gates.

As the Commander told you, it is just six years since as State Commander presiding at the Rochester Convention I told that Convention that here in the State of New York we had organized in nineteen weeks six hundred and ten posts, thirty-two a week, that it denoted not only high organizing ability on the part of its members but it demonstrated beyond question that this organization embodied in the spirit and mind of these men a high ideal and an enduring determination to serve.

Everything that has happened since has confirmed the words which I spoke then. Everything has happened since to more than confirm the optimism and hope which I expressed on that day. The high ideals which accompanied the founding of The Legion have not been allowed to become dim as the years have swept past. The high purposes which we professed in the first outburst of enthusiasm are still as strong today. The American Legion is now an established American institution. It draws its strength not only from a great membership in every community throughout the United States but it draws its strength because it is going somewhere. We know where we are going and we are going there for the other fellow. It draws its strength because it maintained the high ideals upon which it is founded and because it continues to emblazon on its banner the word "SERVICE."

The first duty of The Legion was, of course, to the disabled and their dependents. That duty has been gloriously performed. It is a matter of common knowledge that every statute on the books today looking to the good of the disabled and the dependents of the Great War is there by virtue of the work, not only in preparation, but due to the energetic pushing of The American Legion. There is no one in Washington who won't tell you that the officers and leaders of The American Legion have been the ones to whom Congress has looked constantly for help and guidance in the solution of this great problem.

But The Legion has not stopped there. It recognizes the government cannot do everything and today it is engaged in a great task of raising an endowment fund, the income of which is to be devoted to the benefit of those who made the greatest sacrifices in the war. Could there be a finer task, could there be one that would appeal more directly to the generosity of the American people? There isn't the slightest doubt but that before the year is out The American Legion will have to its credit the completion of this last and one of the greatest achievements.

For my part I shall always consider it one of the great events of my life to have been permitted actively to participate in the creation of this great organization, and while today and in the future I may not be in a position to give to its work the time and the effort that I have in the past, its future and success will always, and necessarily, be a matter of the most direct interest and solicitude on my part.

And I hope that now, and as long as I may live, that I may be ever ready to help any one of my comrades, individually or collectively, and that while serving in the ranks I may always live up to those high ideals and purposes that should characterize every member of The American Legion.

I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: We are now privileged to hear from another Legionnaire, another distinguished Legionnaire, a man who has rendered much service for The Legion, and a man who has ren-

dered much service for the public generally. As a member of the Assembly for a number of years he has given of his talents. For the last three years he has been the Chairman of the Ex-Service Men's Caucus and much of the work that The American Legion has been able to do toward securing legislation has been the result of the efforts of our next speaker. During the past few months he has also taken an active part in The American Legion Endowment Fund and is now to give a report of the work which has been done for The American Legion Endowment Fund in this State, a work for which he was one of the State Vice-Chairmen.

I have the pleasure of presenting Legionnaire and Assemblyman F. Trubee Davison. (Applause.)

Honorable F. Trubee Davison (Member of Assembly of the State of New York, and Vice-Chairman, New York State Division, The American Legion Endowment Fund Campaign): Mr. Commander, Members of the Convention—I am confident that no one in this hall here this afternoon has a task that is as gratifying as the one which has been allotted to me. As the Commander has said it is to be my privilege to present citations to those Posts which have gone over the top in the Endowment Fund Campaign. It is always very nice to raise our voice, either alone or with others, in paying tribute to individuals or organizations that have done a good job. I say that task is always nice. But in this particular job there is a real thrill in it because I believe that this Endowment Fund Campaign is inextricably bound up in the fundamental purposes of The American Legion.

I take it for granted that you and I, by reason of the fact that we are Legionnaires, believe from the bottom of our hearts in the principles of The Legion to which the Congressman has already referred. When we assume membership we certainly at the same time assume certain solemn obligations along with the many privileges that our ours. To me the most important of those—and I know it is the same throughout the membership of the whole American Legion—the most important is that of the disabled veterans and to those who actually gave their lives for the country during the war or as a direct result of the war. The Legion certainly since its foundation has done great constructive work in fulfilling those purposes. And the great function that it has performed, it seems to me, is that it has provided a means of translating our thoughts and our sentiments into definite, positive action. It has not been a dream. We have gone and worked and results have been shown.

But certainly the most optimistic Legionnaire, the most sanguine, could not maintain that that task is yet accomplished. There is much, very much, that remains to be done, and instead of the work decreasing as the years roll by, exactly the opposite seems to be the case. Our field is growing larger and our responsibilities along with the field.

After all, when everything is said and done, the real purpose of the Endowment Fund is to provide a guarantee that those principles will be fulfilled in time to come. It is a pledge to be given by the American people today that our work shall go on in perpetuity. It isn't one of those well-known routine matters that have come down to us from some vague place higher up, reports to be made in triplicate, and to be handled through the famous officials channels. Far from that. It is, rather, it seems to me, a definite, concrete human field, coming to all of the American people from those persons to whom we are eternally indebted—from the youngster who only asks that he be given the same opportunity in life that would have been his had not his father made the Supreme Sacrifice, to the disabled ex-service man, or from the disabled ex-service man whose passion it is to become once again a healthy normal useful member of the community. And it is to answer that call that The Legion has undertaken this Endowment Fund.

I now will give very briefly the status of the fund and of the campaign at the present time.

I now give this as follows: The number of Posts which have actually gone over the top is 136. Let me add here that going over the top does not simply mean a pledge of the required amount of funds. It means that pledge plus sending the cash to National headquarters in Washington. The total subscriptions in the State now amount to \$507,000. But the cash actually sent to Washington is only \$245,263, which obviously means that less than one-half of the pledges have actually been turned in to ready cash. It is interesting for the members of The Legion in this State to appreciate this, that \$100,000 more sent to Headquarters means that New York State will take the lead in the Endowment Fund Campaign throughout the country, and I have no doubt but that those Posts which are in sight of the top will carry forward with enthusiasm when they realize that just that little extra effort is required to put us in the very front of the parade.

The citations which I am about to read are, of course, made up as of today. I am asked by the Commander to announce that on October 1 further citations will be presented as of that date. I now have the honor of reading to you the list of the Posts which are to receive the citations this afternoon. These formal citations will be sent to the post commanders by the officials of the State organization.

Nassau.—J. Franklin Bell Post No. 81, Inwood; Floral Park Post No. 334; Lynbrook Post No. 335; Glenwood Landing Post No. 336; William Clinton Story Post No. 342, Freeport; Hempstead Post No. 390; James F. Brengel Post No. 456, Sea Cliff; Victor Murtha Post No. 972, Long Beach; Port Washington Post; Lawrence-Cedarhurst Post.

Suffolk.—Burton Potter Post No. 185, Greenport; Riverhead Post No. 273; Bayshore Post No. 365; Chelberg and Battle Post No. 388, Sag Harbor; Malcolm R. White Post No. 433, South-

hampton; Edwin C. Halsey Post No. 700, Easthampton; Raymond Cleaves Post No. 861, Mattituck; Donald C. Munro Post No. 944, Kings Park; Arthur Ellis Hamm Post No. 834, Westhampton Beach.

Dutchess.—Amenia Post No. 319; Wyman-Bremeline-Thrope Post No. 454, Dover Plains.

Orange.—Tuxedo Post No. 293, Tuxedo Park; Middletown Post No. 151.

Rockland.—Moscarello Post No. 199, Spring Valley; New Rochelle Post No. 8; Moses Taylor, Jr., Post No. 136, Mt. Kisco; Spencer-Kelly Post No. 267, Tarrytown; Ardsley Post No. 458; John H. Secor Post.

Queens.—Queens Post No. 301, Queens Village; Joseph B. Garrity Post No. 562, Ridgewood.

Cattaraugus.—Franklin Memorial Post No. 526, Franklinville; Randolph Post No. 181.

Chautauqua.—Charles H. Morehouse Post No. 351, Ripley.

Chenango.—Clifford-Holmes Post No. 923, Afton.

Delaware.—Hancock Post No. 289.

Erie.—Clarence Post No. 838; West Seneca Post No. 735, Gardenville; Milton J. Brounshidle Post No. 205, Kenmore.

Herkimer.—Crim-Shaffer Post No. 920, Ilion; Herkimer Post No. 38.

Livingston.—Matthew Cleary Post No. 255, Livingston; Daniel Goho Post No. 87, Dansville.

Monroe.—Smith Warren Post No. 367, Scottsville.

Montgomery.—Fort Plain Post No. 554.

Niagara.—Sanborn Post No. 969; Clute-Phillips Post No. 938, Middleport.

Onondaga.—R. J. Hydon Post No. 239, Skaneateles; Valentine Meyer Post No. 317, Skaneateles.

Ontario.—Bloomfield-Savage Post No. 970, Victor.

Oswego.—Russell Horning Post No. 601, Parish.

Rensselaer.—Taconic Valley Post No. 937; Castleton Post No. 738; Hoosick Post No. 40, Hoosick Falls.

Richmond.—Beauvais Post No. 126, Tottenville.

Schenectady.—Post No. 21, Schenectady.

Steuben.—Hyatt Clair Hatch Post No. 766, Atlanta.

Warren.—Glens Falls Post No. 233; Lake George Post No. 374; North Creek Post No. 629.

Washington.—Hudson Falls Post No. 574.

Wyoming.—Harder O'Donnell Post No. 734, Attica; Dorschteb-Acquard Post No. 885, Attica.

New York.—Jane A. Delano Post No. 344; General Lafayette Police Post No. 460; New York Athletic Club Post No. 754; 304th Field Artillery Post No. 132; Lexington Post No. 108; Franklin Simons Company Post No. 594; Belvedere Brooks Post No. 450.

Kings.—Greenpoint Post No. 241; Bill Brown Post No. 507; Brooklyn Nurses Post.

I take this opportunity on behalf of the Commander and those who have had in charge in an executive capacity the Endowment Fund Campaign to extend their hearty congratulations to the Posts which have been awarded these citations. (Applause.)

The Chairman: With Assemblyman Davison on the platform speaking, it is only natural that we think of legislation. During the past year as all of you know who have followed events, The Legion has had the greatest success in securing desired legislation that we have ever known and this has been due principally to the work of the Chairman of the Legislative Committee.

I will now ask him to make his report—Judge Edward N. Scheiberling of Albany. (Applause and cheers.)

Hon. Edward N. Scheiberling (Chairman, Standing Committee on Legislation): Mr. Commander and Legionnaires—At the State Convention at Alexandria Bay last year, the then Speaker of the New York State Assembly, Hon. H. Edmund Machold, paid a remarkable tribute to the legislative activities of The American Legion.

Mr. Machold said: "It has been my privilege in official life to come in contact not so much with you as individuals as it has with your representatives and briefly I want to talk just for a few moments about the pleasure which I have had while I have been Speaker of the Assembly of this State in coming in contact officially with your representatives.

"You know, in these days there are altogether too many demands made by blocs and cliques. They are made in a very unusual, and I must say from my experience oftentimes, in a very peremptory demanding manner. But I can say and say truthfully and I mean it from the bottom of my heart, that in the contact I have had with The Legion men in the Legislature of this State they have been more reasonable at all times, under all conditions, in regard to any issue which has come before us than most any other association with whom I have come in contact."

These words bear repetition because the endeavor of the Legislative Committee during the 1925 session of the New York State Legislature has been to be reasonable and fair in all of its requests for legislative action.

The attention of the people has been frequently invited to the situation which exists in our legislative halls, where thousands of measures, many ill-advised, inequitable, poorly drawn, unworkable and unconstitutional are annually presented to the lawmakers. As a result we are surcharged with bad laws, some of which there is no disposition to attempt to enforce. Probably one of the greatest benefits to the nation would be less legislation. And a decrease in the demands for veteran legislation would also be salutary. Concentration of effort on essentials and the abandonment of drives for special consideration would not only help to clear the atmosphere of legislation generally, but would also add to our own prestige as an organization.

The Committee has been urged from time to time to push pension legislation providing for retirement of veterans in State, county and municipal service, at half pay after twenty years of service. Most of these requests have come from veterans in New York City. If enacted into law, a civil service employee who entered the military service during the World War at the age of eighteen, and who resumed his employment in the civil service after the close of the war, would be eligible to retire at thirty-eight at half pay. Severing his connection with the civil government at the time of life when he should be capable of the best of service, he would then be ready to accept other employment. This is grasping legislation which is unsound from the standpoint of the interests of the State, and its advocacy by veterans should be abandoned. The arguments of those who oppose this class of legislation cannot be met by the proponents. An example of legislation of this character, introduced during the last session, moderate in comparison with other proposals, was the Copley bill, Assembly Print No. 161, which provided for the crediting of military service during the Spanish War, in order to reduce the period of time required in the civil service before retirement. This bill, backed by the United Spanish War Veterans of the Department of New York, passed both Houses of the Legislature, but was vetoed by the Governor, because of the opposition of the State Pension Bureau.

The present State Commander in his report as Chairman of the Legislative Committee last year, recommended the appointment of a special committee to confer with the State Civil Service Commission and the Pension Bureau upon a program of legislation which would remove the unfair features of the present law and the existing injustices to the ex-service men and women without calling forth condemnation from State departments. The Legislative Committee did arrange a conference with the Pension Bureau during the month of February at Albany, at which were present the members of the Pension Bureau and the chairman of the committee and the two members who reside in Albany. The subject of a preference in the matter of pensions for civil service employees who are veterans was thoroughly discussed. The outcome was that the Pension Bureau refused to approve any legislation whatever which would give the slightest preference to veterans. There is no doubt that a pension system under which all employees of the State, county and city are treated alike is highly desirable. We are, however, confronted with a situation today whereby under special laws which have been enacted, civil war veterans, after a certain period of service, are pensioned upon their own request at the age of seventy, without making any contribution to the State pension fund. Other special laws now upon the books provide for pensions for war veterans who are employees of the State Adjutant-General's office and the Department of Public Buildings without any contribution by these employees to the State pension fund. These discriminations naturally arouse resentment in employees of other State departments who are vet-

erans. The least that can be said is that they are inequitable, unjust, discriminatory and favor groups of employees without any good reason. If any veterans are to be favored under the law in the matter of pensions, all should be placed upon the same basis.

The Copley bill, above referred to, was discussed at this meeting of your representatives with the Pension Bureau, and the suggestion advanced by our committee that if it became a law, we should endeavor to amend it next year to include World War veterans. The Pension Bureau had sufficient weight with the Governor to induce him to veto the bill.

It is again recommended that the matter of amendment of the Civil Service Law be referred to a special committee to be appointed by the incoming Department Commander, this committee to meet before the first of January with the State Civil Service Commission, and to present the results of its deliberations to the Legislative Committee for action.

The most important law of interest to World War veterans enacted during the 1925 session is known as the Webb bill, chapter 26 of the Laws of 1925 (bonus for dependents), which amends chapter 191 of the Laws of 1924 (State bonus law), providing for the payment of the State bonus to the next of kin of those who died in service and prior to the time the original act took effect, and extending the time for filing applications to July 1, 1926. This act, which corrected an unfortunate discrimination in the original bonus law, was drafted by The Legion's representatives at Albany and was speedily passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Smith on February 19th. Under the provisions of this bill, the next of kin of all of those men and women who died in service are given the maximum amount of the State bonus, \$150.

The complete list of laws passed by the 1925 Legislature, through the efforts of The American Legion, is as follows:

Chapter 26.—Amends Chap. 191, Laws 1924 (bonus law), providing for payment of State bonus to next of kin of those who died in service and before act took effect, and extending time for filing applications to July 1, 1926.

Chapter 136.—Adds new section 247, Military Law, authorizing the Governor to present conspicuous service cross to World War veterans and nurses receiving certain honors.

Chapter 208.—Appropriating \$659,565 premium from sale of bonus bonds, for administration expenses of soldiers' bonus commission.

Chapter 209.—Appropriating \$2,500,000 for payment of bonuses and expenses of bonus commission.

Chapter 246.—Adds new section 1363-a, Civil Practice Act, providing for appointment of a committee of an incompetent soldier, sailor or marine who, because of incompetency, has been granted by U. S. government remuneration on account of army or navy service.

Chapter 277.—Amends section 2240-a, Penal Law, making it a misdemeanor for any person in uniform of United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard or Marine Cutter Service, or of National Guard, to sell merchandise, solicit orders or receive contributions.

Chapter 281.—Amends section 1425, Penal Law, relative to desecration of the flag.

Chapter 506.—Amends section 12, County Law, by authorizing county supervisors to make appropriations for use of associations in aid of disabled veterans.

Chapter 535.—Amends chapter 144, Laws of 1923, by providing name of Soldiers' and Sailors' Hospital Division at Kings Park shall be changed to Veterans' Memorial Hospital Division.

The annual appropriation bills also contained items of \$1,500 for printing the proceedings of the Annual Convention of the State Department, and \$45,000 for vocational therapy of veterans in State institutions.

The following bills of interest to veterans failed to become laws:

Assembly Print No. 90.—Amending section 24, General Construction Law, by making November 11, Armistice Day, a public holiday. Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Assembly Print No. 128.—Amending section 63, Public Officers Law, by providing leave of absence for veterans on Memorial Day shall not deprive them of regular day off during Memorial Day week. Assembly Judiciary Committee.

Assembly Print No. 161.—Adding new section 22-e, Civil Service Law, by allowing service credit for pension purposes to certain veterans. Passed both Houses. Vetoed by the Governor.

Assembly Print No. 663.—Adds new section 114-a, Military Law, providing detail of firing squad to attend funeral of a veteran. Passed Assembly. Died in Senate Military Affairs Committee.

Assembly Print No. 842.—Authorizing New York City sinking fund commissioners to cancel taxes now lien on property of James J. Tappan Post No. 125, American Legion. Passed both Houses. Vetoed by the Governor.

Assembly Print No. 978.—Adding new subdivision 5-a, section 4, Tax Law, providing for exemption of real property up to \$5,000 used as a dwelling, of physically or mentally disabled veterans. Assembly Taxation and Retrenchment Committee.

Assembly Print No. 1725.—Adding new section 22-d, Civil Service Law, giving a former city employee and veteran right to have his name placed on separate eligible list in city service. Passed both Houses. Vetoed by the Governor.

In the 1925 Legislature there were forty-six members of Assembly and ten Senators, who had served in the World War, the largest representation of war veterans to sit in any annual session. The enactment of the laws detailed in this report was brought about largely through their interest and effective cooperation.

The ex-service members' caucus was continued under the chairmanship of Assemblyman F. Trubee Davison, assisted by Assemblyman Julius Berg as secretary. Several conferences were held during the legislative session and the program of The American Legion was endorsed and advanced in every possible manner. The Legion owes these ex-service members of the Legislature a debt of gratitude:

Senators—James A. Higgins, John L. Karle, Frank E. Johnson, Philip M. Kleinfeld, Seabury C. Mastick, Courtlandt Nicoll, Nathan Straus, Jr., Thomas J. Walsh, J. Griswold Webb and Henry D. Williams.

Assemblymen—Ray Austin, Jerome Ambro, Julius Berg, John Boyle, Jr., William F. Brunner, William Breitenbach, Frank Carlin, John H. Conroy, Cosmo Cilano, Edward J. Coughlin, Louis A. Cuvillier, Henry Dietz, DeLacey Dayton, F. Trubee Davison, Sylvester A. Dineen, Russell G. Dunmore, Kenneth A. Fake, A. Spencer Feld, Gordon C. Ferguson, Noel B. Fox, Alexander H. Garnjost, Joseph A. Gavagan, Abraham Grenthal, Howard Franklin, Lewis F. Harder, John P. Hayes, Murray Hearn, Henry W. Hutt, Henry O. Kahan, Joseph E. Kinsley, Paul T. Kammerer, Jr., George A. Krug, David L. Klein, Mark Lambert, Ralph H. Loomis, Samuel W. McCleary, Lester W. Patterson, Phelps Phelps, Joseph Reich, John F. Reidy, Samuel I. Rosenman, Harry A. Samberg, Willis H. Sargent, John S. N. Sprague, Herbert B. Shonk and Richard J. Tonry.

The Legislative Committee has been deluged with requests from veterans from all sections of the State for aid in the prompt approval of State bonus claims. Every consideration has been given these requests, and in this connection great credit is due to Deputy Attorney-General Patrick H. Clune, a member of the committee, who also acted as legal advisor of the State Bonus Commission. Through the efforts of Major Clune many disputed claims have been adjusted and the payments to the applicants expedited.

It may be of passing interest to note here that the work of the Legislative Committee has been conducted during the past year absolutely without expense to The Legion. The only sum received during the year was \$97.71 to cover a deficit in the accounts of the dinner given in honor of the ex-service members of the Legislature in Albany in January. Besides our guests of the Legislature, every member of the Legislative Correspondents' Association received an invitation to this dinner, the entire charge being borne by the Committee through the sale of tickets to Legion members, with the exception of the small amount mentioned.

In order to secure greater effectiveness in the future and closer cooperation of effort with other veteran organizations, State Headquarters should be located in Albany. I believe the general welfare of the Department of New York will be promoted by this change, and sincerely recommend the immediate transfer of the Department's business offices to Albany. The members of The Legion should approach this subject in an unselfish spirit. Albany

is the capital of the State, and the logical place for State Headquarters. It is the best geographical location and there are many reasons why this progressive step should be taken immediately. Not only would there be a great saving of expense to the Department, but the membership will be brought above the hundred thousand mark if this change is made. Adequate quarters are now available, and the resolution embodying the location of State Headquarters at Albany, which will be presented to this Convention, merits your favorable action.

And aside from the report we have received a letter from the Mayor of the City of Albany, the Honorable William S. Hackett, tendering to us headquarters in the City Hall in Albany, adequate to provide for all the needs of the Department, and that will be presented to the Resolutions Committee of this Convention together with the resolution embodying the change in the location of State Headquarters to Albany which merits your favorable action and which I sincerely trust is going to receive your approval.

To State Commander Samuel E. Aronowitz I desire to express my appreciation and gratitude for his valuable services to the committee. He attended many of the sessions of the Legislature, and his long experience and wise counsel were of great assistance in securing prompt action on all legislative matters. Major Patrick H. Clune and Mr. Frank A. McNamee, Jr., of Albany, also shared in the major work of the committee and were ever available for conferences and the special services they were called upon to render. To these men and to all of the members of the Legislative Committee, I return my sincere thanks. It has indeed been a pleasure to have been associated with them in carrying forward the aims and purposes of The American Legion of the Department of New York. (Applause.)

Mr. Warner (Schenectady): Mr. Commander, I move that the report be accepted. Motion seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: One of the associations which has been most friendly toward The American Legion is the American Federation of Labor. For the past few years we have always been fortunate in having one of their illustrious members address the sessions of our Convention. The same man is present today. His work for The Legion cannot be over estimated. He has personally written letters to unions throughout the State urging all those who are eligible to membership in our organization to join, and he served as one of the active Vice-Chairmen of The American Legion Endowment Fund in this State.

I have the pleasure of presenting once more to a Legion audience the president of the Federation Bank of New York, Peter J. Brady. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Peter J. Brady (President, Federation Bank of New York): Mr. Chairman and Delegates and Ladies—I have been coming to these conventions so regularly now that I am no longer a stranger

with you and feel that my place is not up here on the platform but down there among you with some strenuous delegation that is looking for something that maybe they won't get. At least, I feel more at home with that kind of an element than I do on the platform addressing you at what appears to be such a peaceful gathering. Of course, the Convention is still young and after various reports come before you for consideration from your committees as well as from some of the various county organizations, putting forward their pet hobby, you will finally get under way in the Convention proceedings and I have not any doubt at all that the Convention will wind up just as warm as those that have gone before.

However, I come here, Mr. Chairman, for the very definite purpose of conveying to you under instructions from the President of the New York State Federation of Labor, Mr. James P. Holland, the fraternal greetings of that organization to the New York State Department of The American Legion. It has been our very happy situation in this State ever since your first Convention that there has been a mutual bond of cooperation between the rank and file of The Legion, the various Legion Posts, and the State organization itself and the State Federation of Labor. We found very early in the aims and purposes that created your great organization and also our own that there was a mutual purpose although in our efforts to get that purpose over we might travel by different routes. There has never been a time in my recollection that you had proposals before our New York State Legislature or that your National Organization called upon our National Organization, the American Federation of Labor, for its support for your program, but what that was more than willingly given.

It is the standard practice of your National Organization as well as the National Convention of the American Federation of Labor that the National Commanders, or somebody representing them, shall attend the two Conventions. Cooperation there is one hundred per cent. and the latest achievement we point to with the most pride and that is your effort for the creation of an endowment fund. Our unions know their members and I am well satisfied are doing their share and we hope that they will do more than their share to put The Legion in this State over the top in making the Endowment Fund drive a success. If there are any ways whereby you individual delegates can give to me suggestions whereby greater cooperation and better results can be achieved I hope you won't be bashful or hesitant in making those suggestions known, for I promise you now that they will receive prompt action.

Without delaying these proceedings any longer, Mr. Chairman, I again convey to you our sincere wishes of the New York State Federation of Labor and myself personally, that your Convention proceedings be a success and that for business you set a mark for future conventions to follow, and I now wish you future success and Godspeed in all your undertakings. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: Mr. Brady, on behalf of The American Legion of New York I desire once more to thank you and the American Federation through you for the great spirit of cooperation and the assistance which you have given to our organization.

It is a rather unusual experience of being able to order about a General, but The American Legion in this State for some time has been giving orders to one of the foremost generals in our Army and he has unhesitatingly obeyed all orders which he has received from The Legion.

It is unnecessary for me to introduce the Commander of the Second Corps Area to a Legion audience, because he has ever been ready to give of his time to any Legion purpose. He is a member of The Legion in good standing and one of our active members. I am pleased to present to you Major-General Charles P. Summerall. (Applause and cheers.)

Major-General Charles P. Summerall (U. S. Army, Commander, Second Corps Area): Mr. Commander, Comrades and Ladies and Gentlemen—You are showing here fortitude and bravery in listening to all of these gas attacks that you bore on the battle-line and I feel at home with you. I know it is the old crowd come together again. (Laughter.) When we had this picture taken I couldn't but think of a fatigue detail. A fatigue detail was out doing a very unpleasant sort of work. You know what they do. And they got very tired of it and some fellow came along with a camera to take a picture of them and as he snapped the picture one man said, very surlily, "I'd like forty of those." And the keen young Lieutenant—I think they called them shavetails, but they don't any more—asked him immediately, "It'll take forty to find one with you working in it." (Laughter.) He probably then went to work good-naturedly and finished his work. But you are all working there and it won't take many pictures to find you working.

You know, my first thought when I look at this great audience today is one of admiration and congratulation that the members have left their work and their intense activity to come here and devote their time and their effort to furthering this great patriotic organization, The American Legion, and I want to say right here that the Committee in New York has done a great deal more work than the members from the other part of the State can realize. For months they have given thought and time and effort to the arrangements and if anything is not going right with you I want to assure you it isn't because they haven't tried to make it go right, and I take off my hat to these men here in New York who have paved the way for what I believe to be the most successful State Convention that we have had.

Now, if I get to talking about The American Legion and the veteran I never know when to stop. But my admiration and gratitude for these men who have re-established, I might say, our country for us, knows no bounds and so with your patience I am going to read you a very few remarks that I have written, not

because I could not talk to you offhand for a long time, but to save you from putting too much of your attention to anything I might say.

While the mission of The American Legion lies in the future, it is not inappropriate to indulge in a retrospect that may have some influence upon policies of the first importance to the country. Many of the veterans have allied themselves with various sections of the national army where they may still keep a certain contact with military subjects. The majority, however, have not felt it practicable or desirable to become identified with the reserves or the national guard. All must retain in things military an interest that cannot fail to increase with the passing years. In moments of reflection you no doubt live over the days when as a part of your old outfits you felt and spoke as soldiers and knew every detail of arms, equipment and tactics that were employed during the days of the great adventure. You must wonder whether these things have changed in the seven years that have elapsed and whether you would again feel at home in uniform, or whether you would have to learn new tactics in the use of new arms. Viewing the progress in every industrial line you might naturally assume that the art of war must have advanced if the Nation is to keep abreast of other great and rival powers.

As far as the army is concerned your doubts may be dispelled by the general statement that except for reduction to 118,000 men it has remained stationary. You would find all branches armed and equipped precisely as you last saw them in 1918 or 1919. Improved models for some weapons have been designed but with the exception of a few .50 caliber machine guns the rifles and cannons are those left over from the war. The army has been using the surplus clothing and equipment, and no new designs have been manufactured to replace these supplies when they become exhausted. In the same way the tanks, airplanes and transportation are those that remained from the war. The tactics for the employment of troops in combat have been derived from war methods. Training has been improved as a result of the various schools, but troop leading and combat, save in certain refinements, would be familiar to the war-time officer or soldier.

You have no doubt heard much of the peace-time plan for the mobilization of resources. Through the cooperation of the leading men in industry this process has far exceeded anything that existed during the war. Here at least the post-war activities present real progress. How much of our hopes would be realized will depend upon the patriotism of the agencies employed and the whole-hearted support of the people at the time of an emergency. The General Staff has perfected a plan of mobilization which should assure the assembling of a considerable force in less time than was the case in 1917.

On the principle that a commander should always be able to answer the question as to what he would do if attacked from any direction, a government should have a definite plan to meet the

failures of diplomacy with a power or group of powers. You who fought to preserve the honor and freedom of the country may well ask to what extent the government is safe-guarding what you have given it at great sacrifice. Indeed you have a right and a duty to demand that the fruits of your victories shall be made secure now and in the future. There are some facts that we must not forget.

In 1917 our First Division was able to enter the battle line more than nine months after the promulgation of a state of war. Even then its artillery and ammunition and much of its supplies came from another country. Our minimum mobilization plan contemplates a period of four months. Even our regular regiments, with a total strength of less than a war-time battalion, would require organizing and training like new units. The same would be true to a greater degree with the national guard. The chief reliance is placed upon the reserves with only the officers and a few technical enlisted men for each regiment. The men must be obtained by the draft whose machinery cannot be invoked until the need is imminent.

However great may be the delay in mobilizing, it is well known that the gravest problem is munitions. Up to the present time certain arms and equipment have been kept on hand as a war reserve. This wise foresight guarantees a reasonable preparation as long as they do not deteriorate or become obsolete. For the moment this danger is not serious.

Experience has taught that the waste of men and equipment would immediately demand enormous replacements. In spite of centralized control that might be exercised over industries, arms and ammunition require much time for manufacture. The studies of a board in the last months of 1916 showed that more than two years would be required to secure any considerable output of small arm rifles. It is reasonable to predict that the next war will be fought with some form of automatic arm for the infantry and its manufacture might require an even greater time. It was found by the board that field guns required from one year to eighteen months for output; small arms ammunition about one year; and artillery ammunition from nine months to one year. These figures were substantially realized during the war. Under the most favorable circumstances no considerable output of arms and ammunition could be expected in less than one year. A similar time would be required for clothing and equipment. While there may have been instances where contracts were filled more expeditiously during the war, it must be remembered that many of the industries were organized for supplying Europe during the three years preceding our needs and that we adopted European models of rifles and cannon. In the case of airplanes, tanks and gasses, there has been no experience upon which to base calculations unless one accepts the lack of effective airplane production during the war. This would seem inadmissible both as to time and material. It is believed that the foregoing figures are optimistic rather than the reverse.

It has ever been the experience of peace that imagination and speculation tend to substitute machines for men in each succeeding campaign. It has been equally the experience that when war dispelled all illusions the issues of battle depended upon men and not upon machines. This in their turn the needle gun, the rifles cannon, the soixante-quinze and the machine gun were shown to be auxiliaries to and not substitutes for men. Gas and tanks created consternation upon their first appearance upon the battlefield but they soon found their inevitable place as aids to, but not as replacements for, men. We hear much of the overwhelming importance of aircraft and of its annihilating effect. Those upon whom the responsibilities for the defense of the country rest know and appreciate its true relationship to the other forces, but they also know that when the next armistice is signed the doughboy will be holding the firing line. Now, as always, the words of Napoleon are true when he said, "fire is everything."

I would have you, my comrades, pursue your vocations and reap the success that your services and your attainments have richly earned. I would have you care for the sick and wounded who must remain a sacred responsibility of the Nation. I would have you provide for the widows and orphans of those who with ever increasing numbers are passing on. I would have you honor the memory of our dead by monuments and by institutions for the batterment of our people. But I would ask you not to forget the ever present obligation to make your country more secure than you found it and to pass it on to the next generation with a better guarantee of peace than was given to you by the generations that have gone before. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: We have received the following telegram—"Greetings and best wishes to the Legionnaires of New York. May your Convention be a most successful one and the end of the year find all your hopes realized and your objectives accomplished.—Jim Barton, National Adjutant." (Applause.)

We have a number of guests here who I am just going to introduce to you and have them stand and bow.

Mr. McKinnon, a newly elected member of the Executive Committee of the Department of New Jersey. (Applause.)

Colonel James E. Dedman, Commandant, U. S. Veterans' Hospital No. 98, at Castle Point. (Applause.)

Joseph C. Thomson, State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. (Applause.)

We will now have the report of the State Legal Committee, Mr. Thomas J. Brady, who has acted as Chairman of this Committee in addition to being Judge Advocate. (Applause.)

Mr. Thomas J. Brady (Department Judge Advocate and Chairman of Legal Committee): Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentle-

men—Your Committee has handled all the legal matters referred to it by the Department Commander, the county organizations and various posts throughout the State, and no Legionnaire has applied for legal advice or assistance in vain; in fact, the members of the Legal Committee have cheerfully given their time and best efforts in behalf of all ex-service men, whether members of The Legion or not, who have applied for legal assistance. On account of the confidential nature of the work your Committee does not feel that it would be proper to give a detailed statement of each individual case handled. I wish to personally thank all the members of the Legal Committee and other Legionnaire attorneys, who during the past year have unselfishly and without remuneration represented and assisted ex-service men in difficulty.

Your committee suggests that every county organization appoint before the first day of October, 1925, a legal committee and file their names and addresses with State Headquarters so that in an emergency we may be able to get in touch immediately with the proper attorney in any county of the State.

Your Committee also recommends that each post appoint a legal committee and file their names with the county and State Headquarters.

Section 1 of Article VI of the National Constitution of The American Legion provides: "All National, Department and Post officials handling American Legion moneys shall be properly bonded with a good and solvent bonding and surety company, as surety, to cover double the average amount of money handled in a single year. In case of delinquencies in the payment of amounts due Department or National Headquarters, action shall be taken at once by the proper officials to bring about a speedy and complete settlement. The bonds provided . . . by Department and Post officials shall be approved by the Department Judge Advocate and the Department Executive Committee."

We regret to report that many posts throughout the State have failed to comply with this provision of the National Constitution in that they have either not bonded the post finance officer or have not submitted the bond to the Department Judge Advocate for approval. Many of the bonds submitted have been incomplete and improper in form and the Department Judge Advocate has had to carefully examine each bond submitted and point out the corrections to be made. If each post had a legal committee or a legal adviser the bond could be examined before it is forwarded to the Department Judge Advocate and immediately corrected.

Section 3 of Article II of the By-Laws of the Department of New York provides: "That all posts shall submit copies of their constitution and by-laws and all amendments thereto through their respective county organizations for approval of the State organization."

The posts of this Department have not always complied with this by-law and in view of the fact that the Department Commander and the Executive Committee require the Judge Advocate to approve posts' constitutions and by-laws and amendments thereto,

it is respectfully requested that all posts and county organizations which have not secured the approval of the State Department of their constitution and by-laws immediately forward them to Department Headquarters for such approval. It is also respectfully requested that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee of each county and post carefully study the National and Department Constitution and By-Laws and see to it that the county and post constitution and by-laws conform to the same as far as applicable.

The Department Judge Advocate has had considerable correspondence with various posts and county organizations relative to eligibility for membership in The Legion. The uncertainty as to the requirement for membership was brought about by the action of the National Convention at San Francisco in attempting to amend the Constitution so as to make all those who served with the governments associated with the United States during the Great War eligible for membership. Such a resolution was actually passed by the San Francisco Convention but in view of the fact that The American Legion operates under a Special Act of Congress and the rules for eligibility have been definitely fixed by said Act, the action of the San Francisco Convention was a nullity, and The Legion reaffirmed the proper rules for membership at the St. Paul Convention.

The following persons are eligible for membership in The American Legion and no others: Anyone who was regularly enlisted, drafted or inducted or commissioned and who was accepted for and assigned to active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States, at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the naval, military or air forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War; provided, that no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during said period, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds, to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

No person should be elected to membership in The Legion, unless he exhibits his honorable discharge at or before the time of his election.

Section 5 of Article II of the By-Laws of the National Organization provides: "The National Judge Advocate shall advise the National Officers and the National Executive Committee on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the National Constitution and By-Laws and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office."

During the past year the State Department has adopted this regulation with regards to the Department Judge Advocate and

your Committee recommends that the above provision be incorporated in the State Constitution *mutatis mutandis*. (Applause.)

Mr. Cohen (New York): I move the report be accepted. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The report of the Americanism Committee, Mr. Robert W. Bowman of Watertown. (Applause.)

Mr. Robert W. Bowman (Chairman, Department Americanism Committee): Mr. Commander and Members of the Convention—I was appointed State Chairman of the Committee on Americanism of The American Legion, Department of the State of New York, January 1925, vice John L. Riley, deceased.

The January meeting of State officers at Albany, soon after, gave the committee an opportunity to consider what should be done for the balance of the year.

Those of us who were present decided that no further elaboration of the program was necessary as the State program had been carefully constructed and the National program as outlined in "Service" covered all phases of the work possible to our committee.

We therefore resolved that we ought to center our energies on carrying out the plans already at our command.

Our part appeared to be to urge all posts to formulate some definite plan of procedure, each choosing what should be found most feasible for its locality and purpose.

To do this it was thought that we should reach all local organizations, county and district officers, with advice and suggestions in order to stimulate enthusiasm and aid in directing this in some useful, specific way.

With a view to this action of the committee, I at once got out letters to those members who were not present, telling what had been decided, and asking for support and suggestions.

I also sent letters to each county commander before Washington's Birthday asking that special attention be paid to this holiday, with suggestions for working with school officials and local organizations.

February 27th, I attended a district meeting in Utica where resolutions were passed touching on matters of concern to our committee. On March 7th, through the courtesy of my Commander, Mr. Aronowitz, I met National Commander Drain, and found he was strongly convinced of the value of the work proposed in the National and State programs of Americanism.

Shortly after this I was taken ill and ordered to the hospital. A serious operation and a prolonged period of convalescence put a stop to taking any active part in Legion activities, and I am compelled to make my report not a record of such accomplishments as those for which I had hoped, but a brief review of what it appears to me may and should be done.

From the reports received, and from talks with post commanders, it seems evident that in some localities, generally speaking, the large city posts, there is a very definite scheme of activities outlined and carried out. In too many instances, however,

there has not been enough work done outside of the regular post ceremonies, and sometimes a half-hearted participation in the celebration of National holidays and events relating to the World War.

In a number of cases I have had post members and officers say that there seemed to be no way in which to keep up the interest of the bulk of the membership and that the community itself seemed either indifferent or hostile to The Legion as an organization.

Where this condition exists, the reasons are, at least to an extent, lack of competent and vigorous leadership; the failure to keep in touch with the State Department and frame beforehand a concrete schedule of things to be done; and the failure of the State Committee to get in personal touch, either by actual visits or through the county headquarters with the local membership.

It does not appear that the Americanism program is clearly understood. The State pamphlet and the National booklet "Service" if in the possession of posts are apparently apt to be filed in some out of the way corner or in the scrap heap.

The idea is often held that Americanism means either something to do with the foreigners, or it is much like a sermon in church, or an Armistice Day oration, something to be listened to and then forgotten in the actual work of The Legion.

As a matter of fact, the Americanism Committee is concerned with practically all of the ways by which The Legion is to become a factor in the life of the community, and to a large extent with the means by which the posts must keep themselves alive and potent.

I have been reading a series of resolutions passed by different posts and sent to me by the State Adjutant.

They are forceful and eloquent of the conviction that we must devote ourselves to the development of proper principles in the youth who are to make up our citizenship, and to maintaining within our own circles, for ourselves and for the sake of our influence on others, proper standards of conduct, based on a correct creed of morals.

But the fact worth noting is that these resolutions with one exception are for the purpose of inaugurating activities which are already outlined as part of the program of Americanism. They form a part of the State pamphlet and they have been urged and emphasized by my immediate predecessor, while I have dwelt on them in no uncertain way in letters to the members of my Committee and to district and county commanders, in articles to the press, and in addresses before various bodies, as far as my own condition during the past few months would allow.

It may be well to put these resolutions through, as it is well to have had them expressed as an essential part of our effort in the work of what we call Americanism; but they will die of inanition, unless back of it we have two things: An insistent and well defined push from the State Chairman down to the local post commander and his staff, and a more sincere effort to keep up the requisite liaison between the members of the State Committee,

and between this committee and district, county and post officers. As I look at it, my successor in office, unless he has considerable leisure and some allowance for travelling expenses, cannot connect personally with many of the sectional meetings, either large or small. He may, however, by a series of pertinent letters, sent to his committee members and by them given to county commanders, to posts and to the press, or if finances permit sent by him directly to county commanders, call attention to specific things which may be taken as part of the objective for the year. He may urge a more determined effort to achieve results which will redound to the credit of the post and serve definitely some community interest.

He may by studying the situation give necessary advice as to how posts may link up other organizations in matters which concern the welfare of the body social, and show how the Legion can most satisfactorily support the work of the State Departments having to do with health, social amelioration and education. In this particular regard he can especially call attention to the fact that, where a State organization exists for any special line of endeavor, The Legion, by cooperating, instead of attempting, as many organizations are prone to do, some independent procedure of its own, may work to more advantage, and with a proper regard to its duties as a part of the body civic of the State. In no way may we better teach citizenship than by acting in concert with organized State forces.

There should be a better attendance at the meetings of the Americanism Committee. I have been to several, and it is somewhat disheartening to find usually only two or three gathered together.

The members of the State Committee ought to be more careful to keep in contact with the State Chairman, and to make some reply to his communications. It should be recognized that they form a plans and operations staff, acting together and focusing their efforts through the chairman for the sake of a united effort.

Since the resolutions to which I refer, and the social interests to which posts may relate their efforts, are within the scope of the Americanism Committee, it will be well for district and county commanders to recognize this fact by associating the members of the committee intimately with them in their work. I have heard members of other committees speak on such vital topics as the Veterans' Relief Fund, the Mountain Camp, etc., but I have seldom heard a member of my own committee called on to discuss what evidently should be held as equally important—loyalty, obedience and civic education.

Let me emphatically state, however, that neither the State Chairman, nor the other members of the committee should be asked to speak for the sake of giving anyone a chance to be personally prominent but solely because the matters in our charge are held to be of major importance.

One more point and I shall stop although I have not said half that might be told.

I have been in receipt of letters from other bodies asking for our support of their programs. Generally these are concerned with citizenship and loyalty. Now, no body of men should be more insistently patriotic than we. We trained and fought and worked for the Flag in times of stress and without thinking of rewards. But the Flag is intended to be the emblem of a tolerant and a righteous citizenry. If we are to do our part to continue the conditions which permit us to live in peace and harmony we must keep aloof from any alliance with narrow sectarians, who would define American citizenship so as to exclude any who honestly intend and endeavor to live in obedience to our laws.

Where individuals or organizations seem to be, or are accused of being unpatriotic, or a menace to our institutions, we ought to form our own opinions after due and just consideration, and not allow ourselves to be forced to any line of action by other bodies, some of which depend too much for their existence on creating trouble spots and then going off at half-cock. We should be fervently, insistently but tolerantly patriotic. If the time comes to strike let us do so, but in such a manner that we may be sure that justice is done though the heavens fall. Washington and Lincoln were good citizens. How often they endured so they might convert rather than convict. But when the cause was sure neither hesitated to cut to the quick.

Our program of Americanism ought to enliven us with the desire to be like-minded with these great Apostles of Patriotism.

We should see in this program the opportunity to inspire others to be as high-minded, as unselfish, as steadfast, as we intend to continue to be. (Applause.)

Mr. Taylor (Westchester): Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the report of the Americanism Committee with thanks. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I have the honor of presenting the National Vice-President of The American Legion Auxiliary for the Eastern District, Mrs. Cornie Glynn Cocklin. (Applause and cheers.)

Mrs. Cornie Glynn Cocklin (National Vice-President, The American Legion Auxiliary): Mr. Commander, Members of The American Legion—I just want to say I bring you the greetings from the National American Legion Auxiliary. Mrs. Oliphant will be with you tomorrow and she will do all the talking. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: During the past year The American Legion Auxiliary has cooperated with The Legion in the most admirable manner. We received very much valuable assistance from our organization and it is a real Auxiliary to The Legion. This has been largely because of the attitude of the State President. I am pleased to present Mrs. E. B. Garrison, State President of The American Legion Auxiliary. (Applause and cheers.)

Mrs. E. B. Garrison (President, Department of New York, The American Legion Auxiliary): Mr. Commander, Legion-

naires—It is with the greatest pride that I bring you greetings from the Auxiliary to this wonderful body and we of the Auxiliary—the mothers, wives and sisters and daughters—are proud of you. We like to work with you. May your Convention be of the greatest success and to the Commander's successor I hope there will be the same cooperation and to my successor as there has been between the Commander and myself. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: We are honored today by the presence of a man who has an illustrious record in various walks of life. He is also the representative of the patriotic societies. I have the honor of introducing Colonel Franklin Q. Brown, President of the Army and Navy Club of America. (Applause.)

Colonel Franklin Q. Brown (President, Army and Navy Club of America): Mr. Commander and Legionnaires—You all know that a request from Commander Hann is tantamount to an order. Yesterday afternoon I was informed that I was to extend the greetings of the patriotic societies to The American Legion. I told Commander Hann on looking over the program that I noticed that they had a number of speeches and a number of orators who would deliver orations and he very properly had asked me only to extend the greetings of the patriotic societies. Consequently, I will differentiate between a speech and extending a very brief greeting.

But I wish to say on behalf, first, of the Army and Navy Club of America and the Army and Navy Institute, both of which I have the honor of being president of, that we wish to extend to you our heart-felt welcome to this city of New York. We wish for you every success in your great undertakings. We believe thoroughly in your objects. We believe thoroughly in doing everything for those men and for you all who went to the front and also for those who were compelled to stay at home but did their bit at the same time. We believe thoroughly in doing our utmost in helping the wounded soldiers and the dependent families of the soldiers. We want you to feel that our institution and also the various patriotic societies are bulwarks standing absolutely back of you in the great work in which you are endeavoring and successfully putting over. I want you to realize that we are buttressing your movement as far as we can. I have the honor of being an honorary member of the Grand Army of the Republic, which goes back somewhat further than you all. I also have the honor of having been in the Cuban Revolution and of having been in the Spanish War and also in this last one, thanks to the Government, and I want to say to you gentlemen that the proudest and happiest moments of my life have been those associating with soldiers, from the West Point soldier down to the volunteer, all along the line, all actuated by the same fine spirit of patriotism and honor and love of Flag and country. I want once more to extend to you the greetings of the patriotic organizations of New York and thank Commander Hann for this opportunity of thus addressing you very briefly. (Applause.)

CONVENTION COMMITTEES**Americanism***First District*

Stoiber
Miss Duncan

Fourth District

Augustus Sullivan
Martin Murphy

Seventh District

Eugene Fox
Foster Hoag

*Second District**Fifth District*

Harold Kain
Anthony Radil

Eighth District

Rev. J. S. Williamson
H. Mang

Third District

Frank J. Cunningham
Floyd Mackey

Sixth District

Howard Staples
J. P. Francis

Ninth District

W. C. Gray
Geo. Murphy

Post Activities*First District*

Nolan
Jones

Fourth District

O. D. Bullis
Morris Naslon

Seventh District

G. Hason
Tolan (Steuben)

Second District

Yerkes
H. Hutty

Fifth District

F. C. Raneous
J. Frank Morgan

Eighth District

Wm. Myers
A. Serianni

Third District

Donald F. Moore
Louis DeHois

Sixth District

Ray Confer
Dan Dalton

Ninth District

Bert Graham
H. S. Seaman

Resolutions*First District*

R. C. Condon

Fourth District

Paul Boyce
G. P. Hull

Seventh District

T. M. Osborne
Dr. H. Orirger

Second District

Leon J. Steinburger
M. Moore

Fifth District

Fred Gallagher
Jacob Erlick

Eighth District

Ralph Young
H. K. Congdon

Third District

F. A. McNamee, Jr.
L. M. Willey

Sixth District

Lennox
Patrick Colligan

Ninth District

I. Schwartz
Emmos Bryant

War Risk*First District*

H. L. Downey
Dan Edwards

Fourth District

Dr. J. C. Hoessler
Dr. Peter Noe

Seventh District

Miss Miller
Charles Baldwin

Second District

B. Mance

Fifth District

C. S. Stanton
C. J. Gordon

Eighth District

K. Swezen
G. T. Wassman

Third District

Arthur Higgins
Basil S. Baldwin

Sixth District

Dr. Osgood
Samuel Welch

Ninth District

V. V. McCabe
W. C. Arbuckle

Membership

First District
Miss Taylor
Valentine

Second District

Third District
James Braham
Roy E. Jacobs

Fourth District
Lester Burton
James Keay

Fifth District
Hugh Carey
Justin List

Sixth District
T. R. Patten
John Murphy

Seventh District
Fried
Larkin

Eighth District
J. Pfaltzer
Chas. Jones

Ninth District
Fay Crittenden
John Luft

Publicity

First District
Wells Hawks
Henry Amy

Second District

Third District
Thomas Hann
Frank Kinnes

Fourth District
Alfred Fulton
R. M. Ferrit

Fifth District
Irving J. Davis
Bernard R. Rasboch

Sixth District
Lionel Mintz
Franklin Livernoche

Seventh District
Peters
Beckwith

Eighth District
Frank A. Lawn
C. M. Potter

Ninth District
J. B. Youngstaff
A. S. Crandell

Military Affairs

First District
Lavery
Kuenble

Second District

Third District
Wm. S. Toole
Fred Cougley

Fourth District
Nathan Gross
H. F. Shaver

Fifth District
Frank Sass
Wm. McEhlierney

Sixth District
Robert Frasier
Floyd McLean

Seventh District
Carl Stephany
Dr. Nesbitt

Eighth District
Wm. Geary
W. Phillips

Ninth District
J. A. Shearer
Hiram W. Taylor

Finance

First District
Kelly
Engel

Second District

Third District
Jas. McEvoy
W. F. Crowis

Fourth District
Neal Nurray
Thos. Powers

Fifth District
Clarence Reed
Clarence Johnson

Sixth District
Raymond Forester
H. M. Lillybridge

Seventh District
John Ball
Acton Langelon

Eighth District
V. B. Wylegale
J. G. Duke

Legislation

First District
Horowitz
Ballinger

Second District

Third District
L. D. Wessels
Ed. Farrington

Fourth District
M. Kested
E. F. Bombard

Fifth District
James McTiernan
F. C. Hill

Sixth District
Addison Kuler
Shelden Close

Seventh District
Lynn Kellogg
Emmett Ryan

Eighth District
E. Lowery
Allan Oppenheimer

Ninth District
Brundage (Orange)
C. T. S. Fish

Time and Place

<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
W. H. Clarke Fairchild	John F. Keenan Spencer C. Cooney	J. J. McNamara Dr. Parcells
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
Dan Holohran G. Hughes	J. Gould Lyman Wm. Burns	Val Iverson H. R. Dunham
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Geo. Neir McLean	Harold Henry H. C. Ostertag	Hayes (Orange) Phil Mylod

Convention Arrangement

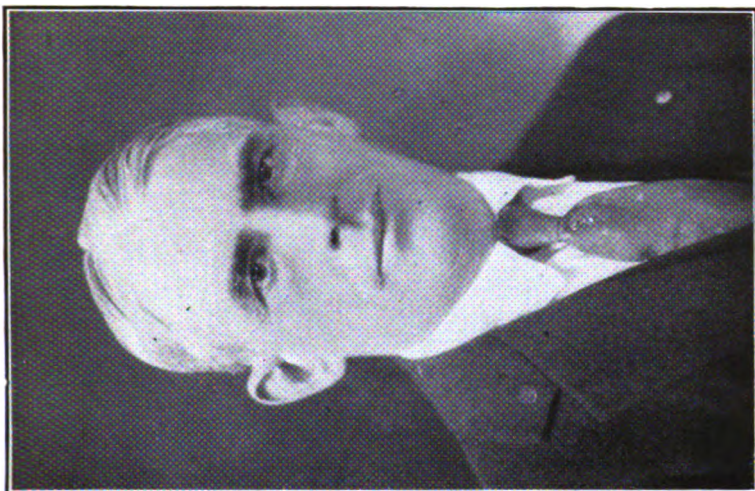
<i>First District</i>	<i>Second District</i>	<i>Third District</i>
McNamara Miss Charlet	None	Eugene E. Maxwell Robert Whiteford
<i>Fourth District</i>	<i>Fifth District</i>	<i>Sixth District</i>
Jacob Clinton Dr. F. M. Nuendorf	A. Congler J. F. Woolsleger	Roy Brown John O'Neil
<i>Seventh District</i>	<i>Eighth District</i>	<i>Ninth District</i>
Nolan A. Gunnerson	A. L. Bloss P. V. O'Connell	F. Adelyman Geo. Sanderson

The Chairman: Mr. R. P. Van Vlack, Chairman of the Publicity Committee, has been unable to be present but turned his report over to another member of the Publicity Committee, who couldn't be present, and who in turn turned it over to Mr. Farrington, who though not a member of the Committee will read the report.

Mr. Farrington (Rensselaer): Mr. Commander and Legionnaires—I hereby submit a report of the activities of the Publicity Committee for a period covering the Legislative banquet up to the present time, and also suggestions from the members of the committee as to the future work and conduct of the Publicity Committee. The report is read at this Convention through the kindness and courtesy of Deputy State Comptroller Vincent G. Hart, a former member of this committee, it being impossible for your chairman to be present at this session of the Convention.

Upon accepting the chairmanship of this committee, your chairman did so, with the understanding that the committee should be a committee not in name only but an active committee with the members always actively interested in the work of their Department, and at all times keeping in mind the fact that they were members of the committee and as such should be consulted at all times as to the work of the committee and most important of all that the committee was not to be a one-man affair.

Many of the members of the committee have been affiliated, in some way or other, with newspapers in various sections of the State and it is to these Legionnaires and the other members of the committee, not members of the newspaper fraternity that this



MICHAEL J. FLYNN,
Second District Chairman



CHARLES HANN, JR.,
First District Chairman



ALBERT L. DAYTON,
Adjutant



DR. RALPH P. HUYCK,
Fifth District Chairman

Department owes a debt of gratitude for your chairman can truthfully report to this Convention that thousands upon thousands of inches of publicity—and splendid publicity it has been—have appeared in the press of the State through the efforts of these Legionnaires alone, in keeping the name of The American Legion before the public in the various ways that the members have been able to do.

The committee has functioned about ninety per cent. active, the only laxity seeming to be in two or three of the larger cities, and where the Publicity Committee members have been inactive in these sections the work has been taken care of by publicity officers of various Legion Posts. Your chairman has the names of several members of the committee who have been doing exceptionally good work and requests the reappointment of these Legionnaires to the committee for the following year. Their names will be given to your new Commander.

Work that has been accomplished by your Publicity Committee has been for the members to write letters to the posts in their judicial district calling attention to the importance of the proper sort of publicity, for members to personally visit posts in their districts and give talks on publicity, for members to form American Legion news departments in various newspapers in the State, and conduct same, for members to write many letters to the press, thanking them for their splendid support and cooperation during the past year. Several letters from the Publicity Committee were also sent to all posts in this Department through State Headquarters on the importance of publicity.

The membership of the committee has suggested ideas as to the future work and conduct of the Publicity Committee, ideas also for the good of The American Legion, the most important request coming from the membership being, that more consideration be given the members of the committees of this Department by the chairmen of the various committees.

This request is made because the members of the Publicity Committee feel that much better work can be accomplished in the line of publicity by having hundreds of interested and active Legionnaires scattered in different parts of the State who at all times would be actively interested in the various activities of their Department. Appointed to committees and then ignored and given no consideration by the chairmen does not make a Legionnaire take an active interest in his Department.

Other suggestions made by the membership of the committee are that the Empire State Legionnaire, the official publication of this Department, is filling a long felt want by Legionnaires of New York State, that it is worthy and deserving of much better support and a larger circulation and that the paper be included in the annual dues of each Legionnaire, same as The American Legion Weekly.

Each one of the nine judicial districts of the Department should have an official designated American Legion newspaper and where

possible every county organization should designate a paper as the official publication of The American Legion in that county. The committee submits the names of Westchester and Dutchess counties as good examples of what can be accomplished along this line.

More attention should be given the press of New York State which has so splendidly backed up this Department with Legion news. The press of Rockland county as well as many other counties should be recognized by this Department and thanked for the cooperation which The American Legion in this State has had at all times during the past year.

Other suggestions as to the work of future Publicity Committees is that not only publicity officers of Legion posts but all post officers keep always personally acquainted with the members of the newspaper fraternity in their communities.

That in appointing members to the Publicity Committee in the future, appoint, where possible, a Legionnaire who has had newspaper experience, and appoint only Legionnaires who will be willing to work at all times and who will consider that their being appointed to the Publicity Committee is not only given them as an honor but as an invitation to work.

Too much care and attention cannot be given to the important part that your Publicity Committee can have in the work of your Department. Publicity, the right sort of publicity, is one of the biggest forces of the present day. Use it. Build up your Department. Bring in the thousands of former service men in this, the Empire State, who do not as yet belong to The American Legion.

Your committee also suggests that in the future when printed matter or circulars of any sort are sent out that the rank of Legionnaires, the rank they held during the World War, be omitted when mentioning their names.

The suggestions contained in this report as to the future workings of the Publicity Committee have come to your chairman from the members of the committee who have been active workers and are so given for your consideration.

In closing, the members of the committee desire to thank those at State Headquarters for the splendid cooperation which the committee has had at all times during the past year.

Respectfully submitted, R. P. Van Vlack, Chairman, Publicity Committee. (Applause.)

Mr. Moore (Rensselaer): I move that the report be accepted with the thanks of the Convention. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The report of the Committee on County and Post Activities, Mr. W. A. H. Ely of Tarrytown. (Applause.)

Mr. W. A. H. Ely (Chairman, Department Committee on County and Post Activities): Mr. Commander and Fellow Delegates—Although your Committee on County and Post Activities put forward every effort in an endeavor to have every post in the State Department render monthly reports on their community

and post activities, pursuant to the Department bulletin issued by your State Commander October 8th, their efforts were in vain.

So few posts reported that about March 1st of this year the committee prepared a merit report fashioned after the one sent out by the National Organization. This report was approved by your State Executive Committee and sent to each post commander. Although this report would have required but a few minutes time to prepare even this failed to get the early response expected.

The committee therefore recommends that the rendering of these reports be discontinued.

Mr. Potter (Westchester): Mr. Commander, I move that the report be accepted with thanks. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The representatives of the posts which won the prizes will come to the platform and receive their tokens.

The trophy awarded to the post for the city of the first class which has done the most work was awarded to the Beauvais Post. (Applause.)

The trophy awarded to the post of the city of the second class which has been the most active is awarded to Schenectady Post. (Applause.)

The trophy awarded to the post of the city of the third class which has done the best work is awarded to the New Rochelle Post. (Applause.)

The trophy awarded to the post of the village, which has been most active during the past is awarded to the Herkimer Post. (Applause.)

The Chairman: During the past year the Forty and Eight in this State has been of the greatest assistance to The American Legion. They have put on a Legion membership drive and chevrons were awarded to every Voyageur who was able to enroll seven new members. I haven't the list of the number of chevrons that were given out but I know it went way up into the hundreds. Practically every Post or every Voiture had men who were working actively in membership and in all other activities in which The Legion was interested.

The cooperation this year has been more than given heretofore, due largely to the efforts of the Grand Chef de Gare. I have the pleasure of presenting to you the Grand Chef de Gare of the Forty and Eight of the State of New York, Reginald Wood of Albany. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Reginald H. Wood (Grand Chef de Gare, Department of New York, La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux): Monsieur State Commander, Voyageurs and Legionnaires—While my year of office is just going out I appear here to-day to let The Legion know that in 1925 and 1926 the Forty and Eight will be still

stronger behind the The Legion than they were in the past year. (Applause and cheers.) And we bring our good wishes to The Legion of the State Department of New York. I am not going to hold you any longer because I do not believe in speeches, and I thank you. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: The report of the State Welfare Committee by Mr. Wallace Young of Freeport. (Applause.)

Mr. Wallace J. Young (Chairman, State Hospital and Welfare Committee): Mr. Commander, Legionnaires—The State Hospital and Welfare Committee held its first meeting on November 13, 1924, and completed its organization. It was decided that the question of welfare work would be conducted locally as heretofore, and that the committee would discourage the taking over of welfare projects now being handled by other organizations, and urged the appointment of post and county welfare officers where there were none at present. The committee has adopted a policy throughout the year of constructive criticism, and at no time has condemned any policy or practice of the Veterans' Bureau without submitting a substitute for the one condemned. As a result of this policy, the committee has had the cooperation of the Director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, General Frank T. Hines, and Mr. M. E. Head, Chief Coordinator of Area B. The committee has attempted in its deliberations to bear in mind that both the Veterans' Bureau and the committee have one ultimate objective—rendering service to the disabled veteran—appreciating at the same time the problems which the Bureau was faced with and attempting to aid them in solving their problems rather than condemning them for not solving them.

During the entire year the committee has kept in contact with the National Rehabilitation Committee and placed at their disposal all data on the questions affecting the disabled ex-service men which the committee were able to gather.

On July 31, 1925, according to information furnished by the Veterans' Bureau, there were 2,928 patients of that Bureau in hospitals in this State, as compared with 2,284 patients on August 14, 1923, as follows:

	Government Hospitals, Including Naval		Contract Hospitals	
	1923	1925	1923	1925
General Medical and Surgical.....	152	196	52	9
T. B.	4	1,020	910	261
N. P.	543	835	623	607
Total	<u>699</u>	<u>2,051</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>877</u>

It will be noticed that there has been an increase in the two-year period of practically 700 patients of the Bureau hospitalized in this State, and an increase in the number of T. B. cases hospitalized in Government hospitals, as compared with 1923, and a decrease in the number hospitalized, in contract institutions.

This unusual increase and decrease is due to the opening since that time of Veterans' Bureau hospitals at Tupper Lake and Chelsea, and also due to the fact that in the recent figures, Saranac Lake has been regarded as a part of the Tupper Lake Hospital. It should also be noticed that there has been an increase in the total number of N. P. cases, which is to be expected, and which increase will probably continue for several years.

Transfer of Occupational Therapy.—Despite the action taken at the State Convention in Alexandria Bay on the recommendation of the Convention Hospital Committee, the first action of this Committee was to approve the transfer of occupational therapy in mental institutions of the State from the Veterans' Bureau to the State Hospital Commission. The Committee cooperated with the State Legislature to include in hte budget an item sufficient for the State to take over this work, and the transfer of occupational therapy in State institutions was effected on or about July 1st, with practically no interruption in the service to the patients.

GENERAL HOSPITAL SITUATION

N. P. Hospitals.—The Committee has kept in close contact with the Director of the Veterans' Bureau and the Committee which he appointed to select a site for the new thousand bed N. P. hospital allotted to the second district. Although Congress authorized the appropriation in the Act of June 5, 1924, the appropriation itself was not actually made until the passage of the Second Deficiency Bill, approved December 5, 1924, which appropriated \$3,850,000 for hospital construction. The committee appointed by General Hines to recommend a site for this hospital made its report to the director in January, 1925. There was some delay after this report was submitted to the Federal Board of Hospitalization until it could be definitely determined that there was no Government property available which would be suitable for a hospital site, and also due to the fact that the site recommended by the committee was too expensive in proportion to the amount appropriated by Congress to build the entire hospital. The Director of the Veterans' Bureau finally decided on the Hodgins estate, near Northport, Long Island, a tract containing 558 acres, and the site was regarded by the Bureau as ideal from the standpoint of topography, location and accessibility, and the purchase price was within the figure which could be expended from the appropriation. This site was approved by the Federal Board of Hospitalization, and it was necessary following protests made by residents in the vicinity to again reconsider this site, and a committee was appointed to hold a public hearing in Washington to hear the protests of the residents of the vicinity of Northport. After holding this public hearing, the committee visited the site and on August 10th, the Federal Board definitely decided to adhere to their original selection and directed that the hospital be constructed upon this site.

Kings Park Memorial Hospital.—During the term of this Committee the contracts for the Kings Park Memorial Hospital were let, and at the present time, construction is well under way, and the contracts call for completion of the hospital by August, 1926, which will make available about 850 additional beds for N. P. cases in this State.

U. S. Veterans' Bureau Hospital No. 81.—The committee continues to realize that this hospital is not suitable as a permanent N. P. institution, and the only solution and corrective measure that can be taken is early completion of the new thousand bed hospital at Northport, and the transferring of N. P. cases from Hospital No. 81 to the new hospital. The committee has recommended to the director and urged upon him that after this transfer is made, Hospital No. 81 be retained by the Bureau as a hospital for general cases and a receiving station where emergency cases can be hospitalized, and where cases can remain during the period of observation and classification; and that this hospital include a diagnostic clinic and non-resident out-patient clinic, and a ward of not less than 250 beds for emergency T. B. cases. The committee feels that there is a great need for a hospital of this character in the metropolitan area, and feels confident that the Bureau also realizes this fact, and that this hospital will be maintained after the new hospital is completed as we have urged.

T. B. Hospitals.—At the present time there are two T. B. hospitals of the Bureau in this State: Hospital No. 98, in Beacon (348 patients); and Hospital No. 96, Tupper Lake (749 patients). This amount includes the number of patients at Saranac Lake, there being only 323 cases actually at the Tupper Lake hospital.

Future Hospital Construction.—The committee has endeavored to outline, with the aid of consultants both of the Bureau and the State Hospital Commission, and within The Legion, a program of hospitalization which will take care of the future as far as it can be determined at the present time. The mental experts of the Veterans' Bureau, in agreement with the members of this committee, realize that the number of mental cases requiring hospitalization in the second district will sooner or later reach a figure of 3,500. That even with the new thousand-bed hospital at Northport, which will merely replace Hospital No. 81, and take care of the number of cases awaiting hospitalization at that center, and the new 850-bed hospital at Kings Park, will be insufficient to accommodate the contemplated load. The greater proportion of N. P. cases will require continued treatment. And the committee, therefore, after several months of deliberation have recommended to the Bureau the erection of an additional thousand-bed N. P. hospital to be located in the metropolitan area, and a 500-bed N. P. hospital to be located in the northern part of the State. That even with these new hospitals the total capacity will then only be just sufficient to cover the contemplated load in this State.

The committee feels, so far as the T. B. situation is concerned, that with the utilization of Hospital No. 96 and Hospital No. 98 to their full capacity, and the retention of Saranac Lake and Liberty, with the addition of a 250-bed emergency ward in the metropolitan area, will be sufficient to cover the T. B. situation, as statistics prepared by the Bureau show conclusively that the T. B. load is gradually decreasing, and that the peak of the load has now been passed.

Hospital Supervision.—During the past month the chairman of the committee has visited and personally inspected the three Veterans' Bureau Hospitals in this State and has made the following recommendations to the Director of the Bureau.

Hospital No. 96 at Tupper Lake.—The Director has advised the committee in connection with this hospital that the Federal Board has favorably acted upon the recommendation of the Construction Division to expend \$405,000 at this hospital to erect a recreation building of 350 capacity, a nurses' quarters of eighty-capacity, three duplex officers' quarters, storehouse and residence for the medical officer in charge. At present two ambulant ward for officers' quarters and recreation purposes. The construction of these additional buildings will make available 144 additional beds at this hospital. The committee has urged that this work be rushed to completion in order that this hospital may be brought up, as far as facilities go, to a level with Hospital No. 98, and render greater service to the type of patients which it now is planned to handle. In addition to the above construction it was recommended that the cafeteria service at this hospital be re-arranged and the committee has been advised that the difficulties which the committee found will be entirely overcome when the new installation, plans for which have already been drawn, has been installed. Recommendations were also made that the interior walls of these buildings be painted and that linoleum be laid on the floors; both matters have already been taken care of by the Bureau. The committee also complained regarding the question of dirty utensils, both in the kitchen and in the dining-room, and the quality of food which was being served. These matters are now being given the personal attention of the medical officer in charge and his dietitians, and every effort is being made to improve the standard of efficiency in this department. This institution is handicapped in that it is located in an isolated section, and is having considerable trouble in retaining the proper type of employees. The chairman feels that the medical officer in charge of this hospital, Dr. Cook, is doing everything in his power to improve conditions at this center.

Hospital No. 98, Beacon, New York.—On visiting this hospital the chairman found that the morale of the men was exceedingly good, and evidences throughout the hospital of good supervision and administration and a high opinion of the medical officer in charge and his staff by the entire personnel. It was recommended

to the director that a new infirmary building of fifty beds capacity, containing single rooms only, for critical and surgical cases, be erected at this institution; that two cottages of about fifteen to twenty beds capacity should be erected for female patients. At present there are 15 female cases occupying ambulant ward No. 3, which has a 70-bed capacity. It was felt that the use of cottages for female cases would be more suitable than a ward building, and would release seventy beds now held up in ambulant No. 3. That the transoms over all the doors leading into the hallways be changed to a pivoted type instead of the present fixed type, thereby affording greater means of ventilation. It was recommended that steps be taken to provide sufficient ventilation in all toilets and washrooms, which now have only one window. It was recommended that a duplex doctor's cottage be erected for the two doctors now have apartments in the administration building, thereby releasing this space for a receiving and observation ward. That all the interior walls in all buildings be painted as soon as possible and that the walls of the tunnels receive a coat of waterproof paint. It was also recommended that the cafeteria service in this hospital be reorganized and that a new steam table be erected in the dining room to replace the present steam table located in the kitchen.

Hospital No. 81, The Bronx, New York.—On inspection of this hospital there was found no criticism of supervision or administration. It was recommended, however, that inasmuch as this committee has urged that this hospital be retained as a general hospital that steps be taken immediately to install outside stand-pipes connected with the city water supply, as at the present time this hospital is dependent upon the hospital water supply for its fire protection, which is deemed insufficient in case of a serious fire.

Copies of all of the recommendations made at these three institutions have been forwarded to the medical officer in charge, to the director of the United States Veterans' Bureau, and to the medical director of the Bureau, as well as to the chairman of the National Rehabilitation Committee in Washington.

Decentralization.—At each convention of The American Legion during the past few years a resolution has been passed urging the Veterans' Bureau to complete its decentralization. This resolution has in each case been of a very general nature, and has not specifically pointed to any item of decentralization. The committee, therefore, this year has made a survey and a study of the question of decentralization, and it has found that the Veterans' Bureau during the past twelve months has accomplished the following items of decentralization: (a) Completed decentralization of the claims, excepting death claims, and adjudication to fifty-four regional offices, with full authority to act. (b) The establishment of claims and rating boards in the regional offices, which make the claims decisions in the presence of the claimant. (c) A reduction of time required to settle a claim from months to an average of

eighteen days. (d) The establishment of a guardianship service for the protection of estates of incompetents and minors. (e) The decentralization of the Central Board of Appeals to five areas. (f) The establishment of a Field Inspection Service to check results and to recommend improvements in service, and to coordinate the various activities of the Bureau.

The committee in its survey and study of the situation feels, however, that although the Bureau during the last twelve months has taken great steps toward completed decentralization, yet there still remain several other items which should be taken up in order that greater service can be rendered to the claimant. The committee feels very strongly that one of the greatest stumbling blocks at present in the Bureau is the question of hospital control — the necessity of minor questions of hospital administration being taken up with the medical section in Washington, and after months of delay being passed from one section to another without any definite decision being rendered. The committee realizes, of course, that the question of medical policy should continue to be outlined by the medical section in Washington, but feels very strongly that the question of hospital control should be decentralized to the five areas, and that the hospitals in each of these five areas be placed under the direct supervision of the chief coordinator of that area, and that the chief coordinator be furnished yearly with a bona fide budget for the operation of the hospitals within his area; and that he be authorized by the director of the Bureau to take such corrective measures as are possible under the regulations of the Bureau and the limitations of the budget, reporting to the central office in Washington the action his office has taken, thereby eliminating the long delays and the voluminous red tape in connection with requisitions for every little item required in a hospital. That in addition there be appointed in each area, under the supervision of the chief coordinator, an area medical officer, who shall be appointed by the medical director in Washington. That this medical officer will establish personal contact with the hospitals in his area and see that the questions of medical policy outlined by the medical director in Washington are carried out. And that he be authorized to take such corrective measures, with the approval of the area coordinator, as are practicable under existing Bureau regulations, and the limitations of the budget of the individual institution. At present the Field Inspection Service can only discover wherein the fault lies in hospital supervision and administration and must make its recommendations to central office. Under the proposed plan the Field Inspection Service, after locating the faults, can take in most instances the necessary action to correct, and merely report to Washington the action which they have taken.

The committee also realizes that the morale of the patients in any institution is no higher than the morale of the personnel, and that the morale of the personnel is dependent to a large extent on equitable salary adjustments; and this committee feels that the

field stations should be placed on a bona fide salary budget, and that the administrative head of that field station should be authorized to effect any salary adjustments without prior reference to central office, so long as he stays within his budget and certain limitations prescribed by the Bureau.

Reinterment of Deceased Veterans.—The committee took up with the Veterans' Bureau regarding the question of the reinterment of ex-service men now buried in Potters Field, where the burial was made prior to determining that the deceased was an ex-service man, and has been successful in securing a ruling from the Comptroller General that the Bureau may authorize the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$100 necessary to rebury the remains of veterans who are now buried in Potters Field, or to make reimbursement of such expenses incurred.

Federal Bonus for Ex-Service Patients in State Hospitals for Whom no Legal Committees have been Appointed.—At the request of the State Hospital Commission the committee took up the question of securing the Federal bonus for several hundred mentally disabled ex-service men located in State institutions for whom no legal committees had been appointed, and under existing regulations it was impossible to make application for the Federal adjusted compensation. Through the National Rehabilitation Committee, the committee was able to secure a ruling from the Adjutant General that the same procedure could be followed as in the case of a veteran confined in a Veterans' Bureau hospital for whom no legal guardian had been appointed. The State Hospital Commission have submitted to the Adjutant General a copy of a proposed order, and as soon as this is approved applications can be filed for these men.

Retention of the Veterans' Bureau.—The committee went on record as being opposed to any legislation which would tend to place the Veterans' Bureau under the Department of Education and Relief. The committee feels that any such action would only place the Bureau back in a position which it held some years ago. At the present time the Director of the Bureau is responsible only to the President, and that to place the Bureau under an assistant secretary and again under a cabinet officer only creates an intermediary station and prevents direct action. The committee feels that the operation of the Veterans' Bureau is a task big enough for one man to handle, and for the time being at least this Bureau should be left as an independent functioning body.

Medical Service in the Bureau.—The committee has recommended the establishment of medical service within the Veterans' Bureau and feels that such a service is vitally necessary if the Bureau is to obtain and to keep doctors sufficiently advanced in their profession to give the patients of the Bureau the care and treatment to which they are entitled. The medical men of the Bureau were originally recruited from officers discharged after

the World War, and many of them were persuaded to accept service in the Bureau instead of returning to practice, and they were assured that their service would be needed indefinitely and that good service would be rewarded. The government did not keep faith with these men, and thereby lost about half of the original number, a total of 438 during the last year, and those that were lost were the best and most desirable. The replacements which were made from civil service lists were men averaging 55 years of age, many of whom had failed in private practice and now seek salaried positions under any conditions. If some immediate steps are not taken to correct this condition, when a permanent medical corps is created few of the mature, experienced men or leaders will be left, and a new corps will have to be built up by training younger men entering the lower grades.

Arrested T. B. Cases.—This committee also recommends that a definite compensation rating be granted arrested T. B. cases. This committee feels that the original proposition to grant 50 per cent. of total disability to arrested T. B. cases does not go far enough, and that the men over the age of 50 who are still sufferers of this disease, even though their case be arrested, are not able to resume their former occupations, or to earn within 50 per cent. that their normal vocation would have brought them. And it recommends that in arrested T. B. cases the patients, up to the age of 50, be granted a 50 per cent. of total disability, and that over that age they be declared permanent total and carried so indefinitely. This is based on the fact that a patient over the age of 50 years of age whose T. B. condition has become arrested is very seldom, if ever, cured of the disease, and that an attempt to resume his former occupation, due to his advanced age, generally brings on a recurrence of his disability.

Vocational Training.—The committee has gone on record as favoring and urging the removal of the time limit on vocational training. Under the law as it stands today no veterans are permitted to enter training and have been refused such training since June 30th, this year. On June 30, 1926, all training will cease unless this law is changed, and thousands of men only partly finished with their courses will be thrown out to shift for themselves. In addition to this there are many men who have not completed their hospitalization, and who have, therefore, been deprived of the privilege of vocational training.

Cooperation.—The committee takes this opportunity of expressing its appreciation to Mr. M. E. Head, Area Coordinator of Area B of the United States Veterans' Bureau, for his cooperation and for the valuable assistance which he has given the committee in its deliberations throughout the year.

The committee also wishes to express its appreciation to Carl Sudhoff who has served as secretary of the committee, and to

the entire staff at State Headquarters for their valuable assistance in the work of this committee, as without their assistance the committee would never have been able to carry on the mass of detail which it has been found necessary to handle this year.

Recommendations.—The committee makes the following recommendations:

1. That the director of the United States Veterans' Bureau expend every effort possible to insure the early completion of the new thousand-bed hospital at Northport.

2. We recommend the erection of a thousand-bed N. P. hospital in the metropolitan area in addition to the facilities now contemplated, and a 500-bed N. P. hospital in the northern part of the State.

3. That Hospital No. 81 after the completion of the new thousand-bed hospital be still retained as a general hospital and receiving and classification center, and that there be maintained in this hospital a diagnostic clinic, non-resident outpatient and occupational therapy unit, and a 150-bed ward for emergency T. B. cases.

4. That the recommendations regarding new construction at hospitals No. 96, No. 98 and No. 81 be completed at an early date.

5. That the question of decentralization of hospital control and handling of personnel, as outlined under the heading of "Decentralization" in this report, be adopted by the Bureau as soon as possible.

6. That delegates to the National Convention be instructed to place these matters listed in these previous recommendations before the National Convention for their approval, and that the delegates be urged to push the adoption of these recommendations.

7. The committee also recommends that the local post and county welfare officers continue as in the past to take up questions of individual cases direct with the regional offices, but that they notify the service officer at State Headquarters the action which they are taking on the case which they are handling, in order that there may be no duplication of effort on the part of either, and that questions of criticism of the policy of the Bureau, or lack of service on the part of the Bureau, be taken up by these local post and county officers with the State Chairman of the Hospital Committee of The American Legion, rather than with the higher officials of the Veterans' Bureau. The committee has discovered several instances where post or county officers have taken matters up with the director of the Bureau on questions of policy where the committee has already taken definite stand and is endeavoring to adjust matters with the director. This action only tends to belittle the efforts of The American Legion and complicates the situation and lays our own organization open to criticism on the grounds that we are not coordinating our own efforts.

8. This committee also reiterates the recommendations made by previous committees that each county organization of The Ameri-

can Legion in this Department appoint a hospital officer to visit each hospital in their county and to take care of the local welfare situation. The committee has found that in the instances of several hospitals the entire burden of welfare work among the patients in the hospital has fallen on the shoulders of the local post, which in many instances is not of sufficient size to carry such a large burden, and should be handled by either the county or district organization.

9. The committee also recommends that a sum not exceeding \$200 be granted to the State Hospital and Welfare Committee of the Department of New York to cover their incidental expenses during the year, as this committee feels that it has been handicapped due to lack of funds. (Applause.)

Mr. McNamara (Nassau): Mr. Commander, I move that the report be accepted with thanks. Seconded. Carried.

Mr. Hines (Bronx): Mr. Commander, I move you, sir, that this Convention do now adjourn until 9 A. M. tomorrow. Seconded. Carried.

The Thursday afternoon Session of the Seventh Annual Convention of the Department of New York, The American Legion, adjourned at 5:05 P. M.

The Third Session was called to order at 9:35 A. M., Friday morning, September 11, 1925.

The Chairman: The convention will be in order.

Advance the Colors.

The Chairman: The invocation will be delivered by State Chaplain Rev. John M. Bellamy.

Rev. John M. Bellamy (State Chaplain): Almighty God, again we ask You to assist us in the proceedings of this Convention and that everything that we may carry out may be for Your honor and glory, for the good of The American Legion, for its principles, for God and country. Amen.

The Chairman: The Star Spangled Banner will now be sung by Madame Marie Thomas.

The Convention rises and "The Star Spangled Banner" is sung by Madame Thomas. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The report of the Prison Activities Committee, a committee which not only in name but in deed has been a one man committee, although the work has been done entirely by one of our women Legionnaires, Mrs. Eva M. Hay, of Ossining. (Applause.)

Mrs. Eva M. Hay (Chairman, Prison Activities Committee):

Prison Welfare, American Legion:

Department of New York.....	\$250 00
Women's Club, Sea Cliff.....	34 50
American Legion, Auxiliary of Port Chester.....	10 00
Women's League, Park Slope Congregational Church, Brooklyn	25 00
Kenyon Andrus Post No. 772, Bolivar.....	25 00
Order of the Gold Star.....	75 00
Counsel of Women's Clubs, Albany.....	10 00
American Legion Auxiliary, Penn Yan.....	25 00
Utica Post No. 229.....	25 00
American Legion, Monroe County.....	50 00
Ladies' Aid Society, St. Boniface Church.....	10 00
Personal gifts.....	49 00
Dutch Reformed Church, Alexandria Bay.....	7 00
Sea Cliff Auxiliary.....	12 00
Queens County Auxiliary.....	25 00
Cosmos Club, Brooklyn.....	10 00
Expense money from Sea Cliff.....	5 00
State Federation of Jewish Women.....	25 00
Utica Chapter of Jewish Women.....	5 00
Jewish Women of Yonkers.....	25 00
Cooks Post Auxiliary.....	25 00
TOTAL	\$727 50

An itemized account of expenses has been sent in to Department Headquarters:

Expenses	\$824 48
Receipts	727 50
Deficit	\$96 98

ANNUAL REPORT OF PRISON COMMITTEE

The past year has been a very busy one for your representative in State prisons. All men requesting aid have been contacted and assisted as far as possible. Menders Rice Post of Auburn having done the greater part of the work in the Auburn Prison, but I have attended to all others, including Sing Sing, Great Meadow and Clinton.

Employment has been obtained for all men who applied for same. Compensation claims attended to at the Veterans' Bureau. Back claims of compensation, amounting to thousands of dollars, have been obtained for the disabled veterans within the prisons of the State.

Families have been assisted, and the same helpful service has been rendered to those men as has been rendered by the Welfare, Americanization and Hospital Committees of your posts to men in your own communities.

I have explained the work before the State Convention of the Federation of Women's Clubs, the State Counsel of Jewish

Women, and many individual women's clubs, and great financial aid has been rendered by them.

Some opposition has been offered by individual officials at prisons.

Will you please back your representative by seeing that The American Legion be at all times given the right to contact any honorably discharged World War Veteran?

For the past three years, I have carried on this work. Today I complete my duties. My successor, *and there must be one*, shall have all the aid I can give him.

I hope the financial report will remind the posts that there was an appropriation from the Department, of \$250, but I could not stop the work when that was gone, so I have carried on the work and there is a deficit. I would suggest that each post set aside a small sum of their welfare funds each year for prison welfare, this sum to be used by the prison representative, and itemized accounts turned in.

I will always keep a warm spot in my heart for the bad boys inside, and will be at the service of The American Legion forever. (Applause.)

Mr. Cohen (New York): I move that the report be accepted. Seconded. Carried.

Dr. Neuendorf (Fulton): I move that the meeting of the Veterans' Mountain Camp Corporation be now held and that the Legion convention reconvene at 10:45. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I will ask Mr. G. Merritt Ward, president of the Mountain Camp Corporation, to take over the meeting.

Mr. George Merritt Ward, president of the corporation of the Veterans' Mountain Camp, assumes the chair.

The Chairman: I call to order the fourth annual meeting of the Veterans' Mountain Camp of The American Legion, Department of New York.

The By-Laws state that there is no requirement for notice of the meeting and that the quorum required is nine members. I, therefore, declare this a duly constituted meeting of the Veterans' Mountain Camp.

The first order of business is the reading of the minutes of the last meeting, the last annual meeting held at the convention a year ago. Inasmuch as these minutes have been published in connection with the report of that convention, I will ask for a motion that the reading of the minutes be dispensed with.

Mr. Eastman (Clinton): I make that motion. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The next order of business is the report of the President.

Report of the president to the fourth annual meeting of the corporation of the Veterans' Mountain Camp of The American Legion, Department of New York, Inc.

Gentlemen: The past year has seen many changes in the administration and the policy of your camp. These have in the main resulted from the passage by Congress of the Reed-Johnson bill opening the doors of the Government hospitals to those men, suffering from tuberculosis, whom in previous years your Camp has cared for.

The taking over by the Government of the care of all tubercular patients allowed this organization to get back to the work for which it was originally founded, namely, the convalescent care of men suffering from diseases of a non-contagious and non-surgical type.

We have a capacity of 64 in the Warren Point Hospital and 16 in the barracks. We started the year with 19 patients; by the 1st of October the number had fallen to ten and we closed the large hospital and moved the men into one of the smaller buildings for the winter. In spite of our notifying all post commanders and advertising the fact in the boldest type in the Empire State Legionnaire, the number of patients had reduced to five men by November 1st. From then on through the winter the number moved up and down with a maximum of seven and a minimum of two until May, when good weather set in and we closed and applications accordingly began to come in. By July 1st the number had increased to twelve with several applications pending. As the capacity of our winter quarters is only sixteen, the order was given to reopen the larger hospital, which was done as promptly as possible, so that by the end of July we had twenty-nine patients at the camp. During August the number started falling off again so that now we are again down to nineteen. There have been in all 104 patients at the camp during the year.

Your officers immediately in taking over the affairs of the corporation started a policy of the strictest economy. The force in the New York office was reduced from four people to one stenographer, the finances being put into the hands of Mr. McWhorter. The personnel of the camp was reduced from twenty-four to ten. These consisted only of the doctor, the nurse, the working foreman, the two dairymen, the chef and his helper, one farm laborer and two teamsters. It was the very minimum that could be gotten along with, even if we had just one patient, so long as we kept open at all and had the farm animals to look after.

And yet the cost of operation when based on the number of patients days has been ruinous. The total cost of operating the camp (not including the New York office expense, nor repairs or improvements to buildings) has been \$48,361.34. The total number of hospital days was 3,920. That means \$12.33 per patient per day. Hospitals generally figure on approximately \$7 per day for all types while the cost at convalescent homes is much less. The truth is we could have paid for the care of the men in the finest convalescent hospitals in the localities where they live and where

they could be visited by their relatives and friends, at a considerable less cost than at our own camp, allowing nothing for the interest on the \$260,000 we have invested in the property.

This high cost is partly due to the cost of operating the farm and dairy. To run the farm we paid out \$7,479.98, while we could have purchased in the open market all the products we produced for only \$3,501.23, a loss of nearly \$4,000. To maintain our herd of cows we paid \$8,762.15. The milk, cream and butter they furnished was only worth \$5,927.66. A direct loss of \$3,000.

To sum the matter up, unless there is more demand for the care offered by the camp than has developed to date, unless we can keep it filled with patients nearer to its capacity, we are only wasting the money entrusted to our care by keeping it open.

Financially we have never been as well off. We have an endowment fund of over two hundred and fifty thousand dollars invested in securities legal for trust funds at an average rate of 5.3 per cent, giving us an income of over \$14,000 a year. We do not owe a cent and we have over \$50,000 in the bank as a result of the last Poppy Drive. But just because we have it, gives us no right to waste it. It was received mainly by the unselfish and untiring work of the women of the Auxiliary who turned in over \$53,000 against the Posts' \$20,000. The total is much less than it has been in past years. I feel that the Legionnaires are tiring of the constant call on them for money and more money for the camp. They say that they need their money for their own local welfare work, and I believe they do.

Gentlemen, I recommend that we face these facts and figures. I claim that the location and inaccessibility of the camp and the rigors of the climate there make it not only unpopular but impractical for proper care of convalescent patients in the winter time, and I recommend that it only be operated from May 15th to October 15th each year. I further recommend that the operation of the farm and dairy be discontinued and the herd sold. I recommend that such patients as may be still in our care on October 15th be transferred to the best convalescent hospitals in the vicinity of their homes and their expenses paid by this organization. I further recommend the discontinuance of our New York office and the operation of our headquarters from space in State Headquarters.

I have studied these proposals carefully and consulted authorities on the various phases involved. Such action would in no way invalidate our charter with the State or any of our agreements with other organizations or individuals. I have also been assured by Dr. Brooks that there would be no question of our being able to obtain the necessary medical and nursing personnel for the seasonal period required. He tells me he could guarantee it. But best of all we could operate for such a period within our income. The interest from our endowment would be sufficient to meet all expenses. There would no longer be these constant calls for money for the camp. The poppy sales could be used, as so many posts now desire for their own local welfare needs. I call for full and

frank discussion of this subject. The camp and its problems are yours. The future policy must be decided by you. If you believe as I do, I ask you to have the courage to come out and say so at this meeting and pass resolutions adopting the policies I have recommended. Respectfully submitted, Geo. Merritt Ward, President.

Mr. Taylor (Westchester): I move the adoption of your report and the adoption of the recommendations made. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The next order of business is the report of the Treasurer.

Mr. Hulse (Treasurer): Mr. President—Inasmuch as we have a copy of the report on each seat in the convention hall, I would suggest that the reading of the report be dispensed with, and I so move. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The next order of business is the election of directors for the ensuing year. Will someone kindly make the motion that those men who may tomorrow be elected as officers and members of the State Executive Committee of the Legion are hereby duly elected directors of this corporation for the ensuing year.

Dr. Fronzak (Erie): Mr. President, I make that motion. Seconded. Carried.

Mr. Taylor (Westchester): I move we adjourn. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I declare the meeting adjourned.

OFFICIAL REPORTER'S NOTE.—The following is the complete report of the Treasurer:

VETERANS' MOUNTAIN CAMP

Cash Receipts and Disbursements, Year Ended August 31, 1925

Source of Receipts:		
Posts		\$1,078 90
Auxiliaries		3,629 25
Theatre Assembly		10 00
Associations		1,711 21
Individuals		836 84
Total		<u>\$7,266 20</u>
1924 poppy sales (additional).....	\$5,469 27	
1924 poppy expenses.....	414 53	
		<u>5,054 74</u>
1925 poppy sales.....	\$73,563 22	
1925 poppy expenses.....	20,187 16	
		<u>53,376 06</u>
1925 annual subscriptions.....	\$3,897 00	
1925 annual subscriptions expenses.....	1,897 35	
		<u>1,999 65</u>

Bonus assignments	\$131,808 78	
Bonus donations	1,744 99	
	<u>\$133,553 77</u>	
Less, received in error.....	139 20	133,415 57
Borrowed money	\$10,000 00	
Less, repaid	10,000 00	
	<u>8,765 64</u>	
Investments and bank interest.....		8,765 64
Insurance losses on cows.....	\$885 00	
Postage refunds	23 50	
		<u>908 50</u>
Total		\$210,785 36

Apportioned, as instructed by the donors, to the following funds:

Endowment	\$135,665 61
Bed	100 00
Building	100 00
New Building	752 79
Maintenance	59,044 80
General	15,122 16

Total Net Receipts..... \$210,785 36

Cash on hand September 1, 1924..... 35,723 40

\$246,508 76

Fund Disbursements:

Endowment:

Investments

\$80,004 02

Building:

General operating set..... \$54 00
 Shingles on lower portion of hospital..... 880 00
 Changing barn to take care of increase in herd 803 72
 Desk and typewriter..... 95 17

1,832 89

Maintenance:

Camp expense

\$36,697 57

Less, poppies charged to 1925 expenses..... 12,602 78

24,094 79

General:

Insurance (refund on \$541.25 to come)..... \$2,234 88
 Interest and discount..... 497 50
 Bonus expense

2,051 88

4,784 26

Soliciting:

Circulars, letters, etc..... \$1,092 50
 Wheat salary (balance)..... 342 13
 Postage

159 48

1,594 11

Administration:

Salaries, regular

\$2,780 00

Salaries, additional

1,428 20

Rent

1,155 79

Telephone and telegraph..... 266 39

Stationery and office supplies..... 260 45

General expenses

257 22

Printing forms

146 50

Directors and Executive Committee, traveling 885 81

7,180 36

Total **\$119,490 43**

Cash on hand:

Empire Trust Co. (for investment).....	\$76,361 63	
Central Union Trust Co.....	37,453 71	
Southampton	7,502 99	
New York office.....	700 00	
Camp	5,000 00	
		127,018 33
		\$246,508 76

VETERANS' MOUNTAIN CAMP

Condition of Funds November 25, 1921, to August 31, 1925

Endowment Fund:

Cash donated	\$245,542 58
Transferred from General Fund.....	19,172 55
	\$264,715 13
Invested	188,353 50

Balance in hands of Empire Trust Co. for investment
as directed by the Finance Committee..... \$76,361 63

Loan-to Fund:

Cash donated	\$62,135 00
Less, released to Building Fund per Schedule 19	18,885 00

Balance, held in trust, Schedule 20..... 43,250 00

Special Funds:

Cash donated	\$4,876 35
Cash expended	3,955 26

Balance, held in trust, Schedule 21..... 921 00

Building Fund:

Cash donated, building.....	\$2,836 11
Cash donated, new buildings.....	752 79
Cash donated, beds	8,200 00

Cash donated, total.....	\$11,788 90
Transferred from General Fund.....	1,917 26
Transferred from Loan-to releases.....	18,885 00

Total

	32,591 16
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Total balance of Trust Funds..... \$153,123 88

Maintenance Fund:

Cash donated	\$226,087 69
Camp expenses	78,047 62

Balance

	\$148,040 07
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Soliciting Fund:

Transferred from General Fund.....	\$74,215 60
Soliciting expenses	\$20,236 37
Administration expenses	31,064 64
	51,351 01

Balance

	22,864 59
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General Fund:

Cash donated	\$191,725 50	
10% to Endowment Fund.....	\$19,172 55	
1% to Building Fund.....	1,917 26	
10% of total net receipts (\$742, 156.02) to Soliciting Fund.....	74,215 60	
Total transfers	\$95,305 41	
Interest and discount.....	2,832 19	
Insurance	10,793 33	
Bonus expenses	7,454 85	
Total transfers and expenses.....	116,385 78	
Balance	\$75,393 72	
Total balance of Surplus Funds.....	\$246,244 38	

VETERANS' MOUNTAIN CAMP

Balance Sheet, August 31, 1925

Assets:

Cash, Endowment Fund.....	\$76,361 63
Cash, Loan-to Fund.....	43,250 00
Cash, Special Fund.....	921 09
Cash, total Trust Funds.....	\$120,532 72
Cash, available for general use.....	6,485 61
Cash, total	\$127,018 33
Purchase price—construction, development and equipment.	262,422 55
Prepaid insurance	3,678 52
Poppies, wreaths and armbands on hand.....	6,228 86
Total	\$399,368 26

Liabilities:

Balance of Trust Funds.....	\$153,123 88
Excess of Assets over Liabilities represented by balance of Surplus Funds	\$246,244 38

NOTE.—The above Assets (or Surplus) do not include several thousand dollars represented by the value of assets donated and now in use and producing. These donations came principally from the Theatre Assembly.

At this point the Convention of the Department of New York, The American Legion, reconvenes.

The Chairman: The following telegram has been received: The Department of New York United Spanish War Veterans extends to The American Legion, State of New York, very cordial greetings and best wishes for a successful convention. John J. Fitzpatrick, Department Commander. (Applause.)

The report of the Standing Committee on Civil Service, Mr. Frank H. Hines, of the Bronx. (Applause.)

Mr. Frank H. Hines (Chairman of Special Committee on Civil Service): Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen of the Convention—The following is the report of the Special Committee on Civil Service:

The Special Committee on Civil Service of the Department of New York is composed as follows: Frank H. Hines, Chairman; Irving J. Murnane, Secretary; Fred G. Norman, Ralph Jones, Bart Hunt, Henry W. Boyce, Walter G. Ingalls, Maynard K. VanDeusen, Park J. Johnson, George Schopf, Henry C. Bradford, Francis Doran.

The first meeting of this committee for organization, discussion, views and recommending of legislation, etc., was held on November 12, 1924, in the office of the chairman, Room 2043, Municipal Building, New York City. On motion, unanimously adopted, Irving J. Murnane of said committee was selected as secretary.

On motion, unanimously adopted, the chairman and secretary of the committee were empowered to transact the duties referred to this committee.

This committee at its initial meeting requested the personal and written views of all members in order that a real and constructive working plan for necessary and vital legislation could be formulated and adhered to. After consideration of all recommendations, the committee found that the most important feature as to the relation of the Veteran of the World War and the Civil Service of State and Municipality was:

The proper adjustment of sections 22 and 22a of the Civil Service Law to remove the glaring, ambiguous meanings of the stultifying statements in many of its clauses and make it the qualifying standard under which the Veteran may be employed, promoted and retained in the Civil Service without danger of discharge or dismissal, and that it should be taken up at once with the Legislative Committee to the end that these conditions be corrected. At this time, the administrations of these provisions of the Civil Service Law are of no advantage either to the public or the Veteran. Accordingly, this committee met jointly with the Legislative Committee at the office of the State Department, Hall of Records, New York City, on December 8, 1924, and in conference it was decided by both committees, as well as the State Commander, who was present, to undertake a general revision of the Civil Service Law specifically applying to section 22.

We regret to report that the Legislative Committee failed to have introduced or champion any bill correcting sections 22 or 22a, or favoring a Veteran in any shape or manner concerning Civil Service matters, even though this committee appealed to both the Legislative Committee and the State Commander for action, due mainly to legislative changes concerning Home Rule features and other complications that seemed to make it unwise to introduce legislation on this subject at this time.

The committee approved and requested the enactment of the following propositions into law:

The retiring and the pensioning of the Veteran after 20 years of service at half pay. (Resolution favoring this unanimously adopted at the Saratoga Convention, September, 1923.)

The enacting into law of the permission of employees of State or municipal departments, who are members of The American Legion, to attend conventions as delegates without loss of pay. This item is occasioned by the fact that, though now allowed, it is usually done through a resolution, which is generally late in being introduced and may become a sort of political issue.

The retiring and pensioning at full pay of any employee, New York State or city, totally disabled while on duty.

In the opinion of the members of this committee, the above propositions were all of beneficial nature to the Veteran and the Legislative Committee were asked to procure the necessary legislation that these propositions be made into law. The committee regrets that no action was taken by the Legislative Committee toward the enactment of any of the above recommendations into the laws of this State.

Legislation under the Provisions of the Home Rule Law.—The Legislative Committee, in their conference, brought home to the Civil Service Committee that in the Home Rule situation just created within the metropolitan district, much of the work might be accomplished in the local assembly, and did appoint a part of its committee to give attention to this branch, but the Civil Service Committee, after vainly trying to have this subcommittee meet in conference, was obliged to notify the chairman of the Legislative Committee of the subcommittee's failure to act. The Home Rule Law has since been declared unconstitutional, and then declared constitutional, so that confusion has prevailed. Through these unfortunate changes in legislation, lack of attention and consideration, little has been accomplished and all of the work will have to be done over again during the year to come.

Welfare Work.—This committee has had numerous cases referred to it by the Department Commander, the Service Director, A. L. Headquarters, county commanders and members of The American Legion directly for action. In all cases a personal investigation has been made by the secretary, and written report made to the chairman covering all the facts along with recommendations. Progress has been made in a number of cases, but we are hampered by the unclarified provisions of section 22 and all that this committee could do has been done.

Recommendations.—The Civil Service Committee feel that it has come in contact in many individual cases of differences, loss of position and misunderstandings, but that far and beyond any other item now affecting the Veteran today is the one first presented in this report, that of correcting and stiffening of section 22, Civil Service Law, and urges immediate and continuing attention to the same, looking toward adoption and enactment into law of this section or a new section that will carry out the full purpose of what is now the legal football of all corporation counsels in opinions raised each time a Veteran is threatened or suffers an injustice.

This committee feels that there should be assigned a competent sub-legal committee, members of the bar of this State, who are personally acquainted with the rules and regulations as well as the operations of the State and Municipal Civil Service Commission, to handle the drafting of all bills, etc., that should be presented to the Senate and Assembly of this State, to wit: Twenty-year pension bill for city and county employees; disability pension of full pay for all employees injured on duty; clarification of section 22 of the Civil Service Law. Frank H. Hines, Chairman.

If this is class legislation, then I want class legislation. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Potter (Westchester): I move that the report be accepted and referred to the Resolutions Committee. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The report of the Convention Credentials Committee.

Mr. Rosenberg (Chairman of the Convention Credentials Committee): Mr. Commander—According to the credentials of the delegates and alternates present the counties have the following voting strength:

Albany, 10; Allegany, 5; Bronx, 11; Broome, 9; Cattaraugus, 6; Cayuga, 7; Chautauqua, 8; Chemung, 6; Chenango, 6; Clinton, 5; Columbia, 6; Cortland, 5; Dutchess, 8; Delaware, 5; Erie, 15; Essex, 6; Franklin, 7; Fulton, 5; Genesee, 5; Greene, 5; Herkimer, 8; Jefferson, 7; Kings, 19; Lewis, 1; Livingston, 6; Madison, 5; Monroe, 20; Montgomery, 6; Nassau, 10; New York, 41; Niagara, 8; Oneida, 11; Onondaga, 8; Ontario, 6; Orange, 10; Orleans, 5; Oswego, 5; Otsego, 5; Putnam, 4; Queens, 17; Rensselaer, 6; Richmond, 6; Rockland, 6; Saratoga, 5; Schenectady, 7; Schoharie, 5; Schuyler, 5; Seneca, 5; Steuben, 7; St. Lawrence, 8; Suffolk, 10; Sullivan, 5; Tompkins, 5; Ulster, 7; Warren, 7; Washington, 6; Wayne, 6; Westchester, 15; Wyoming, 5; Yates, 5.

Delegate (Greene): I move the acceptance of the report. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The report of the Special Committee on Arrangements to the National Convention.

Mr. Ralph B. Saward (Chairman of the National Convention Arrangements Committee): Mr. Commander and Delegates—Report of National Convention Arrangements Committee for Annual Convention American Legion, Department of New York. Although when we were at St. Paul we had assurances from representatives of Omaha that we would have no trouble on the hotel question for the coming National Convention, we have been in communication with them since last December relative to hotel reservations, but our hotel assignment was only received about three weeks ago and it was fully a week later before we were advised the hotel rate.

We were, therefore, accordingly held up from giving any definite rates for this trip. However, arrangements have been completed. Our train will leave New York October 2d, Friday morning, at 8:35 A. M., making the usual stops throughout the State, leaving Buffalo at 9:05 P. M. that night. We will arrive at the Englewood station, Chicago, the following morning about 10:30, immediately transferring there by bus to the Illinois Central special train waiting to take us to Champaign, Ill., for the Illinois-Nebraska football game.

We will make a fast run to Champaign and arrive in ample time for the start of the game. Our schedule will allow approximately one hour to sight-see around the university grounds after the completion of the game. We will then return to Chicago by the Illinois special train and upon arrival there we will again board our original train, leaving Chicago at 9:30 P. M. and arriving in Omaha the following morning at 9:30.

We are to stop at the Hill Hotel, which is one of the best hotels in Omaha and which is very conveniently located with respect to the auditorium where the convention will be held, as it is only one block from there, and at the same time we are only an easy ten-minute walk from the railroad station.

Sunday afternoon we will be the guests of The American Legion of Omaha, who will take us on a sight-seeing trip of their city. Our schedule calls for leaving Omaha Friday, October 9th, at midnight, arriving again in Chicago at 12 noon; we will lay over for four hours to permit those persons not having seen Chicago before to walk along the Lake Drive and see a few of the sights. We will leave Chicago at 4 P. M. that afternoon, arriving at Buffalo Sunday at 8 A. M. and at New York at 9 P. M.

To give you an idea of the cost of this trip and not to make this report too long, we will quote the lower berth rate for one person from New York and return, which is \$123, and that from Buffalo for the same accommodations, \$101.12. These rates include all but meals in Omaha, one meal in Chicago and miscellaneous incidental expenses.

Full details regarding schedule of stops through the State and rates from different points for the various accommodations available can be had from our committee, who will be stationed during the Convention sessions in the corridor on the lower floor of this building and who will be very glad to give you complete details.

The special edition of the *Empire State Legionnaire* for today carries an item about our trip. So far we have reservations for several cars. We, therefore, urge that all who contemplate taking this trip to Omaha advise us as soon as possible so that we may be in a position to give you the very best service. There will be no selling of paraphernalia on the train, as we have included in the cost of the ticket, price of the distinctive uniform which will be furnished to the entire party. Respectfully submitted, National Convention Arrangements Committee, Ralph B. Saward, Chairman. (Applause.)

Mr. Wessels (Greene): I move that the report be adopted. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I want to present a man who is probably better known to the Legionnaires of this State than anyone else, a man who, because of his service to the Legion and to the disabled men, wrecked his health. He has been playing the game since as he did before and is now on the road to recovery, and I am going to ask our old friend to just stand up and let you look at him — Joe Burns. (The convention rises amid cheers and applause.)

The Chairman: During the past year, as I have said repeatedly, the Auxiliary of the State of New York has done most wonderful work and has been of very material assistance to the Legion. That is a condition that hasn't been merely so in New York, because during the past year The American Legion Auxiliary throughout the country has co-operated with the Legion in its every move.

The work of The American Legion Auxiliary during the last year has been accomplished because of the inspiration of their leader, and I have the greatest of pleasure in presenting to this Convention the National President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Mrs. O. D. Oliphant of New Jersey. (Applause.)

Mrs. O. D. Oliphant (National President of The American Legion Auxiliary): Mr. Commander and my Co-Workers in The American Legion — I deem it a great honor indeed to be allowed to have a few precious minutes in your Convention.

Yesterday I was in my room at the Pennsylvania Hotel, and my room is located in one of those L's in the hotel, and I am mighty glad it is, because about 5 o'clock I began to feel at home because I encountered some of that splendid American Legion noise and effervescent spirit from the windows around me that we always look for in American Legion conventions. (Applause.) And I want to say that there was one man in the window opposite who was terribly annoyed and he looked over to me and he said: "Why, just look at those men, what they are doing and the noise that they are making." I said: "Sir, those men defended the stars and stripes and they can do anything they want to do." (Applause and cheers.) He faded into the background and I haven't seen him at the window since. (Laughter.)

There is one thing I like about this position, and that is that it gives me an opportunity to attend a lot of American Legion conventions. I love your noise. The only trouble with New York is you have too much for me. I love all the excitement of Legion conventions. I love the opportunity of meeting with the men of The American Legion. And so I am proud and happy to be with you this morning.

You know it is almost the close of my term of office and I feel just a little bit today as a dear little woman said to me after I

had made a speech a few months ago. She came up to me and she said: "Oh, Mrs. Oliphant, I do enjoy hearing you speak. You are so decomposed." (Laughter.) And so, after almost thirteen months in the service, I am beginning to feel a little decomposed. (Laughter.)

However, I am glad to bring to you the greetings this morning of your American Legion Auxiliary. You know, to my mind — and I can say this to you when you cannot say it for yourself — The American Legion is the greatest veteran organization growing out of the World War. Great because you are so thoroughly American, so thoroughly representative of the spirit of America; for this is one veteran organization in which the able-bodied and the disabled, the overseas and the not overseas, the buck private and the ranking general meet together on a common footing for a common purpose. In other words, there is no class of membership in The American Legion, and I believe that is why the President of the United States in his message to Congress last December paid you the glowing tribute which he did. He said: "There are many veteran organizations grown out of the World War, but the most representative and greatest of these is The American Legion." And I agree with him 100 per cent. (Applause.)

And now, you who had the vision to organize an American Legion Auxiliary in this day of ours when women hold their place in the citizenship of the nation, you were wise indeed when you organized an American Legion Auxiliary. And I want to say today that any Legion post that hasn't an auxiliary is only 50 per cent organized. (Applause.) And may I say to you this — that during the war we had a very ugly name for those men who failed to put on the uniform, and we made it very uncomfortable indeed, we women, when they came to call upon us and they were still in civies. We looked them up and down and then we began to talk about Jim Jones, who was in the 27th Division; Bob Smith, who was in the Rainbow Division; somebody else who was at Yaphank, until they got so mighty uncomfortable that they had to go out and discontinue to call. But in a few days they came back and said: "I have just signed up and I am leaving tomorrow." That is what we did. (Applause.)

Now then, you men of the Legion of New York, you have a membership, your Commander tells me, of 60,000 in this State and your Auxiliary only has a little over 12,000. There are almost 50,000 members of The American Legion in New York who haven't put their mothers, wives, sisters and daughters in the Auxiliary. That is a very serious state of affairs for you and I beg of you when you go back to your local posts, if you haven't that auxiliary, that you organize one. And if you haven't put your women in the unit that is already organized, I beg of you to do it at once.

Why? Because today women are needed to fight and fight for things that are good for America and the things that you believe in. There are women, brilliant women, mind you, going up and down this country preaching pacifism, preaching radicalism to the

women of America. And may I say to you that they are appealing to the sentimental side of women. You know we have a sentimental side. That is why so many of us marry you. (Laughter.) But I say, it is a serious situation and it behooves The American Legion to send forth the strongest women's organization this country has ever seen, and tell your women to demand from the Congress of the United States sufficient appropriations of money to endorse our National Defense Act.

Our National Defense Act was amended in 1920. That is what the Defense Act stands for today, and dollars and cents shouldn't be considered when it comes to the enforcement of our National Defense Act that provides for the security of our nation. (Applause.) The most dangerous opponent of the enforcement of that is the extreme pacifist, and so I beg of you to create and to propose in this organization of the Auxiliary by the membership the strongest women's organization in the United States that you can have. The I. W. W.'s and other radical groups consider it a privilege to pay \$12 a year dues to their organization, and beyond that pay the dues of their women relatives to their auxiliary, and they are fighting just the opposite battle from what you are fighting.

Can The American Legion afford to do less than these radical organizations? I don't think so. I want to assure you that your women of the Auxiliary will never seek in any way to go ahead of The American Legion. We realize that we are organized for just one thing, and if your women in your local unit don't realize it, go back and tell them what I say. We are organized to participate in and stick to the aims and purposes of The American Legion. We are organized to supplement your great national program of rehabilitation, child welfare, Americanism, and legislation. And we are only organized to go into action when you need us to go into action for you.

Your women of the Auxiliary have a great record behind them in the visiting of hospitals and in welfare work among veterans' families. Last year your Auxiliary earned and expended more than \$200,000 in rehabilitation and welfare work among the families of veterans. That is just one other contribution to the veteran problems of The American Legion because we are your auxiliary.

I am afraid I am taking too much of your time. I don't want to be in the class of that prisoner over in the Ozark Mountains. This prisoner had been before the bar of justice and he had been tried by the jury and found guilty of stealing cattle, and the judge said: "Now, you are a very bad character. I am going to sentence you for ten years. Have you anything to say?" And the prisoner slowly rose to his feet and said: "Well, Judge, I don't know as I have anything very special to say, except that you're powerful liberal with other people's time." (Laughter.) And so I am not going to be too liberal with your time.

I appreciate your permitting me to come. If it wasn't such a big place I might be inclined to talk longer, but I am afraid my voice wouldn't hold out, for one thing, and your patience for

another. But I want you to know that I am glad to come here and bring to you the greetings of your Auxiliary. I want you to go back and sign up every one of those 60,000 women in the Auxiliary. Make your organization so strong that when you go out for justice that the whole country will have to sit up, because you not only have got your Legion, but you have got a great cross-section of American citizenship in your women.

Thank you and God bless you all. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: Mrs. Oliphant, I want to assure you that you have not only not taken up too much time, but that we feel deeply appreciative of the fact that you have given of your time to come here. I hope the Legionnaires in this State will heed your advice that we may have an auxiliary in this State which will lead the others; because if we do, I know that we need have no fear as to the future of the Legion. (Applause.)

We have an unexpected pleasure this morning, a Department Commander from one of the largest departments in the country, a man who has just finished his term of office—and I can understand what his feelings must be at this time—and he has graced this occasion with his presence. I am going to call on for a word of greeting Past Department Commander Chase, of the Department of Pennsylvania. (Applause.)

Mr. J. Mitchell Chase (Past Commander, Department of Pennsylvania, The American Legion): Comrade Commander, Comrades of The American Legion—It is true that I am an unexpected visitor but unexpected as I am, more unexpected am I to talk.

Whenever I speak to the Legion I wish I had the eloquence and ready thought of one of our comrades who was in a hospital in France. This boy was in a hospital in Paris. This hospital was visited quite frequently by a lady and on some occasions very good looking ladies. On a big occasion a distinguished lady came into the hospital and as she walked along the row of cots this Yankee was all attention, and he noticed that she usually kissed the man who was on the cot. So when she came to the cot next to his he was very much attention and a conversation took place something like this: "My, you're badly wounded, aren't you?" And the wounded man said: "Yes, madam." And she said: "How were you wounded?" And he related how he had come in hand to hand conflict with a German, that he had run out of ammunition and he took a gun that he had and struck the German over the head. And she said: "My you killed a German that way?" "Yes, ma'am." "And with what hand did you strike?" He said: "My right." And she took and kissed his right hand. And then she went to another cot and found out that he had been injured the same way and took his right hand and kissed it twice. And then they came to this Yankee and said: "You are badly wounded?" Yes, madam." "And did you kill any Germans?" "Yes, ma'am." "How many?" "Sixteen." "And how did you kill them?" "I bit them to death." (Laughter.)

I can appreciate what the Legionnaires of New York have done, the difficulties under which you have worked, because as your Commander said, I am just finished with a year as commander of the Department of Pennsylvania, ranking second to New York in membership, and I believe almost equal in activity. You know, or you ought to know, that those two states make up almost one-fifth of the entire membership of The American Legion, and give almost as great a proportion of the finances into our treasury.

You and I as Legionnaires of large states have much in common and I want to take this opportunity of congratulating your Commander and the other officers and you Legionnaires who really put things across for the excellent work that you have done in New York, and I want to bring to you if I may the greetings of your comrades in Pennsylvania, and assure you that we have an interest in this organization of yours in New York; that we have learned of all the organizations in the United States—yes, the world—that there is none that holds the place in the hearts and minds of real Americans as The American Legion. And it is the duty of you and of me to continue to work for this Legion of ours in such a manner that that reputation will increase as years go by.

I thank you very much, Mr. Commander, for this privilege. I know you have had a successful convention, and I hope you are all having a hell of a good time. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mrs. Catherine Mulvay, president of the Order of the Gold Star, and Mrs. Jena, the present chaplain and past president of the same organization. (Applause.)

I also desire at this time to present—it is an unusual thing for this man to be presented without speaking—the man who has been referred to as the greatest one-man lobby in the world, a man who has fought all the legislative battles of The American Legion at Washington; who more than any other one man is responsible for the remarkable showing in legislation secured by The American Legion.

I present him so that you may all see him, John Thomas Taylor, the Vice-Chairman of the National Legislative Committee of The American Legion. (Applause.)

The report of the standing Committee on Military Affairs, Vice-Commander Wilder. (Applause.)

Mr. Wilder (Chairman of the Standing Committee on Military Affairs): Mr. Commander, Distinguished Guests, Legionnaires — I will give you very briefly the report of the standing Committee on Military Affairs. I will read only the resolutions which have not been considered at previous meetings.

We urge that each post of The American Legion under the Department of New York keenly interest itself in the selection of candidates for the C. M. T. C. and that they assume the obligation of securing at least one candidate per post where the membership

of the post is less than 100 and one candidate per 100 Legionnaires in their post.

We further urge the hearty cooperation of all American Legion posts in this Department in organizing C. M. T. C. clubs, making available for these clubs the use of their post rooms and any other means that will add interest to this valuable adjunct for National Defense.

That Congress and the Navy Department take steps immediately to place our battle fleet on an absolute parity with the strongest navy in the world in the matter of range and power of its guns.

We feel that any attempt to economize in Navy expenses to a point where the treaty requirements of the Washington Conference reduces our standing below the 5-5-3 ratio is deceiving the people of our country and should not be tolerated.

We urge that the National Organization take cognizance of the administration of National Guard affairs by the War Department. The National Defense Act provides that the Militia Bureau will initiate all matters of policy that affect the National Guard and we recommend a careful observance of the policy and no usurpance of the Militia Bureau's powers by any other Bureau or Division of the War Department.

We believe that sufficient time was not granted by Congress for the presentation of recommendations for award of medals and citations for the acts of heroism of the veterans of the World War. As a result manifest injustice has occurred and we, therefore, strongly recommend that the time for the presentation of recommendations for decorations for our comrades be extended for an additional period of five (5) years, and we further recommend that proportional representation of the Board of Awards be given to all component parts of the Army of the United States.

We urge the National Organization of The American Legion to recommend the enactment of legislation that will tend, with the least possible delay, to develop aviation in the Army, Navy and commercial fields, even to the extent of subsidizing or encouraging commercial aviation in order that it may be an available factor and integral part of the National Defense plans.

We again urge that the national organization of The American Legion continue its efforts for the enactment of legislation that will provide for the universal draft, which will put capital, labor and man-power—the three great concomitants of a national war effort—on the same identical non-profit basis of universal service.

We further recommend that the individual posts and its members bring this matter forcibly to the attention of the representatives in Congress.

We urge that the national organization of The American Legion give careful consideration to the present program of economy in so far as it affects the national defense. We feel that The American Legion should and does stand for economy in the administration of the Government but not to the extent, at any time, of endangering the national defense. This action is deemed neces-

sary in view of the strong impression current, that attempts will be made in the next Congress to materially reduce the appropriations for the maintenance of the Army and Navy of the United States, when as a matter of fact in order to preserve the national defense, these appropriations should be increased. (Applause.)

Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of the report. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Among our past Department Commanders there has been one man with whom I personally have been very close for a number of years. While he was Department Commander in 1920, I occupied the humble position of Department Adjutant. I know the work he did for the Legion in those formative stages of our organization and appreciate the value of it, and I want to present for a word of greeting, Past Department Commander, Wade H. Hayes. (Applause.)

Mr. Wade H. Hayes (Past Department Commander): I will take the Commander at his word and just bid you welcome and thank you very much. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I will ask Mr. Wells Hawks, the chairman of the Convention Publicity Committee, and the man who has charge of the arrangements at Coney Island tonight to give his report as to those arrangements. Incidentally, I want to say that I doubt if the Legion has ever secured as much publicity throughout the papers in the State as has been secured for this convention through Mr. Hawks' efforts. (Applause.)

Mr. Wells Hawks (Chairman of the Convention Publicity Committee): Legionnaires—I can only speak for the Coney Island part. It is waiting for you. Luna Park—your badges will admit you to the park and the tickets will be given to you for attractions as you go in. For the outsiders who aren't delegates we have arranged about six or seven of the attractions for the benefit of the Endowment Fund, open collection money for the outsiders who follow the Legionnaires down.

At 7:30 on the boardwalk at 12th street a tablet will be unveiled by the Coney Island Chamber of Commerce in memory of the men from Coney Island who were in the World War.

I can only say that we will do everything down there to give Legionnaires a good time. Simply walk up and show your badges and we will do the rest. (Applause.)

The Chairman: There is present another of our Past Department Commanders who has remained active in Legion circles, who hasn't allowed himself to go into discard, who two years after his term as Department Commander was over became post commander of his own post. I am going to ask for just a word from Past Department Commander Al. Callan. (Applause.)

Mr. Albert S. Callan (Past Department Commander of New York): Mr. Commander, My Fellow-Legionnaires—A word is all



SYDNEY G. GUMPERTZ,
Historian



FATHER J. M. BELLAMY,
Chaplain

that I shall say because I speak with intelligence on the subject, because for two days now I have been a delegate to this convention and am, therefore, qualified to express your opinion of a speaker on this platform, (laughter) with all due respect to those who have preceded me.

I, therefore, greet you as one again in the ranks and assure you of my continuation in that position, humble as it may be. I thank you very much. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I will ask that the first elected Department Commander of the Department of New York come to the platform. Those of you who were at Rochester remember the election which was held there and that at that time a man from Albany, Mr. Russell E. Sard, was elected as Department Commander. (Applause).

Mr. Russell E. Sard (Past Department Commander): Mr. Commander—I told Charley Hann when I looked over the program that I thought we would have great trouble in getting through. Therefore, I told him that I would sit down among the delegates. I thought I was lost sight of.

I appreciate very much the opportunity of greeting you again and I want to say that I continue my interest and devotion to the Legion and to the worthy objects which it has. I believe that we should maintain law and order, but I believe also that while we should maintain law and order individually, we should see that such laws are passed that we can support wholeheartedly. We should continue our service in peacetimes as in wartimes. I believe the individuals as a whole are doing it. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The report of the Convention Military Affairs Committee, Mr. McLean, of Broome. (Applause.)

Mr. T. D. McLean (Chairman, Convention Military Affairs Committee): Fellow-Legionnaires—The Military Affairs Committee respectfully submits the following report: That this Convention recommends that adequate appropriations be made by Congress to carry out the provisions of the National Defense Act of 1920, and strongly opposes any reduction in the annual appropriation or any reduction in the present Military and Naval forces and armaments. Carried.

That this Convention recommends cooperation with local committees by individual posts and county organizations in the annual Defense Test Day, and that if necessary, individual posts take over the local arrangements for the patriotic observance of the day. Carried.

That this Convention recommends cooperation by individual posts with the National Guard, Naval Militia and Organized Reserve by encouraging enlistments, and by urging employers in their respective local communities to encourage such enlistments by permitting vacations with pay for guardsmen, Naval Militiamen and Reservists during the summer training period. Carried.

That this Convention recommends that each individual post appoint a committee to assist in recruiting for the Citizens' Military Training Camp. Carried.

That this Convention recommends that April 6th be set as the date for the Annual Defense Test Day, and that a copy of these recommendations be forwarded to the National Convention at Omaha, Nebraska. Carried. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The Governor of New York.

The Convention rises and applauds and cheers as Governor Alfred Smith, of New York State, is escorted to the platform.

The Chairman: The State of New York has taken the lead in legislation of interest and benefit to the veterans. In no state in our country have as many laws been enacted looking toward the welfare of disabled men and of veterans generally as has been the case in this State. During all but two years of The American Legion's existence there has been the same man as the Governor of this State. He has always shown the greatest consideration to The Legion. No request which The Legion has ever made of him has been denied. (Applause and cheers.) His interest in behalf of the disabled has been as keen as that of The Legion itself, and it affords me the greatest pleasure to present to this audience a real friend of the service men—His Excellency, the Governor of the State of New York—Hon. Alfred E. Smith.

The Convention rises amid prolonged applause and cheers.

Honorable Alfred E. Smith (Governor of the State of New York): Worthy Commander, Members and Friends of The American Legion of the State of New York—I looked forward with a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction to this day because I had it in mind to make an extended speech to The Legion this morning on the intents and purposes of The Legion as I see them, but unfortunately I woke up this morning with my old enemy at me, a sore throat. I have been using it a great deal in the last few weeks and I am afraid that I went with it to the point of abuse and, consequently, I will have to make my remarks very brief.

From this Armory I spoke in the early days of the great conflict as the then sheriff of this county on the purposes and intent of the United States in the World War. The night that I spoke here I little dreamed that there would come to me the very great honor and the very great distinction of standing on the grandstand on Fifth avenue to welcome home in the name of the people of the State of New York the troops that left, and offer that welcome as the Governor of the State of New York. (Applause and cheers.)

The Commander spoke about legislation. I am sure that the Legislature itself, without regard for politics, whether they were Democrats or whether they were Republicans, has had an open ear, a willing hand, and a ready heart for that which was suggested of

benefit to the young men who make up The Legion, as a matter of duty first and as an expression of appreciation on the part of the people of the State of New York to the gallant band of men that left this country to maintain the dignity, the honor and the majesty of the great Republic. (Applause and cheers.)

The road leading to the Veterans' Camp — and I see it mentioned in the publication of "The Empire State Legionnaire" — has been completed. The contract is let and work has been begun on the Veterans' Memorial Hospital at Kings Park. Today more than a thousand young men that returned from France are scattered about in the twelve or thirteen State hospitals for the care of the insane. They are all suffering practically from the same malady. They are all practically the same age, and it is the desire of the State to bring them all into one building and under one roof where special care and special treatment can be accorded them, and if it is possible to effect a cure that the State may be able to be in a position to say, at least, that she did every human and possible thing she could to cure them. (Applause.)

There is going to devolve, however, upon the members of The Legion a duty in this respect. I have talked of this matter prior to this day with the Commander, and I would like to make some substantial contribution to the business of the Convention aside from the ordinary speech of welcome, and my suggestion is this: That The Legion itself make it its business through appropriate committees to find a ready communication with the parents and relatives of these young men to the end that the State may not be hampered when that building is finished by their removal from the different State hospitals.

Now, it is only natural and it is only a human thing for the friends and the relatives of a sick man to desire to have him near home, and the State experiences considerable difficulty in the attempt to transfer these men in some instances far away from their home. But it will be the duty of The Legion or of its committee to impress upon the relatives and friends of these men that it is the best thing for the man himself, that it is for his good; that they must assist the State in doing everything that the State itself has in mind to do for these men. And unless they are all brought into the one place the special, scientific treatment that the State is ready to give them will be of no avail and the State will not be in a position to do for them what she would like to do. That is your job and I leave it with you as a constructive suggestion.

I very earnestly extend to you a warm and a hearty welcome at this Convention. I express my own satisfaction at being in New York during the Convention and in a position to come in here, if it was only for the purpose of greeting you, which I do, and I thank you for your cordial reception and I hope you will enjoy your stay in the great Metropolis. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: It is needless for me, Mr. Governor, to tell you how appreciative the members of The Legion are that you came here and taxed your over-burdened voice in giving us greetings.

It is but another demonstration of the regard which you have for the ex-service men and we all are as pleased to see you as we are appreciative of all of your official acts in connection with service men. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The report of the Time and Place Committee.

Mr. Mylod (Chairman, Time and Place of Next Convention Committee): Mr. Chairman and Fellow Legionnaires — As Chairman of the Time and Place Committee it gives me great pleasure to announce that the committee has chosen for the time of the next Convention, September 15, 16, and 17, 1926. The place to be Troy, New York. (Applause.)

I might say at this time that the Time and Place Committee on behalf of the Legionnaires and delegates at this Convention wishes to thank the city of Niagara Falls for its warm and hearty invitation to hold our Convention next year at that city. However, it was the committee's choice that next year's Convention go to Troy.

Mr. Robertson (Erie): Mr. Commander, in view of the fact that there was but hardly a bare majority of the committee present at the time of the selection, and in view of the further fact that the vote was six to four and in view of the further fact that this Convention assembled should express its own opinion of the place of the next Convention, when a city with the natural advantages of Niagara Falls, which are unsurpassed for a convention city not even by the great City of New York — to say nothing of Troy — is offered, and in view of the further fact that the city of Niagara Falls is represented here by its Chamber of Commerce, I move, Mr. Chairman, that the city of Niagara Falls be substituted in the report of the committee for the city of Troy. (Applause.) Seconded.

Mr. Mylod: Mr. Chairman and Fellow Legionnaires — The Time and Place Committee comprised of eighteen men met after two announcements being made from the floor that this committee would meet. There was present at that meeting a majority of the Time and Place Committee, there being ten of the eighteen present. The vote taken by that committee on the question of place gave six votes for Troy and four votes for Niagara Falls. (Applause.) I might say at this time in order that the Convention delegates may be fully informed that in that committee meeting the question of a moral obligation on the part of the Department to hold its next Convention in Troy was discussed. Those of you who went to the Convention at Saratoga can well remember that Troy in a meeting of the Time and Place Committee was awarded the Convention, that in order to promote good feeling Troy stepped aside in favor of Alexandria Bay, it being then promised to Troy that the following Convention, which is this year's Convention, would be held in the city of Troy. At Alexandria Bay, New York city presented an invitation and the Time and Place Com-

mittee report went on the floor and the delegates at Alexandria Bay voted for New York city. Troy, for the third successive year, has invited this Convention to its city for the year of 1926 and it was felt by the majority members of the Time and Place Committee that Troy should have that Convention and the Time and Place Committee so voted. I think that is a full explanation of what transpired in the meeting of the Time and Place Committee. Thank you very much.

The Chairman: If the Chair may be allowed to make a suggestion, it is that the precedent followed last year be adopted, that a representative of Troy and a representative of Niagara Falls be each allowed three minutes and that thereupon we have a roll call to decide the place of the next Convention. I would entertain a motion to that effect.

Mr. Purcell (Monroe): I so move. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I would ask the representative who is to speak for Troy and the representative who is to speak for Niagara Falls to come to the platform. The first speaker will be Sam Fowlkes representing Niagara Falls.

Mr. Samuel Fowlkes (Representing city of Niagara Falls): Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen—It is pretty hard for anybody to say anything adequate about the wonderful city of Niagara Falls in three minutes so I will not tell you about its scenic beauty. You all know about that. I am going to take it from a purely business angle. You want this Convention to go some place where it will be a success. We all know that. Is there any spot in America that can draw a better crowd than Niagara Falls? This has been demonstrated. It isn't an idle boast. We have had fifteen prominent conventions in the last two months, state and national, and in every instance they have exceeded all previous records for attendance. Niagara Falls draws the people. And when we get them there we do not — while we have the greatest attractions—it does not interfere with your meetings, because the Falls fall always and they can see them between sessions. It is not like it is when you go to the average city and the attractions interfere.

We have good roads, located on seven railroads, two interurbans, you can get on the top of our three million dollar hotel with a looking glass and see what is going on in Broadway. We want this Convention because we want to give The American Legion the greatest Convention they have ever had and you will have not only The American Legion behind you but the whole city. We put on campaigns to sell members for coming to the Convention. We send them literature about the Falls. We handle all of those details free of cost to the organization and I want to tell you, gentlemen, that if you come to Niagara Falls we will give you the greatest meeting you have ever had. We are only across the street from Canada. (Applause.)

Give us your votes, folks. We want it. Come our way. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Representing Troy will be Dr. Purcell, the Rensselaer County Commander of The American Legion. (Applause and cheers.)

Dr. Purcell (Representing the City of Troy): Mr. Commander and Delegates—Troy wants next year's Convention and we want it for this reason: Up in the city of Troy we have thirty thousand girls, three girls to every fellow, and those girls from Troy want to meet The American Legion fellows. I'll tell you right now if you come to the city of Troy that you will get better attention. We promise you a big parade. The mayor of the city has sent down word that he will turn out the police and the firemen. We will furnish the regiment and you will have a parade that it is going to be hard to beat.

We are going to give you the entertainment of your life if you will come to Troy, and I want to tell you right now that I know of no city that is better located for the Convention than the city of Troy, and if you move Headquarters to Albany, Troy is right near Albany. There will be a big dance on Wednesday night. There will be fights on Thursday night. After the parade on Friday, you will go out to Brookside Park where we will give you a great big clambake. There will also be a big dance in the Armory on Saturday night.

Only a short time ago down in the committee meeting it was decided to give Troy the Convention. Niagara Falls shook hands with me and wished me luck, and now they come up here on the Convention floor and start a fight. And I think, gentlemen, that Troy is entitled to the Convention. I thank you. (Applause and cheers.)

The Secretary calls the roll on the 1926 Convention City.

The voting was as follows: Troy—Albany, 10; Bronx, 11; Clinton, 5; Columbia, 6; Dutchess, 8; Greene, 3; Jefferson, 7; Montgomery, 6; Oneida, 11; Queens, 17; Rensselaer, 6; Rockland, 6; Schenectady, 5; Schoharie, 7; Schuyler, 5; Ulster, 7; Warren, 7; Washington, 6. Niagara Falls—Allegany, 5; Broome, 9; Cattaraugus, 6; Cayuga, 7; Chemung, 8; Cortland, 5; Delaware, 5; Erie, 15; Essex, 6; Fulton, 5; Genesee, 5; Greene, 2; Kings, 19; Livingston, 6; Madison, 5; Monroe, 20; New York, 41; Niagara, 8; Ontario, 6; Orleans, 5; Orange, 10; Oswego, 5; Otsego, 5; Richmond, 6; Schuyler, 5; Seneca, 5; Steuben, 7; St. Lawrence, 8; Suffolk, 10; Sullivan, 5; Tompkins, 5; Wayne, 6; Westchester, 15; Wyoming, 5; Yates, 5.

Mr. Purcell: I move that the unanimous vote of this Convention be that the next Convention City be Niagara Falls. (Applause and cheers.) Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I will now entertain a motion to adjourn until 9 A. M. sharp tomorrow. Seconded. Carried.

The Friday Morning Session adjourned at 12:15 P. M.

The Fourth Session was called to order at 9:50 o'clock, Saturday morning, September 12, 1925.

The Chairman: The Convention will be in order.

Advance the State Colors.

The Convention rises as the Colors are advanced to the platform.

The Chairman: Invocation by the State Chaplain.

Rev. John M. Bellamy (Department Chaplain): Almighty God, You the Director and Guide of all wisdom and justice, again we ask you to assist us in the proceedings of this, our final session, that through it we may have before us at all times the principles for which The American Legion stands, and that the officers that we may elect will during the coming year carry out those principles of God and country. Amen.

The Chairman: The "Star Spangled Banner" will be sung by Miss Sylvia Miller.

The "Star Spangled Banner" is sung by Miss Sylvia Miller. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The report of the band contest by Second District Chairman Michael J. Flynn. (Applause.)

Mr. Michael J. Flynn (Chairman, Second Judicial District): The first prize in the band contest was won by Noble Callahan Post of Troy. (Applause.) They will receive a check for \$500 and also a bandmaster's baton. I will be here for the rest of the day.

The second prize in the band contest was won by Binghamton Post. (Applause.)

There will be a third prize in the band contest given to the Newburgh Post. (Applause.)

Also to the winning band goes this annual trophy. This is to be competed for yearly. The post band winning it three times, not necessarily in succession, will be the permanent owner of it. This is presented by the Band Manufacturers' Association of New York. (Applause.)

The prizes are awarded to the band contest winners by Mr. Flynn. (Applause.)

An individual prize for the best drummers, won by a drummer from the Dowd Post of Rochester. (Applause.) He is Drummer Gillette.

The prize for the drummers' contest is awarded by Mr. Flynn. (Applause.)

The winning drum, fife and bugle corps came from Oneida Post. (Applause.)

The prize for the fife, drum and bugle corps contest is presented by Mr. Flynn. (Applause.)

First prize, \$300, and the band also wins this, the bandmaster's baton, and I hope they will make a present of it to the bandmaster.

Third prize in the drum corps contest, Dowd Post of Rochester. (Applause.)

The third prize in the drum corps contest is awarded by Mr. Flynn. (Applause.)

Fourth prize in the drum corps contest, Jamestown. (Applause.)

The fourth prize in the drum corps contest is awarded by Mr. Flynn. (Applause.)

Now I want to meet the leaders of the bands in the rear of the Armory as soon as possible because I cannot take up the time of the Convention. Thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Many of the members of The American Legion in this State have often wondered at the remarkable start that The Legion made at the time of its organization. That was due entirely to the executive ability of the man who was chosen as the first Commander of the Department of New York, during the time of the formation of The Legion.

I now present to the Legionnaires the first Commander of The American Legion in the State of New York, Hon. Cornelius W. Wickersham. (Applause.)

Mr. Cornelius W. Wickersham (Past Department Commander) : Mr. Commander, Delegates to The American Legion Convention of the Department of New York, Ladies and Gentlemen — It is a pleasure to join in greeting this Convention. Six years ago the start of The Legion in this country was given here. It was the result of a meeting held in France, after the Armistice, of men from each division corps of the Army in the A. E. F. In the first year men were asked in every State to form committees and choose delegates to the St. Louis Caucus. New York State and city were in a sense the birthplace of The Legion. New York sent one of the two largest delegations to St. Louis where the name American Legion and the temporary constitution were adopted and resolutions were passed endorsing the victory loan and plans for land reclamation, urging the deportation of alien slackers, the immediate re-employment of returned veterans, proper retirement pay, provisions for rehabilitation of our disabled, and the Caucus decided to hold the First National Convention at Minneapolis in the fall where temporary organization of The Legion might be succeeded by a permanent one based on the vote of delegates chosen by the departments at regular conventions.

New York and other State delegations returned to their homes from the St. Louis Caucus to commence the work of forming the posts of The American Legion and the county, districts and state groups. National Headquarters and Department Headquarters were both here. They granted charters, temporary charters, to the posts and they did their best to get The Legion started in its great work.

We were from the beginning encouraged by the enthusiasm and earnest work of the men who organized the local posts throughout the State and I feel that The Legion owes perhaps its greatest debt

to those men who in their own home town commenced the organization of The Legion posts.

The first Department Convention was held at Rochester and was presided over by Ogden Mills who showed then his ability as a public speaker, which we have learned to hear repeated in the halls of Congress. I think we Legionnaires should be proud of him and of all men like him, whatever their politics, be they Democrats or Republicans, who go in public life and give their time and their energy in the spirit of patriotism that The Legion can succeed on the principles for which it stands and on which it is founded.

At Rochester the delegates were chosen to go to the first National Convention. Among them were Bill Deegan, Bill Donovan, Wade Hayes and other prominent men in our public life today. One of the most active was Teddy Roosevelt, one of the organizers of The Legion here. When the Convention met at Minneapolis the principles of The Legion announced at St. Louis were confirmed, the permanent Constitution of The Legion was adopted and it was truly embarked on a splendid course. As a result The Legion commenced its great fight for the proper treatment of our disabled, for the care of the graves of our dead, for Americanization, for respect to the Flag, and for an adequate system of National Defense.

Other conventions have come and gone. Yours has been the task to carry on the good work. And as one of your members from nearby, Nassau county, I join in welcoming you to this city and hoping that your Convention will be crowned with every success. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Among those in the legislative halls at Albany since the time of the organization of The Legion, there has been a man from this city who has been noted for the fact that everyone always knew where he stood. There have been times when he has said to the representative of The Legion that he thought some of the bills introduced were not proper and that he could not support them. And upon mature consideration The Legion in most cases has agreed that his judgment was right.

I have the honor of introducing to this Convention a man who in the legislative halls could always be depended upon to vote for measures in the interests of the disabled, in the interests of the service men, and who would always do what he thought was right, Senator James J. Walker.

Hon. James J. Walker (Senator, State of New York): Mr. Commander and Gentlemen—I don't know of any body of men in the world who can better appreciate the thoughts I have in my mind at the moment than you. This is the first moment of armistice for the last three weeks in my life, (laughter), and it will last but a moment. Short as that is, you can appreciate how grateful I am.

I am indeed very glad to be permitted to visit with you for a few moments this morning and to publicly declare my apprecia-

tion for not only my personal relations but my legislative association with the Commander of your Legion, Mr. Samuel Aronowitz. (Applause and cheers.) I want to take but a moment to testify because of the very intimate knowledge of his representation of you in Albany and in the legislative halls, the intelligent, the forceful, the attractive and the very agreeable way that he approached legislation, not only for bonus relief but for the Kings Park Memorial Hospital and the Gold Star Bonus was so attractive to all members of the Legislature that it should receive some public recognition. And the most pleasant commentary of my sixteen years in public life is the spirit with which ex-service men of both the great parties forgot their political differences in the Legislature, forgot that they were ever massed one against the other on any subject and stood side by side with great modesty and with great manifestation of understanding and interest in every legislative measure having any interest for the veteran.

That is also carried out, I think, in most every community in this State. The force that The American Legion wants for law and order is understood, I think, by all people in this country, no great catastrophe, no situation requiring the support of organized men is overlooked apparently by The Legion. It will mark itself a great force in peace as it was in war, and your effort today to create a fund of five millions of dollars that will provide homes, that will provide medical care of the disabled veteran, is the most worthy that I have ever known of. (Applause.) And my presence this morning, besides my desire to make a public declaration of Mr. Aronowitz's representation of you is to hope and sincerely hope that not only will that fund be fully subscribed but over and over-subscribed. (Applause and cheers.) It will be making a place for many who deserve that place, making a place for every member of The Legion that requires one. But beyond that, even to provide the necessary relief for the orphans of those who made the supreme sacrifice.

My friends, I appreciate this opportunity of meeting with you for these few moments. You have your caucuses, you have your official affairs, and I have one or two things to do myself today. (Laughter.) So perhaps the relief that I am receiving in passing I am going to make certain will not amount to a bore to you. It is a good thing to fight once in a while, though peace is perhaps the most desirable thing in the world; but even peace would become monotonous if there wasn't a little disturbance now and then. (Laughter.) So amongst those who have made some contribution not only to the gayety of nations but to the very life of things, I find myself in some sort of a situation like that today.

My genuine appreciation for this opportunity, for the fact that I was permitted to play a small part in the enactment of New York State legislation which you were interested in only makes that service feel or appear to be more worth while.

My very best wishes for your Commander and for every member of your Legion. Carry on! The civilized world needs you as much as the other day. I thank you.

The Chairman: Senator Walker, I need not tell you how much we appreciate your coming here this morning as the enthusiastic reception proves that. We all appreciate it, especially at this time where you have been talking more even than is necessary at Albany. We thank you for coming and assure you that we will always consider you as a friend of The American Legion and of all ex-service men. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Many of the delegates to this Convention and the visitors from the apple-knocking district of the State have marveled at the way in which the crowds were controlled in New York, marveled at the order maintained and the protection given during the parade, and to the various meetings and affairs which The Legion has held during this Convention. To those who live in New York City it is not strange because they have at the head of the Police Department a man who is internationally known for his successful efforts in handling that Department. The appreciation of The American Legion, however, is due to that man not only for what he has done for The Legion during the past three days. For years past the Police Commissioner of the City of New York has been one of the real friends of The American Legion. (Applause.) As a result of his encouragement the largest post in the State of New York is the General Lafayette Police Post composed exclusively of members of the police force of this city. (Applause.)

I have the pleasure of introducing to you the Police Commissioner of the City of New York, Hon. Richard E. Enright. (Applause.)

Hon. Richard E. Enright (Police Commissioner, City of New York): Mr. Commander, Members of The American Legion of the State of New York, Ladies and Gentlemen—A few days ago at the opening of your great Convention, the Mayor of the City of New York was pleased to be present here and extend to you the welcome, the hospitable welcome, of the City of New York during the days that you would be in convention here. I hope that welcome has been extended to you in the fullest extent and that you have had an enjoyable and a profitable and interesting time during your Convention in this city. I hope you have also had a pleasant time here. I think Mrs. Hartington who used to write for the "Boston Post" some years ago said that happiness consisted in getting the most enjoyment out of it, and I hope that you have gotten the most enjoyment out of your visit here.

The weather is a little damp to-day. I hope you have found it not too dry, in one way or another, while you have been in Convention assembled in this city. (Applause and cheers.) We have a great deal of difficulty in New York City providing the right amount of moisture here, notwithstanding the fact that we are surrounded by water. (Laughter.)

Passing up the Pacific coast of South America last winter, going day by day by the wastes of western South America, where never a tree or flower grows, where you never see a bird and where

there is nothing to show that there is human life or any other kind of life, standing at the rail a fellow passenger said to me: "Isn't it too bad that this wonderful land is so dry as it is?" "There is nothing that can be done about it, is there?" he asked. I said, "No, but as a dirt farmer from up the State here I might suggest this — that it would be a good thing in a land like that and also in New York City, because we are built over so much here, that you can't provide these things, I think it would be a good thing to plant a lot of potatoes and a lot of onions in alternate rows, and as the potatoes grew up and the onions sprouted alongside of them, the onions would make the tears come in the eyes of the potatoes and that would make a considerable amount of moisture." (Applause.)

I was very much struck with your marvelous parade along the great avenue yesterday afternoon. It reminded all of those who were privileged to see that marvelous pageant pass in review of the great and wonderfully thrilling days of 1917 and 1918 when The American Legion and the American Expeditionary Forces passed down that same avenue of the Allies and on out to the field of glory to do and die for the eternal right. We were here too in 1919 when the boys came home, not all of them coming home, but we were glad to welcome with thrilling hearts and water in our eyes as well the men that came home from the war after having written one more great glorious page in the history of the United States of America. (Applause.)

One very interesting part of your pageant yesterday to me was the presence there of a soldier of the American Revolution, at least emblematically, a soldier of the Civil War, and there was a figure in Blue and a figure in Gray representing the men, the brothers, who fought against one another in the great Civil War and are friends and comrades and good Americans to-day. And there also was the figure representing the heroes of the Spanish-American War and following behind them a squad of men representing the veterans of the World War. Only one figure was missing from that great pageant and it was a figure representing the heroes of the war with Mexico, and sometimes when you parade again I presume you will provide one to represent the heroes of that great and glorious war that our country was once engaged in.

The pathetic thing that came to my mind, however, about it was this, that the soldiers of the Revolutionary War, their names are now inscribed only upon the stones around the United States, and the men of the War of 1812 are gone; and only the other day, on last Memorial Day, we saw tottering down Riverside Drive in the great Memorial Day parade the few that were left in the City of New York, the men who represented the Grand Army of the Republic. And we saw also in that parade the thinning numbers of those who participated in the Spanish War, and a few years from now, as the tide of time rolls on, the sturdy young men who make up The American Legion will also have taken their places in the faltering lines that pass in review on our great Memorial

Days or other historic occasions, and others will follow them to take their place, for America goes on and must go on forever. (Applause and cheers.)

There is one thing, however, that is left in the keeping of the men of The American Legion, and that is the idea that this nation must hereafter be adequately prepared for war when war shall come. (Applause.) This nation has never been prepared for war from the first to the last.

That gallant band of men who held the heights at Bunker Hill during that thrilling and soul-stirring engagement that still reverberates around the world could have held it indefinitely and would have driven back the foe had there been adequate preparation. They withstood the trained veterans of Europe until their ammunition gave out and they would have stood there until they had finally won if they had been properly prepared.

We entered the War of 1812 with no adequate preparation, and it was one of the most inglorious struggles in which the American Army and Navy were ever engaged, inglorious for the Army but reasonably glorious for the Navy, not a single battle being won by the American Army on the land until the battle of New Orleans, fought actually after the treaty of peace had been signed. Some victories were won by the Navy and they did redeem us, but throughout that struggle we were not adequately prepared.

We were not adequately prepared for the Civil War, and if we were there would have been no Civil War lasting four years if the government had been ready for war. Then it would have been ended in a comparatively few months and the great loss in blood and treasure would never have taken place.

You know the history of the war with Spain, how wretchedly unprepared we were for that struggle and what a poor spectacle we made of it. One of the greatest nations of the earth in war against a third class nation, trembling lest the United States might be invaded, trembling lest the great City of New York or our Atlantic seaboard might be bombarded by the few ships that Spain had to send against us.

Did we learn the lesson then? No. We went to sleep once more. A great war was precipitated in Europe and from the very start every forward-looking man knew that sooner or later the United States must be drawn into that struggle. We waited for three years and then when war was actually declared we were absolutely unprepared, and were it not for the fact that we stood behind a great screen, that we stood behind military forces and naval forces that were holding the line while we prepared, we might have been subjected to a great deal of humiliation in the World War if an invading army came this way as suddenly as it came in the direction of Belgium and France.

And now after that great lesson and that tremendous experience we are following the old thought, we are allowing our military and naval establishments to deteriorate, and it rests upon The American Legion not only in New York State but in the whole

United States to hold high the torch and see to it that the United States shall never again be without adequate means of defense when the challenge shall come. (Applause and cheers.)

In illustration of that I will tell you a little story. Mr. Kelly was sitting down one night at his table. His wife comes in and she says: "Kelly, what are you doing?" He says, "I am writing down a list of men that live on this block that I can lick." "Well, can you lick them, Kelly?" "Yes," he said, "I can lick every man that lives on this block." Shortly after Murphy came in. He asked for Kelly. His wife said, "He is upstairs." "What is he doing?" "He is writing down a list of men on this block that he can lick." "Is my name on the list?" "I don't know; go up and ask him." So Murphy went upstairs and said, "Kelly, have you got my name on that list?" Kelly said, "Yes, on the very top." Murphy said, "Well, you can tie one arm behind me and if you come downstairs I will lick the life out of you with the other hand." "You don't mean that, Murphy?" "I mean it." "Are you sure you can do it?" "I am sure I can." "All right, then your name comes off the list." (Laughter.)

And our name will come off the list if we are ready and prepared and if we assure them we can do it, and we know now that we can do it. (Applause.)

My friends, your Commander has referred to the fact that we have in the Police Department of this city the largest post of The American Legion in the State of New York. (Applause.) I am proud of that post and I am proud to have had something to do with encouraging them to organize and extend that very splendid organization; and down in Police Headquarters in the lobby of our Headquarters you will see written in bronze there the names of some nine hundred members of the Police Department of our city who went out to the World War, and the names also of some of them who didn't return from that struggle.

There is something, I know, that must interest you, and that is the building somewhere in this State—I hope in the great city of New York—of an adequate memorial for the soldiers of the World War. In the great cities of Europe—in London and in Paris and in Rome—and in some of the cities of our own country—notably Detroit and Indianapolis, and other places that I don't just recall—splendid memorials have been lifted up to the soldiers of these cities who went forth to the great struggle and failed to come home. And here in this great imperial city, in this great Empire State of ours, that sent nearly four hundred thousand out to the war, there should be builded a memorial second to none in the world, and the soldiers of New York City will, I know—and I hope they will do it soon—take the lead in the building of such a memorial and if the soldiers of the Police Department—and I am happy to be included with them—if we can be of assistance to you in that splendid enterprise, let me assure you

that we are at your service all of the time. (Applause and cheers.)

And now, my friends, I am glad to be here for a moment to add my word of greeting to you and to assure you that so long as you are pleased to remain with us we will do everything for your comfort and for your pleasure. I know that sometimes in the City of New York, with all of its marvelous hotel accommodations, it is sometimes difficult to obtain a room or a place to stay, but if the worst comes to the worst, we will be with you. Your friends in Lafayette Police Post will be with you and I will be with you. We have a very good hotel down at Grand and Center street, where I preside. (Laughter.) We haven't the most expensive accommodations to be sure, but we have some very private rooms. (Laughter.) They aren't elegantly furnished but they are comfortable enough. They are quite up to date—electric light, running water in every room, a special attendant waiting upon you all of the time. (Laughter.) And there is one thing about it—you are absolutely safe. (Laughter.) No one will intrude upon you, no one will disturb you, and no one will rob you. (Laughter.) So if the worst comes to the worst, come my way and we will treat you right. (Applause.)

At one o'clock we are going to inaugurate at the Jamaica race track the Police Field Day games of this year. If the weather continues reasonably favorable, we are going to have one hundred thousand people there present, and I am going to leave for there shortly. If you should conclude your deliberations here and have a little time that you would like to spend in pleasant surroundings, where you will be most welcome, call upon our Inspector Noonan or some of the boys of the Lafayette Police Post to take you down to the Police Field Day Games, and we will give you a real police reception and give you some idea of New York Police Department hospitality. (Applause.)

Good luck to you all and good fortune to you in your deliberations. Come again some other day. You will always be welcome here. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mr. Enright, on behalf of The American Legion of this State I want to thank you for coming here today, for all that you have done toward insuring the success of our Convention, for your promise of assistance to those who might need it, and especially for that stirring patriotic, one hundred per cent. American appeal for adequate defense, which you have just made. And before allowing the Commissioner to go I want to present a man who has appeared to me as his right hand bower and who has been charged with the responsibility of seeing that the regulations given out by the Commissioner looking toward our comfort have been carried out. I present Legionnaire Inspector John Noonan. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: There is one of our Past Department Commanders who has remained active and keenly interested in all

affairs of The Legion. Although not a member of the county in which this Convention has been held, he has probably done as much work as any member of The Legion looking toward its success, and I am going to present for just a word of greeting our old friend, Bill Deegan of The Bronx. (Applause.)

Mr. William F. Deegan (Past Department Commander): I just want to say to the Legionnaires of the State that I am always yours to command. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The Americanism Committee report.

Mr. Fred J. Stoiber (Chairman, Americanism Committee): Mr. Commander, our Convention Committee on Americanism has ten recommendations to submit to this Convention and I will read them off in accordance with the report I have here and if you find any objection to any of them state so; if not, I will continue with the reading of the report.

(1) That the report of the Standing Committee on Americanism be approved and adopted. Carried.

(2) That the Standing Committee on Americanism be authorized to print as many as 1,500 copies of the reports of the Standing and Convention Committees on Americanism for distribution among the posts and the school officials of the State. Carried.

(3) That \$400 or more be allowed the Standing Committee on Americanism for their work for the coming year.

The Chairman: I rule that that recommendation will have to be referred to the Finance Committee.

(4) That the State and National Programs of Americanism contain all the material necessary for post activities under this title. Carried.

(5) That each county chairman should appoint a county chairman of Americanism who should work out his policies along the following lines:

a. Study the State and National Program of Americanism.

b. Act as liaison officers between the State Committee on Americanism and the local posts in each county.

c. Promote the work of the State Committee as it relates to each county.

d. Stimulate an interest in Americanism among local posts to bring about a more vigorous effort in carrying out the program of Americanism and aid the State Committee in bringing about a better understanding of the program. Carried.

(6) That The Legion through its local posts and the State Committee on Americanism shall cooperate to the fullest extent with the New York State Education Department in the work of adult immigrant education. Carried.

(7) That particular attention may well be paid this year to the following program:

a. To the establishing, supporting and urging a continued interest in and the expansion of the Boy Scout and Girl Scout move-

ments, and the members of The Legion become Scout masters and otherwise interest themselves in Scouting activities.

b. To observing properly the National holidays and aiding in better knowledge of the things for which these days stand.

c. To assisting in the proper display and honoring of the Flag.

d. That we pay particular attention to the program of the State in teaching English and citizenship to the foreign born. Carried.

(8) That the State Committee on Americanism should not bind itself, nor commit The Legion to any course of action at the insistence of other organizations or bodies of citizens, but that it shall determine its own course of action in accordance with the principles on which The Legion rests. Carried.

(9) That this Convention Committee on Americanism urges the endorsement by this Convention of H. R. Bill No. 9225, a bill to prohibit and punish certain seditious acts against the Government of the United States and to prohibit the use of the mails for the purpose of promoting such acts. Carried.

(10) In conclusion your Committee on Americanism takes this opportunity of placing on record our sincere regret at the irreparable loss to not only the Committee on Americanism but the whole State Department in the death of John L. Riley, late chairman of the State Committee on Americanism, and recommends that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the family of the deceased, and further recommends that this Convention stand in silence one minute in tribute to his memory.

The Chairman: Those in favor will stand.

The Convention rises and remains standing for one minute in silence in memory of John L. Riley, deceased.

The Chairman: The report of the committee as amended is adopted.

At this point Mr. James A. Drain, National Commander, The American Legion, enters the Convention Hall, the Convention rising amid prolonged applause and cheers.

The Chairman: The American Legion has always been fortunate in its choice of National Commanders. Never has this been more so than during the past year. We have had Commanders who were remarkable organizers, Commanders who were great executives, and Commanders who could arouse enthusiasm. This year we have had a Commander who combined all of the qualities which have been so admired in the various other Commanders that The Legion has had. The American Legion during the past year has increased its prestige because our National Commander has been able to impress upon our country the worthiness of the objects which The American Legion is carrying on. There has never been a time when prominent citizens in all walks of life have so endorsed any organization as has been the case with The American Legion during the past year.

It affords me the greatest of pleasure to present to this Convention a man who has been described as the most un-disabled disabled man in the world, the National Commander of The American Legion, James A. Drain.

The Convention rises amid prolonged applause and cheers.

Mr. James A. Drain (National Commander, The American Legion): Mr. Commander, Men of The American Legion of the Department of New York—I came to the city this morning, being yesterday at Boston attending the Massachusetts Department Convention. I therefore missed your parade of yesterday which I am told was an exceptionally fine one. But that is what I would expect from the Department of New York of The American Legion this year, Sam Aronowitz, under your capable leadership. You have had a good year. You are just about to lay down the cares of office and return to the ranks of The Legion again, just as I approach the time now, but a little way off, when I shall lay down the office of National Commander and once more take up my proper place in the ranks.

My term ends, Mr. Department Commander, on the 9th of next October in Omaha. I shall be glad and I shall be sorry. It has been to me a wonderful year. It has been wonderful in ways which I think it would be interesting to you to hear about. The time has passed, in my opinion, when it is necessary for a National Commander to spend much time in talking to an American Legion Convention, particularly one of the high intelligence of this Convention, about details of Legion administration and life. What you want are the national viewpoints, the broader views of a situation.

Last September in St. Paul, The American Legion did me the honor to elect me National Commander on a platform which says: For God and Country, without partisanship in politics, without bigotry in religion, a businesslike administration for The Legion, a demonstration in everyday American life, through The American Legion, of precisely the spirit that moved us in the war. Now almost my entire term has passed, men of New York, and I stand before you to testify that there has never been a moment of disillusionment or disappointment. There never has been a time when The American Legion hasn't met me more than half way in what I was trying to do. That is a wonderful thing to be able to say, Sam, and to say it with the earnestness and the full truthfulness which I am employing when I say it.

This year has been an exceptionally busy year for your National Commander, because in addition to other activities which you could ordinarily expect him to carry on, we were putting forward the National Endowment effort, and that has required a great deal more of travel upon your National Commander than would ordinarily have been true. They tell me down at National Headquarters that I have already travelled over seventy thousand miles, and that means some travelling in a little over eleven

months. I am just now at the close of a swing around which has lasted from the Pacific to the Atlantic as far south as Texas, as far north as New Hampshire, and which I think has covered twenty or twenty-one States.

Perhaps the biggest thing in the way of inspiration I have gotten from meeting so many thousands of our men and women all over the country—and I say “men and women” advisedly because whenever I use the word “American Legion” I mean The American Legion Auxiliary and the forty and eight as well as the main body—I think perhaps the largest inspiration has arisen from the fact that it hasn’t been necessary for your National Commander to cut his garment according to his cloth. If he talks straight Legion gospel it is just as good in St. Augustine as in Seattle, and just as good in Pasadena as it was in St. Albans. We do in fact in this Legion of ours today speak a common language—not only a common language in the sense of the word, but a common language in a spiritual and higher sense. Our ideals are the same, and there is unmistakable evidence that an increasing number of men do understand why and what about it, why there is an American Legion and what The American Legion is.

I suspect that you men of New York, those of you particularly in the metropolitan district who have an opportunity to meet men from all portions of the country, will agree with me that the growth in Legion spirit this year, the capacity on the part of The Legion for unselfish and public-spirited service, has been very great. The Endowment, Sam, has contributed in a considerable measure to that, just as it has contributed in a big measure to the lack of physical gain in membership. You remember last fall I told you that would happen? But so far as membership is concerned, while this year at the end of the year we shall be on about an even keel with last year, next year and the year after and every year thereafter until we cease to be virile and vigorous and strong men, I think you can look for The American Legion membership to increase.

Your situation in New York is of concern to you. You have here a difficult situation, but you have been going well. You have had your strong and distinguished men to head up the State effort. Your Governor, Al Smith, took the chairmanship. Mr. Roosevelt took a chairmanship. Their efforts have been as fully successful as we could expect. I am confident by the thirtieth day of this month that your showing under the circumstances will be a satisfactory showing. The details I do not know. I have been too much like a whirling dervish in the midst of these conventions to find out. I knew that I could trust New York.

Now, there are certain things that I want to carry from my mind to yourselves in as few as possible words. You have not elected your officers yet and you have a lot of Convention business to do, and the men want to get away as soon as possible. We will not waste any words if we can help it. Here is something I want to give to you.

In every one of the states now where I have addressed conventions and in many other states where I have addressed state meetings, I have said something to the men of The Legion like this:

You men of The American Legion, who in 1917 and 1918 wore the olive drab or the blue or the olive green of the Army, or the Navy, or the Marine Corps, didn't wear those uniforms for what you could get. You wore them for what you could give, and you wore them because you thought your country needed you. You are in The American Legion for the same reason now. That is, for what you can give and not for what you can get and because you think your country needs you; and if you aren't in for those reasons you are in for the wrong reasons and you had better get out. (Applause.)

Now, look you! In every jurisdiction, men of New York, precisely that same effect has been produced. That is to say, the men have shown that they approve that statement, and I have said to them as I say now to you, that you like that, and I will tell you why you like it—because it is exactly the same thing you are thinking yourselves, and when I say it to you I am speaking not so much as the National Commander of The American Legion or as James A. Drain, the individual, as I am speaking as the man who under God is the sounding board for the best spirit of The American Legion, which is the best spirit in America. (Applause.)

I referred at the beginning of my talk to you about the election at St. Paul. I did that for this reason: I am not a politician. I haven't a flare for political life. I think as a rule when men know me, Sam Aronowitz, they generally are inclined to trust me and believe in me and my good intentions, at any rate. I spoke of that only to show to you what the spirit of that National Convention was, what they were looking for in the National Commander. I imagine that is what they are going to continue to look for in National Commanders. That is your business and not mine, because as National Commander, of course, I shall have nothing to do with the selection of my successor.

Of course, as long as I am in the jurisdiction of New York, I am in Sam's territory and he is my boss. I have asked him if he has anything in mind which he wants me to cover and he says no. You know your business. I want to conclude with this final thought:

It is as sure, men, as we are now facing each other, as I see it, that whether or not this World War of which we were a part shall in the last analysis be a benefit or a detriment to the world depends upon The American Legion more than upon any other one organization or thing. And I will tell you why that is. Here is the spirit of fraternity which runs between us, a stronger spirit of fraternity than runs between men belonging to any other organization. I say that advisedly and you know it is true. There is no fraternal feeling so strong as that which runs between men who wore the uniform of their country during time of war. If we care to do it, and we seem to care and I believe we do care,

we can use that spirit of fraternity to bind us so close together that we can make this American Legion of ours a sort of super-church, which will not interfere with any church obligations or political obligations, but act as one man in everything that is good and beneficial for our country.

I believe and I know this American Legion of ours, men and women of it, fully understand and appreciate and value the priceless privileges which are theirs, and I believe and I know that the men and women of The American Legion are going to do their very best to make that country of ours a better and better country to live in, and make this country of ours a stronger and stronger influence for good in the whole world of men. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: The report of the Standing Committee on Membership, and this will also be a greeting from another Past Commander, a man who has been of the greatest assistance to me during this year, Past Commander Edward E. Spafford. (Applause.)

Mr. Edward E. Spafford (Past Department Commander and Chairman, Standing Committee on Membership): Mr. Commander, before making this report I want to thank you for the support that you always gave and for the greetings which you have just expressed. In submitting this, the annual report of the State Membership Committee for 1924-1925, the chairman of the committee takes a position unique in the annals of our Convention and has no apologies and no fault to find with any post or with any member or members of his committee.

The Department Commander requested that this report be brief and that it deal, not so much with past performances as with suggestions for improvement in the future.

At practically every State Convention the high lights of any committee's report are embodied in the reports of either the Department Commander or the Department Adjutant or both. This is particularly true in the matter of membership. It is, therefore, easy and a pleasure to comply with the wishes that this report be brief, for the high lights of membership were covered in the reports to which you listened yesterday.

In reviewing the reports of the Commanders and Adjutants in the past, it is interesting to note the universal claim that this State is well organized. It is my belief that there is much yet to be done, and while I shall not burden this Convention with a detailed statement of places where individual posts should be established, a survey has been made and the recommendations will be submitted to the new county commanders with the suggestion that the field be at once surveyed, and if local conditions bear out the conditions on paper, the suggestions be carried out so that all parts of the State will be completely covered. For the larger centers of population it is desirable that men who are naturally thrown together in their civil pursuits should bind themselves to-

gether in Legion posts. There they can really work most effectively and spread the gospel and ideals of The Legion within their own circle.

Locality posts must be established so as to cover all of the cities, but in addition other posts should be allowed so that regardless as to what line men or women are employed in they can have an outlet through which the appeals of The Legion may be sent out.

During the past year an attempt has been made to eliminate the dead posts from the records of the State, while some new posts have been established. Consolidations have been effected and all these questions have rightly been considered to be local in nature.

The greatest incentive to an increase in membership is a smooth running Headquarters where inquiries receive prompt attention and the replies are accurate. One person at Headquarters should be specifically charged with all matters pertaining to membership and no additional duties should be required of that person. For several years the Department has been fortunate in having at Headquarters, Miss McCauley who has taken the keenest interest in the membership problems. During this year, however, she has had to give a great deal of time to the Endowment Campaign and it is hoped that before she leaves Headquarters to join the happy band of married people that she will find an opportunity to bring all the cards and information pertaining to membership to such a condition that everyone will be able to understand and follow the history of the posts.

Posts which are most successful, not only in membership problems, but in all Legion activities, are those which by bulletin or otherwise get all Legion news into the hands of the individual members of the posts. Meetings of these posts are better attended and encouragement is extended to the officers.

When an officer of a post applies to Headquarters for information and there is a delay in furnishing same, or when the reply shows inaccuracies or lack of information, there is registered in the post a feeling of inefficiency. I, therefore, urge upon the incoming officers to see that an efficient employee at Headquarters be assigned to the membership problems, and that no person except the State Chairman of the Membership Committee have any authority to assign additional or other duty.

Last year it was recommended by the best Chairman of the Membership Committee that this State has ever had, Mr. G. Merritt Ward of Rochester, that this year's Membership Committee consist of a State Chairman and one member for each of the judicial districts, and in this recommendation the present Chairman of the Membership Committee heartily concurred, but could see no method by which the recommendation could be carried out as there is no source of revenue for the districts. It is recommended that next year's Membership Committee consist of the State Chairman and one member for each district; that all work within the district be handled through the district membership chairman. To accomplish this the stencils will have to be retained

at Headquarters, the envelopes stamped and addressed and sent to the districts. For uniformity parts of the letters may well be prepared at State Headquarters.

Publicity is a necessity, if success for The Legion is to be maintained. It may be true and it is advisable not to let thy right hand know what thy left hand is doing, but in this present day and age, it is only by the good works that one should be known. The good works of The Legion seem to be known only to the few and not to the many. The press of our country seems prone to publish only that portion of news which is unusual, and when any Legionnaire commits an error the widest publicity is given. It is well that the people at large should expect the best from a Legionnaire, but somewhere, somehow, those veterans who have not yet joined and the public at large must be made to know of the great things which are done by even the least of us to make this world a better place in which to live.

In the early part of the year the Membership Committee at a meeting in Albany recommended that certain prizes be offered for increase in membership this year. These recommendations were approved by the Executive Committee and consisted of a certificate of merit to each post which exceeded its membership of the year previous before April 10, 1925. This was a measure of the amount of endeavor put in by the post toward winning the membership contest which was waged between the Department of Illinois and the Department of New York. This contest closed at midnight April 15, 1925. New York won with an appreciable margin. At the National Convention the Department of Illinois will present a proper trophy to your Department.

Mr. Charles Hann, Jr., Chairman of the first district, made a most liberal offer in the form of a gold Legion button to be presented in each county to that Legionnaire who in the opinion of the county commander had done the greatest amount of work to increase the membership of that county. It was expected that the "Hann Buttons" would be presented at each county convention, but many of these have not yet been claimed, although letters on the subject have been sent to every county commander.

Five gold medals presented by the State, as follows: "One gold medal to the county commander whose county before August 1st enrolled the greatest percentage of increase in membership over the membership of 1924. This medal was won by David H. Walsh, County Commander of Albany County, better known as 'The Commander's Own'." (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: Dave, the Chairman of the Membership Committee insists that I present it to you. Knowing of your ability I am not going to attempt to pin it on, but with my heartest congratulations just hand it to you and take no chances. (Applause.)

Mr. Spafford: One gold medal to the Chairman of the Membership Committee of the county enrolling the greatest percentage of increase in membership over the membership of 1924. This medal

was won by Dr. Milton Aronowitz, the brother of our Department Commander. (Applause.)

One gold medal to the Post Commander of the post which in 1924, had an enrolled membership of less than 100 members and which by August 1st, showed the greatest percentage of increase over the 1924 membership. This medal was won by Edwin R. Greenfield, Commander of Victor Murtha Post No. 972, Long Beach, N. Y. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I want to congratulate you, Commander, on the wonderful record that you have made this year and trust that your interest will continue. (Applause.)

Mr. Spafford: One gold medal to the commander of the post which in 1924, had an enrolled membership of 100 to 500 members and which by August 1st showed the greatest percentage of increase over the 1924 membership. This medal was won by L. N. Bettinger, Commander of the Henry P. Smith Post No. 24 of Rome, New York. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I would ask you to present this medal to Mr. Bettinger with my congratulations for his remarkable work. (Applause.)

Mr. Spafford: One gold medal to the Post commander of the post which in 1924 had an enrolled membership of over 500 members and which by August 1st showed the greatest percentage of increase over the 1924 membership. This medal was won by William J. Toole, Commander, Fort Orange Post No. 30, Albany, N. Y. Again it was the "Commander's Own", as Fort Orange Post is located in Albany County and is the post of which our honored Commander is a member. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Bill, this looks like a family affair, almost like an Albany County organization. I want to tell the other Legionnaires that if they put in the effort, that I know personally has been put in by Bill Toole in his own post last year, there will be a merry scrap for these badges in other years. Membership is real work and that is why I feel so pleased to present this to you. (Applause.)

Mr. Spafford: To the member of the largest post of the State who has done the greatest amount of work toward making that post the biggest post in the State, there was promised a trip to the National Convention. This prize was won by John Graham of Lafayette Police Post No. 460. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I want to congratulate you because in a post of your size, and all cops, I know they are all go-getters,—to be considered the best man in the post must be some job. You will find in this envelope everything necessary to take you to Omaha and back. (Applause.)

Mr. Spafford: The Adjutant's Cup given to that post which in 1924 had a membership of less than 250 members and was the first this year to exceed the 300 membership mark was won by the Judson P. Galloway Post No. 152 of Newburgh, the commander of which is Arthur E. Brundage. (Applause.)

That cup has not yet been delivered by the makers and will have to be delivered at a later date.

The great prize for any county is that of leading our parade at the Annual Convention, and this prize also goes to Albany County and while not desiring to take any of the glory from the efficient Commander of Albany County who has served for two years, I cannot miss this opportunity of offering praise and felicitations to those other counties which not only this year, exceeded their last year's membership but have exceeded the records of all previous years.

In closing my report I desire to thank every district chairman, every county and post commander and all Legionnaires, who, with very few exceptions, have given their best efforts for the upbuilding of our great organization. (Applause.)

Mr. Commander, I move the adoption of the report. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The report of the War Risk and Hospitalization Committee, Mr. Arbuckle.

Mr. J. F. Arbuckle (Chairman, War Risk, Hospitalization and Welfare Committee): To the Commander and Delegates of the Seventh Annual Convention of The American Legion. Your Committee met and considered such matters as were brought to its attention and, in addition, reviewed the report of Mr. Wallace J. Young, chairman of the Standing State Hospital and Welfare Committee.

In addition to the Convention Committee on Hospital and Welfare matters, Mr. Young and Mr. Novelli attended as guests of the committee.

Your committee unanimously endorsed and recommends adoption of the entire report of the State Hospital and Welfare Committee, and, in addition, wishes to make particular reference to the five following recommendations:

1. That the director of the United States Veterans' Bureau expend every effort possible to insure the early completion of the new thousand-bed hospital at Northport. Carried.
2. We recommend the erection of a thousand-bed N. P. hospital in the metropolitan area in addition to the facilities now contemplated, and a 500-bed N. P. hospital in the northern part of the State. Carried.
3. That Hospital No. 81, after the completion of the new thou-

sand-bed hospital, be still retained as a general hospital and receiving and classification center, and that there be maintained in this hospital a diagnostic clinic, non-resident out-patient and occupational therapy unit, and a 250-bed ward for emergency T. B. cases. Carried.

4. That the recommendations regarding new construction at hospitals No. 96 and No. 98 and No. 81 be completed at an early date. Carried.

5. That the question of decentralization of hospital control and handling of personnel, as outlined under the heading of "Decentralization" in this report be adopted by the Bureau as soon as possible. Carried.

The William Kurtz Post No. 976 of The American Legion, through its Commander, Michael F. Morrell, recommended to your committee the necessity for emergency speed in the re-surfacing of the county highways leading from the State roads into United States Veterans' Hospital No. 98, Castle Point, New York.

Your committee recommends that the Legislative Committee of the State Department make immediate overtures to the board of supervisors in the county in which Hospital No. 98 is located, that all speed possible may be made in re-surfacing these roads and to prevent any possible delay, as the condition of the roads at the present time is detrimental to the progress of the patients. Carried.

It was the consensus of opinion of the committee that patients discharged from hospitals for home treatment should be paid compensation on a basis similar to that in effect for men in vocational training. Carried.

Your committee wishes to call to the attention of the Convention the fact that for three successive years this Convention Committee has recommended that disabled men receiving permanent disability ratings be provided with dependency allowances for their families in accordance with the scale now in effect as regards men receiving temporary total compensation.

Your committee recommends that this be referred to the National Legislative Committee for action and that the delegates to the National Convention take every possible step toward the adoption of a resolution covering this matter at the National Convention. Carried.

Your committee has observed with very great interest the marked improvement in the service to the claimant, which has resulted from the decentralization of the claims service, and feels that a further decentralization is now in order, particularly with reference to death claims. Carried.

Your committee feels that a marked improvement in the service to the disabled men has resulted from the decentralization of the Bureau activities thus far effected. It would strenuously oppose

any attempt toward recentralization. As a matter of fact, it is of the opinion that even a further decentralization along the lines of supervision and control of the Bureau activities is indicated at this time. Carried.

Your committee, fully appreciative of the advantages of government insurance and aware of the fact that the last date for reinstatement of lapsed insurance is July 2, 1926, recommends that a definite campaign of education among ex-service men throughout the State on insurance matters. To this end, it recommends the appointment by the incoming State Commander of a State Committee which will be instructed to direct this campaign through the several county organizations and local posts. It further urges that these activities be initiated at once and that a report of the results of such a campaign be made to the Executive Committee not later than January 1, 1926. Carried.

Your committee recommends that the War Risk Insurance Department arrange for the issuing of a policy on a gradually-rising monthly scale of payments, with a provision in the policy that a certain proportion of each premium shall be applied to the purchase of a paid-up life insurance policy. Carried.

The committee is unanimously opposed to the leasing of the canteen concessions in the various government hospitals to private individuals for private gain, and recommends that all canteens be operated by the hospital authorities and that the articles be sold to the men at cost. Carried.

The Chairman: If there is no objection, the report in its entirety is adopted and the committee discharged with thanks.

The Chairman: The Convention Finance Committee Report.

Mr. Clarence E. Lichtenstein (Chairman, Convention Finance Committee): Mr. Commander and Fellow Legionnaires—

Your Finance Committee, in its deliberations, took up the recommendation of the Department Commander for a special fund, to be used as a source of assured income in the years to come, when the revenues of The Legion will begin to show a decrease, owing to the natural loss of members through death.

The following was, with no undue haste, unanimously carried:

Moved: That we incorporate in our report the recommendation that seventy-five (75) per cent. of the surplus each year be set aside in a permanent reserve fund, the income of which is to be used only, except in a case of emergency, and upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds the entire Executive Committee, when a portion of the principal might be borrowed for Department purposes. These funds shall be invested by the Executive Committee in such securities as are allowed to savings banks in this State.

Your committee submits the following budget for the fiscal year ending August 31, 1926, based upon a membership of 60,000 bringing an income of \$15,000 and an income of \$2,000 from source records and other channels.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION	
Salaries	\$10,000 00
Printing and postage.....	2,000 00
Telephone and telegraph.....	500 00
Sundries	250 00
ORGANIZATION	
Travel expenses.....	1,500 00
Legislation	200 00
Publicity	100 00
Membership	250 00
Americanism	100 00
Welfare	250 00
CONVENTION	
National	250 00
State	250 00
Reports	350 00
GENERAL	
Miscellaneous	250 00
Equipment	500 00
	\$16,750 00

I wish to thank the secretary of this committee, Commander Jas. J. McAvoy of Hudson Post No. 184, for his very efficient work and the other members of the committee for their care in the handling of this important phase of Legion work.

I move the adoption of this report. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The report of the Convention Resolutions Committee, Mr. Thomas Mott Osborne of Auburn.

Mr. Thomas Mott Osborne (Chairman, Resolutions Committee): A large number of resolutions have been considered and a considerable number have been referred to the committee on Hospitalization, Legislative Committee, and more have been appropriated for them to take action than for the Convention to take action, for the Convention to adopt later. I have such resolutions as it would seem are of immediate importance for action on the part of the Convention.

WHEREAS, For nine days the entire country has been in suspense over the fate of the brave crew of the P. N. 9 No. 1, now happily rescued; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention desires to record its gratitude for the saving of our comrades; and that copies of this resolution

be forwarded to the Secretary of the Navy and also to the individual men whose lives have been preserved for their country. Carried.

WHEREAS, After the recent lamentable disaster to our Navy's dirigible, "Shenandoah," the members of The American Legion, Department of Ohio, rendered important service in guarding the ruins of the ship against vandalism and theft; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention hereby express its appreciation of this prompt rendering of patriotic service by our comrades of Ohio and its thanks for this practical exemplification of the principles of The American Legion; and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Department Commander of Ohio. Carried.

Resolved, That The American Legion, Department of New York, again go on record favoring retirement for disabled emergency officers of the World War. Carried.

Resolved, That Congress be requested to continue for one year the privilege, to honorably discharged veterans of the World War, of securing their naturalization papers without fee, owing to the fact that there are still thousands of veterans who have been denied said privilege owing to their ignorance of the provisions of the law. Carried.

WHEREAS, The Sesqui-Centennial Anniversary of the founding of these United States in the year 1926, and the observance of this milestone in the Nation's history will take on concrete form at its birthplace in the city of Philadelphia, Pa.; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention request its delegates to the National Convention to present a resolution for special commemoration on the anniversary date, July 4, 1926, and further, that the National Convention in 1926 be part of the Sesqui-Centennial Celebration at the city of Philadelphia or that such fitting representation and observance by The Legion be fostered in and about the shrine of American Liberty. Carried.

WHEREAS, The American Legion, through the experience of its members in war service, both those who sat upon the courts and those who appeared before them, realizes that the present system of courts martial, both in Army and Navy, could in many ways be changed to the advantage of the services; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the delegates from New York to the National Convention be directed to introduce and secure the passage of the following resolution:

Be It Resolved, By The American Legion, in Convention assembled, that the National Commander is hereby directed to name a committee of not less than seven members to study and investigate the laws and regulations governing Army and Navy courts martial, and to report such changes as are desirable in order to

remedy possible injustice and promote the highest efficiency of both services. Carried.

WHEREAS, During the past two years the War Department has organized an annual Defense Test, The American Legion has endorsed and supported said tests, but

Some controversy has developed regarding an appropriate date upon which future Defense Tests shall take place; therefore, be it

Resolved, That April 6th in each year be advocated as a suitable date upon which the Defense Test be held, for the reasons that this date commemorates the entry of the United States into the World War, and that it is believed that this date would assure a maximum attendance of all branches of the United States Army and of cooperating civilian agencies; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, to the Secretary of War, to the National Convention of The American Legion; and that a copy be forwarded to *The American Legion Weekly* for publication therein; with the object in view of having similar action taken by all State Departments of The American Legion. Carried.

WHEREAS, The Government insurance now in effect for men and women who saw service in the late war will be discontinued after July 2, 1926, and many ex-service men have permitted their insurance to lapse; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the incoming Commander of the Department of New York be requested to appoint a committee to consider the best means of acquainting ex-service men of their privileges in this matter. Carried.

Resolved, That The American Legion of New York State again pledges its cooperation with the Boy Scouts of America; and that The American Legion posts of this State be urged and encouraged to organize Boy Scout Troops, to foster Scout activities in their respective neighborhoods, and to furnish Scoutmasters to lead Scout Troops. Carried.

WHEREAS, The use of "The Roll Call," composed and copyrighted by S. Walter Krebs, increases the impressiveness of a period of silence used to commemorate our dead comrades; it is simple, beautiful and practical; and it has been adopted by many organizations in this and other countries; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the New York State Organization of The American Legion in Convention assembled does hereby ratify the adoption of "The Roll Call," and recommends that it be used on all occasions where the dead are memorialized and their deeds commemorated. Carried.

WHEREAS, The challenge received from the Department Commander of Illinois and the ensuing contest between that State and New York aroused great interest and was effective in securing the early payment of dues; therefore be it

Resolved, That this Convention approves the recommendation of the State Commander that a similar contest be held during

the ensuing year between New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania to close June 1st. Carried.

Resolved, That all posts and county organizations be urged to hold their elections and installations of officers before the last of October. Carried.

Resolved, That the State Welfare Board of The American Legion be instructed at this Convention to adopt some action leading to the establishment of a central clearing station for the distribution of funds, provided by the State law for indigent veterans, whereby a traveling indigent veteran may be cared for and the cost charged against his home town. Carried.

WHEREAS, The present demands upon the State Commander, both in time and money, are unreasonable; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the amount in the budget for the expenses of the Commander and the Executive Committee be used solely for the Executive Committee meetings and for the expenses of the Commander when engaged in Department business; and that whenever the Commander or other State officers attend any meeting his entire expenses be paid by the post or county which is responsible for the invitation. Carried.

Resolved, That the thanks of The Legion be extended to the State Commander and other State officers for their efficient and loyal services during the past year. Carried.

WHEREAS, The Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath, with a capacity of nearly two thousand, has at the present time fewer than 300 Civil War Veterans and the number is rapidly diminishing; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the recommendation of the State Commander be approved for the appointment by the incoming Commander of a special committee to investigate the possible future use of this institution for World War Veterans. Carried.

Resolved, That in the event of any future nation-wide project being undertaken by The American Legion, the Department of New York desires to handle the New York end with its own men, the National organization acting merely in an advisory capacity. Carried.

Resolved, That the thanks of The American Legion, Department of New York, be extended to Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt for his effective work as State Chairman of the drive for The American Legion Endowment Fund and to the loyal group of citizens who assisted him in his work; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mr. Roosevelt as a slight mark of The Legion's appreciation of his services. Carried.

Resolved, That this Convention extend its thanks, for their assistance given to the State executive of The Legion during the past year, to the Women's Auxiliary and to the Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux; and recommends that the Chef de Gare of the 40 and 8 be made, ex-officio, a member of the Executive Committee.

The Chairman: The resolution will be referred to the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be extended to all those who have contributed to the entertainment of the delegates during their pleasant stay in the City of New York. Carried.

WHEREAS, It has been the policy of The American Legion to refuse charters to new posts desiring to organize in cities already having posts, and it has been found that in some cities this policy has tended to restrict the membership in The American Legion; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention recommends to the incoming administration the discontinuance of this policy. Carried.

WHEREAS, The system of rating the usefulness of Legion posts, with prizes for the most active, has been tried this year with favorable results; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Convention approves the recommendation of the State Commander that the system be further developed and special efforts made to secure wider community service by all posts throughout the State. Carried.

Mr. Osborn: Mr. Commander, that completes the report of the Resolutions Committee. I move the adoption of the report as amended. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: The work of those in charge of the Veterans' Bureau in the past year is largely responsible for the fact that the Bureau is functioning better than it has heretofore. In no small degree is that due to the efforts of the Chief Coordinator of this area. He has some seven or nine states under his jurisdiction with headquarters in New York. There have been the most friendly relations between The Legion in New York and the Veterans' Bureau because of the desire of the Coordinator to do all in his power to correct any mistakes that were shown.

I have the pleasure of presenting Mr. M. E. Head, in charge of this area of the United State Veterans' Bureau. (Applause.)

Mr. M. E. Head (Chief Coordinator, Area "B," United States Veterans' Bureau): Mr. Commander, Fellow Legionnaires: I have nothing to say except to express in as personal a way as I know how my appreciation and the appreciation of those associated with me for the spirit of cooperation shown by The American Legion throughout the past year. I should like to make particular reference to the fair and square manner in which your State Commander has met every issue that has come up and the splendid work that has been done by your State Hospital Committee and the consequent cooperation and help from your various county organizations, also particular reference to your employment and welfare bureau in New York.

I shall not attempt to make any speech. Your committees have already told what has been accomplished during the past twelve months.



HAROLD DE WALD
Treasurer



MRS. ELLA RANSOM
Secretary-Treasurer, Auxiliary

I will close my remarks by wishing you a continuation of the growth and power in this great State which you so greatly deserve. If you have no objection I will close. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: The Commander of the Seventy-first Regiment has presented a copy of the volume entitled "Seventy-first New York in the World War," for State Headquarters, and I desire to thank him in behalf of The Legion in this State for this valuable addition to our Department Library.

The Chairman: Members of the Convention, I have the pleasure of presenting a man well known to most of you, the newly elected Grande Chef de Gare of the forty and eight of New York, Pelham St. George Bissell. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Pelham St. George Bissell (Grand Chef de Gare, La Societe des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux, Department of New York): I want to thank you all for the honor that you have given me and to assure you that the forty and eight means service for The Legion, first, last and all the time. Thank you. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Mylod (Dutchess): I would like to move that all further Committee reports be referred to the Executive Committee with power. Seconded. Carried.

Dr. Fronzak (Erie): Mr. Commander—WHEREAS, The purposes of the Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of New York, are enumerated in the Official State Convention Call and in pursuance to certain requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion of this Department; and

WHEREAS, The program of the past few Conventions of this organization has not been prepared in order to wholly advance the purposes so enumerated in the various Calls, but became, in many instances, marathon talkfests for personal aggrandizement of near-heroes and embryonic statesmen; and

WHEREAS, This garrulity has delayed and hindered the purposes for which the Conventions are called; be it

Resolved: That the Department Officers and Program Committee of The American Legion of the Department of New York so arrange the program in the future as to eliminate this needless flow, in most cases, of idea-less loquaciousness, subjecting the delegates to unnecessary sacrifice in listening to same, and limit the number of outside speakers to the number of seven, same to include the representatives of the various federal and State departments whose activities are closely allied to the activities of The American Legion of the Department of New York. Carried.

The Chairman: The following have been elected Directors of the Mountain Camp Corporation for three years: First, Charles

Hann, Jr., and Miss Childs; second, Theodore F. Skinner of Richmond; third, James G. Tebbutt of Albany; fourth, Paul B. Matties of Canajoharie; fifth, Henry Brewster of Syracuse; sixth, Dr. H. Riley of Cortland; seventh, Dr. R. C. Hill of Bath; eighth, Dr. Fronzak of Buffalo; ninth, Dr. James T. Harrington of Poughkeepsie.

The following have been elected as district Chairmen for the ensuing year:

First, Albert E. Schaefer, of The Bronx; second, Joseph Murray, of Kings; third, David H. Walsh, of Albany; fourth, Jacob S. Clinton, of Schenectady; fifth, John W. Calder, of Utica; sixth, Robert G. Frasier; seventh, George Merritt Ward, of Rochester; eighth, Harold C. Ostertag, of Wyoming County; ninth, Harold K. Joseph, of Poughkeepsie. (Applause.)

The following are the District Vice-Chairmen:

First, Henry Valentine, New York; second, Wallace G. Young, Nassau; third, Dr. Blumberg, of Ellenville; fourth, Thomas Bushnell, of Messina; fifth, Fred Rannias of Elmira; sixth, Arthur Lennox; seventh, George Sweet; eighth, Allen Oppenheimer, of Buffalo.

Is there any unfinished business to come before the Convention? If not, we will proceed to nominations.

Mr. George Merritt Ward (Monroe): Mr. Commander and members of The American Legion—It is very seldom that a man has as great an honor as has been conferred on me and to have it twice. I had the same honor two years ago. It was not for as high an office but it was for the same man, of the same high calibre. You know what I said about him then. There is no man in The Legion who has been Commander in the past or who is an aspirant for Commander now who has shown such unselfish devoted service to The Legion and its ideals than the man I am to nominate.

New York State has never had the recognized position in National affairs as it has achieved as a result of the actions and standing of this man. You all know who he is. You all know his qualities. You all know how proud we shall be to have him come to our several districts and point him out to the men who are not Legionnaires at our public functions as the man we look up to as a great Legionnaire of New York State and will know with confidence that the impression will not be disappointing. We know that they will recognize in him a man of the highest type in our Legion and that means in our country. I nominate Donald C. Strachan of Kings.

Dr. Gow (Warren): Mr. Commander and Fellow Legionnaires—I am bringing before this Convention the name of a man with whom you are all familiar. This man is not like some of the men who do not belong to The Legion. He is like the men that do belong to The Legion. He is a service man as we all are. We do not recognize in The Legion the name "ex-service man" because,

gentlemen, when we put on the uniform of the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps we assumed responsibilities that we could not shirk when we took off the uniform. That makes the one hundred per cent. Legionnaire.

This man organized a post in his home town, he has been county commander, district commander, Vice-Commander, Director of the Veterans' Mountain Camp, and is a man of recognized executive ability and it will be an honor to serve under his leadership.

I have the honor and the pleasure of presenting to this Convention Harry Wilder of Franklin. (Applause and cheers.)

Delegate (Herkimer): We take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Donald C. Strachan. (Applause and cheers.)

Delegate (Erie): Erie takes great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Wilder for Commander. (Applause and cheers.)

Tabulated Voting Results for Commander and Vice-Commander

COUNTIES	COMMANDER		VICE-COMMANDER					NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN			ALTERNATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN		
	Wilder	Strachan	Brundage	Street	Ziegler	Huyek	Rosenblum	Ryan	Ward	Ryan	Altman		
Albany.....	10	5	10	5	10	5	10	5	10	5	10	5	
Allegany.....	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	
Bronx.....	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	9	6	
Broome.....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
Cattaraugus.....	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Cayuga.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Chautauqua.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Chemung.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Chenango.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Clinton.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Columbia.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Columbia.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Cortland.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Delaware.....	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Dutchess.....	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	
Erie.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Essex.....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
Franklin.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Fulton.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Genesee.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Greene.....	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Herkimer.....	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	
Jefferson.....	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	19	
Kings.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Lewis.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Livingston.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Madison.....	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	
Montgomery.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Nassau.....	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
New York.....	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	41	
Niagara.....	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Oneida.....	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	
Ontario.....	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Onondaga.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	
Orange.....	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
Orleans.....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	

Mr. Chairman: I have received a message that Mr. Frank Waterman, who had intended extending his greetings to this Convention, has been unavoidably detained, his wife returning from Europe today, and in going down on the tug to meet her the boat was so long delayed in landing that he was unable to be here.

After election of Commander, the Chair recognized Mr. Strachan.

Mr. Donald C. Strachan (Kings): Mr. Commander, Fellow Comrades of The American Legion, and Mr. Elected Commander—In this organization we are all men. We know how to take defeat and we know how to take victory. The organization wants men. We repeat the words of that great poem:

“God give us men.
The time demands
Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and willing hands,
Men whom the lust of office does not kill;
And whom the spoils of office cannot buy;
Men who possess opinions and a will;
Men who have honor, men who will not lie;
Men who can stand before a demagogue
And dam the treacherous flatteries without winking
Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog
In public duty and in private thinking—”

above the petty practice of every day life and able to side in with the great ideals of an organization such as this.

Mr. Commander, you have my congratulations. (Applause.)

Mr. Baar (Kings): Mr. Commander, I would like to make a motion to make the election of Harry Wilder unanimous. (Applause and cheers.) Carried.

The Chairman: I present your new Commander.

Mr. Harry C. Wilder (Department Commander-elect): Buddies, I thank you. There is nothing I can say at this time except that I am overwhelmed to have so many other Legionnaires in the State who have done so much and far more than I have that it probably is an accident that I happen to be where I am. I realize, however, that you have placed on me an obligation but I can assure you I will live up to it. I can assure you further that we have got this year a year of hard work ahead. I am used to hard work. I can see that the only way I can show my appreciation to the buddies that have put me here, and that means all the Legionnaires of the whole State, is the record that I make at the end of the year and from that you can judge whether I appreciate the honor or whether I have done my level best for this organization.

I ask you, all of you, regardless of where you are located, to go the limit to put your shoulder to the wheel, give me the help that I certainly need, to put this Department on top and to carry on the work which has been so ably done by my predecessors and the Past Commanders of the organization.

I pledge you that I will go the limit and spare no time and expense or energy to put this Department in the place that it has occupied and solve the problems that face us this year. I cannot say any more. I ask you to back me up and I will certainly do part at least of what you expect of me and do my level best and I thank you. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: The Adjutant will call the roll for nominations for Vice-Commanders.

Mr. Dan Edwards (New York): Mr. Commander, the man who I desire to place before you is an active Legionnaire, hard worker, as his record will testify. He is the Commander of the second largest post in this State. He has brought the membership of his county, as county commander, from three thousand to five thousand members. Gentlemen, without further ado, I place that wonderful Legionnaire, Fred J. Street of Rochester, Monroe, and New York, before you in nomination. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Albert S. Callan (Columbia): Mr. Commander, Fellow Legionnaires—I anticipate that any lengthy address would be superfluous and in the temperament that you undoubtedly are due to the heat of the election and the weather outside that you might oppose the candidate whom I desire to place in nomination. But will you bear with me but for a moment and go back to a few years ago when there were thousands of men who were disabled and in financial need and it was necessary at that time that this Commonwealth come to their relief and there was passed by the Legislature of the State of New York a bill to relieve the disabled and the needy ex-service man, and that bill was familiarly known as the Brundage Bill.

Therefore, I believe it but proper and but right, not because of this duty alone that he did to these men, but for his noble, his intelligent and his active service in the ranks of The Legion after he retired from public life, that he should be rewarded by the votes of this Convention.

I therefore take great pleasure in presenting for your consideration the name of Arthur C. Brundage of Orange county. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Willigallan (Erie): Mr. Commander, Fellow Legionnaires—I am going to be brief in my nominating speech but I want to, in my brevity, emphasize the fact that we want good strong Legionnaires as officers of our great organization.

We have in Erie county a large number of hard workers. We feel that these hard workers in Legion circles should be rewarded and we ask this Convention to reward one of our faithful servants.

I wish to present to this Convention the name of Edwin G. Ziegler of Buffalo as candidate for Vice-Commander. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Baar (Kings): Mr. Commander and Delegates — Among the various types of men that we must have in official position in our organization are business men, hard-headed business men, who have an idea of how to run an organization such as ours, not only from the theoretical point of view but from the purely business, economic point of view.

I am going to place before you for your consideration the name of a gentleman from Genesee county, J. R. Rosenblum, who is a merchant in that town of fifteen years' standing. He organized the post in Batavia and brought it from a membership of 40 to 200. He has been commander of the post, he has been executive committeeman; in fact, he has been the life and soul, the battery, the entire works, of the post, the main spring.

It gives Kings county great pleasure to place before you for your consideration as a Vice-Commander—J. R. Rosenblum of Batavia, New York. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Lyons (Richmond): Richmond is glad to second the nomination of Mr. J. R. Rosenblum of Genesee. (Applause.)

Mr. Mylod (Dutchess): Mr. Commander, in the course of human events, it has been discovered that there is only one person who knows more about your business than you do yourself and that is your neighbor and that is especially true in the community in which I live. (Laughter.) We have in Orange county a neighbor and we know more about his business than he does himself. We have found that in Arthur Brundage of Newburgh the Legion not only has a worker but a man who has dedicated himself to the care of the disabled and, as a neighbor coming from Dutchess, the delegates from Dutchess take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Arthur Brundage. (Applause.)

Mr. Ryan: Gentlemen, without going to the platform, I rise to place in nomination Dr. Ralph Huyck of Herkimer for Vice-Commander. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Ostertag (Wyoming): I take great pleasure in seconding the nomination of Mr. Ziegler of Erie.

The Chairman: The following Vice-Commanders have been elected for the ensuing year: Dr. Huyck, Mr. Brundage and Mr. Ziegler. (Applause and cheers.)

The Adjutant will call the roll for nominations for Adjutant.

Mr. Pasta (Queens): Mr. Chairman and Delegates to this Convention—Queens is happy today to be in the position to present to you for your consideration for the high office of Department Adjutant a man with whom all of you no doubt are acquainted. I wish that I could tell you of the wonderful things that he has

accomplished for this Legion, but if I merely said to you that he is a rugged character, that real Legionnaire, that outstanding real fellow, Mike Flynn of Queens, I have said enough. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: I declare that Michael J. Flynn of Queens has been unanimously elected Adjutant.

Mr. Michael J. Flynn (Department Adjutant-elect): Appleknockers and Friends—I am not supposed to talk. I spoke once through that thing this morning and I put it out of commission. Thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Nominations are now in order for Department Treasurer.

Mr. Wessels (Greene): Mr. Commander, Fellow Delegates—I don't think that a lengthy speech is necessary to tell you the qualifications of a man whom I am going to place in nomination, and that is the present Treasurer, Harold L. DeWald. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: I declare Mr. Harold L. DeWald has been unanimously re-elected Department Treasurer. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Nominations are now in order for Department Chaplain.

Mr. Begly (Schenectady): Mr. Commander and Fellow Legionnaires—I deem it a great pleasure and an honor to come before you today to put in nomination the name of a man who has rendered such good and active service to The American Legion of the Department of New York. The man that I want to place before you is the man who made the nominating speech last year for Dr. Judge, who was elected your Chaplain and the man who filled his place when he was compelled to resign. I think this man needs no introduction to you men of the Department of New York and therefore it gives me great pleasure, Mr. Commander, to nominate Father Bellamy of St. Lawrence county. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: I declare that you have unanimously re-elected Rev. John M. Bellamy of Messina as Department Chaplain. (Applause and cheers.)

Rev. John M. Bellamy (Department Chaplain): I am certainly very grateful for the honor conferred upon me and I want to assure you that if there is anything I can do in any time to help any post in the whole State of New York do not be afraid to call on me. While I am away up north there you can rest assured that we are with you heart and soul. Whatever it is, if it is for the Legion, we can help you. We may be a long way away from the big city but we have the Legion at heart just as well up there as down here. I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Nominations are now in order for National Executive Committeeman from this State.

Mr. Reidy (Bronx): Ladies and Gentlemen — We believe that in order to be elected to any office in a service man's outfit the first thing to do is to have given service to that organization. We are proud to say that we have a man who has given service to The American Legion of the Department of New York. The man I have in mind has served as Post Commander, as county chairman for two terms, and is now finishing his term as Vice-Commander of the Department of New York. He is a man well known throughout the State, is qualified for the position which we seek for him, and it is a distinguished honor to put in the nomination of Albert L. Ward of the Bronx for the office of National Executive Committeeman. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Baar (Kings): I would like to nominate Bernard Ryan of Albion for National Executive Committeeman from the State of New York. (Applause.)

Mr. Spafford (New York): Mr. Commander, Fellow Legionnaires — I come to this platform for what I believe to be great service to our organization. For years we have come here and had two slates, one on one side and one on the other. I am going to ask that this Convention unanimously elect for National Executive Committeeman the man who has served us with such devotion during this past year as State Commander. I offer the name of Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz. (Applause and cheers.)

The Chairman: The Chair will announce that it has been his policy not to engage in the politics of this Convention, and he therefore withdraws his name. (Applause.)

Mr. Mylod (Dutchess): On the ground of service rendered to The American Legion by Albert Ward, Dutchess county not only feels that it is a pleasure but a duty to second his nomination.

The Chairman: Mr. Ward has been elected National Executive Committeeman. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Nominations are in order now for alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Mr. Thomas Brady (New York): I nominate Mr. Ryan of Albion.

Mr. Ward (Bronx): I would like to second the nomination of Bernard Ryan for the office of alternate National Executive Committeeman.

Mr. Walligaler: I nominate Mr. Henry Altman of Erie.

The Chairman: During the past year the National Vaudeville Artists' Post donated a trophy to be presented to the post which secured the largest number of subscriptions to the Empire State

Legionnaire. That cup has been won by the East Side Post and I desire to present it to them. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Rosenberg (Commander, East Side Post, New York county): I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I will entertain a motion while we are waiting for the report of the tellers that the election of delegates as reported by the district conferences be confirmed to be the delegates from this Convention, except the delegates-at-large.

Mr. Lyons (Richmond): I make such a motion. Seconded. Carried.

FIRST DISTRICT

Delegates.—Albert L. Ward, Martin Kornbluth, Dr. H. Graeme Hammond, Frederick C. Kuehne, Lewis H. Hunt, Wm. A. Bollinger, Thomas J. Brady, Norman L. Marks, Daniel R. Edwards, John Graham, George L. Cohen.

Alternates.—Lambert Fairchild, Benjamin F. Fox, Richard B. O'Connor, Robert E. Condon, Martin J. Neary, Arthur W. Proctor, James J. Leahey, S. G. Gumpertz, Abraham Rosenberg, Franklin S. Traver.

SECOND DISTRICT

Delegates.—H. K. Robinson, Michael J. Flynn, Carl Hoblitzel, Edward McKelvey, Robert Guggenheim, James A. Lederman, Elias Segal, Arthur A. Ransom, E. H. Hutter.

Alternates.—G. J. Lawrence, Norman Ringe, Jr., M. Zwicke, Michael Oppelt, Leo Schloss, Dewey Adams, Al L. Schroeder, Joseph Piccirillo.

THIRD DISTRICT

Delegates.—Andrew A. Schroeder, F. Walter Bliss, Herman I. Outan, A. J. Murphy, Lynn D. Wessels, William P. Stevens.

Alternates.—John J. H. Magin, J. J. McNamara, Dr. Purcell, Mr. Dubois, Mr. Saulpaugh.

FOURTH DISTRICT

Delegates.—Russell Warner, Karl Schleede, Harry Wilder, Wm. L. Briggs, L. L. Connor.

FIFTH DISTRICT

Delegates.—John W. Calder, Fred Raneous, Dr. R. P. Huyek, W. A. Finnert, Justin J. B. List.

Alternates.—Phillip Perkins, J. Gould Lyman, George A. Cobl, Winfield Guild, Donald Stuart.

SIXTH DISTRICT

Delegates.—Mr. Phelps, Carl Pick, David Lewis, John E. Williams.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

Delegates.—Dr. H. A. Aruinger, Miss Anna Miller, Robert P. Purcell, Harry Rosenbloom, Thomas F. Vogt, Edward Beckwith, Dr. John H. Cameron, George Franklin.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Delegates.— A. G. Dolan, Miss Mable Caldwell, John G. Stephenson, James P. Cotter, Leland C. Clark, Thomas Welch.

Alternates.— Leo Whitney, Raymond DePontie, Alexander H. Campbell, Miss Cecile Genoud, Edward Zielinski, George Schopf.

NINTH DISTRICT

Delegates.— Harry R. Williams, William Anthes, Jr., Cornelius Falch, W. L. Gray, Fred Weigle.

Alternates.— Chauncey Fish, Casper Hahnel, Ted Schaefer, John Luft, E. A. Van Ness, James Hoyte.

The Secretary: Ryan, 275; Altman, 190.

The Chairman: Mr. Ryan is declared Alternate National Executive Committeeman. He will come to the platform. (Applause.)

Nominations are now in order for five delegates-at-large to the National Convention.

Mr. Michael J. Flynn (Queens): Mr. Chairman, Legionnaires and Buddies — When we are considering to send delegates-at-large to our National Convention we must not for one minute forget that service should be rewarded. It has been my pleasure during the past year to work as a district chairman, to work as a member of the State Executive Committee under one of the finest type of men it has ever been my pleasure to come in contact with, a man against whom no one can raise his finger or say a word against anything he has done. He has filled his job in a noble manner. He has given everything that was in him. He has brought the State to a very remarkable standing. It gives me the greatest pleasure at this time to place in nomination for a National delegate-at-large our retiring State Commander, Samuel E. Aronowitz, and that there be embodied in this motion that he be placed as the chairman of the delegation to the National Convention. (Applause and cheers.)

Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Nominations are now in order for the other four delegates-at-large. The Chair recognizes Mr. Patterson of New York.

Mr. Patterson (New York): Mr. Commander, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention — I want to present for your consideration the name of a man whom New York county is indeed very proud of, who has worked and labored for seven years since the existence of The American Legion to bring it to what it is in this State and has served on the Naval Affairs Committee of The American Legion at large. He was the representative of the State at the burial of the Unknown Soldier. He has given — the Dis-

trict Chairman of the First District — he has given you the programs for the last four State Conventions. And he is worthy of the support. And I take great pleasure in nominating Charles Hann, Jr. (Applause and cheers.)

Mr. Astin (Monroe): Mr. Commander, I take pleasure in nominating Miss Anna Miller, Past Commander of Nightingale Post of Rochester, New York, for delegate-at-large to the National Convention.

Mr. Oppenheimer: I nominate Mr. William J. Brady of Buffalo.

Mr. Warner (Schenectady): Mr. Commander, I have the honor and pleasure of placing in nomination the name of Past Commander Edward E. Spafford of New York.

Mr. Wessels (Greene): Mr. Commander, I nominate Louis DeHoyo of Sullivan.

Mr. Clinton (Schenectady): I place in nomination the name of Allen Taylor of Schenectadv.

The Chairman: Are there further nominations for delegate-at-large to the National Convention. There have been six nominated to be voted on and four to be selected. Those nominated are: Charles Hann, Jr., Miss Anna Miller, Mr. William J. Brady, Mr. Edward E. Spafford, Mr. Louis DeHoyos and Mr. Allen Taylor
The Adjutant will call the roll.

The Chairman: At this time I will entertain a motion that the four high of this six be the delegates-at-large and that the other two be the alternates-at-large.

Mr. Mylod (Dutchess): I so move, Mr. Commander. Seconded. Carried.

The Secretary: Hann, 374; Spafford, 307; DeHoyos, 229; Taylor, 346; Miller, 81; Brady, 320.

The Chairman: Those elected delegates-at-large are Charles Hann, Jr., of New York; Allen Taylor, of Schenectady; Edward E. Spafford, of New York, and William J. Brady, of Buffalo. Miss Anna Miller and Louis DeHoyos are alternate delegates-at-large to the National Convention.

Mr. Commander, I now turn over to you the gavel emblematic of authority as Department Commander of The American Legion and in doing it I pledge you the greatest support that it is possible for one man to give another. (Applause and cheers.)

At this point Mr. Harry C. Wilder, Department Commander, assumes the Chair.

The Chairman: The Color guard will retire the Colors.

This Convention now stands adjourned sine die.

The Seventh Annual Convention of the Department of New York, The American Legion, adjourned sine die at 3:05 P. M., Saturday, September 12, 1925.

APPENDIX A

American Legion Auxiliary Convention Proceedings

The opening session of the Convention, Thursday, September 10th, convened in the Grand Ball Room of the Pennsylvania Hotel, New York City, at 11:45 A. M., Mrs. E. B. Garrison, Department President, presiding, and Mrs. Arthur A. Ransom, Department Secretary-Treasurer, acting as Secretary of the Convention.

The Chairman: The Convention will come to order, please, and we will have the advancing of the Colors.

The Colors are advanced by the Color Guard, the Convention rising and reciting the Pledge to the Flag.

Mrs. Charles Seymour, Department Chaplain, pronounces the invocation.

At this point, the Convention recites the Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary.

The Chairman: I now declare our Fifth Annual Convention regularly convened.

The Secretary: Convention call.

American Legion Auxiliary Units, Attention:

Pursuant to the requirements of the Constitution and By-Laws, American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, I, Kathryn Garrison, Department President, do hereby call the Fifth Annual Convention of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, to be held at New York City, on September 10, 11, 12, 1925, to convene at 10:00 A. M. (daylight saving time), on the 10th of September, for the following purposes:

1. To elect delegates and alternates to the National Convention to be held at Omaha, Nebraska, October 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, 1925. (The Department of New York is entitled to five (5) delegates-at-large and five (5) alternates-at-large and one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each one thousand (1,000) members whose dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the date of the National Convention.)

2. To elect one member and an alternate to the National Executive Committee to represent the Department of New York, to hold office for one year from the date of the Annual National Convention following their election.

3. To elect officers for the Department of New York for the ensuing year.

4. To elect in district caucuses nine district chairmen to serve on the Department Executive Committee for the following year.

5. To amend the present Department Constitution and By-Laws, if so desired and to transact such other business as may come before this Convention.

KATHRYN GARRISON,
Department President.

Attest:

ELLA B. RANSOM,
Department Secretary.

The Chairman: We will have the report of the Rules Committee.

The Secretary: 1. With the following modifications, Roberts' Rules (revised) will be followed:

2. When a delegate desires to make a motion or address the Convention, she shall address the presiding officer as Madam Chairman and give her name and the name of her county.

3. But two delegates from any one unit shall be permitted the floor on any one subject.

4. No member shall be allowed to speak more than twice on any one subject, except by unanimous consent, and then not until all others are given an opportunity to speak.

5. State officers, including district chairmen, are entitled to all privileges of delegates, except that they may not vote unless delegates from their own units.

6. Debate shall be limited to three minutes for each speaker.

7. Nominating speeches shall be limited to three minutes; seconding speeches shall be limited to two minutes and only two seconding speeches may be made for any one candidate.

8. Nominations shall be from the floor by roll call, alphabetically by counties; except by unanimous consent, this rule may be abrogated to save time. Nominations once closed shall not be reopened.

9. Each county shall be entitled to a total vote equal to that granted under the State Constitution and By-Laws, provided a majority of the delegates to which the county is entitled be present. When a majority is not present, the county will then vote the number of delegates present only.

10. Voting shall be by acclamation, except when a roll call be demanded by the acting chairman of at least three county delegations.

11. The vote shall be announced by the chairman of each county delegation, such chairman to be chosen by each delegation.

12. Alternates will have all privileges of delegates, including that of serving on committees, except the privilege of voting.

13. Alternates may vote only in the absence of the regular delegates, selection of such alternates to fill such delegates' places to be made by the unit delegation in question, providing the regularly elected alternate is not present.

14. Any candidate for any office must receive a majority of the votes of the Convention before elected, successive ballots to be held until such candidate receives a majority.

15. All petitions, resolutions or amendments shall be presented in writing and signed by the member or members presenting same and shall be read by the Secretary before reference to the proper committee. The Convention may, by a majority vote, immediately consider any document presented.

16. Any resolution not introduced to the Convention at the close of business on the morning session of the first day must be placed at the bottom of the list of previously submitted resolutions.

17. All resolutions must be in written form, bearing the signature of the authority, designating her unit and county.

18. The Convention may, without motion, revert to any previous business where, upon the report of any committee, it is shown that there is necessity for action in conformity with such report.

19. Convention committees shall consist of nine members each, one from each district, appointed by the Convention Chairman, after recommendations have been made to her by the district chairmen.

20. All contests on seats shall be referred to the Committee on Credentials, and neither party in the contest may vote prior to the report of the committee.

Nominations shall be Friday, election Saturday.

Mrs. Charles Seymour (Broome): Madam Chairman, I move their adoption. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: So ordered. We will have the report now of our Chairman of Convention, Mrs. Bell. (Applause.)

Mrs. A. M. Bell (Chairman, Convention Committee): Madam President, Honored Guests and Members of The American Legion Auxiliary of the Fifth Convention — In making this report for the General Arrangements Committee, I would like to say that it is marked by two very opposite characteristics. You will not think we can make them agree at all at first. On the one hand, the report given in full will be very long. It will take three days to give it. It will be everything you do from the time you sign up at headquarters until the time you take your train back to your home town. Don't be frightened. On the other hand, it is going to be very short because I realize nothing I can say to you now will give you the same effect that you will receive from the actual experience of the three days which we have planned for you. So I will be very brief.

The Committee has been working since early in the spring to give you two things — a profitable three-day session and a good time. In these two aims we have been very much assisted by the Legion's Committee of Arrangements. The watchword of this Committee has been service, service to our organization, service to our Department President, Mrs. Garrison, and service to you all, every delegate, alternate and visitor at this Convention. This

Committee is at your service to do anything that they can do to make you more comfortable and to make your stay here more enjoyable. Please do not hesitate to ask any member of this Committee. You will find us by our red, white and blue ribbons on our badges. Do not hesitate to ask us for anything you want. We will try very hard to get the information for you.

I wish at this time to thank the units of the Metropolitan area for their generous financial support of this Committee. They have made the convention possible. Also to thank the hotel management. The management of the Hotel Pennsylvania has been cooperative and considerate at all times. The use of this large room and the smaller rooms which we have used for our meetings is all a donation of the hotel management.

In closing, the Chairmen of the Convention Committees wish me to express for them the pleasure they have had in planning this convention for you and in working hand in hand with our Department President, Mrs. Garrison. She has been with us at almost all of our meetings, always ready with counsel and practical suggestions and the Committee takes great pleasure at this time in presenting her with these flowers as a token of their love and appreciation. (Applause.)

Mrs. Murphy (Westchester): Madam President, the Ninth District presents this little token of their love for Mother Garrison. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I am sure no one, unless they had already taken charge of a convention, would have any idea what Mrs. Bell and her Committee have had to do, the hard work and time they have had to devote to this, and I hope when the Convention comes to an end we will show our appreciation to the Committee. Your Department President will now give her report.

Mrs. T. R. Pritchard, Department Vice-President, assumes the Chair.

Mrs. E. B. Garrison (Department President): Madam Chairman, Members of the Fifth Annual Convention — Time pleasantly spent is time quickly spent, so is proof of the fact that I have thoroughly enjoyed my office as President of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York. It seems but yesterday that I stood before you in a speech of acceptance. When you elected me to this office I felt you showed your faith in me and my ability to carry on for the good of the Auxiliary and the service man, and I then pledged my best efforts to justify that faith. In my poor human way, I have striven to live up to that pledge. As I took up the work from day to day and came upon the evidences of the efficient work of my predecessors, much inspiration was given me.

During this year, perhaps more than any other, there have been several changes, which, I think you will all agree, are ever necessary where there is growth and progress.

This year the membership has fallen from 12,942 to 12,392. This is but natural, however, as in the introduction of any new plan does not, usually, meet with instant success. I refer to the new membership blanks. This is an effort on the part of our organization of patriotic women to preserve the record of the men through whom we are eligible to this Auxiliary and we, the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters are proud of this new move and I predict a great increase in membership for the report of my successor at our next convention.

Many new units have been formed and more permanent charters have been issued in this than in the previous years of the existence of our Department. This is proof of the earnest desire that the Department of New York be a permanent organization.

All requests from National have been complied with and though we are not 100 per cent in our obligation to the Children's Billet nor the furnishing of National Headquarters, I am sure it is not because of lack of interest. I bespeak increased zest for both these projects.

I have visited in every district but one and these visits have always given me a greater desire to be of increased service. May I mention a few of these visits? I wish I might tell of each, but time will not permit; however, I do want to thank each district, county and unit for their hospitality. My visits to the hospitals, which include No. 98 at Castle Point, No. 96 at Tupper Lake, No. 81 in New York, Liberty, Saranac Lake, Odell at Newburgh, Veterans' Mountain Camp, Kings Park and Walter Reed in Washington, have shown that we are needed as an organization to carry cheer and sunshine to the disabled buddies of our kin.

While a guest of the Legion and Auxiliary of Delaware county, I was presented a huge cake, beautifully decorated with the Legion emblem, which, with the help of Vice-Commander Ward, was taken to hospital No. 98 and given to Joe Burns, who shared it with every man on the ward and the verdict was: "The best cake ever made." A visit to the second largest unit in the State, Sea Cliff, was especially happy, as our Past National President, the late Dr. Barrett, was there.

On Armistice Sunday, I spoke of our work for the men in the hospitals in one of the churches, and right here let me suggest that we bring our Auxiliary before the churches as often as possible.

It was not an honor only but a privilege to attend the dinners in New York and Rochester to National Commander Drain and to hear his earnest plea for the disabled service man and the World War orphan. Each district meeting was, I am sure, the means of creating a better feeling of cooperation between officers and members. My visit to Malone, in the far North, will always be one of my happiest memories.

The conference of the states in the Eastern district, in Boston, was well attended with a delegation from the Department of twenty-seven, and all felt well repaid and proud of our National Vice-President, Mrs. Cocklin.

We of New York were proud to cast our vote at the National Convention in St. Paul with the winning candidate, but it was at the conference for "National Defense as Peace Insurance," called by our National President, Mrs. Oliphant, that we learned to know the wonderful woman who had been our choice at that Convention. From that conference, of which I hope there will be others, I am sure we went with the feeling expressed in the closing words of our National President: "We are going from this conference with the desire in our hearts for peace, but always peace with honor. As loyal citizens, that is not only our duty but it is our solemn obligation."

Your Department President has been proud to have had the opportunity of knowing and serving under a woman as big and noble as Mrs. Oliphant.

As your National Executive Committee woman, I have attended all sessions when called and reported same to the Department Executive Committee.

I was pleased to be appointed a member of the National Rehabilitation Committee, by our National President, and by Commander Drain, a member of the Clarksboro Billet Board, to which I was later elected Vice-Chairman.

To the chairmen of the nine districts I have only praise for their untiring efforts to have each district 100 per cent in all projects of the Department. Mrs. Pritchard, our Historian, a faithful attendant at executive meetings, has been greatly missed from the last few meetings. Our sympathy goes out to her in her great trouble. Mrs. Taylor, Chairman of Rehabilitation, has visited hospitals and carried the year's work to a successful close. Cooperation, under Mrs. Burnham, has been most successful as she, herself, has been cooperation personified. Our Chairman of Poppies, Mrs. Parkhurst, deserves more than honorable mention for her splendid work overcoming the many obstacles which were put in her path and bringing the Poppy campaign to such a satisfactory close. Although a new committee, our Child Welfare, with Mrs. Donovan as Chairman, has grown and I am sure will continue to grow as the need for this branch of our service is shown every day. To Mrs. Murphy, Chairman of Membership and Publicity, I must extend sympathy as well as congratulations, for her troubles and successes have been in service records and receiving news items. While there has been no special work for our Legislation Chairman, Mrs. Cookinham, she has not been idle, but has kept well posted on legislation that pertained to the service man. Mrs. Diefendorf, Chairman of Americanism, will show in her report that we are striving to be 100 per cent. American. Mrs. Ryan, while not a member of the Executive Committee, has as Chairman of Constitutions and By-Laws, done her best to have constitutions that would conform to State and National. Memorials have been a rather difficult problem but Mrs. Luke, as Chairman, has done all that could have been done. I am sure our Chairman of Emblems, Mrs. Reilly, has been working. Her own

unit won the Unit Emblem in the membership drive the early part of the year. Mrs. Hatch, as Chairman of F. I. D. A. C., has introduced a new work for us. Her recent bulletin shows her ability to handle the subject. Our Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Ransom, has given of her best and her efficient service is well worth the respect and regard I have for her. To State Commander Aronowitz I want to say: "Thank you," for his wonderful help and courtesy throughout the year. To Mrs. Bell, Chairman of this Convention, and her committee, I extend my deepest gratitude. It is to them that the success of this Convention is due.

All of the road of '24-'25 has not been smooth. There has been many a rough place, but with the faithful cooperation of the State Executive Committee we have made the terminal and I am happy to say there has been naught but harmony in the Committee. To each member for her part in bringing the year to a successful and happy close, I extend my sincere thanks. I look back over the year with, may I say, justifiable pride, and great has been my pleasure in mothering the daughters of this organization. In looking forward to the year to come, I urge you to give to the new administration that same hearty support we of the closing year have enjoyed. To my successor I wish as happy a year as I have had. May her path during the coming year lead ever upward and to her and this Department, I bid God speed, for "God and county." (Applause.)

Madam Chairman, I move the adoption of this report. Seconded. Carried.

At this point Mrs. Garrison reassumes the Chair.

The Chairman: Mrs. Williams, Chairman of New York County, will give us our address of welcome at this time. (Applause.)

Mrs. Williams (New York): Madam President, Officers and Delegates of the Department of New York of The American Legion Auxiliary—It gives me great pleasure, as Chairman of New York County, to bid you a hearty welcome to this, the greatest city in the greatest State. (Applause.)

It is needless for me to go into detail and take your valuable time at this moment to tell what has been planned and done for you for without doubt you have already heard it. But it is our aim to make you just as comfortable as we possibly can make you while you stay here in our city. We hope that you will enjoy your stay and that the memories of this stay will tuck at your heart strings and that in the very near future you will wish to return again. Madam President, New York County wishes for you a very successful, happy and harmonious Convention. We hope you too will like your stay here, enjoy it to such an extent that we shall have the honor and pleasure of having you in our midst soon again and, on behalf of New York County, I present this token, a tribute of our love and esteem. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mrs. Williams, Chairman of New York County, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to accept, in behalf of this convention, the hospitality of New York City and New York County. We have already enjoyed as an executive body some of that hospitality at breakfast early this morning and I want to tell you and assure you that we are positive we are going to have a happy stay with you. Thank you. (Applause.) Our Chairman of Credentials is not quite ready. We will have the Secretary's report at this time, Mrs. Ransom.

The Secretary: To the Department President, Members of the Department Executive Committee, and Fifth Annual Convention of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York—Greetings!

It is with a certain amount of pride and pleasure that I present to you at this time my fourth annual report as your Department Secretary.

The year just past has been one that will long be remembered by all the members of your Executive Committee as one of the very hardest yet experienced in our history. But, notwithstanding our many hardships, it has been a pleasant one and a happy year.

Our very first obstacle to overcome was the distribution of the membership application blanks and the subsequent enforcement of the new ruling concerning the filing of these blanks. This was far from an easy or a pleasant task. However, all things considered, we have had fairly good results and the National Department has congratulated us upon our endeavors to meet with their requirements.

Our membership at the close of business this year shows a total of 12,392, which is a little less than our membership of last year. This is the first year in our history that we have shown a decrease and the reason for it is very obvious. We can lay it to nothing else but the membership blanks. Many units have experienced difficulty in obtaining service records and when we finally notified the units that renewing members need not fill out the blanks immediately, but could send them in a little later, either our instructions were overlooked or misunderstood and the dues were still held up. If you could have sat in my office during the last days prior to the convening of this Convention, you would have been amazed at the number of letters which were received asking why membership cards and delegates' credentials had not been received and, upon checking up, we discovered in almost every case that no dues had been received at headquarters.

While we may feel a bit unhappy about the condition of our membership, we have great cause for rejoicing in the gain we have made in the securing of permanent charters. Since the close of the last convention, we have issued 166 charters. This is a gain of 73 over the previous year. We have canceled a great many

dead units, thus bringing our total number of unchartered units down to about 30. We wish that we might go to the National Convention at Omaha and report to them that we have cleaned the slate and I am hoping that before this Convention adjourns we will have realized our ambition.

Twenty-four units have been organized this year and while all of their charters have not been issued they will be before the close of the year. Many are still waiting until they have served their three months' probation.

As I have said before, the work at Department Headquarters has been unusually hard this year but much has been accomplished. We have compiled and distributed eight regular bulletins and bulletins on Rehabilitation, Fidac, Membership Drive, Convention Call and official Convention Information, notice to all County Treasurers and Poppy Bulletin.

Regular meetings of the Department Executive Committee have been held and notices and minutes of these meetings have been duly sent to all members of the Committee.

Over 2,000 pads of application blanks, 12,000 membership cards and 150 pads of remittance sheets have been mailed, to say nothing of the miscellaneous supplies and copies of the proceedings of both the National and Department Conventions.

Contributions to both the House Furnishing and Billet Funds at National Headquarters have been received and properly recorded and forwarded to National and lists of the units making said contributions will be found in the last issue of the *Empire State Legionnaire*. Please bear in mind that these lists were up to the time of the closing of our books on August 10th and subsequent receipts are not included.

During the year your Department Secretary has written thousands of letters. I very much fear that some of these have gone astray from time to time, according to reports I hear, but the carbon copies still remain at Headquarters and may be seen at any time.

I especially want to thank, at this time, Mrs. A. L. Burnham, Mrs. George Murphy, Mrs. E. Boulee and last, but not least, Mrs. Garrison, for their assistance at headquarters when it has seemed as though we never could wade through the detail. Without you, I am sure, I would have been lost.

Our first membership drive, lasting from November 15 to December 31, 1924, resulting in many members signing up by that time, was won by the Cortland unit at Cortland, N. Y. This unit enrolled 139 members within the given period and to this unit will go the Unit Banner, the prize for this contest.

The second membership drive, closing on August 10th, has been won by the Malone unit.

The largest unit in the State is still the Binghamton unit, with a membership this year of 201. The second largest is still that of the James F. Brengel Post — my very own unit. This unit has 189 members, an increase of 21 over the previous year. The third largest unit is the Malone unit, with 186 members and an increase of 49 over last year.

The district having the largest number of paid-up members is the second district, which has a total membership of 2,552, or an increase of 174.

The second largest district is that of the seventh, with a total of 1,706.

Queens county, in the second district, has the largest membership in the State, namely 828, and Monroe county, with a membership of 652, is the second largest county.

Like every other year, we have had very little extra money with which to work but we have given generously to both the funds for furnishing National Headquarters and to the Children's Billet at Otter Lake, Michigan. We have, to the best of our ability, cooperated with National Headquarters and have received, from time to time, letters of commendation for our efforts.

I have had the pleasure of visiting many of the units and everywhere I have found that there is a better understanding of what the aims and purposes of the Auxiliary are and a desire on the part of Auxiliary members to further the great cause for which we are organized.

In closing my report, it is my privilege to thank each and every member of the Department Executive Committee for their help at all times. It has been a pleasure to have worked with you all and it is to be regretted that the year is so soon ended.

I would be remiss if I did not mention at this time the splendid spirit of cooperation which has been evidenced by the Legion Headquarters Staff. Our faithful Joe Burns was always ready and willing to lend a hand and when he was obliged to go away for his health we missed him sorely. To Commander Aronowitz for his interest and help and to Mr. Sudhoff and Miss McCaully I am deeply indebted.

To Mrs. Garrison I want especially to extend my great thanks and appreciation for all that she has meant to me this year. She has been with me at Headquarters almost constantly, when not out on her upstate trips, and her advice and good cheer have seen me through many a dark and trying time.

Let us remember that: "The plugger stands at the head of his band, while the drifter drifts out to sea."

Respectfully submitted.

(Applause.)

Madam Chairman, I move the adoption of my report. Seconded.
Carried.

Mrs. A. A. Ransom (Department Treasurer): I beg to submit my annual report.

Balance on hand, last report.....	\$1,003 29
Receipts for 1923, dues.....	4 50
1924, dues.....	531 50
1925, dues.....	9,408 50
charter fees	382 00
children's billet	775 20
District of Columbia Service Club.....	390 00
furnishings at National Headquarters.....	168 00
miscellaneous	441 04

Making total receipts since the last Convention of..... \$12,100 74

And a total, including the balance of..... \$13,104 03

The disbursements have been as follows:

Refunds	\$32 00
For 1924, dues to National.....	7 25
1925, dues to National.....	3,097 25
charter fees	224 10
Department Convention expenses, 1924.....	856 68
National Convention expense, 1924.....	1,078 82
entertaining	4 50
stamps	540 00
telegraph and telephone.....	268 35
stationery and printing.....	238 01
salaries	2,300 00
children's billet	775 20
Service Club	256 50
Executive Committee	2,308 68
District Chairmen's expense.....	349 18
miscellaneous	424 10

Making a total of disbursements..... 12,760 62

Leaving a balance on hand as of September 1, 1925, of... \$343 41

Respectfully submitted.

These books have been audited by the Finance Committee. Pending the receipt of the Auditing Committee's report, I move the adoption of the report. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: I think our State Commander has arrived and if some of the pages will escort the Commander to the platform we will be glad to receive him.

Commander Aronowitz is escorted to the platform, the Convention arising amid applause.

The Chairman: Our State Commander, Mr. Aronowitz. Our Commander is going to say a word to us.

Mr. Samuel E. Aronowitz (Commander, Department of New York): Madam President, Members of the Auxiliary—As I have seen many of you during the year, I think that you know pretty well my views as to the value and the worth of the Auxiliary. There was a time when the members of the Auxiliary seemed to

be on the defensive. They were trying to justify the fact that they had an organization — that there was some reason for it. During the past year the Auxiliary has demonstrated in the most conclusive way its usefulness and its benefit to the Legion. I have in every way possible attempted to have those posts which so far have not organized units do so, because it has been my experience that those Legion posts which have Auxiliary units do the best work of any of our posts and I attribute that to a large extent to the influence of the Auxiliary.

When your organization was first started you naturally came to the Legion for assistance and guidance and I know that at times you didn't get quite the support and cooperation that you should have had. You have grown so in the last few years, not only in numbers but in power, that at the present time the Auxiliary no longer needs to come to The American Legion for either assistance or support. In fact, we find our positions quite reversed and now we of The American Legion go to The American Legion Auxiliary for aid in solving American Legion problems. (Applause.)

During the past year your President, Mrs. E. B. Garrison, has given the greatest cooperation to the Legion that it was possible and with your Secretary, Mrs. Ransom, we have been in the closest liaison. The Auxiliary knew what the Legion was doing and the Legion knew that the Auxiliary was helping in putting over our program.

I want to extend to the delegates and alternates to this Auxiliary Convention the greeting of The American Legion, Department of New York, with the hope, trust and belief that this Convention will be very enjoyable and that you will accomplish much of real worth for your future success. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mr. Commander, in behalf of the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of The American Legion Auxiliary, I want to thank you for the splendid cooperation that we of the Auxiliary have had from you and your Legion body. I thank you. (Applause.) I think at this time we will have Monsignor Chidwick give us a few words.

Rt. Rev. Monsignor John P. Chidwick: Madam Department President, Officials, Members of the State Organization—I scarcely know what to say, inasmuch as I am directed on a road different from that which I expected to travel when I came here. I suppose, owing to the congested traffic of New York City, I was late in arriving and, as I was asked to give the invocation, my late arrival necessitated your Chaplain to take my place and I am sure she did it extraordinarily well.

In talking of late arrivals, I remember a story of an Irishman who went down to pay his rent one time. Of course they always pay their rent. This was in Ireland where on some occasions you didn't blame them if they didn't pay it. The landlord stated

that he thought it was an occasion upon which a little entertainment should be enjoyed. Of course, in these days, in our country all entertainment is taboo. But in those days of green Ireland it was quite customary to indulge in that kind of hospitality and so the landlord filled out a little toddy for Michael and Michael took it and sipped it and he didn't seem to like it. The landlord said: "What is the matter, Michael, isn't it all right?" "I suppose it is, I guess it is," and a frown came over his face. "Now you don't like that; I know you don't like it; something is the matter with it. What is the matter with it?" "Well," he said, "may I ask you how you made it?" He said: "Yes." "How did you make it?" "Oh," he said, "I put in the whiskey and then I poured in the water." "Oh," he said, "you put in the whiskey first?" "Yes." "And the water on top?" "Yes." "I suppose I will come to it after a while." (Laughter.)

So after a while we have come here. Now, I scarcely know — again I am a little bit confused, I must say, in finding so many women with the same kind of hats. I have often on the streets tried to find two women with the same kind of hats and couldn't find them, although I have nieces and I know one sister wears the other sister's hat sometimes. (Laughter.) Still they have their own individuality expressed in their own millinery. But, joking aside, I want to congratulate you with all my heart upon the splendid organization, so well represented with these large numbers here this morning. It is the proper thing that you women would be organized into Auxiliaries, not that you should organize to perpetuate hatred or to advocate war but that you should organize that men who did their duty to their country when the country needed generous health sacrificed should not be forgotten. (Applause.) No one better than those who have dealt with our soldiers know the influence of the women upon the soldier. I have seen men fever stricken in tents and burned almost to a cinder after the nights of fever and in the morning when the good, beautiful sun shone upon the flag that floated outside of the tent I have seen the smile come over their faces as they realized what they were suffering for, for the millions of homes, and then I saw that smile deepen as the letter from a mother or a sister or a wife came into their hands. You cannot expect a soldier to do his full duty if the affairs at home are not going right. You cannot expect the eye to be free from a tear and the finger to be stiff and strong for the work that is required if the heart be weakened by sorrow. And it is the way the women do at home in times of distress, what you do to keep homes happy and cheerful, what you do to make those that are fighting at the front feel that there are those who are caring for their beloved at home and they are fighting for a grateful people, for a people who love them, for the sacrifices they are making, these are the things that nerve the hand and clear the eye and make stout the heart to do the heavy, go through the heavy hardship and pay the awful sacrifice often required of them.

And as your Auxiliary is in time of war so should you be perpetuated for your own honor in time of peace. The country should know those women who has cheated them, whose husbands, whose brothers were they who were the instruments in the hands of Divine Providence for bringing the standard of the country from the smoke and fire of battle and with maimed bodies and bleeding hearts at times winning victory from almost defeat.

God bless you, my dear women, for what you did during the war to cheer the soldier at the front. May God's blessings be upon you in your present organization whose unselfish purpose is that these men shall be remembered, their homes and their children and their widows.

There is you know a group of people in our country who are called extreme pacifists who want to do away not only with war but do away with every remembrance of war, who want to plow up our battle fields, overthrow our monuments, wipe from the face of the earth every encomium that a grateful nation has placed in the memory for those who when she needed them went forth to even sacrifice life. There are those who would tear out from the pages of our history everything that tells us of the noble conflict through which liberty has passed in order to bring greater freedom and greater peace upon mankind. We don't want war. Our country doesn't want war, no man or woman wants war who has a human heart within the breast. We want to see men classed in love and not in hatred. We want to see fields that are golden with the grain and not plowed by the cannon shot. We want to see our cities ringing with the hum of industry and not the cries of widows and of orphans. We want to have our country in peace and happiness and to have God's sunshine fall upon the fields and homes of other countries as well. So there is no hatred in our heart and no desire for war, but what we say is this: That there being as we hope there will come the day when all battle flags will be furled and all nations gathered in one great parley of the world. Come as we hope and pray it will, that the world will not forget and our country will not forget that there was a time when war was a necessity. There was a time when there was not peace, there was a time when the country called upon her children to do a bidding that the sacrifice of wife, of home, wife and children and all things dear and those men who did that bidding when war was and when the stern call came, those men should not and must not be forgotten. Then on with all the measures for universal peace that we can possibly push forward, then on with everything that any human being or groups or action or nations can do to bring peace and love into the hearts of all mankind. But in that day let there still stand erected those beautiful monuments to those heroes who gave all they had when the country needed and demanded them and sacrificed all things that others might be blessed even by their death.

This is the idea that you stand for and God bless you for it and God bless you for all the other aims and purposes that your

organization has. I am sure to bring greater concord among the people of our country, to do away with all hatred between individuals, that means hatred between groups, that means hatred between classes, that means hatred between sections, that unity from the toppest, the highest peak of our country down to the lowest hamlet in the country, unity, love of God, love of country and love of one another shall remain that this country of ours that has been an unspeakable blessing to the countless millions of God's children whom it has raised up from abandon and despair and taught the dignity of human nature and the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, that these ideals shall continue to prosper, grow bigger and stronger in this beloved country of ours. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I want to tell you that we of the Auxiliary are the women that are praying for peace and peace with honor. Thank you. (Applause.)

Mrs. Williams: Madam President, Mrs. Bell, it was not my privilege to be in the room when you presented your report to this assemblage as Chairman of this Convention Committee. My official duties prevented it. But at this time I am honored to address you in behalf of the Chairmen of your several committees. We wish to extend to you our very best wishes, and, Madam President, and Delegates, I want you to know that our Chairman has worked and labored very, very hard for our welfare and comfort at this time. She has worked since January and I know you all want to know this, and we, the members of her committee, appreciate very, very deeply all that she has done.

Mrs. Bell, your charming personality and your sterling qualities have won a very deep place in our hearts and so at this time we wish to express our wishes and feelings in presenting to you this little tribute of our love with our kindest wishes, good memories from the past and our friendship for the future. (Applause.)

Mrs. Bell: I'd just like to say that much as I appreciate these beautiful flowers they can't mean any more to me than the wonderful cooperation I have had from my committee. Credit, if any, is due to the chairmen of the committees and not to the General Chairman. Thank you very much. (Applause.)

The Secretary: For your information and record, following are the names of the women from the various districts who have been appointed by your District Chairman to serve on convention committees:

Constitution and By-Laws

Mrs. William R. Kenes, Chairman

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Westerman | 4. Mrs. Hehr | 7. Miss Donoho |
| 2. Miss R. Newman | 5. Mrs. Thomas Vail | 8. Mrs. W. R. Pooley |
| 3. Mrs. Smith | 6. Mrs. Carlton Brown | 9. Miss Freeborn |

Resolutions Committee

Mrs. Charles R. Seymour, Chairman

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Williams | 4. Mrs. Clinton | 7. Mrs. Hopkins |
| 2. Mrs. T. J. Hurley | 5. Mrs. C. L. Servis | 8. Mrs. H. S. Brown |
| 3. Mrs. L. Clarke | 6. Mrs. W. T. McHugh | 9. Mrs. J. W. Noll |

Finance Committee

Mrs. A. L. Burnham, Chairman

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. Mrs. Daly | 4. Mrs. Cocoran | 7. Miss Orlopp |
| 2. Miss T. Swain | 5. Mrs. John Gowan | 8. Mrs. Ostentag |
| 3. Miss M. Mearu | 6. Mrs. D. M. Hooks | 9. Mrs. M. Ely |

In the front of the platform is a picture of our new Children's Billet at Clarkboro, N. J., and those of you who are interested, and I am sure all are, in our kiddies down there, there are ten now, I want you all to see the picture and know what we are working for. They are all beautiful children, because I have seen them very recently.

Our session in the morning will begin at 9:30, prompt. We are to have but the one session. If you will attend to your job that you have come to the Convention for, we will have but the one session; that will give us the afternoon for a little recreation and for our convention committee meetings. The session tomorrow morning will begin promptly at 9:30.

Is there anything further to be brought before this session? If not, the Colors will be retired at this time.

The Convention rises as the Colors are retired.

The Chairman: The session will stand adjourned until 9:30, sharp, tomorrow morning.

The session adjourned at 1:20 P. M.

The Friday morning session of the Convention was called to order at 9:45 o'clock.

The Chairman: The Convention will come to order.

At this point the Colors are advanced and the Convention rises, reciting the Pledge to the Flag.

The Chairman: We will listen to the invocation by the Rt. Reverend Lloyd, representing Bishop Manning.

The Rt. Reverend Lloyd delivers the invocation.

The Chairman: We have the privilege of having with us one of our own Auxiliary women who is going to give us a reading as part of our Memorial Service this morning and it gives me pleasure to introduce to you Mrs. Bowman. (Applause.)

Mrs. Bowman: The daughter of a veteran of two wars, the sister of a veteran of the Spanish war, the wife of a veteran of the late war, I have written all these lines that I shall give to you out of a heart that feels and thrills to the keynote of patriotism.

Mrs. Bowman read several of her poems.

The Chairman: Some two or three years ago when we had our Regional Conference in New York City, everyone of us that attended that Conference had a treat. We are going to have that same treat and those of us that were at that Conference I know are going to be doubly pleased and those of you that were not there are going to have something to carry back, I am sure. It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you Commander William Seaman Bainbridge, U. S. Naval Reserve.

Mr. William Seaman Bainbridge (Commander, U. S. N. R. F.): Most gracious and all-believing and optimistic President, Members of the Executive Committee, all of you Comrades and specially in the gallery up to my left, I believe I am an honorary member of the Nassau county (applause) Auxiliary—The fact that you invited me here for the first time I consider it a great opportunity and a pleasure to have you ask me a second time so near the first so that all that heard the first are not old and infirm, dead or absent for some other causes is certainly triumphant and I deeply appreciate the opportunity to come here, Madam President, today, and I always believe in getting my orders. She says as long as I want. I prefer to sit down and listen to more of the beautiful poetry we have been listening to, a reminiscent vein of the past and hear some of you people. I'd much prefer that but I have a little message I hope that may be of interest and perhaps of help to some of us.

No institution, no matter how inspiring its beginning may be, how those that brought it into being believed in its future and anxious for it to take its place in its own sphere of usefulness, unless that organization had a mission to fulfill, a service of practical value to render, cannot long endure. There was years ago, there is still but as the years go by it is becoming less prominent, a nobility of inheritance, a nobility of birth; there came then later a nobility of possession, a nobility of riches, material riches and then we have stepped out in the later years into a greater nobility of all into which nobility everyone of you have entered and entered wholeheartedly with practical intent to make that nobility a living thing in your lives and in the lives of all that come in contact with you, the nobility of service, the highest and best of all.

The American Legion's Preamble. What a wonderful thing it is. It tells so much that we are to do and that we have a field in which to work but how insignificant compared with sentiments that are constantly in certain quarters given forth and voiced in regard to the narrow gauge that they think our organization is. They don't know us and therefore they misjudge us. Like the old story. You will remember that a certain person in literature said: "I don't want work to meet a certain party, I don't want you to be introduced, I don't want you to know them. If you meet them you'd know them and I want you to hate them." Paraphrasing that bit which you heard so many times, it is true today.

We have in that magnificent Preamble the sphere of our activities, the reasons for our birth and more than that, for our existence and our increasing activity in the future. We have real work to do; not simply to sit by and chronicle the past. We are today in an active conflict. The job is not over; there is lots of unfinished business to be done. The job is not over there, nor is it over here, nor is it over for today or tomorrow. There is a call for men and women to make the world new, not only to brighten the little corner where we are, but the world is a unit today in its needs. In spite of all to belittle our efforts and make light of our aims and purposes, we can confidently with what happened since the birth of the organization of The American Legion stand aside, view ourselves and say confidently, "On with the sword."

But as we look about—I just want to touch here and there on a few little educos, if you will. I was taught in studying my Latin that "educo" means points from which radiating out, the start of something, start thought or action.

The other day—I am going to drive home; perhaps you do not appreciate just this side—the other day I was in a gathering of some 4,000 men and women. On the platform in this large out of door audience was a group of men that wore the blue and there were those that wore the gray. The meeting was the Grand Army today, celebrating the great war that must not be forgotten and the heroes that certainly were heroes for all times, on both sides. The flag was produced, a song was sung, and a reading of that monstrous thing, of course, in its place "A Man Without a Country" was read by a scholastic representative of a college. He did it well, and then the last half was given over to the following speech: In substance it is this: War is finished, that diabolical thing, we have cast it off forever, but we must be careful or else we may stir up the demon and he will become transmigrated into life again and the way we can do it is not to talk of war. We must not at our meetings discuss war and let us while we want to get—get this, please—while we want to, of course, occasionally refer to certain deeds that were done, that were characteristics of heroes and we want to once in a while spend a little time in discussing some of those of the past, we must not delve too much in our historical viewpoint or our meetings or patriotic gatherings or anniversaries about those and what they did because we might stir up war, that we have got to have soldiers and sailors of the past put aside, that we have reached the point where we will be of the day that fought in the war that you and that I have got to be sort of camouflaged in the light of our children and grandchildren. It is hard in my mind to believe an orthodoxy of that kind is preached today and I went home sad of heart. The insidious propaganda that has been at work to destroy is finding its fruitage and evidence of its fruitage in more ways than one. I am sure you will bear me out. And then some of us realize, and I spoke of that two years ago, I think it was, when I was here and I dwelt on the unfinished business that you are particularly cap-

able and willing and really able and the only ones really able to do it to complete certain things in relation to the immediate war and that is to put heart in the government, to put heart or supplement the government by heart because when the war is over the outpouring at the end of the war of the heart as well as the head you will immediately find it must go back inexorably to the inexorable law of the government without heart and there is unfinished business very largely to deal with certain questions that cannot come legitimately under government control but that the heart of the women are particularly able and willing in your case to supplement.

Now we talk of discontent on every side. We don't need to talk of preparing for a war way out in Tierra del Fuego or somewhere else. It is right here now within the State of New York. There are over several hundred organizations in America today whose main purpose is to destroy our system of civilization and to tear down our government and those organizations have their by-laws and are well organized for action and are at work. As we look about we certainly are burdened when we think of the discontent here. We think of Spain and we think of this country and that country as well. We are in the Elysium fields of bliss comparatively but do you realize right here in New York the expression of discontent against the situation as we find it and you know too the laws and so on and regulations that we live under that there were over 200 murders in New York and only one murder in the city of Madrid. Madrid has practically one million people and we have less than six or about six. What is the cause of that? It is one thing or another. Is it a discontent based on anything that we are directly or indirectly responsible for? When I find — I am burdened, when I find that some great leaders — I could mention their names — have gone and are going among our college men and women and are able to gather as they did only a few months ago 6,000 representatives of the colleges of Canada and America and there to ask the young men and women to pledge at all times their influence to never take part in any way in either a defensive or an offensive war under any circumstances and to have no ear to hear or hand to help any of those that were in such things and as I look about this noble gathering of women it gives me a lesser burden when I think of those other women of Chicago and centralized parts meeting in Chicago and saying that they would not even knit a sweater for a soldier or nurse a soldier, or sailor that had fought for this country. That is a new dictum for the peace of the future.

And then, I am going to give you as I said a few points here and there from which you perhaps will carry out talk. Some complained that Beecher always preached on one theme, that he never talked of anything in his pulpit during his entire life but love of some kind relating to affection of the Godhead, love in its expressions of life between God and man and its correlated relationships and he was asked one day "Why don't you preach on something else?" He said: "Life is too short; I haven't time to preach on

the other things." It seems to me that some dear good leaders of our faith that are speaking from other pulpits are so possessed and obsessed with one or two different lines that they have no time to read the rest of it. In other words, you don't need to shudder when you come against we say a minister or a saturated Saint of the past that says: "Now, here, you can't do so and so because it isn't Scriptural." I am a naval officer but I look through the Scripture and I find that rejoice is ever there and I find that in there there are 160 commands to prepare and I find that to serve is 300 times and I hear that the strong and not the animate, spineless individuals occur some 60 times. Don't feel that you have immediately got to back water and step aside. I want you not only to turn your cheek and let it be touched on the other side but let us write unto you young men because you are strong, prepare, prepare and in spite of all that rejoice.

I have got a whole lot of them here. If anybody will look up their concordance they can take the next three months in reading and then stump some other person that sits down and wishes to deluge you by such points as I have just given you. I just want to give you this thought: There is a time of war and a time of peace and I want you to also remember that all scripture is given under inspiration for a guidance, for a proof for correction. That is just as good fundamental as modern, literal or labor.

Now, another thing that burdens, the attack on the Army and Navy, trying to take away the sinews of war. We want to be economical. That is splendid. We all want it. I was trying the other day to give a little talk to questioners. We must all be ready to give the answer and give a reason for the faith that is in us to any man, woman or child that asks us. They said, what is the use of all this expenditure and we are having these boats and gave the whole argument that you and I heard so often. Then I tried to show how these young men and young women, many are sent back as helpers, how they are better Americans, how they are stronger physically, how every young woman and every young man knows at a certain time he is going to be overhauled physically, morally and mentally; he is going a little straighter and finds it pays and when he goes back in the small community from which he comes he will be the keyman or keywoman and say: "Well, boys, I know it pays to do so and so" and the health officer comes along and says: "We have to quarantine this house" and there is an uprising and the young man or woman comes along and says: "No, I have a kiddie across the street and I am going to be with that health proposition." As the Assistant Surgeon-General of the Public Health said to me recently that one of the great things coming out of the war is the placing in various communities all over America of young men and women that know it pays to be clean and sanitary. You say they don't live up to it and there is lots of fault. We haven't followed Emerson's splendid advice to hitch your wagon to a star. And then when I couldn't seem to get any headway with that lady—there was a group of them, plural. I

think I made a pretty good argument and I turned and I said: We talked war a good deal and so on, "who are you fond of in your writing of history?" She said: "I do love Ruskin, I just love Ruskin, it is splendid." The other said: "Yes, I want to get Moore, 'Stone of Venice,' it is wonderful. I have just been abroad and I have taken that as my Bible." I said: "I'd like to quote from Ruskin for you, you like him so much." She said: "Do." And here is what Ruskin has to say: "So far as the works of peace being separated from those of war—all the fine and noble arts of peace are founded on war. No greater art ever arose on earth but among a nation of soldiers, there is no art among a shepherd people if it remains at peace. There is no art among an agricultural people if it remains at peace. Manufactory not only is unable to produce it but invariably destroys it, whatever seeds exist. There is no great art possible to a nation but that that is based on battle. We talk of peace and plenty and peace of civilizations but I found that those were not the words that the muse of history coupled together. That on her lips the words were peace and sensuality, peace and selfishness, peace and death. I found in brief that all the great nations learned their truth of word and strength of thought in war that they were nourished in war and wasted in peace, taught by war and deceived by peace, strained by war and betrayed by peace; in a word, that they were born in war and expired in peace."

That didn't make very much headway, I was sorry to say, and was not very well received, but I think the point was clear. Now, we are not advocating war in the ordinary sense of the term. You know how you define war. War is the policy of government carried on by means other than those of peace. I repeat that, war is the policy of government carried on by other means than those of peace. That isn't mine. That is a pretty great authority. Let me repeat this to you — war is not that you or I or all of us become angered to this or other countries, but it is the policy of government to bring about a certain objective. The policy may be defensive, as when we are attacked, or may have various forms of defensiveness, such as when it became a policy of this country and set Cuba free. A government cannot set about to carry out these policies either in peace or war unless it has adequate power with which to go about its work. Consequently all governments have it in arms and individuals and to that extent carry on a certain degree of preparedness. In this way it is a show of strength to aggressive neighbors that we are not entirely defenseless and at the same time it strengthens the hand of government in carrying on its intercourse with other nations.

As I speak these words I, of course, know it is in your minds and mine that we should do away with war. That would be a fine thing, just like doing away with fire or floods or whooping cough or any other thing that we do not like. It would be a very nice thing to live always. It would be a splendid thing, but the moment we enter the world until the last day it is a battle

royal and we have to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling and present our whole body which is a reasonable sacrifice. In answer to the elimination of war, all we know from the earliest dawn of history — I am giving you a few facts that you will, perhaps, carry away in aduce to answer arguments, and you have to be propagandists wherever you are, because there are the other propagandists that are seeking to overwhelm public sentiment and tear away the insurance policies that we believe today are necessary in our national life as in relation to our house we live in or our lives that we are carrying on. In the decade before the World War banks, business men and people in general were prone to say and, in fact, to believe that another large war could not occur, but nevertheless it came and showed itself to be a larger war than all others of the past. So with that hope that springs eternally in our breast let us believe that the future will do away with all war or perhaps postpone war to many, many years, but let us be prepared.

From the standpoint of war and preparedness of war the national mind of this country has been opposed to the idea. However, a study of our wars shows that through bitter experience we have learned step by step that each war has resulted in advance and preparedness. After the Revolutionary War we decided there was to be no army and, in fact, we did not have more than one or two regiments when the War of 1812 came upon us and found us in such a state of unpreparedness that a handful of reserve men from the British Navy landed and went to our Capitol and burned it and overran our country. That taught us something and in the war of Mexico it found us in a little better state of preparedness and from that war we also learned.

However, in the years just preceding the Civil War our efforts at preparedness were all utilized in the development of the West, so that the war, starting in the East, found us without ready means to take it in hand. Had we at that time, at the time of the Battle of Bull Run — get this, please, and this comes from a very leading military officer who believes in doing away with war, but, being prepared for it, believes in peace, but also believes in fighting for it if you have to. I quote, "Had we at the time of the Battle of Bull Run had as much as 25 or 30,000 regular troops ready and available the Civil War would have lasted 30 days instead of 4 years and the resulting devastation of large areas of the country as well as the loss of 1,000,000 able-bodied men and the billions of treasure involved in the useless expenditure." If we had been prepared, do you think we'd ever had the sinking of the Lusitania, do you believe the World War would have lasted if we had been prepared? Some people on the other side of the water believe that hundreds of thousands of men sleep over there under the sod because we were not ready to come in or give at least assurance that we could come in if certain things did not happen. As a result of the World War we are better prepared today than ever in the past and nationally our leaders are coming

to apply common sense methods to the problem; that is, that preparedness is necessary just as is the assurance against any calamity.

As to the details, it doesn't mean we should have large armies or peace time efforts devoted to manufacture of cannon and powder. Modern war has so changed that it is the utilization of all the energies of our country. It is, in other words, tabulating up and you know the effort today. And let us be back of it, let us find out our total capacity to do our best where we are when called upon to do it and remember there is no longer a small Army and a small Navy or large Army and large Navy in uniform but the greatest army in war today is the army that has no uniform but has a heart in the right place and ready ever to do all they can, the best they can where they are and are asked to serve. (Applause.) And that is what you are doing and are ready to do.

Now a tabularization of that is not a red rag, is not an attempt to glorify our assets, it is not an attempt to have strut around with a chip on your shoulder, it is an honest effort to find out what we could do if we were asked to do it and each one, man, woman and child ready to do their best bit when called and keeping ever fit to do that. There are two extremes. There is the iron and bloody policy of Bismark, the Germans, thoroughly prepared, over-strong, strutting up and down inviting attack with a philosophy that war should be quick and sure and bitter and cruel to make it short and therefore in the last analysis do less harm and more human. That is a different philosophy than ours. But with that philosophy on the one hand we find the pacifist ever looking at that monster and they are thinking of that on the other extreme is just as wrong and that is China with a beautiful story of Confucius. The splendid thing about Confucius was all that he taught we can accept. All that he taught you can take and make your own and it is a real good moral code but without something more what have you—China with the philosophy of Confucius, placid and calm saying, "I will not fight, I will not take any means of self-protection, I will just be a real good model pacifist. I ask to be let alone and I beg you no war." And what has happened? The outsiders have come and torn it to pieces and China today is a seat of war and the dry rot of pacifism finds its full fruition. Between the two there is something that I believe, a position that we can occupy which is safer, saner and more enduring.

Now here is another point I want to strike home. Get this because it is fundamental. Truth is flexible with time, truth is flexible with time. We fight all supposedly for truth. What is truth? I am building up in your mind a thought of how today we have not accepted what truth is and until we have between all the nations and between all the peoples and inside as well as outside the country mutual confidence and respect there will be a very great changing of the needle of the compass of truth. Truth is flexible with time. Second, truth is so great, so complex and relative that

it permits a person, communities and nations to view any subject radically differently otherwise truth would be stale and uninteresting. You get that! Third, all life is conflict, otherwise inertia, stagnation, extended function and death. That is individually as well as collectively.

The other day I was at a great gathering in Paris, a great dinner. There were 1,504 people that sat down. There were forty-odd nations represented. There were the great men of France, there was Foch, and there was Joffre and Petain and the others. You find a brass band of 100 pieces. You are all there gathered together to complete an international congress trying to study the lessons that the war taught in medicine, surgery and medication, to try to study out of the world cataclysm to find lessons that you and I in civil lives and our children and children's children might profit by and live longer and better. That was the peace side. And then, second, if there happened to be a war that something to ameliorate the sufferings and make less horrible the conflict may be discovered. The congress is over and we gathered there. Many toasts were given that night and one of the toasts that took hold of the people, they were allied, the associated, the neutral powers and new countries and one of the toasts appealed to the audience and they almost took and tore him limb from limb in their affection and regard—the one that gave that toast. That person was deluged not only with laudation and with physical evidence of approval, but the amount of champagne that was poured over him was certainly an alcoholic memorable bath. This was the toast and I think that that toast is the one for you today and I think it is the one that would be much more appropriate for you than for even that Congress. It was this: The toast was to the league of hearts not heads alone, a league of hearts for the cause that lacks assistance, for the wrongs that need resistance, for the future in the distance and the good that we may do. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I hope everyone has just absorbed every word of what Commander Bainbridge has brought to us and I hope you have all made a pencil note as well as a mental note of the toast. Thank you, Commander. The Department President of New Jersey is in the room. I would like to ask one of the pages to bring her to the platform. Ladies, it gives me pleasure to introduce to you Mrs. Greer, the new Department President, of New Jersey. (Applause.)

Mrs. Lillian R. Greer: (Department President, New Jersey): Madam President and Delegates of the Convention—I am not going to make a speech. I have only been President about twelve days and I haven't really learned my job yet. But I want to bring heart-felt greetings from your little sister from across the river and all good wishes that you may have a profitable and harmonious Convention. If it is as nice as ours was, I have no doubt you will go home with very pleasant memories of our big city. (Applause.)

The Chairman: We have another guest with us this morning, a National representative, and I want to present to you at this time Mrs. Dobson, National Superintendent of the 8 and 40. Mrs. Dobson. (Applause.)

Mrs. George Dobson (National Superintendent, 8 and 40): Madam President and Members of the American Legion Auxiliary of New York—I can't do like your President did in our State when she came to us at our Convention. She said she could claim residence there and all sorts of wonderful things. While I can't do that I can say this: That when I came to New York State last night I felt I belonged here, at least, because all I got was "How do you do," "How do you do," and this morning when I came to the Convention Hall I said to Mrs. Paddleford: "Do you think I can come in?" and when I got to the door I certainly found I could. I found lots and lots of friends out there too.

Your Department President tells me I may talk for a moment on the 8 and 40. I am sure you all know what our organization is. It is the playground of the Auxiliary just as the 40 and 8 is the playground of the Legion. Our aim is fun, fellowship and get that word, please, "fellowship" and last of all, aid. We feel that the 40 and 8 have accomplished just lots and lots of things for The American Legion and we hope to do as much for our Auxiliary.

Perhaps some of you ladies may not know but this year every member of the 40 and 8 has been requested to get membership for the Legion and some of the men who receive a chevron for each 7 members I believe, have as many as 6 and 7 chevrons on their chapeaus so when you get out and see all the chevrons you know what they mean and what they have done this year individually.

I know you all know about the 8 and 40 because Mrs. Paddleford has been a wonderful organizer in your State, so wonderful that the Empire State, which is leading in everything, leads in 8 and 40 work. This morning she tells me she has organized 13 Salones, which is perfectly wonderful. We have Salones in every state in the United States, I believe, with one exception. What that exception is I don't know. But New York State is certainly doing its part. You all know you must be a member for six months before you can join, that you must have done some one single thing at least for your Auxiliary before you are eligible and you also know that we aim to have but one Salone in a county, following the 8 and 40 and likewise trying to accomplish our aim of promoting fellowship amongst our members. If we divide them up as the units are we are defeating the very aim for which we are organized.

Now I won't go into details about the organization but I do want to tell you something about the march. You are going to hold yours tonight. I had hoped to be with you. I may still. However, if I am not I wish you all kinds of wonderful times and I want everyone of you that can to come out to Omaha. We are starting or are going to use a new ritual out there and it is going

to be a real funny one. We are going to have music and we are going to have noise and just lots of it. If you are in Omaha you will know we are there too. And what is more, our National President, Mrs. Oliphant, is going to take part in the march. She hopes to depict something that has happened this year in her work. I am going to stop because I know you have just lots and lots to do and we are going to have our meeting tonight at which you will learn all you want to know.

I just want to congratulate you once again on the wonderful work and next year when I come if I have the privilege of coming over, I hope to see many more hats and I can't say get a more hearty welcome because that would be impossible. Ladies, I thank you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Now we have with us a distinguished guest, a representative, and when I say representative, I mean of our National Executive Committee and I am going to introduce to you now—a few of you know her—but I want you all to know and love her as I do—the National President of the East District of the National body, Mrs. Cocklin.

Mrs. Cocklin (National President, Eastern District): Madam President, Officers, and Members of The American Legion Auxiliary—I certainly am delighted to be able to be with you at this convention today to express to you and to your Department Officers my deep appreciation of your splendid support this year during my administration as your National Vice-President of this district. I feel if there has been anything accomplished as a National Vice-President it was the able support of such wonderful women as you that have made it so. And I feel I must express to you my heartfelt thanks for your cooperation all through the year. You have not only come over the top in Mrs. Dobson's branch of the work but you have come over the top in nearly every other part of our work. If you haven't yet I am sure you will. I have faith in all of my departments.

I am not going to take up your time with any speech this morning because I am not any speech maker and I can't make one and if I wrote one I couldn't read it and I am going to talk to you heart to heart as a kind of sewing circle affair.

I feel as I look over this audience and in fact it takes my memory back to a few years ago to the days of the service flag in our windows, flags with one, two, three and, yes, four stars in that little flag. Those stars sometimes faded and were changed to a gold star and to me that certainly was a service flag in every sense of the word. And it typified and is symbolic of the wonderful spirit of true American womanhood and motherhood and it is just such women as you that are going to fight this terrible conflict that we have to fight as Commander Bainbridge told you about here a few minutes ago, and I know you stand shoulder to shoulder with The American Legion in everything that they try to put over in that respect. We, the women folk of The American

Legion have a great responsibility and I know and feel that there is not one of us that is going to shirk that responsibility.

As the days go by and as we grow in our organization, because we are just children—I mean as an organization—there is always something new, there is some new development that we must take on. It is like the boy breaking down. The pinnacle of the break-downs they claim will not come until 1930. And so it is with our organization; there will always be something new until 1930 for us to take on and you have always met those responsibilities so beautifully that I feel sure that the Eastern District is going to continue its wonderful work.

I am going to Omaha very proud of the Eastern District and we should go that way because when we consider our National President is from the Eastern District we should feel a double sense of duty to go there one hundred per cent. in everything.

I didn't expect to talk to you at all. I told the boys today she made all the speeches for the organization, but I had to say a few words and thank you for your cooperation and tell you how proud I am of the Eastern District and I thank you, Madam President, and your co-workers for your hearty support in my year's work. I thank you. (Applause.)

Mrs. Helen O'Brien Daly (Chairman, First District): Madam President, Sister Officers, to The American Legion Auxiliary of New York in Convention Assembled—The First Judicial District is composed of two counties, i. e., New York County and Bronx County.

In this district we are called upon for many charitable contributions by various organizations, Boy and Girl Scouts, Salvation Army, etc., as well as donating and assisting in many religious fund drives, but with it all I find that the members of this district never forget that slogan on which our Auxiliary was founded: namely, "to take care of the disabled ex-service man until his last pain is cured."

We have several hospitals in our district which take care of our disabled ex-service men, the greater part of the work being confined to Veterans' Hospital 81, where there are over six hundred mentally deficient men, and Seton Hospital where there are over one hundred tubercular men. There are also twenty-nine patients being cared for on Welfare Island.

Our work in the hospitals was as follows: Holiday parties were given, when gifts were distributed; monthly dances were held, at which entertainment and refreshments were furnished; members made weekly visits to hospitals, distributing candy, cigarettes, playing cards, flowers and many delicacies, which helped to bring cheer to the sick. From time to time moving picture performances were given and the children of ex-service men were entertained. A radio was installed in Hospital 81 and a piano was presented to that hospital for the exclusive use of artists who entertain there. Cushions for rocking chairs previously donated were sup-

plied for the tubercular patients at Seton. We have purchased and helped to dispose of articles made by the patients of Hospital 81. Money was given to patients and their families when in need, also to Post members and their families when out of employment, and in many cases positions were procured. Clothing was furnished to patients in these hospitals and also to the Veterans' Mountain Camp. Layettes were given to infants of poor ex-service men. We have contributed to the furnishings of National Headquarters and to the children's billet.

We have always assisted the posts in their various welfare balls, memorial exercises, and in the decoration of ex-service men's and women's graves, and memorial trees and plaques.

From the foregoing it can readily be seen that approximately \$2,000 has been expended on welfare work.

During the year many of the Auxiliaries held dances, cake sales, theatre parties and card parties from which they derived the funds to carry on the work outlined above.

During the Poppy drive the net proceeds amounted to \$3,247.11, of which New York county turned in \$1,237.00 and Bronx county \$2,010.11.

It has given me a great deal of pleasure to represent the First Judicial District, and much credit must be given to the county and unit presidents who have worked assiduously, at all times, on behalf of the Auxiliary.

In closing, my fond hope is that the principles of The American Legion Auxiliary will ever remain imbedded in the hearts of every member, and the interests of the Disabled Veterans foremost in the minds of all.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Madam President, I move the adoption of my report. Seconded. Carried.

Mrs. A. L. Burnham (Chairman, Second District): Madam President, Officers and Delegates—Report of Second District, comprising Richmond, Kings, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties.

This has been a year of special contributions to National and State of Legion and Auxiliary, to which the District comes close to being 100 per cent.

Richmond county has done excellent work among her five units, especially at Marine and Seaview hospitals. Weekly visits have been made to both by the County Committee. Entertainment and refreshments to the former. At Seaview, care has been given to a German War bride, who states that she does not know what she would have done if it had not been for The American Legion Auxiliary. To the family of a colored ex-service man, who died at Marine Hospital, employment obtained and clothing given.

Kings county has been active in welfare, particularly at Brooklyn Naval Hospital, where it retains a clothing supply closet. The Welfare Committee have made 90 visits, and the Chairman draws

on County Fund when needed. One Unit sold articles made by the boys, realizing \$600.00. To the Baby Ward of Harbor Hospital, one Unit gave \$100.00 and three cribs. Material assistance in filling out adjusted compensation and State Bonus blanks has been given; one member devoting four weeks of her time at County Headquarters.

Queens county worked with the Legion Welfare, and also at its Service Office, Maspeth Post Headquarters. Units have supplied requested needs at Government hospitals; also sent subscriptions to Veterans' Mountain Camp exceeding \$350, assisted by cooperative organizations. To raise Welfare funds the county gives two affairs a year. It sold the second largest amount of Poppies in the State—\$5,217.68. One unit raised among its members \$300 for the National Endowment Fund.

Nassau county has been untiring at Kings Park and Farmingdale, its Welfare Chairman visiting weekly both institutions; units make monthly visits. All units contribute monthly to its welfare fund. Through their efforts a loud speaker was purchased for Kings Park. One unit sold many articles made by the boys in the vocational classes. Another worked four years to obtain \$10,000 W. R. I. for a veteran. The county has carried on an intensive Americanism program. Three new units organized, the largest district increase in members; and an Auxiliary exceeding Post membership by 40.

Suffolk county's activities are at Kings Park, State Hospital, Central Islip and Holtsville Sanatorium. For the latter a heliotherapy lamp was purchased in 1922, and the county is now to donate a much needed addition of a water tube, to cost \$300. Of this the Auxiliaries have raised \$205. The County Legion in Convention voted to contribute \$150 to this "child of the Auxiliary" which will make it possible for the Auxiliary to pay for installation. The general welfare expenditures in cash have been \$3,910.46. Contributions to Parley Aloha Fund, \$45.

The work of this county has been 100 per cent. over previous years, due to the untiring efforts of its chairman.

It is obvious that the District Units have had to hold all kinds of affairs to meet the demands for welfare and contributions to their Posts.

All Units have participated in memorials.

In the National Endowment Drive, Units have aided the Posts, and many have contributed. Suffolk has completed hers and gone over the top.

Over \$15,000 was turned in on Poppies for the district.

Membership is 2,549—increase for year 167. Six new units organized—number Units 74. There has been a weeding out of long dead or inactive Units. The membership, however, is more permanent.

Made 26 county visits; installed all county officers and few Unit officers.

With the exception of one Unit, we are 100 per cent. Permanent Charter, and our delegate strength to this Convention is 108.

About 150 copies of the book "Service" have been distributed. Four counties have organized Petit Salons—8 and 40.

The outstanding event was our District Conference held in April; 226 Auxiliary members sat down to luncheon, our guests being the State Commander and President, other State officers of Legion and Auxiliary and County Commanders of the District.

To the County Chairmen for their untiring efforts and cooperation I extend my deep gratitude; also to our State President, Mrs. Garrison, for her support and appreciation, to our State Secretary, who has been most helpful to the chairmen and myself.

In terminating two years of service, I do so with the feeling that my successor will be given the same whole-hearted support as has been given me.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

I move the adoption of my report. Seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Stanley Matthews (Chairman, Third District): Madam President, Officers and Delegates—For the past four months it has been my privilege to fill the unexpired year as chairman of the Third Judicial District.

Although at the very quietest time of the year for Auxiliary activity, with many Units suspending meetings for the summer, there has been splendid cooperation and a willingness to help from all of the Units.

The Third District is comprised of seven counties—Albany, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Greene, Columbia, Sullivan and Ulster.

Albany has a fine county organization of five Units all permanently chartered. The Units of this county assisted in several city and community drives, aided their posts in securing club rooms and held luncheons and rummage sales to make money.

Rensselaer County has an increase in membership and a reorganized unit. They are now planning to have a county organization within a couple of months.

Sullivan County has a thrifty and most cooperative county organization of four Units. This spirit of cooperation is fostered by the frequent joint meetings of all the Posts and Auxiliaries in the county. Flag Day was observed by the distribution of copies of "The Flag" to homes and places of business with the request that the Flag be displayed accordingly on all National holidays.

Columbia has just been reorganized as a county and has two very active Units. Their most unique way of making money was by means of a quilt, on the blocks of which autographs were embroidered at a price.

The three Units of Ulster County have concentrated this year on support to the Legion and have done much toward the building and furnishing of homes or rooms. It was the only county in the district to send a delegate to the Regional Conference in Boston.

In May we had our district meeting and the exchange of ideas and suggestions aided greatly toward getting us back on a working basis as a district. Practically all of the Units have sent their allotment to the Children's Billet and the furnishing of National Headquarters and have assisted in the Endowment Drive.

About \$6,500 was received from the sale of poppies in the district.

There are two new Units, two reorganized and two new ones in the process of organization.

One Unit is now working for an Honor Roll Tablet for the town and another has just helped in a drive for a \$36,000 Memorial Building.

Each County in the district now has a local hospital or hospitals where there are ex-service men.

Albany County has four hospitals where the Units have made over 500 visits during the past year and given several entertainments at the hospitals as well as entertaining them each week at a theatre in the city.

Columbia County makes regular visits to the Tubercular Sanitarium at Philmont as well as caring for one of their men hospitalized in Arizona.

Rensselaer County has the Pawling Sanitarium at Troy as its special care and the wants and wishes of these men are well supplied.

Sullivan County has several hospitals and sanitariums at Liberty; the men in these hospitals are visited each week and on all holidays receive some special surprise box or basket.

Ulster County has the Veterans' Memorial Hospital where the men are visited and cheered. Beside this several boxes of clothing and four boxes of books have been sent to Hospital No. 81. To establish a Welfare Fund one Unit held a doll bazaar which netted \$358.12.

Not satisfied with local aid alone, the Third District wanted to spread more cheer and found a real need for it at Hospital No. 98 at Chelsea, in the two bare rest rooms connecting with the women's ward.

So within the past two weeks a district fund has been raised whereby we will be able to bring a bit more comfort to those who gave so much for our comfort.

It has been a pleasure to have "filled in" these past months in the Third District and I believe that in coming to the rescue of each other we have aroused that true Auxiliary spirit of helpfulness that will start the district on the best year in its history.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Madam Chairman, I move the adoption of this report. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Our National President will be conducted to the platform.

The Convention rises amid applause as the National President, Mrs. Oliphant, is escorted to the platform.

The Chairman: Our National President. (Applause.)

The Chairman: We have an especial treat in New York State today and I am going to ask everyone that a pin could be heard in this room while our National President is talking. I know of no greater honor that could come to me than to have served under a woman as I have found Mrs. Oliphant, our National President, to have been. It gives me the greatest pleasure to introduce to you at this time our National President, Mrs. Oliphant.

Mrs. O. D. Oliphant (National President, The American Legion Auxiliary): Madam President, Distinguished Guests and my own co-workers in the American Legion Auxiliary — I am very happy indeed to be here with you this morning, to have an opportunity to meet so many of the New York workers in this great organization of ours. I am happy that you have the pleasure and honor of meeting our National Vice-President of the Eastern District, Mrs. Cocklin. May I say to you that Mrs. Cocklin has been a tower of strength to me this year. And that doesn't mean she is big in size. It is because whenever I have needed her advice or her help she has been there to help me and to give me her advice and may I say to you this year that our National Vice-Presidents have been potential National Presidents in their various districts, they have had that authority this year and they have gone forward and our organization has gone forward because of that and I am glad at this moment to pay tribute to our National Vice-President and her wonderful service for you and for the National organization.

I am also happy to come into the State that has given New York State a wonderful President in Mrs. Garrison. (Applause.) You know in my service as your National President I know the strength of our organization and I know the weakness of our organization. I have made it my business this year to know that and so I am happy indeed today to say that Mrs. Garrison is one of the finest Department Presidents in the whole National organization. (Applause.) She has been a real leader and you are fortunate indeed as a Department to have had her leadership this year. She has not only served you well as a Department but as a National Executive Committeewoman; may I also pay tribute to her because she has served the organization well in that capacity. She has been one of the women on the National Executive Committee who has been able to visualize the need of a National Organization; she has been able to consider problems of National scope and to help solve those problems and so I have had the honor this year to appoint her on the Child Welfare Committee and to be one of the eastern, one of the three eastern representatives on the Regional National Child Welfare Board of The American Legion. (Applause.)

I am happy indeed too to be in New York State to have the pleasure again of meeting my good friends, Past National Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Keenes, Mrs. Seymour, Mrs. Ransom, your able Secretary (applause), Mrs. Cookinham, and various others of your Department whom I had the pleasure of meeting at National Conventions.

But now, ladies, I have come to you today and I may say that you are one of eight Department Conventions that I am attending. I have only been able to go to eight — you see I am depending heavily upon my National Vice-Presidents, and they are most dependable indeed. But I am glad to be here and this morning I am going to talk to you as part of my family and I am going to talk to you from out of the heart of the family. I have just come from The American Legion Convention in the 71st Armory and it was a difficult task to talk there and you see my voice is a little the worse for it. But I talked to The American Legion over there and I talked from my heart for you, and I told them that it is a grave reflection in the State of New York that The American Legion has 60,000 members and the Auxiliary only a little over 12,000. And I told them in that Convention that that is their problem and I hope to see next year the State of New York with at least a membership of 25,000. It can be done but I want to say to you today that that can only be done if we live true to the principles for which we are organized and do not let personal ambition, personal selfishness wield its head in this organization of ours. (Applause.) You have the opportunity, you have the possibility and it is your destiny to be the greatest woman's organization in the United States of America. (Applause.) But you can't do it if you think in little Main Street ideas. You can't do it unless you become women thinkers and not women sheep followers. (Applause.) You can't do it unless you are anxious and willing to let this organization be bigger than yourselves. (Applause.) I wonder if you stop to realize the tremendous privilege and opportunity to be eligible to membership in The American Legion Auxiliary?

I spoke not many months ago to a great gathering of the Daughters of the American Revolution. When I had finished several members of that great organization said to me: "Oh, Mrs. Oliphant, we envy the women of The American Legion. We wish we could belong, but we are not eligible and, oh, how we envy those women; we envy them because we were not organized until 75 years after the close of the Revolution and so we never had the opportunity to serve at the side of our veterans of the Revolution. And, oh, you have that opportunity and it is precious indeed and that is why we envy them."

I wonder if you have been taking your membership in this great organization too casually? We are fortunate indeed to be the women chosen of all the women of the United States to be The American Legion Auxiliary. The American Legion is composed of those men and women who offered up their lives for

their country in time of National need. And do you remember how when you saw the 27th Division, and the Rainbow Division and all the other wonderful New York Divisions walk away — do you remember what was in your heart at that moment, do you remember how you said: “Oh, if they will only be spared to come back to us there is nothing in the world we wouldn't do for them?” Do you remember that? I cannot understand any woman eligible to belong to The American Legion Auxiliary to stay outside its ranks. If her men came home to her, men and women, able bodied and in health then in everlasting gratitude for that she should be in The American Legion Auxiliary. (Applause.) If they did not come back and she wears the gold star then in everlasting praise of that sacrifice as an ever-living memorial of that sacrifice she should belong to The American Legion Auxiliary. (Applause.)

Oh, I wish I could have taken you with me. The tragedy of my work this year has been to go through the hospitals all around this land of ours. I have looked into the eyes of men who had but a week, maybe a few hours, a few days or a few months to live; at their bedside was some sorrowful, grieving woman counting the minutes. We have in our National organization today a Department President; oh! she is a wonderful little woman; she never thinks of herself, she is giving of herself utterly to this work and she looks into the eyes of her son and gets no answering recognition back. And the one tragedy of her existence is, will she go first and there will be no one to go and hold his hand. Another little woman I saw with a most beautiful body of a son that I ever looked at and he can't even lift a finger to feed himself. And there he is. Every day she kneels at his bedside and prays that she will be spared to care for him. Those are the great women that are working in this American Legion Auxiliary, and the women who are living with the living casualty lists and, oh! we should make it our business in our communities to stop having these little petty, silly differences of opinion in our units and go out and take these women's hands and bring them in and comfort them in their membership in our Auxiliaries.

Over in Iowa when I spoke I was asked about the Order of the Gold Star. And I told them what I am going to tell you. There never has been any authority by our National Convention to organize an order of the gold star within The American Legion Auxiliary. If there was such an authority I would stand here and tell you there was. And I want to say to those women that wear the gold star that every time it has come up in our conventions they have been the women who got up and opposed it. Why? Because they knew it violated the spirit of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary. But most of all because they did not want that sacrifice exploited. It was too precious to them, to those women that wear that precious star and I have one in our own family so I know what it means to us, that sacrifice. There is a great comfort and thought in it that you gave one of your

own to your country to defend your trial. But, oh! think of those women living with the living casualty lists and let your hearts open wide to them and go out and give them comfort and forget about yourselves.

The American Legion is the greatest veteran organization grown out of the World War. Why? Because in this organization of The American Legion there is no class of membership. That is why it is so thoroughly American, so thoroughly representative of the best spirit of America. Able-bodied and disabled, overseas and not overseas, buck private and commanding general meet in The American Legion on a common footing and on an equal basis. That is why the American Legion is the greatest veteran organization grown out of the World War and I believe that is why the President of the United States in his message to Congress last December did something that no other President has ever done. He said in that message of his to Congress: "There are many organizations grown out of the World War, veteran organizations, but the greatest and most representative of these is The American Legion." (Applause.)

Now, we of the Auxiliary, what is our greatness, what is our destiny, why are we destined to be the greatest women's organization ever thought of in the United States? I will tell you. Because we have in our organization no class of membership. And the first person that ever raises their hand to put a class of membership in that tramples in the dust the service of our men to that Flag. (Applause.) We are destined to be the greatest women's organization because in this organization the women come together from every street and back alley in the community. Heretofore in women's organizations they have always clustered together in this little group and that little group coming from certain parts of the community but here in The American Legion Auxiliary we are a great cross-section of American womanhood, American citizenship, American patriots and that is why we are destined to be the greatest women's organization. They have said to us, "Oh, women won't mix." We have shattered that statement and that theory and I want to say to you as your National President that women will mix most gloriously when their hearts are in tune and our hearts are in tune.

You remember in '17 and '18 how you worked in the Red Cross rooms, how you rolled those bandages with a clutch at your hearts wondering whether you were rolling one for your own. You didn't care who was sitting beside you just so long as she was serving in behalf of our country. That is all that mattered. And we have a common bond between us and we have translated that bond of fraternity of service, of fraternity of giving one of our own to the service of our country. We have translated all of that into The American Legion Auxiliary. When you go out in your various communities talk to the women, show them why this is a great organization because we come together from every part of the community and because we are building an organization

worthy of the service of our men and women to that Flag. Oh, I beg of you women of the Department of New York to keep the flame in your hearts pure white as you did it in '17 and '18.

I want to see The American Legion Auxiliary famous among all women's organizations because we do not descend to the pettinesses, the littlenesses, the meannesses that sometimes crop up in women's organizations. If you had that experience in your unit go back and stamp it out forever.

Remember, we are Auxiliary to The American Legion and sometimes this year my heart had almost been broken because men of the Legion came and said to me: "Why in our Post we can't get along with this woman or that woman." I say to you, you are not organized to do that, you are organized to dedicate yourselves, devote yourselves to The American Legion. We are not separate organizations, we are one. We are supplementing the work of The American Legion. Oh, hold yourselves high in the estimation of the men and women who compose your Legion Posts. Don't let any woman come and whisper that little thing or this little thing into your ear. I want to say to you as your National President this year I haven't permitted that in the National Organization. (Applause.) And in some quarters because of it I am not popular. But I glory in that kind of popularity. (Applause.) I have been true to the trust that you gave me last year in St. Paul. Oh, I realize the honor you conferred upon me then. It is the greatest honor you have to give but since that adjournment of that Convention I have had reason to know the heavy responsibility and duty that you placed on my shoulders. But I can pass the torch to my successor knowing that every moment of my existence as your National President I have served you with honor. (Applause.) And, oh, I am proud to have served you and I want to say that when my term of office closes on the 9th of October that I shall go back to my own State of New Jersey and back into my own unit and feel I shall have an honor to serve under Mrs. Greer, our Department President, and I shall say to my President in my unit: "Please give me some little job to do here." (Applause.)

I want to say to you women that you are just on the point and verge of going forward to reap the destiny I have predicted but I want to say this to you: Don't allow yourselves to be so absorbed in your unit work that you forget you have a Department or that you forget you have a National organization. You are the Department, you are the National organization, it all depends upon how much we develop. I have no patience with these unit Presidents who get a bulletin from the Department President, a bulletin that she has thought over, and worked over, and then this President will come into the unit meeting and she will say: "Oh, dear, I got a bulletin from the Department President, I just don't know what I did with it. I guess I didn't bring it. Oh, well, it didn't amount to anything. It is something about the Department and we are interested in the Cake Sale next week."

(Laughter.) I tell you that woman commits suicide for her organization. (Applause.) You can never be a great state organization until you think in terms of your Department. You have no right to elect leaders for your Department in this Convention and then go back home and not back those leaders up one hundred per cent. in everything they ask you.

When you elect those leaders your work is not finished, ladies, it is only just begun. It is your duty to go back into the unit and set them on fire as to their responsibility to this great state organization and the leaders that you elect. Neither can you ever become a great national organization until you think in terms of your National organization.

To my deep regret and horror this year I have had also come to me from Departments ladies who said: "We brought before our Department Executive Committee the problem of giving one dollar per unit for the National Furnishings Fund and we decided we didn't want to do it." That Department today is way down in membership because they won't think in terms of a National Organization. One dollar per unit to build in Indianapolis a national headquarters worthy of the kind of work you are doing. The Daughters of The American Revolution thirty years ago collected half a million dollars to build their building. Three months ago they voted to raise two million to expand it. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been used in furnishing it. You in the fifth year of your organization are occupying a million dollar building in Indianapolis and it didn't cost you a penny. (Applause.) And you are occupying a building that to me is sacred. It is the first unit to a two million dollar World War Memorial to all the men and women in Indiana who served in the World War and that every part of our work comes out from under the roof of that great Memorial! It was little enough for you to furnish that in keeping with the kind of a building, the purchase of the building and the dignity of your organization. And yet today as I stand here we are over \$1,500 short in our request for a dollar per unit. I hope if there are any units in the State of New York that have not voted that dollar that they will hurry back home and do it before the National Convention the 5th of October. But that is only one little thing, ladies, one little item.

You must be able to think in National terms and realize that you are not only unit members but you are the Department and you are the National organization as well and when you elect a woman to be National President it is your solemn duty to stand back of her one hundred per cent. It is your duty to think in National terms, it is your solemn duty to carry forward the programme as outlined from your National and Department organizations.

I have talked a long time and I haven't yet started. I wonder if you stop to realize that every day of your existence in this American Legion Auxiliary you are writing history, your history

for posterity to read? The American Legion Auxiliary probably at Omaha will be made an hereditary organization. We are asking The American Legion to make our eligibility clause read this way: "Mothers, wives, sisters and lineal descendants of The American Legion." Not The American Legion Auxiliary, The American Legion, as the men and women who served in the war. And I believe it is coming this year; in fact, I am going to try to start that National organization of the Legion on fire with the idea. (Applause.) There are 50,000 grand-daughters want to come in this minute. You are building history for the future that National Headquarters of yours. Some day you will occupy the entire building, a hundred years from now. You are building an organization that is going to last as long as this Republic lasts. Oh, I beg of you, write your history so that you will be glad a hundred years from now when they will come forward in a Department Convention and reminisce about what you have been doing in the pioneer days of this organization. And, oh, don't leave them any memories that Mrs. So and So rapped Mrs. So and So else. Or Mrs. So and So did mean things. Oh, don't leave that record.

I like to see a convention with a lot of candidates for office. I like to see an honest rivalry for office. But I want to see that campaign clean. (Applause.) It is said that women cannot suppress their personal ideas to do it. I say to you today that I believe every woman in The American Legion Auxiliary can and every woman who is eligible can. Why? Because she is here by reason of the service of one of her own for that flag and I want to say that you defile that service unless you keep this organization on a high plane, your campaigns clean, your association one with the other sweet. Those men offered their lives not for themselves, but for their country. You are organized and pledged to them. Oh, don't let them ever say: "We are sorry we got an Auxiliary."

And now I want to say something. I am proud of The American Legion this year, the American Legion Auxiliary. You have done wonderful work here in New York State. You always have. In some things—I have your record here, I know every item of it, I don't have to listen to your reports—you haven't in some things completed your national program. I believe that you will. I have faith in New York. But I want to say I am proud of The American Legion Auxiliary this year because you stepped out and took the leadership among the women of the nation when you called that Defense Conference in Washington last February. (Applause.) You had the courage to do it. No other women had. After that Conference was called a lot of people tried to alarm me about it and I smiled back and I said: "No, that Conference is going to be the greatest women's conference ever held in America." It was. For the time being it has stopped these women extreme pacifists and radicals who had been going up and down this country pledging a spineless pacifism for America,

lending aid and comfort to radicalism, unintentionally or intentionally, and these women have secured a following. Somebody had to stop them, and I am glad and proud it was The American Legion Auxiliary that stepped to the front. And you have only just begun.

I understand there are resolutions coming on the floor of this Convention—and rightly so—to demand that Congress shall make sufficient appropriation to enforce our National Defense act as amended in 1920. (Applause.) That Defense Act was amended because of the service of your men and women to our flag. The American Legion Auxiliary is going to keep on the firing line until that Defense Act is adequately enforced. We are the women of the nation who are going to see to it that never again will it take 15 months to put trained men on a firing line. (Applause.)

I read in a Chicago newspaper not many weeks ago where in an Officers' Reserve Training Camp near Chicago a veteran officer of the World War said in an interview that his battery fired two thousand shells over the lines and not one of them exploded and it was not because the shells were no good but because he had green men operating the guns and then the Infantry went forward to slaughter. Officers have told me that men have gone forward in the Infantry with guns in their hands and they didn't know how to shoot them. I say to you as citizens of this Republic, as mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of men and women who have gone forward in that sacrifice, if that ever happens again, if we don't lift our voice in protest, then it is our fault and we can't blame anybody else. (Applause.) We are going to see to it that that National Defense Act is going to be enforced. The provisions of that Act were bought by the blood of our own men and dollars and cents in the United States Treasury must not count when it is against the security of the nation.

And so wherever you are, women of the Auxiliary, in every meeting, stand up for these facts and principles. There is an attempt in our schools to undermine the youth of our nation and I say to you that is our particular business.

I have here a poster. It looks pretty good because it has a title "America First." If you will go about among your schools you will find that pinned up. That is the worst extreme pacifist doctrine that was ever put up in the schools of any country. That is issued by the Society for the Prevention of War, whatever that means. (Laughter.) Nobody wants war, there is no argument about that. Neither does any nation want to be in slavery to another nation. There are worse things than war. You on the edge of the Atlantic here in New York want to think about that pretty seriously. Here is that pamphlet "America First." I want to see The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary write a real American pamphlet beginning with the Salute to the Flag and ending with America's Creed and I want the title of that pamphlet to be "America First and Forever." (Applause.) I want you women to see it is printed and I want you to

take it in your schools and tack it up right over this one or tear this down first, anyway, I want to see it there. Watch your schools, watch what is being taught.

In the various other organizations you belong to, when you hear these clever women speak, stand up and say: "We are of The American Legion Auxiliary, our men have defended our flag, we believe in a citizens' Military Training Camp and we are demanding of Congress sufficient appropriation to enforce our National Defense Act." (Applause.) Start right in now, everyone of you, and begin writing letters to your Congressman and your Senators, write them once a week so they don't forget about it and tell them that you want sufficient appropriations to put one hundred thousand youths of America in the Citizens' Military Training Camps. This year 60,000 applied, only 34,000 could be trained because there was not sufficient appropriation. You wouldn't consider one minute, would you, scrapping your police force or your sheriffs or any of the other local protection in your communities? Then it behooves you to see that your National Defense Act is enforced because that is all it does. It provides for a national police force to serve you in time of need. I know a lot of these women that are talking about peace so much don't have peace in their own households. (Laughter.) We of The American Legion Auxiliary, of course, want peace more than any other women because we know the alternative of peace which is war. But we do not believe in peace at any price, we believe in peace with honor for America. (Applause.) We have never taken that Flag forward in the armed forces of the United States for anything but to wage a fight for honor and we never will.

They talk to us about militarism. A lot of these people that accuse me of militarism as soon as I talk don't know the definition of it even. It is ridiculous to call a woman militaristic if she wants her nation securely protected. You want your home secure and protected. You must have your nation ready not to sacrifice the youths of the nation but to give them a fighting chance if they have to go forward and so I beg of you shower congress with letters demanding sufficient appropriation to enforce the National Defense Act.

You know, we hear a lot about enforcement of law these days, an awful lot, but it always refers to the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act. That is all right. All laws should be enforced, I make no exception to that. But the very same people that stand before you and demand enforcement of that law will stand before you the next week and advocate non-enforcement of your National Defense Act. Let's have them consistent, please. And you will demand it of them.

Now I am proud of your act in calling that Defense Conference. That was an historical event and I am proud that Mrs. Garrison and a delegation came from New York and sat in that Conference. And that is on record and that is history and you took part in it. We stayed there for four days and considered

the situation and then we passed certain resolutions. And I am going to quote to you what one of the leading newspapers of the United States said about us. It was the Chicago Tribune to be exact, one of the greatest writers of the day, James O'Donald Bennett. The headline says: "Women meet to Defend the United States, not to Defame Her; Not a Pacifist or Lover of Aliens Among them." He said: "A conference of American women on how to keep the peace got itself underway to a new note in Washington this afternoon. No woman—and they came from as far West as Illinois, Iowa, Arizona, Oregon and Honolulu and from as far East as Vermont, Connecticut and North Carolina—no woman railed against any country and least of all against her own country. No woman declared the United States to be a menace if it did not disarm. No woman said America was a Shylock if it did not forgive its debtors. No woman thought it necessary to trick out the American Flag with any international streamers. In fact, these women did not go in for streamers, either of bunting or of language. But they sounded such a new note in the matter of women's conferences in this Federal City that official and newspaper observers hearing the proceedings in the opening session at Red Cross Hall could hardly believe their ears." And so on it goes.

And that was *The Tribune*. Throughout, the Press of the United States told of that Conference and you have the honor to have called that Conference and we have the honor to have associated with us 16 of the great organizations of America. You know them because you received the word, the Daughters of American Revolution, the Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the Confederacy, the Daughters of the Women's Relief Corps, the Daughters of 1812, Government Club of New York—oh, a lot of them. I can't remember them all. But anyway, we came together as women patriots and we are going to hold together as women patriots.

And now I have talked a long, long time and I am going to stop. But I want to say to you this before I stop: That we women of The American Legion Auxiliary wear this precious blue star over our hearts—sometimes turned to gold—not by reason of anything we ourselves have done, but because one of our own defended that flag. During the war I never passed a home in the window of which hung that flag with a blue star and sometimes it turned to gold that I didn't have a greater admiration and respect for the people of that household. And, oh, let us have this star bind us close together. There is a bond between us that is between no other women and I beg of you here in New York State that you wear that star always with honor, that you keep the flame pure white in your hearts and that you continue to give of yourself until the end comes for you because the aftermath of the World War will never be over in your lifetime or my lifetime. Every twenty-four hours the clock rounds 15 of the glorious youth of our nation pass on and on. How they would love to be with us and those men in the hospitals, and women too, how they'd love

to be with you today, how they'd love to have the opportunity of associating with their own pals. Oh, may you in this Convention re-dedicate yourselves to the service of The American Legion, to a service above and beyond self!

The Chairman: Mrs. Oliphant, you have given us a great deal to carry back. I am sure that everyone of us are going back much better, much bigger in our own little units for what you have told us and because of the love and esteem we have for you I present you these flowers. (Applause.)

Mrs. Oliphant: Madam President and Members of the Convention — This bouquet of flowers touches my heart very deeply. Someone has said: "Say it with flowers." I am glad you did because above all things I need your love and I want your friendship always. I thank you.

Mrs. Jeffs: The first figure will be the votes allowed, and then the number registered and the voting strength.

County	Votes allowed	No. registered	Voting strength	County	Votes allowed	No. registered	Voting strength
Albany	7	5	7	Niagara	7	6	7
Allegany	8	2	2	Oneida	20	13	20
Bronx	12	10	12	Onondaga	11	8	11
Broome	10	8	10	Ontario	8	5	8
Cattaraugus	6	2	2	Orange	19	18	19
Cayuga	6	3	3	Orleans	..	..	..
Chautauqua	18	6	6	Oswego	6	6	6
Chemung	6	6	6	Otsego	4	4	4
Chenango	6	4	6	Putnam	1	1	1
Clinton	2	1	1	Queens	32	25	32
Columbia	3	1	1	Rensselaer	3	2	3
Cortland	6	4	6	Richmond	6	5	6
Delaware	5	4	5	Rockland	3	2	3
Dutchess	11	9	11	St. Lawrence	6	3	3
Erie	16	7	7	Saratoga	2	2	2
Essex	1	..	..	Schenectady	2	2	2
Franklin	5	3	5	Schoharie	1	1	1
Fulton	3	1	1	Schuyler	4	4	4
Genesee	2	1	1	Seneca	4	4	4
Greene	..	..	..	Steuben	10	3	3
Hamilton	..	..	..	Suffolk	24	18	24
Herkimer	10	8	10	Sullivan	5	5	5
Jefferson	13	10	13	Tompkins	4	4	4
Kings	26	23	26	Ulster	6	4	6
Lewis	3	1	1	Warren	5	3	5
Livingston	3	3	3	Washington	8	6	8
Madison	8	5	8	Wayne	6	4	6
Monroe	28	19	28	Westchester	27	25	27
Montgomery	6	5	6	Wyoming	6	2	2
Nassau	20	19	20	Yates	2	2	2
New York	13	9	13				

That is a total of 448 delegates registered with 3 Past Presidents registered, making the total voting strength 451.

I move the report be accepted by the Convention body.
Seconded. Carried.

Mrs. K. H. Diefendorf (Chairman, Fourth District): **Madam Chairman, Guests, Members of The American Legion Auxiliary** — It has been a great pleasure this year to have been the **Chairman** of this the **Fourth District of The American Legion Auxiliary**, which comprises the counties of **St. Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Washington, Warren, Schenectady, Saratoga, Hamilton, Fulton and Montgomery**. Last year there were eight of these counties organized, this year they are all organized. Last year we had 24 active Units, 23 of these have paid their dues for 1925, one Unit has become inactive, that of **Ausable Forks**, who lost all their belongings through the terrible fire at **Ausable** this **Spring**.

And you will all know through the newspapers that they had a big fire there where not only many people lost their homes but the **Auxiliary and Legion** lost their home and we hope they will come back this year.

We hope to have them back again this year. We have five new Units this year, **Bolton Landing, Lake Placid, Port Henry, Broadalbin and Norwood**, making a total of 28 Units. Their principal work has been for the **Veterans' Mountain Camp, Hospitals Nos. 98, 96 and 81** and assisting their local Posts in accomplishing their work, such as the **Endowment Drive, the Poppy Drive** and furnishing **Post rooms, etc.**

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. H. J. Cookinham, Jr. (Chairman, Fifth District): **To The American Legion Auxiliary in the Fifth Annual Convention Assembled** — The **Chairman of the Fifth Judicial District** submits the following report:

The **American Legion Auxiliary of the Fifth Judicial District** has endeavored to keep up the very high standard as in former years, touching all phases of the **Auxiliary work**. Not spasmodic effort along one line but rather concentrated effort in filling the requirements of the **National and the State Departments**.

The six counties of the **Fifth District, Herkimer, Lewis, Jefferson, Oneida, Onondaga and Oswego**, have a total of **forty-six Units**, four organized during the year and four Units canceled.

Ten permanent charters have been presented this year and every Unit but one having applied for permanent charter.

A spirit of cooperation with their Posts is generally prevalent throughout the Units of the District. Frequent joint meetings are held and Units in the majority of cases have been real auxiliary forces to their Posts. Several Posts are purchasing clubhouses and Units are assisting in the furnishing, making payments on homes and painting houses; one Unit contributing \$245 for painting club, another Unit contributed \$247 for their Legion home. Three Auxiliaries have assisted in paying for community houses in their towns; one small Unit contributing the sum of \$100.

A very serious effort has been made to have Units 100 per cent with application blanks. This has been accomplished by many Units, and an absolute spirit of cooperation in this respect has

been made by most of the Units. However, several Units have not filled out blanks for their members, objecting to them for some reason.

The Spirit of Christmas was wonderfully carried out by many Units. Contributions were made to the State Fund, one small Unit contributing \$25 and was the first in the State to remember this fund. Hundreds of Christmas cards were sent to the veterans' hospitals and local hospitals.

Other Auxiliaries have brought a delightful spirit of Christmas to their local communities in the institutions for children, one Unit giving 116 personal gifts to the children in their nearby home for orphans and in addition contributed money for giving cheer to the children.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the Units that have worked diligently to minister to their local hospitals; and those Units who have been so active in bringing cheer to all institutions for children or the infirm.

In the various towns, cooperation with other organizations has been a particular effort and has met with success wherever attempted.

Contributions have been made to new memorial hospitals being built in their towns, one Unit giving \$150 for this purpose. Others have assisted with equipping hospital for tubercular children, contributed money, and one Unit also furnished sheets, pillow cases, dishes and made all the curtains for one institution.

Two Girl Scout Troops have been organized by Auxiliaries in this district and are operating successfully.

Easter cards, several hundred in numbers, have been sent to the disabled veterans far and near in the hospitals. Flowers were also sent and money furnished hospitals to purchase flowers.

Many Units have been of material assistance in the National Endowment Drive and have given liberally of their funds in this great cause. One Unit gave \$95 and several others \$50 each.

Memorial Day has been observed strictly by many Units by attending services, visiting cemeteries, making wreaths for graves, purchasing markers and also remembering the families of the men who made the supreme sacrifice. One Unit personally looked after the graves of their boys and men of the G. A. R., making 189 wreaths and 189 bouquets of flowers for their graves. Flags and flowers were also lovingly placed upon the graves of women of the Auxiliary who have passed away.

Beside hospital cases practically every Post and Unit has had some local families of ex-service men to provide for during a temporary embarrassment. Insurance has been carried, medical attention given, coal provided, clothing and rent has been willingly paid.

The Poppy Drive was a success in the Fifth District despite the fact that there were reports of lack of co-operation between the Auxiliary and the Veterans' Mountain Camp Committee.

Units have contributed to the Joe Burns Fund generously.

American Flags have been placed in many schools of the District, but one very active Unit gave eight beautiful Flags on standards to every room in their local school and these were presented by a most appropriate ceremony. Hundreds of Flag Codes have been distributed also.

Through the very great courtesy and co-operation of the American Defense Society, it has been possible to present to the Units that care for them large pictures of our honored Ex-President Theodore Roosevelt, to be placed by the Units in the public schools of their towns. These pictures have a part of the last message written on Americanism by our late President, who was without question our foremost authority on this subject.

It is regretted that in the very limited time given the achievements of every Unit cannot be mentioned. Very wonderful work has been done which would assist other Units.

The Auxiliaries of the Fifth District have made the following contributions to the calls for service to their communities, State and Nation. Summary of the reports rendered to the District Chairman are as follows:

State Welfare	\$150 00
Child Welfare	40 00
Local Welfare	1,953 46
Endowment Fund	270 00
Otter Lake Billet	59 70
National Furnishings	46 00
Veterans' Mountain Camp	17 45
Poppy Drive	10,687 24
Total	<u>\$13,153 85</u>

The Fifth District records with deep sorrow the very untimely passing into life eternal of four charter members. Our sympathy is extended to the bereaved families at this time. May we as members keep their memories bright in our Units always.

In conclusion I want to thank the splendid women of the Fifth Judicial District who have endeavored so faithfully to live up to the pledges we have taken; who have co-operated so wonderfully in the many phases of our Auxiliary activities; those who have made a supreme effort to do something to better the great organization and who have put The American Legion Auxiliary's welfare uppermost.

Let us continue in our efforts. "Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us, to the end, dare to do our duty, as we understand it." (Applause.)

Mrs. D. R. Reilly (Chairman, Sixth District): Madam President, State Officers and Delegates — When I became District Chairman, my predecessor, Mrs. Parkhurst, assured me that the Sixth District was one of the best and most loyal in the State and, after my year of service, I quite agree with her. The cooperation the

County chairmen and Units have given me has made my work a pleasure indeed.

The District is made up of ten counties and covers an area of 6,446 square miles. During the past year I have held two District meetings, attended nine County meetings and eighteen Unit meetings. The District was so thoroughly organized by my predecessor, there was little for me to do in the way of new Units. However, Chemung County has two new Units, Horseheads and Elmira and Otsego County is to have a new Unit at Unadilla this month.

Chemung, Chenango and Cortland counties have an increased membership this year, Cortland Unit winning the membership banner for the State. The remaining counties show a decrease, due partly to the difficulty in completing the new application blanks, together with the fact that five small Units have so far failed in their 1925 dues. These Units have promised their dues and will be in before the end of the year. This loss of membership is therefore only temporary and the District in fact shows an increase.

The Units are all supporting the Legion in all their activities and assisting in all patriotic, memorial and welfare work in their own localities. Nearly every Unit has done something for the Veterans' Mountain Camp, the sale of poppies in the District amounting to \$3,862.94. They are also supporting the Child Welfare and Rehabilitation committees, and the various funds and endowments. The men in hospitals throughout the country are remembered with gifts of books, magazines, smokes, etc.

Broome County has the largest membership in the District. Consequently its donations have been large in proportion to the rest of the District. Binghamton Unit gives \$10 each month to Mrs. Van Why, its faithful co-worker for a party and extra dainties for the service men at the State Hospital and sends dainties and cheer to the boys at the County Sanatorium at Chenango Bridge. Binghamton Unit has also given \$2,004.38 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp Endowment Fund, exclusive of poppy sale.

Schuyler County, the smallest county in the State, has adopted Willard State Hospital and sends smokes, dainties and cheer, not only to the World War Veterans, but to men of the G. A. R. and Spanish War there confined. Schuyler County has also gone over the top in the Endowment drive.

In conclusion I wish to thank the County chairmen in the Sixth District for their assistance in the successful completion of another year of labor and particularly to thank our most efficient Department Secretary for her cheerful and hearty cooperation and help throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. Beulah Donovan (Chairman, Seventh District): State Chairman, Officers, Members of Convention and Guests—After having been elected chairman of the Seventh District at the Convention in Alexandria Bay, September, 1924, my first duty was

to attend the National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., a printed report of which was given each Unit in the District. Have been present at every meeting of the Department Executive Committee; have installed officers of the eight counties, and many Unit officers; have attended twenty-five County meetings; derived much good from the Regional Conference in Boston and through the courtesy of the members of the Seventh District was privileged to attend the Conference on National Defense as Peace Insurance held in Washington, D. C. A report of same has been given each County Committee. Have tried at all times to carry information correctly from the State Department to the Units.

The following condensed report will show the Units have responded very well indeed:

Cayuga County with five active Units have raised money from rummage sales and selling home-made pies and cakes at large picnics to help give flowers to disabled service men, candy, smokes, gum and goodies to boys in Willard Mental Hospital and clothing to Veterans' Hospital No. 81.

Livingston County has seven Units. One Unit has given \$100 to the Post toward a Memorial drinking fountain; dishes and furniture have been given Post's club rooms, and members have helped at Community Christmas trees. Many boxes have been sent to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath; five boxes of fruit to Veterans' Mountain Camp and many good things to Hospital No. 98. A check was also given the Girls' Friendly Society. New York State men in Denver hospitals have also received gifts.

Monroe County has twenty-one very active Units, two recently organized. The annual County bazaar is the way most of the money is raised for welfare purposes. Each Unit has a different booth and receives the entire proceeds therefrom, the County Committee receiving the proceeds of the dancing and refreshments. Units took part in the Defense Day parade and exercises, the Armistice Day celebration and Memorial ceremonies. Many letters were written protesting on the removal of the Veterans' Bureau from Rochester to Buffalo. The eight hospitals within the County have been visited regularly and many disabled in the homes have received goodies and cheer. Needy families have been well taken care of with clothing, bedding, furniture, groceries and medical supplies; gas, coal, rent and insurance bills have also been paid. Hospitalization has been obtained for a veteran of the Polish Army. One Auxiliary, composed entirely of members of Italian birth, have been active in Americanism, urging attendance to night schools, teaching their women to speak English and become accustomed to American ways. Contributions have been given Boy Scout troops; boxes sent to No. 81, fruit to No. 98 and a second library given the Rochester State Hospital. The 8/40 have accomplished much good and this is the third successful year of the Past Presidents' Association.

Ontario County has seven Units, one organized in August of this year. Many cases have been brought to the attention of the

Veterans' Bureau and claims adjusted. On Memorial Day, dinners were served the Legion members and Boy Scouts. Clothing and crossword puzzles have been sent to out-of-town hospitals and smokes to Willard; many visits are made to this hospital, although it is located in Seneca County.

Seneca County, the second smallest, has made many visits to Willard and taken many good things to the boys. One of the two active Auxiliaries has pledged to pay half the expense of a player piano for the club rooms. A gas range, tables and chairs have also been purchased for the rooms for the other Post and Unit.

Steuben County has six Units. The boys at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath receive many boxes of smokes and goodies. One buddy, when thanking the Auxiliary said: "It brings back one's faith in humanity." Boxes of clothing, socks, victrola records and needles and flower bulbs have been sent Hospital No. 81. Silk pieces have been sent to Chelsea and jellies and fruit to the Mountain Camp.

Wayne County has five Units. Individual boxes of home-made candy were sent the boys in the Rochester State Hospital and Hospital No. 81 at Easter and forty-two wash cloths and fifteen flower vases sent No. 98, victrola records, goodies and magazine subscriptions were sent Tupper Lake. Two local boys at Ray Brook are remembered every week.

Yates County, the last and smallest, has but one active Unit. They have sent twenty-five bed bags to Walter Reed Hospital and purchased hat and shoes for a patient there, sent box of men's clothing to Mrs. Taylor and box of jelly to Mountain Camp; also renewed magazine subscriptions from sale of old papers. They were also the first Unit in the State to contribute to the Otter Lake Billet.

All counties have contributed to the National Headquarters furnishings and the Joe Burns Fund, to the Otter Lake Billet, and State Welfare and Child Welfare funds. Livingston county has gone over the top in the Endowment Fund and others are still in progress. The poppy sale was very successful, the total amount from the District being \$4,431.08.

Our first conference was held in Rochester, March 7th, with the State President, and State Commander and many district officers of Legion and Auxiliary present. Many delegates attended the dinner given that night to National Commander Drain. The second conference was held in Geneva August 12th.

At this time I wish to express my appreciation to the County and Unit officers and all members of this District for their splendid cooperation. I have also greatly enjoyed the association with my superior officers. I offer sincere well wishes to my successor and pledge hearty support to the incoming officers.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. J. F. Luke (Chairman, Eighth District): Madam President, Officers and Members—The Eighth District is composed of the eight counties furthest west in our great State. Seven of

these counties have County organizations. In the remaining County peculiar conditions exist, which will, I believe, be overcome and we shall be able to report full organization next year.

Allegany County has six active Units, one of them new this year. Each one of these Units sent to me most wonderful reports of work done this year. As a County they have sent some \$326 from Poppies alone to Veterans' Mountain Camp. These Units are making extensive plans to assist the boys of their Posts in the Endowment Drive and they have responded cheerfully to all requests for help.

Cattaraugus County has ten Units, seven of which are very active. One new Unit has been organized this year. Gowanda Unit in this County has two hospitals in their immediate vicinity and they have made them their especial duty. This Unit has done much community work and has sent a wheel chair, clothing and money to people in this community who were in need.

Chautauqua County has fifteen active Units, and two which will have reorganization. This County has a very strong organization, and a very wonderful cooperation with their Posts. They have a County Welfare chairman who not alone sees her duty, but does it. She sent to me a concise report of welfare work done in this County this year from which I quote: Distribution of Poppy sales: \$904.77 to County Legion Disability Fund; \$85.00 to local Post's Welfare Fund; \$525.00 to local Post's Legion Endowment Fund; \$215.00 to Veterans' Mountain Camp; \$445.00 to local Unit Welfare Fund; \$100.00 to Children's Camp at Newton Memorial Hospital. The Units of the County have responded liberally to calls for aid, making the hospitals and service men of their own country their first duty.

This County boasts the largest Unit in the District, located in Fredonia.

Erie County has seventeen active Units, one of them new this year. This County sent over \$1,000 to Veteran Mountain Camp, from the sale of poppies. The Units, many of which are in the city of Buffalo, have made their vicinity hospitals their first care. They have done much community work and the good feeling which is manifested between Units and Posts is quite noticeable. They have done good work in Americanism also and their Welfare work has reached so far that it is a pity that time will not allow a detailed report.

Genesee County has but three Units. They are doing their share of Welfare work, and have, I believe, an Auxiliary for every Post.

Niagara County has a very strong county organization made up of four Units. To this County I must give the badge of honor for promptness in sending in reports, and all data for which I have asked. Their Welfare work is far-reaching and their reports are so very fine that again I wish that I might tell you all about them.

Orleans County, though without County organization, is doing its share. It was my privilege to reorganize the Unit at Albion, and there I met a most earnest, eager body of women, intent on their duties, first to their local Post, and eager to reach out and do further good.

Wyoming County. This County has five Units, one of which, Arcade, was reorganized this year. Here in this little Unit of fifteen members I found as much pep and enthusiasm as is found in some whole counties. Under the leadership of their present County chairman, I look for greater work this coming year.

In membership, the District is not quite up to that of last. But we have the quality, if not the quantity. Our Welfare work as a District has been greater than ever before and the sale of poppies for the Veterans' Mountain Camp has increased materially.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. Ethel V. Murphy (Chairman, Ninth District): Madam President, Officers and Auxiliary Members—It is my pleasure to report that the Ninth District is composed of five counties, having 42 Units, with a membership of 1,519, an increase of 4 Units and 32 members over last year at this time, with one more Unit in the process of organization. All the Units in the district are permanently chartered.

As District Chairman, I have made 85 visits to the counties and units, have personally organized 3 of the new units by calling on and interviewing the eligible women in the towns where these new units are located, and have assisted the Counties and Units in the District at all times.

The Counties hold regular monthly meetings which are always well attended. The majority of Units send delegates and reports of their activities to the District and County meetings, which helps to keep the members in each County and Unit closely in touch with all activities, and as a result a general feeling of good fellowship and harmony prevails among the members of the entire District.

All of the Units cooperate with their Posts in serving banquets, assisting with Post plays, soliciting for the Endowment Drive, contributing towards the furnishing of Legion Homes, holding joint meetings and socials, having Mothers' and Fathers' nights and picnics, assisting in Memorial Day activities. The greatest harmony exists between the Auxiliaries and the Posts, due entirely to cooperation, mutual understanding and a definite and active knowledge of Legion work.

Last Christmas, trees and boxes of gifts were sent to the various hospitals, and throughout the year our members have furnished various forms of entertainment for our disabled boys, such as amateur theatricals, musicals, ice cream parties, etc., and in addition sending quantities of victrola records, books, victrolas, with other articles, too numerous to mention.

Members of the various Units have visited Castle Point Hospital on Wednesday nights to play cards with the boys and many of

the Units have adopted wards at Castle Point and Seton hospitals. Chocolate and jellies are sent regularly to the various hospitals, as well as clothing, and, most important of all, our members never fail to visit and cheer those who have sacrificed so much.

The Units have been very faithful in taking care of local needy service men and their families by paying rents, furnishing clothing, groceries and coal and doing all in their power to alleviate the want and suffering in these families and bringing sunshine into their homes.

The Units are greatly interested in community work and many have donated to the various worthy local enterprises. They are also interested in the Girl Scout movement. Several have assisted their posts with Americanism meetings and are doing everything possible to further the cause of Americanism.

Among the many and varied Unit activities for the past year some of the outstanding features are as follows: One of the Units has a "Sunshine Box," the proceeds of which are used for Welfare work. Their "Dark Horse" provides refreshments for the meeting; their slogan is: "The less you donate, the less you eat." A drill has been instituted before meetings, which has helped to increase attendance. Another Unit contributes \$100 a year to the Veterans' Mountain Camp from a fund raised for that purpose. Another presented a bronze medal at the June graduation to the girl in the eighth grade of the Public and Parochial schools who stood highest in honor, leadership, scholarship, courage and helpfulness, and still another contributed books for the use of veteran patients at Liberty, N. Y., which were the nucleus of a library for the service men. They have also been instrumental in having various Units and friends contribute many books and magazines to the same cause. A number of the Units have subscribed for papers and magazines for the hospitals. The Americanism committee of one of the Units distributed copies of the United States Constitution at the Naturalization Court in their town. One thousand five hundred and sixty-eight dollars has been realized in the past few months by four of the Units in one county from the sale of articles made by the veterans at Hospital No. 81. This same county has organized a fund to purchase comfortable furniture for the Recreation Hall at Hospital No. 98 and the county committee has contributed \$25.

The Ninth District contributed over \$9,100 to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, as a result of the Poppy Drive, approximately \$8,100 of which was contributed by one county.

All but about three Units have remitted their quotas toward the Children's Billet and furnishing National Headquarters. Donations, amounting to about \$800, have been made to the Joe Burns Fund, the Endowment Drive, Rehabilitation, Child Welfare, Prison Relief, and \$4,550 has been expended by the counties and Units for local and hospital welfare work, this is in addition to the contributions to the foregoing funds.

I regret that there is not time to give you a detailed report of our activities, as the Units in Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester Counties have accomplished wonderful results along all lines of endeavor.

The Ninth District was represented at the National Defense Conference held in Washington in February by three members and at the Regional Conference held in March at Boston by nine members.

At this time I want to thank the members of the Ninth District for their loyalty and wholehearted cooperation. To the County chairman, Unit presidents and officers of the various counties and Units I also extend my appreciation for their ever ready cooperation and splendid support, which has helped to make the Ninth District one to be justly proud of. It has always been our boast in the past that the Ninth District is one of the best and most loyal in the Department, and now, at the conclusion of my second year as chairman, I can still truthfully say it is the same old "best and loyal Ninth," and, like my country, I love it.

In closing, just a word to Mrs. Garrison, our beloved Department President, who has watched over her flock so faithfully and well, and to the members of the Department Executive Committee; I have experienced a great amount of pleasure in being so closely allied to so splendid a body of women and my only regret is that the year has ended so soon.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Mrs. Charles Seymour (Chairman, Resolutions Committee): Madam President, Members of the Executive Committee and Members of The American Legion Auxiliary—The Resolutions Committee beg to submit the following report: The first resolution considered was:

WHEREAS, Previous State membership drives have been only partly successful in obtaining a 100 per cent. membership, and

WHEREAS, These drives have been conducted at periods in the year when either summer vacation or winter holidays detracted from the full force of such drives,

Therefore, be it resolved, That future State membership drives be conducted between March 1st and April 30th.

The Committee disapproved of this. We realized that we have the greatest confidence in our Executive Committee and that their judgment as to when these drives would be held would perhaps be better than ours. But we did suggest this in consideration that the first drive of the year be held beginning January 1st and ending April 30th, giving us 30 days past the time when our membership runs out at National. The Committee approved of this and therefore move the adoption of the approval of the Committee. Carried.

WHEREAS, The State Constitution and By-Laws are amended and revised at each State Convention, such amendments vitally affecting the management of both State and Unit, and

WHEREAS, Newly elected Unit officers must have a record of such changes before December of the current year, and

WHEREAS, At present copies of the Convention proceedings are not in the hands of Units until the summer of the year following the Convention,

Therefore, be it resolved, That a record of all Constitution and By-Law changes be furnished each Unit not later than December of the year during which the Convention is held. Carried.

WHEREAS, In the past the Auxiliary of New York State have sent not only the State Officers, District Chairmen, and Department Secretary but also delegates-at-large to the National Convention, and

WHEREAS, The same number of votes, with less expense, would be allowed the New York State delegation with only the State Officers, District Chairmen, and Department Secretary present,

Therefore, be it resolved, That New York State Auxiliary be represented at the coming National Convention by its State Officers, District Chairmen, and Department Secretary. Carried.

Resolved, That The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, in Convention assembled, does hereby call upon the Congress of the United States to appropriate sufficient money to enforce the provisions of the National Defense Act as amended in 1920, and

Be it further resolved, That Congress shall be called upon not to take any action that will reduce the size of the Regular Army, National Guard or Reserve Force, and

Be it further resolved, That a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, Secretary of the Navy, Members of Congress from New York State, the National Convention American Legion Auxiliary and to the public press. Carried.

WHEREAS, It is of vital importance to this State Department that resolutions and amendments to the Constitution which are presented to the State Convention, be discussed before intelligent action can be taken thereon, and

WHEREAS, In the past, sufficient time for such discussion has not been allowed,

Therefore, be it resolved, That delegates to the Convention be allowed ample time to discuss any or all of such measures which may be presented for action. Carried.

WHEREAS, The Conference on National Defense as Peace Insurance was called to meet in Washington, D. C., February 22-25, 1925, in the name of The American Legion Auxiliary, and

WHEREAS, More than one million women were represented by the sixteen great patriotic organizations participating, and

WHEREAS, This Conference is acclaimed by the National experts and the press to be the greatest movement to combat the subversive influence of the extreme pacifists and radicals and a constructive educational movement begun, and

WHEREAS, The results of this meeting are ringing around the world, now therefore,

Be it resolved, By The American Legion Auxiliary of New York, in Convention assembled, at Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, on this the 11th day of September, 1925, that the loyal women of the Nation be brought more closely together by the constructive program of preparedness to be formulated by the Extension Committee of the Conference. Carried.

WHEREAS, We recognize the necessity for vigilance in counteracting the undermining of the loyalty and patriotic principles of the youth of the Nation, and

WHEREAS, The Constitution of the United States sets out "the common defense" as one of the major objects for the Federal union, and

WHEREAS, The National Defense Act, if properly supported by the American people with personal participation and financial appropriation, is a proper basis for National defense, and

WHEREAS, Citizenship, nationalism, patriotism, and Americanism are essential elements of defense, especially a defense as contemplated under our National Defense Act where a large portion of the responsibility is with the citizenship of the country, and

WHEREAS, The Reserve Officers and Training Corps in our universities and colleges is an important part of our educational and defense plans, inculcating its members with high traits of citizenship, discipline and leadership, and

WHEREAS, The Citizens' and Military Training camps, as at present conducted, are great schools of citizenship, developing the highest ideals of nationalism and patriotism, and an Americanism that appreciates the obligations as well as the advantages of citizenship, now therefore,

Be it resolved, By The American Legion Auxiliary of New York, in Convention assembled, at Hotel Pennsylvania, New York City, on this the 11th day of September, 1925, that we commend the National Defense Act to the American people and ask their support in putting it into full effect by their active participation, moral support, and by seeing that necessary funds are appropriated, and

Be it further resolved, That we commend the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of our universities and colleges to the American people as of great importance in our educational and National defense plans, and urge that the corps be enlarged and encouraged by moral and financial support, and

Be it Further Resolved, That we commend the Citizens' Military Training Camps to the American people, believing the discipline and training received in those camps to be of the greatest benefit to the boys of the Nation and urge the camps be enlarged to enable at least one hundred thousand boys to attend each year and that an active campaign be started at once by our organization with the object of getting one hundred thousand boys to apply for admission to camp this year. Carried.

Be it Resolved, That an amendment be made to the Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary, to the effect that hereafter all candidates planning to run for State offices declare themselves, and bulletins be sent to all units giving names of the candidates and the offices they are seeking, so that action can be taken and delegates instructed at county committee meetings at least two months prior to convention. Carried.

Resolved, That all officers shall be installed before assuming their respective offices. Carried.

The Chairman: We are about to have nominations. Mrs. Ransom will read the names of the tellers.

The Secretary: Mrs. Reed Smith of Nassau, Miss Viola Laird of Elmira and Miss Marie Donoho of Auburn.

The Chairman: Nominations are now in order for Department President.

Mrs. Reilly: Madam President, Executive Committee and Members of The American Legion Auxiliary — It gives me great pleasure to place in nomination a woman who is no stranger to you, one who has served on the Executive Committee for three years. The results of her work as Unit President, County Chairman, District Chairman, Vice-President and Chairman of Rehabilitation and Veterans' Mountain Camp and Poppy Committee proves that she has been faithful to her task and a very able executive. I am very proud to present to this convention the name of Mrs. C. V. Parkhurst as Department President. (Applause.)

Miss Swain (Queens): Madam President, in recognition of her proven ability as an executive during her years of service as a Unit President, County Chairman, District Chairman for two years, it gives me the utmost pleasure to second the nomination of Mrs. C. V. Parkhurst for the office of President, the Department of New York. Mrs. Parkhurst has discharged her duties faithfully and ably both as Chairman of the Rehabilitation Committee last year and Chairman of the Veterans' Mountain Camp and Poppy Committee this year. Her report will show that it is a hard job well done. For the office of President of New York, a most able and efficient woman has been put before you and I again name Mrs. Parkhurst for your consideration for the Presidency of the Department of New York. (Applause.)

The Chairman: You have three Vice-Presidents to elect and nominations for Vice-President are in order.

Miss Swain (Queens): In naming a candidate for the office of Vice-President for the Department of New York, I think you probably should be familiarized a little bit regarding the candidate. While she is no stranger to a great many of us, I know that the newer delegates would like to know who our candidate is and what she has done. The Auxiliary member whom I will put before you

has been president of her Unit for five years, which has endeared her to her Unit. As County Chairman, her accomplishments have stood out, having just completed her second year as Chairman of the Second Judicial District, and I feel that her District has developed so thoroughly the true spirit of The American Legion Auxiliary that such effort should be rewarded. Where harmony between five counties exists today, where much misunderstanding has been existing before, and many difficulties ironed out, when education was all that was needed, that job has been accomplished with the greatest tact and efficiency. She is cooperation personified. Her report as County Chairman after Executive meetings of the Department Executive Committee have been faithfully given to the County. There was nothing asked of her that has not been done with a spontaneous cheerfulness that we all love when we wanted something very much. When we want or ask for something and it is done with the cheerfulness that my candidate has always shown, that is what is wanted. Her true worth in this respect I want you all to know. It is my privilege, my great privilege and honor, to put before you the name of Mrs. A. L. Burnham for Vice-President. (Applause.)

Mrs. Boulee (Kings): Madam Chairman, I feel it would almost be useless to add more words to what Miss Swain has said about Mrs. Burnham. As County Chairman, I found her to be of the greatest assistance and the best chairman we ever had and I second the nomination.

Mrs. Riedel (Monroe): Madam President, I take great pleasure, on behalf of the Seventh District, to present the name of a faithful and ever ready servant, Mrs. Beulah Donovan, for Vice-President. (Applause.)

Mrs. Ryan (Seneca Falls): Madam President, I second the nomination.

Mrs. Welwood (New York): I wish to nominate Mrs. Louise Williams for Vice-President.

Delegate: Mrs. Matthews of the Third District.
The nomination is seconded.

Mrs. Paddleford: I have the honor and the very great pleasure to place in nomination a woman who has served for the past eight years in loyalty and true American spirit since the war. I have the pleasure of nominating Mrs. H. J. Cookinham, Jr., of Utica.

Mrs. Gorman (Oswego): The candidate placed before you is no stranger and it would be useless for me to talk about her. It gives me great pleasure to second the nomination of Mrs. Cookinham.

Delegate (Oneida): Having worked with Mrs. Cookinham, I would like to second the motion for her nomination.

Mrs. Matthews: Madam Chairman, I'd like to withdraw my name.

Now nominations are in order for your National Executive Committee woman.

Mrs. Charles Seymour (Broome): I think it has been an unwritten law in the Department of New York that our Department President be the National Committee woman and therefore I move that your incoming Department President be your National Executive Committee woman. Carried.

The Chairman: You must elect an alternate to your National Executive Committee woman.

Mrs. Daly (Bronx): Madam President, I nominate Mrs. Pritchard for alternate.

Mrs. Williams (New York): I'd like to place the name of our present Department President, Kathryn Garrison, in nomination for alternate.

The Chairman: Now the nominations for Chaplain.

Mrs. Cookinham: Madam President, I would like to place in nomination for Chaplain of the Department of New York Mrs. Pritchard from the First District. You all know her and you know her qualities and qualifications and it is a great pleasure and a great honor to present her name as Department Chaplain.

Mrs. Welwood (New York): I'd like to place in nomination Mother Paddleford for Department Chaplain.

The Secretary: I now have the pleasure of reading the names of the newly elected District Chairmen.

From the First District, Mrs. J. J. Daly, Jr., Chairman; Mrs. Pelham St. George Bissell, alternate.

Second District, Mrs. E. C. Boulee of Kings, Chairman; Mrs. Harry Jeffs of Nassau, alternate.

Third District, Mrs. Stanley Matthews of Kingston, Chairman; Mrs. Thomas Smith of Albany, alternate.

Fourth District, Mrs. K. H. Diefendorf, Chairman, Ft. Plain, and Mrs. E. R. Robinson of Cambridge, alternate.

Fifth District, Mrs. H. A. MacGruer of Syracuse, Chairman; Mrs. Lee, alternate.

Sixth District, Mrs. D. R. Reilly of Cortland, Chairman; Mrs. W. Y. McHugh, alternate.

Seventh District, Mrs. Flora Hopkins of Penn Yan, Chairman; Mrs. Purcell of Waterloo, alternate.

Eighth District, Mrs. H. L. Pooley of Buffalo, Chairman, and Mrs. E. Oldenberg of Silver Creek, alternate.

Ninth District, Mrs. George Murphy of Pleasantville, Chairman, and Mrs. J. W. Noel of Port Jervis, alternate.

The Colors are retired.

The Chairman: We will now adjourn until nine o'clock tomorrow morning.

The session adjourned at 1:55 P. M.

The Saturday morning session of the Convention was called to order at 9:40 o'clock.

The Chairman: The advancement of colors.

The Colors are advanced.

The Rev. Robert F. Y. Pierce delivers the invocation.

The Chairman: Dr. Pierce has just told me that perhaps it would be of interest to some of you that his brother was chaplain of the Graves Registration Unit in France and perhaps said the last word for those boys.

We will now have the reading of the Rehabilitation report; Mrs. Taylor, the Chairman. It was impossible for Mrs. Taylor to be here with us and Mrs. Ransom, the Secretary, will read the Rehabilitation report.

The Secretary: Report of Rehabilitation Chairman, Department of New York.

Madam President, Officers, Members of The American Legion Auxiliary — The plan of the Rehabilitation Chairman during the past year has been to promote Hospital relief work and provide as much cheer and comfort for the service men confined as possible.

Not only have the patients themselves been remembered by our Auxiliary members, but their families as well have received attention.

At the beginning of the year we found there were a large number of New York State service men and women confined in hospitals outside this State. In fact, they are scattered all over the United States.

As Christmas time approached, your Committee decided to try to send a gift to every New York State patient. This was a tremendous task and I am not sure that we were successful. We felt, however, after reading some of the letters from those who had received gifts that the effort was quite worth while.

Perhaps you would be interested to know that among the hospitals outside our Department where the New York patients were remembered are the following: Fitzimons Hospital, Denver; Tubercular Hospital at Oteen, North Carolina; Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, D. C.; Government Hospital, Helena, Montana; Government Hospital, Gulfport, Mississippi. The response to the special Rehabilitation bulletin issued before Christmas was most generous and greatly encouraged the Committee. If each of you who helped in that work could read some of the messages from

those who received gifts I know you would redouble your efforts next year.

It would be impossible in this report to tell to you everything which has been done in welfare and hospital work, but I do wish to mention, and briefly as possible, some of the various activities carried on by the Units in their own communities.

My knowledge of this local activity of course is what has been reported to me by the many Units or County Rehabilitation chairmen. And may I say, in connection with these reports, that many of them have been indeed gratifying. Several chairmen have sent in regularly a monthly report, while others have sent in two or three during the year. I believe if prizes were offered for the most regular reporters of welfare work they would be awarded to Mrs. Cecelia Bowe, known to the patients in her county as "Ma Bowe," and to Mrs. Maude Brooks of Chautauqua county. Indeed, there are many others who have been very prompt in sending reports to the Department Chairman and who have realized the responsibility of the office which they hold.

We must all realize that the greatest help and service that can be given to the disabled is that which comes from the local members. They are near and can keep in touch with needs and conditions.

I am confident that during this year the importance of the personal greeting, by letter or by visit, has been emphasized, as it has been in the previous years, and that greater effort has been made to see that the men and their families have been visited. Only in this way, by direct personal contact, can our aim of bringing cheer and comfort to those confined be reached and satisfactory aid given those dependent ones.

This activity has been carried on by every Unit, I believe, in our Department, and I feel that it should be mentioned first because all other service will result from it.

Fruit, candies, home-made baked goods and magazines have been carried to the men and they are more than grateful. They appreciate every piece of candy or home-made cake more than we who are well can imagine.

It has become a rather warm statement to say that jellies, jam, et cetera, were provided and some have tired of or laughed about it, but I can assure you that much actual happiness has been brought by one of these jars of jelly or jam. If you doubt this, please go to a ward in one of the large hospitals and see for yourself. Mrs. Garrison, our Department President, can tell you a very interesting story of a birthday cake that was taken to some of the patients at Hospital No. 98. Very often the men will ask for certain things to eat and if the medical officers in charge will allow them to have that particular thing it should be supplied. That is part of our job to supply these desires when possible.

Another much needed article has been clothing. The Unit members and others interested have been very liberal in this and box after box has been forwarded to those needing clothing, especially

to the patients at Hospital No. 81 here in New York City. With the many hundreds of men there and the daily new admissions, you can realize there are a great many needs; shirts, trousers, underwear and shoes have been especially requested. Many Units have made systematic efforts to secure these at regular intervals.

Besides the clothing for the Service men, a great quantity for the dependent families has been procured. Baby clothing and children's dresses and underwear have been received and distributed. In certain localities, sewing meetings have been held at different times and much has been accomplished. In connection with the sewing, the small pillows, "comfy pillows," which have been turned in to the hospitals, should be mentioned. They have been much appreciated by the men and, although a large number have been sent, there still is need for more.

Another feature of this year's work is the number of parties and outings which have been given for the disabled. Boat rides and auto trips have helped to brighten the monotony of weeks and months in confinement. In sections of the State where there are no large hospitals, Unit members have been very generous in defraying expenses for entertainment elsewhere. Particularly on holidays and at special seasons have the patients been remembered in these ways; also, by movies and musical programs.

On Mother's Day a special greeting was distributed to nearly every Veteran in our hospitals. This greeting was one issued from National Headquarters by the National President, Mrs. Oliphant.

Boxes, containing victrola records, playing cards, pencils, writing tablets, puzzles, games, small pillows, candy and clothing, have been sent all of the larger hospitals and to many of the smaller ones. Every box has been most thoroughly appreciated.

You will notice that I am not including in the report any mention of work done for the Veterans' Mountain Camp. That effort has been splendid and you will hear a detailed account of it from the Camp Chairman. You will receive also a report of the Child Welfare work from that chairman.

I wish I might narrate some of the particular cases in which you have, by your contributions, rendered most valuable aid, but it would take too much time. Let me say, however, that most of the individual work has been done through the local officers.

Milk has been furnished mothers and children, rent paid, coal furnished, food supplied, aid given in funeral arrangements, plants and flowers secured for graves on Memorial Day, work found for unemployed Veterans and influence used to hasten granting of claims.

When we consider that all this is done in addition to our generous participation in the Legion Drive for the Endowment Fund, the Children's Billet at Otter Lake, Michigan, and to the Joe Burns Fund, we can be justly proud of the year's work.

One other line of endeavor must be spoken of and that is our part in the sale of articles made by the disabled under government supervision. There are hundreds of various articles, including

Broome County Committee..	\$25 00	Monroe Auxiliary No. 488,	
Carona Auxiliary Unit.....	1 00	Newburgh	\$5 00
College Point Auxiliary Unit	1 00	Montgomery Auxiliary Unit	5 00
Cortland Auxiliary Unit....	10 00	Mt. Vernon Auxiliary Unit.	5 00
Cuyler Auxiliary Unit.....	5 00	Newburgh Auxiliary Unit..	5 00
Dutchess County Committee	5 00	Peekskill Auxiliary Unit...	5 00
Elmira Heights Auxiliary		Pleasantville Auxiliary Unit	10 00
Unit	4 70	Port Chester Auxiliary Unit	10 00
Far Rockaway Beach Aux-		Rockaway Beach Auxiliary	
iliary Unit	6 00	Unit	5 00
Greenpoint Auxiliary Unit..	25 00	Sheepshead Bay Auxiliary	
Greenport Auxiliary Unit...	5 00	Unit	10 00
Jamaica Auxiliary Unit....	11 00	Skaneateles Auxiliary Unit.	5 00
Kings County Committee...	25 00	Walden Auxiliary Unit.....	2 00
Kings Park Auxiliary Unit.	14 00	Westchester Co. Committee.	25 00
Lawrence Lovell Auxiliary		White Plains Auxiliary Unit	
Unit	10 00	No. 135.....	5 00
Little Falls Auxiliary Unit.	5 00	Yonkers Auxiliary Unit No. 7	5 00
Long Island City Auxiliary			
Unit	1 00	Total	<u>\$316 70</u>

I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the splendid cooperation which I have received from our President, Mrs. Garrison. A large part of the success of this office is due to her interest and continued effort in welfare work, for which she has become nationally recognized.

I desire also to thank every Unit and Rehabilitation chairman for their splendid and loyal support, without which these results could not have been attained.

There is a great need for service yet and I trust each year will find us increasing our efforts until every Service man is actually rehabilitated.

Respectfully submitted,

MRS. ROBERT TAYLOR,
Chairman, Rehabilitation Committee,
Department of New York.

I move the adoption of Mrs. Taylor's report. Carried.

Mrs. Paddleford: Madam Chairman, I just wish to announce that Clifton Springs of Ontario County sent \$10.00 to the Joe Burns Fund.

The Secretary: A great many of the contributions came to State Headquarters early, when we first asked for money for this fund, before it was supposed to go to Mrs. Taylor, but a good many donations went direct to the Treasurer of that Committee, Tom Brady. As Mrs. Taylor says, this is why some of them do not appear in this report. The same holds good for my own Unit, who sent its money direct to Mr. Brady.

Mrs. Henry J. Cookinham, Jr. (Chairman, Committee on Immigration): To The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, Fifth Annual Convention, New York City, N. Y.—

Your Chairman on Immigration submits herewith the following report:

What is America going to do about the Immigration problem?

The subject in the past few years has assumed great importance not only in the United States, but throughout the entire world.

The alien problem in the United States has grown to possess greater importance since the end of the World War. There has always been an antagonism to aliens in this country, which was intensified by their exemption from the draft. Immigration is a great question in American life today. It is not a labor subject; it is vitally a citizenship subject.

Thirty-five million aliens came to the United States between 1820 and 1922. They established their own communities and live on as before without thought of American ideals. They use only their foreign tongue, seek to remain foreign in every way and use our land to obtain money to return to the land from which they came.

New York City alone has 4,294,629 of foreign white stock of its 5,620,048 population. These alien colonies in the United States support 162 daily newspapers, 876 weekly and semi-weekly papers, 260 monthly or semi-monthly papers, 155 religious publications; and these are all printed in foreign language.

"We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language." Those who do not wish to partake of the full American spirit should not be allowed to settle in America.

The hour has come for us to study the problem which we are in duty bound to face as loyal citizens, that this land may be protected and secured forever.

We need to think more of duty of citizenship ourselves and teach the immigrant his duty. We have too long talked and sung of the freedom only of America. Let us sing and live more of loyalty, duty and responsibility to our Nation.

Much has been said about Japanese exclusion since the adoption of the new Immigration Law. The Immigration Act of 1924, insofar as it relates to the Japanese, merely gives legal power to American officials to make effective the restrictions which have been only theoretically effective since the adoption of the gentleman's agreement signed during the Roosevelt administration.

The United States simply decrees it will not be flooded with Japanese immigrants who are incapable of citizenship. No affront to Japan has been intended in the enactment of the law. The Exclusion Act is in no way a slap at Japan. America surely has a right to protect itself.

Immigration is a matter each Nation must control for itself. America, like all other Nations, must consider immigration solely from her own standpoint. America's first duty is to herself.

Other Nations exclude Japanese, why have we not the right and privilege? Australia, New Zealand, and British Columbia have excluded the Japanese with no unpleasant results. Brazil has recently taken the same stand.

Government representatives abroad give us positive assurance that literally millions of Europeans were preparing to emigrate to the United States following the World War. Therefore, legislation restricting immigration became a matter of pressing necessity. Aliens were coming too fast then to be assimilated. The aliens already within our gates were not assimilated and Americanized. The "melting pot" was a "Myth;" it was not melting; it was boiling over.

The great mass of our foreigners remain foreign and will continue to so remain if we allow them to recruit their numbers from abroad continually.

None can be benefited more by restrictive immigration than our citizens of foreign birth, who have come to us to improve their conditions.

America, for more than fifty years, has been the mecca of the industrial classes of all the world. The economic motive is perhaps the poorest credential for an immigrant for, today, it gives us the unskilled labor searching for high wages alone.

We should select our immigrants upon the basis of their individual fitness to participate in our American life, rather than for racial or economic reasons. We should adopt selective immigration.

The following statement of the Hon. Henry H. Curran, Commissioner of the Port of New York, attests to the improvement in quality of immigration since the enactment of the Johnson-Reed bill, which has been effective one year: "The Immigration Act of 1924 has already done great good to our Country, and it gives promise of doing more." The immigrants who come to us are fewer and better. Arriving at a rate of a thousand a day, their quality, at least so far, is as much finer than that of the old immigration as their quantity is smaller. At Ellis Island this is a thing that we see with our own eyes, a thing that we know. We hope it will continue.

With this accomplished, let us give thought and effort to the registration system of all aliens, advocated long by our Secretary of Labor, Hon. John W. Davis, our greatest authority.

For his own protection, the immigrant who legally is within our gates should carry proof of that right. It would facilitate the deportation of the illegal entry.

The fundamental weakness of our policy thus far is that we permitted foreign governments through the passport system to select immigrants for us and thus dispose of their undesirables.

Secretary Davis has advocated the establishment of a selective machinery in connection with the Consular service in foreign lands. If placed in the hands of our Consular staff, only the most worthy will be able to sail for America.

Let thoughtful Americans give keen attention to the alien and our immigration problems and to the vicious propaganda which is being brought to us from European countries, and so cleverly being spread by many who have slipped into our country and here continue their propaganda unmolested. Capable and clever,

yes; for while we sit and dream, they are carefully building their communist organizations with the avowed purpose of tearing down our government.

They say to the world, disarm; let us have no more war, yet facts show that this very Russian government has a standing military force of 6,432,000, thirteen times greater in numbers than our great country's little force of but 410,000 trained men.

Do you think that, had the women of every patriotic organization raised their voices in protest, the meeting on a winter afternoon this year with the red flag waving and thousands of foreigners turned away, could have been allowed in the City of New York?

What right have fifteen thousand aliens, who have never honored America by even an application for the right of citizenship under our flag, to meet in the halls of this country and to advocate the overthrow of the government under whose shelter they insist upon living?

Smuggling of Aliens.—The smuggling of aliens into the United States has reached proportions that compare with the rum-running industry.

More aliens, we are told, are now smuggled in than are admitted by law. They come across the Mexican and Canadian borders, from Cuba to Florida, and arrive at many of our seaports.

Upon excellent authority, we learn that the smuggling of aliens is an organized business in Europe. That an elaborate smuggling organization offers for \$500 to \$1,000 to land an alien on these shores.

Cuban smugglers have found it particularly profitable, it is reported. The newest Cuban millionaires are bootleggers who scorn the trade of illicit liquor as mighty small game. They deal in immigrants.

One of the Cuban newly rich explained to a reporter of the press his recent deposits in a Florida bank: Two hundred Greeks at \$500 each, one hundred and twenty Chinese at \$250 and six hundred Poles and Roumanians at scattered prices, ranging from \$150 to \$1,000 each.

The Dominion of Canada is preparing to spend a half million dollars to curb the smuggling into their country, which has assumed wholesale proportions.

While we are in entire sympathy with the Canadian efforts to enforce her law, we cannot refrain from believing that Canada has, in a measure, contributed to the disregard of law. Canada has played a rather loose game with the bootleggers.

There are over 4,000 miles of border, and there are stretches that are inadequately guarded by our undermanned border police. It costs the United States now more than \$1,500,000 to watch its frontiers against smuggled aliens or attempts to smuggle them in.

At present the immigration service does not have the fleet nor the finances which were granted to the Prohibition enforcement authorities.

The ease with which aliens may be brought into the United States constitutes a very strong reason why all aliens within our country should be registered. All other countries in the world keep a record of aliens within their borders. The United States should do the same for its protection. All persons within the country unlawfully could then be quickly weeded out and deported. At the present time it is exceedingly difficult to trace smuggled aliens, once they are across our borders.

Deportation of all aliens who have illegally obtained entrance, or aliens who have become burdens to the community or State, and all who have developed Bolsheviki tendencies and activities, has become vitally important.

The criminal law of the United States has virtually been broken down because foreigners are practicing in our courts and serving on the juries. The United States is known all over the world as the most lawless of civilized countries and a paradise for criminals of every race. As an example of this, New York is probably the only city in the world where registered mail is delivered in armoured cars.

Adequate funds should be at the disposal of the Immigration Bureau to maintain a systematic, adequate and complete patrol of the borders and the coasts. Added to this, however, there should be, the registration system as an effective means of keeping track of and of identifying every alien in the United States.

In conclusion, having secured, by the Act of 1924, numerical limitation, the needs of the United States demand even more restrictive immigration laws today with every loophole guarded.

It should be firmly restricted to a basis of the maximum amount of assimilative material and to the basis of health, intelligence, literacy and the concern for the particular needs of America. Not alone quantity, but quality should be controlled.

The Naturalization Law should be revised by providing more adequate test in determining the alien's fitness for citizenship. No alien should be allowed to become a citizen until he has become genuinely American.

Deportation laws should be enforced and extended.

Registration of every alien within the gates of the United States should be required.

We have no room in America for more imported crime or Red radicalism.

My plea to the women of our organization is to know the problems of America, to awaken in ourselves a civic consciousness and a vital concern for the future of our land, to be jealous of the privilege of citizenship, to guard well our doors and permit none to enter unless proven worthy.

Thus would we escape inoculation by the poison of the vicious and rather be leavened by the virtues of ancient lands. Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

I move the adoption of the report on immigration. Carried.

Mrs. E. S. Diefendorf (Chairman, Americanism Committee): Madam Chairman, Guests, Members of The American Legion Auxiliary—Americanism means an undying devotion and belief in the United States of America and, as our Flag is the living symbol of our country, I have endeavored to concentrate the Americanism work this year on proper display and respect for our Flag. Some people think this is needless. Is it? The following was clipped from a paper dated Newburg, N. Y., August 14, 1925: Morris Marks, nineteen, was found guilty of desecrating the American Flag. He was seen using a Flag to clean his automobile. He was sentenced by Recorder Decker to visit Washington's Headquarters once a week until Thanksgiving and to learn the history of the Flag and country and learn a poem on the Flag.

The following are the reports of the work that has been accomplished, as reported to me. Some Units and Districts have sent no report whatever.

First District: No report.

Second District: Bay Shore Unit purchased 25 copies of the book "Service" and distributed Flag code leaflets to all school children. Green Port celebrated Armistice Day with the Legion and sold daisies for their Welfare Fund, purchased a Flag and dedicated it to Civil War Veterans, contributed \$5 to Boy Scouts. Kings Park Unit gave a Flag to the Habit class of the Insane Hospital, gave \$3 to Boy Scouts Northport Unit, gave \$10 to Scout Drive and loaned their rooms to a Scout Troop. Patchogue Unit purchased 2,000 Flag code pamphlets and distributed them to the local schools, gave Boy Scouts \$5. Port Jefferson Unit presented their Club rooms an American Flag and loaned their rooms to Boy Scouts. Smithtown Unit gave \$10 to the Scouts. Rushy Bohn Unit gave \$2.50 in gold to the Girl Scouts. Far Rockaway Unit sponsored two Girl Scout Troops and give \$10 annually to the Council. Sea Cliff Unit presented Girl Scouts with Colors and presented 100 silk flags to newly made citizens when they received their citizenship papers, mailed copies of the Flag code wherever they saw the Flag improperly displayed, had Garland Powell, National Chairman of Americanism of the Legion, as speaker at a public meeting in the high school.

Third District: No report.

Fourth District: Malone Unit distributed 1,000 pamphlets of the Flag code. Saratoga Unit presented 27 Flags for the Uniform Flag Display. Fort Plain Unit gave \$10 to the Uniform Flag Display and presented a picture of President Theodore Roosevelt to the high school.

Fifth District: Herkimer Unit enrolled the children of ex-service men and presented each child a Flag and a copy of the Flag code. Castorland Unit presented a \$2.50 gold piece to the winner of the essay contest in the public schools. Little Falls unit presented two silk Flags to the schools and three pictures of President Theodore Roosevelt to the schools and one of their Post for the Post rooms. Chadwicks Unit presented eight Flags to the public schools and distributed Flag codes. Boonville Unit has also

distributed Flag codes and placed Flags in their school rooms. Sherrill Unit has distributed Flag codes and shown the movie "America."

Sixth District: No report.

Seventh District: No report.

Eighth District: Westfield Unit sponsored the Uniform Flag Display.

Ninth District: Harrison Unit distributed 1,000 pamphlets of the Flag Code to merchants and school children. Mt. Vernon Unit also distributed about 1,000 Flag codes. Pleasantville Unit assisted the Post at the Americanism rally in April by ushering and distributing Flag codes and programs. Port Chester Unit also assisted their Post in May and distributed Flag codes. Goshen Unit gave four bronze medals for two boys and two girls of the public and parochial schools for the girls standing highest in courage, character, service, companionship and scholarship and to the boys standing highest in courage, honor, service, leadership and scholarship. Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Madam Chairman, I move the adoption of this report. Carried.

Mrs. Ethel V. Murphy (Chairman, Membership Committee): In submitting this report on membership, your Chairman first wishes to thank those counties and Units in the Department who have cooperated with her so splendidly during the past year.

Twenty-four new Units have been organized and the total paid-up membership is 12,392.

Two membership drives have been launched in the Department; the first, on November 10th, which ended December 31, 1924, and which was won by the Cortland Unit of Cortland, New York, the prize being a silk Unit banner, presented for enrolling the greatest number of 1925 memberships by December 31st. The Cortland Unit enrolled 139 members; three more than their entire 1924 membership. This was due to perfect team work on the part of the committee of twelve appointed for this drive. All of the eligible women in town were personally canvassed by this committee with splendid results.

The second membership drive was launched on July 1st, ending on August 10, 1925, and was won by the Malone Unit No. 219 of Malone. The prize offered was the "Ann Seymour Cup," for enrolling the largest number of new members during that period and having all membership applications correctly filled out and in the mail by August 10th. Malone Unit forwarded dues and membership blanks for 49 new members, 43 of which conformed to the rules, their total membership being 186, as against 137 of 1924. The James F. Brengel Unit No. 456 of Sea Cliff was second, with 21 new members, and all applications correctly filled out.

The Membership Chairman of the Malone Unit, in rendering her report, stated they have a membership committee of eight and two chairmen. At the beginning of the year, circular letters were sent to all eligible women, asking those who had been members to renew their membership and telling those who had never

joined of the aims and purposes of the Auxiliary and of the activities of the local Unit, with the result that many of the charter members renewed and new members were enrolled. Each member of the committee was given a list of all eligible women in her locality and urged to personally canvass them. As an incentive to the workers, an Auxiliary ring was offered to the member enrolling the greatest number of new members in a given time.

The James F. Brengel Unit No. 456 of Sea Cliff appointed two teams for a membership drive, which was launched in May; the winning team was to be given a luncheon, with the result that 26 members were enrolled. A great deal of effort was put into the last membership drive by the chairman, which resulted in 29 enrollments.

All of the Counties and many of the Units in the Second and Ninth Districts have been most faithful in forwarding reports of their membership activities.

The Binghamton Unit No. 80 is the largest in the Department, having a membership of 201. The James F. Brengel Unit No. 456 of Sea Cliff is a close second, with 189, as of 1924.

Queens is the largest county in the Department, having 828 members, with Monroe second, with 652 members, and Westchester third, with 649 members. The second District has a paid-up membership of 2,549 and is the largest in the Department.

Your Chairman has answered all letters promptly regarding membership and has forwarded reports regularly to the National Chairman of Membership.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Madam Chairman, I move the adoption of the report. Carried.

Mrs. Ethel V. Murphy (Chairman, Publicity Committee): Madam President, Officers and Auxiliary Members—As Department Chairman of Publicity, it is my pleasure to submit the following report, which necessarily must be brief:

The Counties and Units of the Second and Ninth Districts have cooperated splendidly in forwarding publicity regularly for the Empire State Legionnaire. Publicity has been received upon occasion from the various other Counties and Units in the Department. All publicity received by your Chairman has been forwarded to the office of the Legionnaire each month and if articles that have been forwarded did not appear in the various issues it is through no fault of the Publicity Chairman, but due, no doubt, to lack of space, as the Auxiliary has been allotted but two columns in the paper.

A great many letters have been written by the Chairman in reply to inquiries regarding the duties of County and Unit Publicity chairmen and other letters pertaining to publicity.

In conclusion, I wish to thank those who have given their wholehearted support to this committee and by so doing have assisted in arousing more interest in the activities of The American Legion Auxiliary.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.) Carried.

Mrs. Parkhurst (Chairman, Poppy Committee): Madam President and Delegates: The 1925 Poppy drive has been something more than a "drive." It has been a test of the whole organization in the Department of New York, a test of loyalty to your County chairman (who formed a mighty committee throughout the State), a vote of confidence in your Department Executive Committee (represented by your Chairman), a proof that there is a real cooperation in this biggest of all women's organizations, which is above all pettiness, and, working together in harmony, we are able to present to The American Legion, Department of New York, a lump sum of \$51,348.89 for the Camp.

More than all this, it proves that there is real results in decentralization, that every County chairman in this Department is a capable woman, with a high sense of her responsibility, and a careful attention to detail, that has been a revelation to your Chairman.

Never have we seen before such business-like reports, reports that have been proudly displayed to the office force of the Veterans' Mountain Camp Committee; many of them would do credit to the work of an accountant.

The Second District carries off all the honors as a District, in regard to the amount of money raised, with \$15,069.04 to its credit; the Fifth District is second, with \$9,595.15; the Ninth District is a close third, with \$8,632.51.

After hearing these figures, it will probably surprise you to learn that Westchester County leads the whole State, the amount being turned in reaching \$7,726.89; Queens County second, with \$5,217.62, and Kings County third, with \$4,282.26.

Grouping together the five counties, constituting Greater New York, the total amount is \$13,195.51.

The first Unit to place an order was the Thomas R. Van Tassel No. 402 (Steuben).

The first check for Poppy sale was from Syracuse Unit No. 41 (Onondaga). This check amounted to \$3,265.23 and was the largest check from any one Unit in the State.

The first County to make complete returns was Cortland County.

Your Chairman regrets having to record that two Units only in the Whole Department have neglected sending in their returns. This prevents the Auxiliary from presenting a "100 per cent paid-up" report.

Many reports came in saying that nearly every Unit in their County sold poppies with the Legion. This was largely owing to misunderstanding of our motive; we wished to turn every cent of our Poppy money, as requested by the Legion, but worked as a Unit, thinking that by perfecting an organized effort we could present the result of our hard work in one large sum. It was with no feeling of opposition that we carried out this plan, but rather a wish for intelligent cooperation.

To this I wish to add that Mr. Ward told me I made a terrible mistake. I told him I couldn't see how, because it was carefully

gone over. He said a great many of the Legion Posts, when they found out we were going to make such an accurate report, that half the Posts turned over half the proceeds. My report closed September 1st and the real figures are \$53,309.48. (Applause.)

Two hundred and forty-two Units participated in the drive, representing 52 counties.

Too much cannot be said in praise of George Merritt Ward, President of Veterans' Mountain Camp. Many irritating things developed during the Poppy drive where only his prompt action and never failing courtesy smoothed the way for your Chairman. When our Department Treasury was so low that we could not afford to send out a bulletin for information regarding the Poppy sale, he provided the funds for it. Later he financed a letter to the County Chairman, and it was at his invitation that your Chairman went to New York, the last ten days of the drive, to see that every consideration was shown to the Auxiliary members, and at the request of your Chairman she was placed under bond by the Veterans' Mountain Camp Committee. So to Mr. Ward and his efficient young women in the New York office we extend our most sincere thanks.

To the Department President, Secretary and District Chairmen too we voice our appreciation and to the subcommittee; the splendid work of the County Chairmen will always stand out as their monument to "devotion to mutual helpfulness" and your Chairman is proud of you and grateful.

And, finally, to those people who said "It cannot be done." Anything can be accomplished by the kind of "team-work" displayed in the Poppy drive, and we want you to remember this:

"There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,
There are thousands to prophesy failure,
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you;
But just buckle in, with a bit of a grin,
Take off your coat and go to it;
Start in to sing, as you tackle the thing
That cannot be done — and you'll do it."

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.) Carried.

The Chairman: And we will now have our National President and National Vice-President escorted to the platform.

The Chairman: Is Mrs. Cooran, President of the Cortland Unit, in the room? Will you come to the platform, please?

The fortunate Unit in winning the membership Flag. That Flag is going to be presented and I think Cortland should be doubly proud to receive it because the Flag is going to be presented by our National President, Mrs. Oliphant. (Applause.)

We are going to present a Flag this morning to the Cortland Unit but somehow the Legion have our Flag and we have the Legion's Flag, but we are going to present a Flag just the same. (Laughter.)

Mrs. O. D. Oliphant (National President, The American Legion Auxiliary): Madam President and Members of the Convention and President of the Cortland Unit—It gives me a great deal of honor and I consider it a very great privilege to be able to present to you this Flag, which means work well done. It means real achievement in your Unit. And I hope that next year the contest will be keen among the Units in the State of New York to secure this Flag. It is the Flag, the emblem of our organization. The Unit true blue; it carries our star of service, the star that means one of our own in the service of our country. I think it is a very fine thing, indeed, Madam President, that the Department of New York gives a Flag to that Unit that enrolls its full membership before January 1st, the largest number enrolled in a Unit before January 1st, and I believe this Unit has the record by having enrolled 139 members between the adjournment of the National Convention in October and the first of January; a splendid achievement, indeed, Madam President, and I hope you will go back to your Unit and that next year, although you won it this year, and perhaps are not eligible again, that you will keep up the good work that you have started and that every year you will blaze the trail again in New York State and have the greatest number enrolled on January 1st.

I present to you my congratulations and please say to your Unit that I hope some day to have the privilege and honor of meeting everyone of those individual members that has accomplished this splendid result for membership. (Applause.)

Mrs. Cocoran (President, Cortland Unit): National President, Officers and Delegates — The acceptance of this award falls on one who deserves little credit for the achievement and it gives me pleasure that it was under the leadership of my predecessor, Mrs. D. R. Reilly, and her loyal co-workers. It means much hard work. We hope that the influence of this achievement may inspire every Auxiliary in New York State. We thank the givers and we shall always love the gift. I thank you. (Applause.)

Mrs. Oliphant: Now wasn't that a beautiful speech she made? (Applause.) And didn't she exemplify for you this morning what I asked you to live in this great organization of ours? She did it so beautifully it is an inspiration to all of us. It is an inspiration I shall take back from the Department Convention of New York. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mrs. Hehr, President of the Malone Unit, will you come forward, please?

Malone has won the Ann Seymour cup. (Applause.) And Malone is going to be proud to receive it from our National President.

Mrs. Oliphant: Madam President, Members of the Convention and President of the Malone Unit — There is no honor that I would rather have come upon me, no duty to which I would rather be

assigned than to make a presentation to the President of the Unit that had won a cup for membership. The progress of any organization is indicated by the increase in membership. Had all of the Units in New York State this year matched the achievement of this dear little President of the Malone Unit you would be taking home with you from Omaha the National Hobart cup for membership. I hope that next year every Unit in the Department will match the achievement of the President of the Malone Unit in winning this beautiful Seymour cup.

Some little rumors have come back to me as National President that difficulty in enrolling our membership this year has been because of the membership blanks. I don't know whether it has been the situation in New York State or not. I hope it has not because if I should think it had been a reason then you wouldn't be thinking in National terms in New York and I believe you are. Don't disillusion me. The making out of those membership blanks is one of the most important items of your business, ladies. That membership blank was created for two great reasons: First, to keep your eligibility of membership pure. As in every great organization, a lot of women became enrolled who were not eligible to join The American Legion Auxiliary. It was a very embarrassing situation for the local President to have to go to those women and say: "We can't accept your dues any more," but if they could hand those women a membership blank and say: "Our National organization requires this," it made it very easy for you. Another reason, we are, as I said yesterday, we are to be an hereditary organization and we want to have the records ready for those who are to come after us and you would be amazed how difficult it is now, seven or eight years after the war, to get a correct record on those membership blanks. Think what it might be fifty years from now when some of your posterity want to be in The American Legion Auxiliary!

So in making out those membership blanks you are only preparing for the future and purifying our eligibility of membership. So don't think it is a hardship. Regard it a privilege and a pleasure and I only speak of it in this connection because it is part of our membership work.

And now, Madam President, this cup goes to you because you have had the vision in your Unit to think in membership, to think in terms of your Department in winning this cup and I hope it will be a real inspiration to you throughout the year and that the Seymour cup will bring you such great inspiration that next year you will come here with double the members you have now. I want to see that and I want to see New York blaze the trail in the United States for great membership and while we have such Presidents as you, Madam President, I am sure New York will win that honor.

It gives me great pleasure and I present to you the Seymour cup. Will you take it back to your Unit and say they have won it in a fair competition, they have won it because of great interest,

they have won it because they have the realization of The American Legion Auxiliary in their heart and they have done it because they think in terms of their Department. (Applause.)

Mrs. Hehr (President, Malone Unit): Madam National President — It gives me great pleasure to take this cup to Northern New York. We are way up on the border. We are isolated from New York City, but we are working hard and it was with hard work that we won this cup and I will say now that it was the hard work of my Membership Committee Chairman. It was through her individual work that we won this cup. We had cooperation. I will say every member was faithful, but it was a hard time of the year, because it was summer time. Our Unit was closed for the summer and we had to get out and work and it certainly gives me great pleasure to take this back to them in recognition of their work and I certainly hope that next year Malone Unit will be the largest in the State and New York State will be the largest in the National. (Applause.)

Delegate (St. Lawrence): I want the members of our organization to know that Mrs. Hehr is a Legionnaire, as well as a member of the Auxiliary, and even though she is tiny she works.

Mrs. A. L. Burnham (Chairman, Committee on Cooperation): Madam President, Officers and Delegates — Report on Cooperation is based on a special questionnaire sent out to the District Chairman early in the year, reports from two County Chairmen of the Second District, Chairman of the Ninth District, and the Unit reports of the Memorial Post and Lieutenant Clarence A. Dennis of Fayetteville, N. Y.

The Auxiliaries have cooperated with the Federated Women's clubs. Many of the clubs have assisted in our various drives for subscriptions to the Veterans' Mountain Camp and in the annual Poppy sales, as has also been the case with the D. A. R. and other patriotic organizations.

Through the Child Welfare (though very much in its infancy), we have been brought in close touch with the Parent-Teachers' associations of the communities and other organizations of that character.

Every District has one or two conferences in the year, to which there are representatives from all auxiliaries; the State officers of both Legion and Auxiliary are invited to speak, as well as District and County Commanders of the Legion. All this has brought about a better cooperation and enabled the members of the Auxiliary and Legion to become acquainted and has proved a wonderful "get-together."

Conferences have been held on Americanism, in which the Legion and Auxiliary have pledged themselves to adopt or organize Boy and Girl Scout Troops, and many have done so this year. Your State President is a Girl Scout Council member.

Both the Legion and Auxiliary are cooperating with the State and community officials in the instruction of our foreign-born in

citizenship, and to defeat the insidious propaganda which is on foot. The wonderful little book on "Service," edited by our Past National Chairman on Americanism, Garland W. Powell, has been well distributed throughout the State.

We hope to see our State organized at this Convention with Department 8 and 40. There are now 13 Pettit Salons.

The \$5,000,000 National Endowment has been well launched, many Posts and Auxiliaries having completed their quota and gone over the top.

As time goes on, the work of the Legion and Auxiliary makes for cooperation, which will bring both in closer contact, in their service "For God and Country." Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

I move you, Madam Chairman, the acceptance of this report. Carried.

The Chairman: Our National President has to leave us very shortly and we are going to ask her to talk to us just a little bit more and before she does that I want to tell her how each one has brought the message to me of how much they enjoyed her talk yesterday and, Mrs. Oliphant, I don't know how you are going to do it but we have got to have a report so each can take it down on paper and pencil, so we might have your report carried back. If you have such a report, I am sure we would be glad to take it back. Mrs. Oliphant will give us her talk now. (Applause.)

Mrs. Oliphant: Madam President and My Own American Legion Auxiliary — I am not going to talk as long as I did yesterday. You know I am just about at the end of my strength and the end of my talking capabilities, after thirteen months of service, and I am beginning to feel a little bit as a dear little woman described me after finishing speaking not many months ago. She came up to me after I finished speaking and said: "Oh, Mrs. Oliphant, I do enjoy hearing you speak so, you are so decomposed." (Laughter.) So after thirteen months of work and speaking continuously I am beginning to feel as some of you that went to Coney Island last night. (Laughter.) Anyway, I am glad to come in this morning and say just a few things in a practical way to you for you to go back and think about.

In regard to my report, my speech yesterday, you have it in the verbatim report and if the Convention desires you can have it lifted out of your report after it gets to your headquarters and mimeograph it and have a copy sent to each Unit.

But I want to say to you one or two things this morning in a practical way. I want you to think liberally on the subject of finance in your organization. I know that is a very touchy question. Everybody gets their ruffles all up when you talk finance. But I do want to see you liberal in thought in finance in your organization. You cannot accomplish the big things that you yourselves want to see accomplished unless you provide the sinews of war for your leaders and that is to finance your organization in

order to promote the big things you want to do. I know that our dues, our State due, will not cover the cost of all we want to do. They have found that out in a number of Departments and so they have obligated their Executive Committee to arrange a program whereby every unit can help in special finance fund for the Department. Every Department should pay the expenses of their delegates to the National Convention. Otherwise you are seeking to elect women who can finance themselves and that is not democratic or representative. Some little woman who has done a big job and can't afford to finance herself can't go and so it is up to you as women in this great Department of New York to create a special Department fund that you contribute to as Units and be ready to send your delegates and pay their expenses to the National Convention. Perhaps you do it. I hope you do. But that is something you should do. You should be sure to see that your Secretary and your President go. And, of course, your Past President, as a tribute to what she has done for you in leadership. But I want you this year in New York to put yourselves on a firm financial basis. It doesn't do any good to pile up a lot of money in the treasury. You want to spend it, but spend it wisely, by buying things for your organization with the expenditure, but at least you should provide the money there in order that you can accomplish the results that you want to accomplish as a great State organization.

Over in New Jersey, across the river, and if you will pardon me I will speak of that; other states have different methods; we found our dues would not pay our expenses and so a little special finance committee was created to bring in a definite plan whereby we could properly finance the Department and we evolved the plan of giving certain quotas to each Unit. The little Unit paid the same ratio of percentage as the big Unit, so that it was all equal, and after we determined upon that ratio, basing it on the former year's membership, we sent out word to our Units and said: "We want to create a special Department fund, we want your help, we want you to give one entertainment during the year for the Department Fund. Your quota to be turned in to the Department from that entertainment is so much. Whatever you make beyond that you fill up your own treasury with" and, would you believe it, that every single one of those Units that gave that entertainment more than tripled the quota we asked for the Department and so they really did fill up their Unit treasuries, as well as finance their State Department, and they became very opulent themselves as a Unit with a filled up treasury and now every year they look forward to giving that one special entertainment for the Department Special Fund.

That is one way. Iowa gives a great State Fair or Carnival or something and various other states have different methods. But it seems to me that the logical way is this entertainment process and have your ratio equal, so that the little Unit is paying just as much as the big Unit and the big Unit paying just as much as the

little Unit and so I hope, and I hope you will pardon me for suggesting it, but I hope you will place yourself on a self-supporting basis as a Department by, in addition to your dues, helping your Department to function.

The little bit of money we give to this organization is reaping wonderful results, ladies, and we should each and every one of us want to make some little personal sacrifice in order that we can support this great organization in the way it should be supported. We have our wonderful rehabilitation program, marvelously organized, and you are doing a splendid work in New York in that. We have our child welfare program wonderfully organized. We have gone forward in our Americanism work this year, but now, ladies, it has come to the point when you must support your organization, you must build your organization, and you can't do it unless you properly finance it. What you do need most, to my mind, in New York State the coming year, in addition to your able work, you need publicity.

I am a newspaper woman when I am not National President. (Applause.) And so I know how valuable publicity is. The great State of New York should have a publicity woman, a trained newspaper woman, in its employ and I want to tell you if you do that, make that investment, provide for that investment, you will more than double your membership in the coming year. Every woman wants to join an organization that she keeps continually reading about in the newspapers. My! that must be a very up and doing organization. Beyond that, I want to see you in your local communities every week put something in the newspapers about what The American Legion Auxiliary is doing as a National organization, as a State organization and as a Unit in that community. Please, as you go back to your units, think publicity, talk publicity and achieve publicity. Why, we are sending out in National bulletins, we are sending out in department bulletins, which I hope every one of you read from cover to cover, enough publicity every week almost to keep your papers filled with it. Tell when you are going to have your Unit meeting and after you have to tell that you had it in the newspapers and tell them how many and whom you appoint on the committees, tell them when you visit hospitals, or this or other things. Tell the people about it. Sell The American Legion Auxiliary in your communities, State and Nation with proper, adequate publicity.

Now I am going to tell you a secret. It is a dangerous thing to tell a lot of women a secret. But I am going to take the chance. One of my recommendations to your National Convention is, and you are the only Department I told it to, so keep it a secret, that The American Legion Auxiliary, National, shall have its own newspaper. (Applause.) And that National newspaper shall go direct to every member and its Units. (Applause.) I have got it all figured out, I have got it figured out on a safe basis, too, and I am only hoping the delegates from all over the United States will be able to visualize the thing in terms of a great National

organization and think in terms of you individual members way back in the Units that never get to a State Convention, that never get to a National Convention, but you want to know once a month everything your organization is doing from the Unit to National and from National back to the Unit, and so I hope — I hope — that is as far as I dare go. I hope we may have our own newspaper. And if we do you could have plenty of news for your Units. I want to say to every delegate here that if you will write your State Secretary — you have everything come to the State — the name of the woman in charge of the woman's page in your local community that we will mail her once a week from National Headquarters of the Legion the Legion clip sheet, and that means there is a column of news about the Auxiliary in that every week. It is the first time we have been able to get The American Legion, Nationally, to do this and we have only had it in operation about three weeks, trying it out. It costs us very little money. The Legion deals most liberally with us. But if you will send to Mrs. Ransom the name of the woman who is in charge of the woman's page, and if you don't have a woman in charge of a woman's page, send to Mrs. Ransom the name of the editor, and address, in your local community. That clip sheet will start coming to you next week, if she gets it to us in time, and you will see a column of Auxiliary news come out in your local newspapers about what we are doing Nationally. (Applause.) So get the idea of publicity in your mind and hearts and go back and spread that gospel to your Units.

I don't know as I have much more to talk to you about, except this: Yesterday I had it with me and I forgot to bring it in this morning. I want to speak to you about that beautiful medal. We have a new catalog out, which is altogether an Auxiliary catalog, and in that catalog is an illustration of this beautiful medal that the Units are to give to the eighth grade girl that wins it in their schools in their local communities, private, parochial, public and — well, I guess that covers it — schools. This medal is given to the eighth grade girl who meets the requirements of scholarship, leadership, Americanism, courage and honor, and with that medal goes a beautiful certificate and that certificate that girl can frame, and I wish I had the certificate here to read what it says, because it is wonderful, and if I was an eighth grade girl I'd be so proud of winning that medal and that certificate that I could frame, and that certificate is signed by the President and Secretary of the Unit.

That medal only costs the local Unit that gives it \$3, but you can get about \$1,000 worth of publicity out of it, and I know in your organization, by giving it, you will get a lot of publicity. That is not the reason you give it, of course; you give it because you want to promote Americanism in the schools of our country. And you can make a special function of this. You can make it a big thing in the community, and please always be sure to ask your Post Commander to make a speech at the presentation of it.

Tie in your Post with this thing. I want to see, and I hope to see, every Unit in New York buy from National Headquarters one of those medals and the certificate that goes with it; make a big function of it throughout the school year, and then, when it comes time, the day you decide, some big day, present that to that girl, grade girl, and you will have done something that will promote a finer citizenship among the women of the Nation in the future generation that is coming on.

Just one more word and I finish. I can't go without speaking to you about your National Convention. Oh, we are going to have a wonderful National Convention. I hope that not only the delegates and alternates from New York will come, but a whole lot of you will come as guests. It is going to be the greatest National Convention, we hope, we have ever had. We are going to have the President of the United States there, for one thing. We are going to have various distinguished guests. We are going to have three wonderful parades, and we have never had but one before. We are going to have the Legion parade, and that is always glorious, and this year the Auxiliary is going to be represented in it. How? You have already been told, I suppose, we are having troops of Cavalry carry the Auxiliary banners in the parade. (Applause.) Now, any of you women who are coming out, if your Unit hasn't the standard of colors, the stars and stripes and blue and white of the Auxiliary, borrow them from some other Unit. Every one that comes bring a standard of colors and have them carried in that Legion parade, and you know every standard of colors that is brought to the National Convention will receive a special citation band. And, of course, you want that for your colors, because when those colors are worn and frayed and are passed on to the next generation that comes after you they will be precious indeed, and if you can have on that pole a long line of bands telling that you have had a citation at every one of your National Conventions on your colors, that is going to be a record, indeed, to hand down. They are going to say: "Well, our Unit got that at Omaha."

And, you know, Omaha is a special time, because we pass our fifth birthday at Omaha. In marriage it is a wooden wedding. (Laughter.) But with us it is a pushing aside of our swaddling clothes, a stepping out as a great organization, built by wonderful women with great hearts. So I hope lots of you will come there. We are going to have a great electric parade on Wednesday night. That parade on Wednesday night costs between \$60,000 and \$70,000 to produce. The city of Omaha has it as an annual event each year. You know those westerners are great on advertising their cities. And that electric parade once a year at Omaha is to advertise Omaha and Nebraska. And this year they are giving it to The American Legion and its Auxiliary, and that electric parade will illustrate with fourteen or fifteen floats, and the floats are as big as from here to that chandelier over there. They are going to illustrate the Preamble of The American Legion Con-

stitution. Won't that be wonderful? And, beyond that, they are going to illustrate, with two or three thousand lights, supplementary work and the carrying forward and helping work of The American Legion Auxiliary. And if they produce that Auxiliary float, as we hope they will, it will be one of the most inspirational things that has ever been put in any parade.

We are going to have a wonderful States' dinner. You know the States' dinner is the one big social function of the Convention and that is on Monday night this year. It used to be on Tuesday. This year it is Monday. And we are going to have a lot of fun at that States' dinner. It is going to be all fun. That is going to be our playhour and every State is asked to produce a stunt. We have got about four or five of the most marvelous stunts sent in to us that the different states are going to do. They have to write us about it and tell us about it. We sort of censure it at National Headquarters. They are wonderful stunts and New York wants to be on hand with stunts. So get to work and have a stunt from New York. Have some songs; lots of them; sing the special verse to the National Commander; sing a special verse to your National Vice-President here, Mrs. Cocklin. She deserves it. Have some peppy songs; let them know New York is there 100 per cent. We are going to have a mighty good time at that dinner. Then we are going to have a Secretaries' dinner. The Secretaries, I believe, are to be the guests of Nebraska, the Department of Nebraska, and that will be a very fine affair. We have teas and parties and all sorts of things that belong in a convention. And then we are going to try to run your National Convention, with your help, so that it will be through at one o'clock and that you will have a little play time and not work all your time.

But remember this, that when it says on the program that the meeting is to begin at eight o'clock, they are going to begin at eight o'clock. (Applause.) And when it says that the gavel falls at eight o'clock, even if there isn't a quorum there, we start. But I want you to be in your seats. At least you owe that to the fact that you are delegates sent there by your State. I want you to be in your seats, not having friendly intercourse in the corridors, but in your seats at the time the Convention is to convene and then we can give you a half day off to have a good time. That makes for a good Convention. I am so proud Mrs. Garrison has done that. It is one of the finest things about this Convention. She has kept you in here. You have given her your attention and it is one of the finest Conventions I have attended. Usually I don't go around passing out compliments. You give your attention whether or not you can hear the speaker, and that is great. (Laughter.) You are in your places and you have been a real inspiration to her. I am mighty glad to have had the opportunity to come to New York. I hope I haven't taken too much of your time this morning.

But, oh! I want to see New York. Do you know what State has the record in membership in the United States? Iowa! Never

heard of it? (Laughter.) But Iowa has over 20,000 members. Iowa, way out there in the middle west. We think about it in New York as the "sticks"—Iowa, with over 20,000. I attended their Convention. I said to that Convention: "Ladies, you are 18,000 in membership today at your State Convention. You should equal your highest peak of membership before the National Convention." And they stood up in a body and said: "Madam President, we will equal it." And they have equaled it since their Convention.

What Iowa can do New York can do. (Applause.) I want New York State—you know I live and am coming back to live right across the river from you—I want New York State to show the whole United States their dust in membership next year. I want you to get the lists of your Post members and then I want you to go with those lists; call upon the men first and smile at them. You know we women can win by a smile. And then say: "Your women are not here; their names are not on the honor roll, Mr. Post Member. We must have every eligible woman in this Post on the honor muster roll of our Auxiliary." And you will win. I spoke at the Legion Convention yesterday and I turned to the Commander and I said: "How many members have you got in the Legion?" And he said, "60,000." And then I told those men of the Legion that they are only 50 per cent organized if their Post has not an Auxiliary, and then I told them some more things about why they should have their women, those Posts that have no Auxiliary, should have their women in that Auxiliary.

Now, don't let Iowa beat you next year. Pennsylvania is ahead of you. Don't let anybody lead New York State. You sent to the World War one of the greatest heroes this country has ever known. You are the women of heroes. Now show your courage and go forward in a bigger and better way next year.

Thank you, Madam President, for letting me come here again. Anywhere you ever see me, please don't let me pass without your shaking my hand. And I leave with you here a heart full of friendship, of personal, dear regard and a great and glorious wish that we together shall march forward to our destiny, the greatest woman's organization in America, great because we are the women whose men served our Flag. (Applause.)

The Chairman: Mrs. Oliphant, I am sure there is not a woman in this room but what has not grown bigger and better and never will pass Mrs. Oliphant by without letting her know we have learned to love her.

Mrs. Cocklin (National Vice-President): Madam President, yesterday when Mrs. Oliphant was telling you about the National Adequate Defense I wanted to get up and say something when she was through, but time was short. She said you did this and you did that, but she never said that she was the one that thought that scheme out. She didn't tell you that she was the one that laid all the plans, went to the President of the United States and

got his consent and his full permission to do everything. Then she got these other women in. But Mrs. Oliphant was the originator of that idea, because she saw the need of a movement like that at the present time and she alone is to be thanked for it. (Applause.)

Mrs. Beulah Donovan (Chairman, Child Welfare Committee): Madam State President, Officers and Members of Convention Assembled—At the beginning of this year each Unit and County was instructed to appoint a Child Welfare Chairman and forward the names to State Chairman. May I ask the delegates to carry back to their Units the necessity of these appointments being made, if they have not been done, so that next year we may be able to give a more substantial report to State and National Organizations?

The Child Welfare Chairman should cooperate with the Rehabilitation, Americanism and Legislation Chairman very closely and still have separate records. The laws of New York State on Child Labor are of the very highest, yet we should familiarize ourselves with them and all local and county laws and try at all times to use our influence for the betterment of them.

The need of instilling patriotism and respect to our Flag into the future generations through means of our schools is very great. The children of today are the citizens of tomorrow. Encourage the adoption of Boy Scout Troops to your Post and the Girl Scouts to your Auxiliary. This work has been carried on, but not reported.

The Second and Fifth Districts deserve much credit for the good accomplished and reports sent in. Special attention has been given to children of World War Veterans, but in many locations the work has been general. Contributions have been given orphanage homes, toys and goodies taken at Christmas and many other days. Clothing has been purchased, also hundreds of pairs of shoes; milk has been given children at home and money sent to milk funds in clinics and schools.

One Unit was instrumental in saving the sight of a youngster by having one cancerous eye removed and replaced with a glass one. Many tots in hospitals have been made happier by visits and gifts.

The Eight and Forty have entered heartily into this work and many parties and luxuries have been given to children whose parent paid the supreme sacrifice.

Contributions and disbursements. It is estimated that there are over 9,000 orphans of veterans in these United States today (ten per cent. in New York State) and that the number will increase to forty thousand within the next few years, so may we bend every effort to help the less fortunate and especially those in whose veins runs the red blood of patriotism, whose fathers were not permitted to fashion their destinies. Our duty is to "carry on."

The American Legion Billet No. 3, located at Clarksboro, N. J., was formally opened in May with this Billet maintained by National Department. It is for orphans from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the Endowment Fund being the main source of finance. The children are given every advantage until legally adopted by individuals whose home life is thoroughly investigated and a check is kept upon them after adoption. Application for adoption is made through Dr. J. I. Wykoff, 1717 Diamond street, Philadelphia.

Boxes of clothing, canned fruits and toys have been sent to Clarksboro and very many have been sent to Otter Lake Billet, Michigan. The Units have responded to the National call for voluntary contributions from members very well, the total amount to date being \$792.80. Contributions sent direct to Otter Lake are not included.

Contributions received from Herkimer County Committee, Skaneateles Unit, Jefferson County Committee, Goshen, Yerkes Couchman Unit, Mrs. Pritchard, State Executive Committee, Port Chester, Corona, Watertown, Hollis Post No. 980, Joseph B. Garrity, Maspeth Auxiliaries, Ozone Park, Long Island, Flushing, Syracuse, Mt. Vernon, making total of \$125.90.

And may I say that I know there has been very much good accomplished by the Units and Counties in New York State but reports have not been sent in and I sincerely hope that next year the Child Welfare Committee will be more organized so the report may be much better.

Madam President, I move the adoption of this report. Carried.

The Chairman: National Commander Drain. (Applause.)

Mr. James A. Drain (National Commander, The American Legion): Madam President, Women of The American Legion Auxiliary of New York — I am very glad to have this opportunity to speak to you in the bosom of the family. I have just come from the Seventy-First Regiment Armory where I have been talking to the men and I have a strong disinclination to talk to one part of the Legion without talking to what I consider is such a very important part of it as the Auxiliary.

I asked your President how long I should talk. First, she wanted me to talk and she said "Yes," and I said: "How long?" She smiled in a sweet and tactful way. I gathered from that you haven't elected your officers; you have a lot of business and it is Saturday and you want to get home and perhaps some of you haven't arranged for your Sunday marketing yet. (Laughter.) So I must be short. If I seem to hit the high places in what I say to you I want you to understand it is not because of lack of interest in the subject, "The American Legion," of which The American Legion Auxiliary is the most important sub-part, that I do not talk about it for a long time.

Here is what I think about the American Legion Auxiliary and here is what I have been saying to tens and tens of thousands of

men, to our men, all over America, because I am just about concluding a little over 70,000 miles of travel, Madam President, in the last eleven months, which has meant, of course, all portions of the country north, east, south and west, every portion of it. Every place I have gone in so far—I have never yet made a set speech to the Legion and probably shall not—I have said certain things which just like cork in water bob up every time I talk to the Legion. One is this: A definition. When I say "American Legion," men and women of The American Legion, I always mean, and you are to understand me to mean, The American Legion Auxiliary and the 40 and 8, as well as the American Legion proper, because to take the physical figure you might say here, the main body, The American Legion, here, except for the absence of the right hand, The American Legion Auxiliary, and here is the 40 and 8, indispensable part of the same body.

Now, you women, I want you to know that I think, my view, I take myself to be about an average American man, a little more fortunate than some other men in that I had early and intimate contact with good women, having been married just before I was twenty-one. My first four children being daughters now grown and all happily married, I always had a house full of women. I stepped out of my mother's house into my own house, practically, and I was for a long time stumbling over little girl babies in the house and then over young men calling on those girl babies grown in life. (Laughter.) I think I have had a little better opportunity than most men then to understand women, although I do not claim to understand them. (Laughter.) A better knowledge of them.

Now, this is as serious as anything can be. We say of our women that they have intuition and to any man of experience and observation there can be no question about that, women having intuition. Women know things that they have no right to know. (Laughter.) That sounds like a joke and it is in one sense amusing, but they know things through a special super-sense. They know things that men have to learn through contact and experience. My mother, I know I used to think her judgment about the quality of a man was better than that of any man I knew. If she said: "That is a good man, Jimmy," he was a good man and if she said: "Look out for that man," I'd better look out for that man. Now, intuition, I understand, ladies of the Legion Auxiliary of New York, to be the demonstration, the actual demonstration of a greater degree of divinity on the part of woman than man has because basically when the generous, all-wise Creator gave to the human being something of the divine he gave to the women a little more of the divine than he did to the men. It was right that he should because the mothers of the race should stand closer to God, Madam President, than my members of the race. (Applause.) Look, don't applaud, just listen to me, my dear girl friends, until I get this over. Just as sure as being here, here is what the Legion is heading for, the man end of the Legion — every jurisdiction in

which I have gone I have delivered this message; I just gave it again to your Convention over here; I gave it at every convention, every State; and all over the reception to it is the same. This is the message I speak of: "You men out there who in 1917 and 1918 wore the olive drab or the blue or the olive green of the Army, Navy or Marine Corps didn't wear the uniform of your country in the World War for what you could get out of it, but you wore it for what you could give and because you thought your country needed you. You are in The American Legion now not for what you can get but what you can give or you are in it for the wrong reason and you'd better get out." (Applause.) Now, then, that is the reception that message received in every jurisdiction, always, all the way from St. Augustine to El Paso, Portland, Maine, to Seattle; the same thing happened. The men give it the most enthusiastic reception. "All right, you like that, men. I'll tell you why you like it—because it is the same thing you are thinking of yourself. I am not saying it to you as the Commander of The American Legion, not as James A. Drain, the individual, but I am saying it to you as a man who under God is the sounding board for The American Legion." Now, take that home with you. That is the doctrine that The American Legion is taking hold of today because it is the Legion doctrine, to have our women there, to understand what we of the Legion mean and then to be prepared to work with us as they have been prepared and as they are prepared and as they are working with us. It is a treasure of the greatest prize.

On the physical side, I don't know whether you women realize it, but the truth of the business is that in America today there are about 4,000,000 men eligible to membership in The American Legion; on the basis of that there are about 20,000,000 women eligible to membership in the Auxiliary. It is only a question of time that you will outnumber us greatly. If we can speak through the exercise of this power which is ours, and the fraternal feeling which binds us men so closely together to do the things which are right for our country, all the more reason then why we should have you understanding us and working with us.

Nothing I could say about or to The American Legion Auxiliary could overstate my appreciation for the working of the organization, my admiration for you, my regard for you, my belief in your future great usefulness to this wonderful organization of ours. That is a considered opinion, Madam President, which I wish you to take as such. This organization of ours now seems to me to possess more capacity for useful, unselfish, public spirited service to our country and through our country to the world than any other organization of men and women in existence or which can be created short of another war as great as this last one.

Thank you very much for listening to me. I am sorry I couldn't talk longer to you. I might make you tired of me and I shouldn't like to do that. Thank you very much for listening to me and I am very glad and proud to have had this opportunity.

The Chairman: Commander Drain, I want to thank you for the honor you have paid the Auxiliary and I want to say everyone of us are going to try our best to live up to the high ideal you have placed on us. (Applause.)

Mrs. Luke: Madam President, Officers, Members — I am indeed sorry that a more glowing report on Memorials cannot be given. It has been extremely difficult to obtain data, and while some counties have been prompt in their reports, others have been entirely silent.

The sale of poppies on Memorial Day, is our Universal Memorial work, and it is indeed gratifying to note the report of that committee. It is very gratifying also, to note the increasing tendency of the people through the State to speak of May 30th as "Memorial Day" and also the disposition to make of it a Memorial Day rather than a day of frivolity.

On this Memorial Day practically all Posts and Auxiliaries either took entire charge or helped in the proper observance of the day.

Queens County held additional exercises on the 17th of May at Forest Park. Representatives from the various Units of the County took part in the celebration. These exercises were held at this time because so many of the Units were to act with their local Post on Memorial Day.

Many of the Units through the State contributed to the wreath which was placed by the Department on the tomb of our unknown soldier in Arlington.

At Leedsville a Memorial Bridge over the Webotuck River was formally dedicated by Armenia Post. The bridge was presented to the town in memory of the Dutchess County men who died in the World War. Pulaski and Mexico, New York, each placed tablets and markets in their public park in memory of those who served.

In Catskill an imposing monument, nineteen feet high, with a bronze soldier figure was unveiled on Memorial Day.

Lexington Post held imposing ceremonies, a feature of which was the floating of a large wreath, made by a Post member, in memory of those heroes who lost their lives at sea.

Beacon Post at Beacon, N. Y., Dutchess County, has a new Memorial Headquarters which the Beacon Auxiliary is helping furnish. The Post at Dover Plains, in the same County, purchased a Memorial Building, with the proceeds of a Carnival which they gave and the Unit to this Post is helping them to furnish it.

The George Aden Post unveiled a monument to the men and women of the town who lost their lives in the World War.

At Hollis, Long Island, impressive exercises were held at the World War monument, with flag raising by Hollis Post, and also the placing of a wreath in memory of their fallen heroes.

In practically all of the towns and cities where there are World War monuments, wreaths and flowers were placed with loving hands.

In Greenport, Burton Potter Unit places a wreath on the Soldiers' and Sailors' monument every holiday.

Hampton Bays Unit purchased a stand of colors for their Post in memory of the boys in their locality who did not return.

A stand of colors was also given to Fredonia Memorial Post by the parents of a boy who gave his life to the service.

Patchogue and Rushy Bohn Units each presented their Gold Star members with Auxiliary pins in memory of the boys whom they lost.

The City of Jamestown has purchased the home of former Governor Fenton and has given it to the patriotic organizations of the city. The entire second floor has been given over to the Legion and Auxiliary. The Cemetery Association of this same city has set aside a plot large enough for 800 graves, for the burial of veterans of all wars. This plot is called "Soldiers' Circle" and is valued at \$30,000. At present fourteen World War Veterans are buried there. Four streets of this city have been named for four boys who lost their lives in France, and the mother of one of these boys planted forty trees in the street which was named for her son.

In Westfield, New York, in the public park, the Legion and Auxiliary planted trees, one for each of their buddies who marched bravely away, but never returned. Each tree bears its bronze marker and every Memorial Day wreaths and flowers are placed about the trees. By a happy coincidence this park is directly across the street from the Legion Club Rooms.

In Buffalo the Posts and Auxiliaries of the city are working for a Memorial building which will be erected in some part of the city, where ex-service men and women may have the use of it.

At Waverly, a Memorial boulder, carrying a suitably inscribed bronze tablet will be erected, the entire cost of which will be met by Betowski-Vandemark Post.

Marcellus has a bronze tablet which is to be placed on a boulder and properly inscribed with the names of the ten boys that gave their lives to the cause.

Doubtless there are many more wonderful and lasting memorials which have been dedicated this past year, but this constitutes the report of all that has been given to me as Chairman of Memorials.

But better than all of these is the Memorial which is firmly planted in every heart, giving us the incentive to "carry on" for the sake of those who lie in honored graves. Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Madam Chairman, I move the adoption of the report. Carried.

Mrs. H. J. Cookinham, Jr. (Chairman, Legislation Committee): To The American Legion Auxiliary, Fifth Annual Convention, Department of New York: Your Chairman on Legislation herewith submits the following report: The second session

of the 68th Congress ended March 4th and with this closing session all bills and resolutions which had not been enacted, died with the end of that session.

The short session lasted only three months, leaving barely two months for Legislative activities after the holiday recess and all the time consumed in organization.

The new Congress will convene on December 4th next and will start with no legislation pending before it.

The National Legislative Committee of the American Legion has been a shining light and life saver to our disabled men. This Committee maintains headquarters in Washington and is in truth a "Watch Tower" for the rights, interests and protection of our service men and women all through the United States.

The National Committee on Legislation was disappointed that many of its bills were not acted upon in the final session of Congress.

However, a goodly amount of most commendable legislation was passed at this session.

The Legion Committee is to be congratulated on the very splendid Hospital Building Program which was adopted amounting to \$27,116,800.

As members of the Auxiliary we have pledged our contribution of service in every respect to The American Legion, and its Legislative program is one of the most important of its activities.

It is therefore necessary that The American Legion Auxiliary keep that pledge and that we familiarize ourselves with all important legislation pending during the sessions of Congress and also at all times assist in the efforts to enact legislation sponsored by the Legion.

Child Labor: The Child Labor Amendment has been a live and most vital issue on this program and it should be discussed fully by the Units of the Auxiliary. It is of great importance that this subject be given a place in your meetings for discussion.

Immigration: The Immigration problems which confront the United States at the present time also should be given careful thought and diligent study by everyone of us as loyal citizens. We owe this to our Country. The necessary restrictions and our present quota laws should be understood.

Adjusted Compensation: The several Amendments to the Adjusted Compensation Bill passed at the St. Paul Convention, failed of passage the last session of our Legislature. It is hoped and confidently expected that the first session of the 69th Congress will take action favorably on these Amendments.

The most important of these Amendments are: a. The elimination of the dependency provision in Section 602 of this Act. The speedy enactment of this law will relieve many families of deceased veterans and will also carry out the full true spirit of the law. b. The Amendment to allow a veteran to assign his compensation to a patriotic organization.

The National Committee on Legislation recommend that all amendments requested by the National Convention be resubmitted

at Omaha, that they may be presented at the next session of Congress with the added backing of the Omaha Convention.

Immigration, Deportation and Naturalization: No legislation was enacted in the last session of Congress covering the most important issues of Deportation, Immigration or Naturalization.

Bursum Bill: The bill for the Retirement of the Disabled Emergency Army Officers, better known as the Bursum bill, became the Special Order of business in the Senate on February 2nd and was passed by a vote of 63 to 14. This bill, however, was not passed by the House in the last days of session.

The bill is designed to extend to the Disabled Emergency Officers and National Guard Officers in a limited degree the retirement privileges which the Regular Army Officers and the Officers of the Navy and Marine Corps now enjoy.

Your Chairman was appealed to by the National Legislative Committee of the Legion in the days it was pending to write individual letters and send telegrams to our two State Senators asking for immediate action on this important measure that it might not again die with the last session of the 68th Congress.

It was the firm belief of the Legislative Committee that the Bursum bill would be enacted during the 68th Congress. It will be introduced in the next session again. The Legion National Committee have not abandoned the fight for this justice and recognition which has long years been due the Emergency Army Officers.

It will be presented to the 69th Congress and after six years of effort will be pushed to a glorious finish.

Disabled Soldiers' League: A committee from the House of Representatives headed by Representative Fish of New York investigated the frauds in connection with the Disabled Soldiers' League.

Testimony developed that it had paid out \$142,000 to lead pencil companies and that 200,000 letters had been sent out with pencils by one concern in the City of New York.

Approximately 1,000,000 letters have been sent out to business men throughout the country.

Adequate appropriation was made for this investigation of the League and for all War Fraud cases.

Universal Draft: Three measures have been presented to Congress intended to provide Universal Draft.

1. The McSwain Resolution (H. J. Res. 128), was presented and favorably reported by the Military Affairs Committee and was, therefore, placed on the calendar of the House.

This resolution would not make Universal Draft effective, however, but it instead provides for a Commission to draft the necessary legislation for introduction in Congress.

Johnson Bill: The bill prepared and introduced by Senator Johnson of South Dakota and known as the Johnson bill has been before Congress for three years and is a most forceful bill.

It is essentially a peace time measure, and preparedness measure as well.

Its enactment would eliminate in the next war all slackers and profiteers and draft all resources of our National man power and industry.

It is for justice and decrees that should war again be forced upon us all shall serve equally with no favors and no profits. It places Labor, Capital and Man-power on the same service basis.

It is interesting to note that the Universal Draft Bill has been endorsed even by some of our ardent pacifists of the country.

Clapper Bill: The Clapper bill (S. 2561) for Universal Draft is identical with the Johnson bill.

The National Legislative Committee has asked us to give special thought to the McSwain resolution as a most *constructive* piece of legislation.

The enactment of the resolution as a recommendation would be far easier to obtain than the passage of the Universal Draft bill.

War Mothers: The Home resolution to incorporate the American War Mothers under the laws of the District of Columbia was passed without amendment on February 17th, 1925. It was signed by President Coolidge during the days of the National Defense Conference in Washington, February 26th.

Memorials: On February 18th the bill was passed by the House to appropriate fourteen (14) million dollars for the construction of a Memorial Bridge across the Potomac connecting the Lincoln Memorial with Arlington Cemetery.

National Defense: We should become informed as to our National Defense Act.

It is perhaps the most grossly misunderstood of any legislation of recent years.

The keeping of our National Defense Day is in no way a military gesture. It is a lesson in Patriotism and in self preservation of our Country.

The keeping of this day is but keeping the law. Our National Defense Act as amended in 1920, states very clearly that every man of military age is a member of the militia of our Nation and that he must meet that obligation as a citizen and be ready to defend this Nation at all times from enemies from within and from without.

In words of President Coolidge: "I am unable to detect any inconsistency in giving my approval to the program of National Defense. I wish crime might be abolished, but I do not therefore abolish courts and police protection. I wish war might be made impossible, but I would not leave my Country unprotected meanwhile."

Our American Constitution is a most priceless treasure, for it preserves for us now and forever our sacred rights. Every man, woman and child who enjoys the rights and privileges of citizenship must also assume their shares of responsibility for the everlasting preservation of these rights. Should not the priceless treasure of America be safe-guarded? "He who hath a treasure and will not defend that treasure is not worthy of that treasure."

Last year the National Chairman of Legislation of The American Legion Auxiliary reported that every State was represented by a Legislative Chairman so that the National Legislative Committee functioned 100 per cent.

Her most gracious words of praise for the work, bulletins and resolutions of last year were very gratifying to the New York State Chairman and a great compliment to the New York State Department.

Inasmuch as the National Organization during the coming year may call upon you for definite action, it is most important that Auxiliaries have Chairmen of Legislation and that each Chairman be required to keep herself informed of all pending legislation. It is also important that all Units hold themselves in readiness and be prepared to assist National Headquarters.

In order to do this intelligently every Unit meeting must have a few minutes given to some legislative subject. During the sessions of Congress a round table discussion once a month has been most beneficial in keeping in touch with the pending legislation.

No part of the Auxiliary program is more important than the study of Legislation, yet few Units have taken any interest in this phase of the work.

The following recommendations are suggested:

That each Unit be required to have a Legislative Chairman, whose duty it shall be to keep in touch with all pending legislation sponsored by the Legion, and to keep her Unit informed.

That each Unit keep a record of all legislation enacted concerning the service man, also of all legislation proposed or pending on Immigration, Naturalization and American subjects.

That Units study the National Defense Act, that all may fully know and realize our duties as citizens.

Only by keeping an active interest in these matters can we truly be one hundred per cent. American.

Let us consecrate our efforts to a devotion to mutual helpfulness to the National Legislative activities.

Thus shall we prove our patriotism.

Respectfully submitted. (Applause.)

Madam President, I move the adoption of the report on Legislation. Carried.

Mrs. T. R. Pritchard (Department Historian): Madam Chairman, Delegates — Owing to a deep sorrow that came into the life of your Department Historian, the Historian's report, presented this year, is the condensed reports of the Sixth District Chairmen who kindly responded to a request for this information.

Every District reporting, tells the same story of cooperation, contributing liberally to the Children's Billet at Otter Lake, the Joe Burns Fund, Rehabilitation, the furnishings of our National Headquarters, the Endowment Fund, and finally their contributions to the Veterans' Mountain Camp, the Poppy Drive reaching over \$51,000 and over \$400 for the endowment of a permanent fund for the Camp.

Our Department was honored by the Legion, in being invited to participate in the tribute given to General Pershing on April 25, 1925, and to all who were privileged to attend, this wonderful tribute of The American Legion to a wonderful man, will ever be an inspiration.

Our Department was again honored, when Mrs. Garrison, Department President, was made a member of the National Rehabilitation Committee to serve two years.

Many fine and beautiful deeds stand out to the credit of our Auxiliary women. They continue to be "angels of mercy" to the disabled in Hospitals; increasing their efforts as the records show in their quiet and kindly ministrations—to us the "war is not yet over", neither has our interest diminished and ours is the precious privilege to "hold high the torch", to help back to health and life the disabled and to assist in every way the dependent relatives.

The records also show a tendency to do more Local Welfare Work, and many Units are becoming awakened to the fact that "Welfare Work" like "Charity" begins at home. This is most praiseworthy. Most Units can find among the members of their local Post many opportunities for needed assistance, which is much appreciated, when tendered by their "mothers, sisters, wives and daughters".

Around the Metropolitan District there is a growing tendency to adopt "Girl Scout Troops" and thereby interest them in Americanization.

The Williard A. Balcom Unit twice a year presents a gold medal to the scholar writing the best essay on "Citizenship," as a memorial to Williard A. Balcom, after whom the Post was named and who formerly attended that school.

We find that death is taking its toll of Auxiliary members and while no accurate record could be secured it is a considerable number.

A persistent effort by determined District Chairmen has resulted in many new Units being formed and many revived. Putnam County at last has a Unit, a successful effort of 3½ years work.

Fredonia Unit joined with their Post in securing the services of one of the best bands in the State, and provided an afternoon concert for the patients at Newtown Memorial Hospital, which was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by our boys.

The silk banner offered by the State Department for the largest increase in membership by a given date was won by Cortland City Unit No. 489.

Carrington Fuller Unit at Groton, N. Y., boasts one member whose father, grandfather and great grandfather served in the Civil War, the War of 1812 and the Revolution, and her son served in the World War.

Through the efforts of the Suffolk County Chairman, a Heliotherapy Lamp was placed in the Holtsville Sanatorium for the treatment of T. B. at a cost of \$440. \$340 of this amount was raised by the Auxiliary Units of Suffolk County.

One item that we believe worthy of special mention is that for the Memorial Day Parade; Astoria Unit No. 145 provided Poppy costumes for 300 children who marched in the parade representing "Flanders Field."

The present membership of the Department of New York is 12,392.

The number of paid up Units is 400. (Applause.)

I move the adoption of the report. Carried.

The Chairman: We are ready now to have the amendments to the Constitution read.

Mrs. William Keenes (Chairman, Committee on Constitution and By-Laws): The following amendment to the State Constitution to be added to Article IV:

That each District Chairman be delegate-at-large to State Convention with vote and that each County Chairman be delegate-at-large to State Convention with vote and expenses be defrayed by County.

I move the adoption of that amendment. Carried.

To be added to Article IV: "That an amendment be made to the Constitution of The American Legion Auxiliary to the effect that hereafter all candidates planning to run for State Offices declare themselves and bulletins be sent to all units giving names of the candidates and the offices they are seeking so that action can be taken and delegates instructed at county committee meetings at least two months prior to convention."

This was disapproved by the Committee because they felt that it was unnecessary. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Carried.

This is an amendment to the State Constitution which states: "That the presiding officer of each Auxiliary shall be first choice as delegate to the State Convention."

This is taken care of in Article IV, Section 2, which says: "The President of a unit by virtue of her office shall become the first delegate."

I move the disapproval of that amendment. Carried.

Be It Resolved, That the fiscal year of the auxiliaries and counties be from July 1st to June 30th of each year and the officers be elected at the first meeting in June, so that the new presiding officers shall have data obtained at the State Convention with which to work during the major part of the year.

This was disapproved by the Committee as it conflicted with the dates and with our National Constitution. I move the adoption of the report of the Committee. Carried.

There are no other amendments to the Constitution. I move the adoption of the report. Carried.

Mrs. Ethel V. Murphy (Chairman, Ninth District): Madam President, we know that you will always remember us in your

heart but the members of the Ninth District wish you to keep us constantly in mind in your travel and therefore we present this little token to you. (Applause.)

The Chairman: My Ninth District that I have always said was the best in the state has presented me with a gift and to the Ninth District I want to say that with a gift or without a gift I never could forget them, them nor their loyalty. Thank you Ninth District. (Applause.)

We have a few more resolutions this morning.

Mrs. Charles Seymour (Chairman, Resolutions Committee): Madam Chairman, National Vice-President, Officers and Members of the Executive Committee and Delegates to the Department Convention: The Resolutions Committee beg to submit four or five more resolutions this morning for your approval.

Resolved, That this Convention express appreciation of the cordial reception extended to its members by Mayor Hylan and his officials and the citizens of the City of New York and all organizations which have so kindly extended their hospitality to us. Carried.

Resolved, That the thanks of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York be extended to Mr. Levy and the Management of the Pennsylvania Hotel for the excellent service they have given us, the free use of the ball room and adjacent rooms for the Convention and Committee meetings and for the many courtesies extended our delegates.

Resolved, That a sincere vote of thanks be extended to the General Arrangements Chairman and her committees for their splendid efforts in providing for our pleasure, for our comfort and for the success of this, our Fifth Annual Convention.

WHEREAS, The Press has given us unsolicited publicity the officers and members of The American Legion Auxiliary in Convention assembled express their appreciation for the service given.

May I ask the members or delegates to please stand during the reading of the next resolution?

WHEREAS, The members of The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of New York, deeply appreciate the responsibility and labor imposed upon our President and her official family.

Therefore, be it resolved, That we in Convention assembled express to them by a rising vote of thanks our appreciation of the most excellent administration they have given us during the past year. (Applause.)

Mrs. A. L. Burnham (Chairman, Finance Committee): Madam Chairman, Officers and Delegates: The State Finance Committee has met and audited the Treasurer's books before each Executive Committee this year and found them to be correct as reported.

The final audit was made September 9, 1925, and the balance on hand of \$343.41, as reported by the State Treasurer, was found to be correct.

I move the adoption of that report, Madam Chairman. Seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Burnham: Madam Chairman, I have here the Convention financial report which I will ask Mrs. Ransom to read later, but before giving it I only wish that the Finance Committee of the Convention had heard Mrs. Oliphant before they made this report and we would have been more liberal than we have in this report and you wouldn't have been quite so frightened at the figures we have here given. I wish we would have been able to do better.

REPORT OF THE CONVENTION FINANCE COMMITTEE

Madam Chairman, Officers and Delegates: The Convention Finance Committee have met and submit for your approval the following budget for the year 1926:

Secretary's salary	\$2,300 00	
Executive Committee and Departmental expenses..	3,500 00	
Stationery and printing.....	250 00	
Telegrams and telephone.....	250 00	
Miscellaneous	700 00	
District Chairmen's expenses.....	500 00	
Entertainment	250 00	
To National Rehabilitation Fund.....	100 00	
		\$7,850 00

This committee feels that with the growing work of this Department the above sum is necessary for its work.

It also feels that the Finance Committee for the ensuing year should devise some means of raising funds aside from its per capita tax which, even on a 13,000 membership, would only amount to \$6,500. Respectfully submitted.

Mrs. Burnham: Madam Chairman, I move the adoption of that report. Seconded. Carried.

REPORT ON CHAPLAIN FUND — SEPTEMBER, 1925

Balance on hand January 20, 1925.....	\$70 00	
Received from—		
Mead Auxiliary 163—Morrisville....	\$5 00	
Madison County Committee.....	10 00	
		15 00
Balance on hand.....		\$85 00
Total amount received.....	\$320 00	
Checks sent to Dr. Cosgrove to total.....	235 00	
Leaving balance on hand.....		\$85 00

Respectfully submitted, Jane Keens, Chairman-Treasurer, Chaplain Fund.

REPORT OF CHAPEL FUND — SEPTEMBER 1, 1925

Amount on hand September 1, 1924.....	\$5,260 31	
Received during year.....	603 00	
Interest for year.....	219 94	
	<hr/>	\$6,083 25
Check protested, no account in bank, check	\$35 00	
Cost of protest.....	1 40	
	<hr/>	36 40
Balance on hand.....		<hr/> <u>\$6,046 85</u> <hr/>

Respectfully submitted, Jane Keens, Chairman-Treasurer, Chapel Fund, Veterans' Mountain Camp.

The Finance Committee reports they have audited the books of Mrs. Keens and found them correct.

Mrs. A. L. Burnham: I move the adoption of these two reports. Seconded. Carried.

Mrs. Keens: Madam President, may I say at this time, for the benefit of some of the women, that that chapel money is in the name of The American Legion Auxiliary, as Jane Keens, Treasurer, and that I am bonded for the amount and I have a renewal of the bond at my own expense which I am presenting to your Secretary at this time. (Applause.)

The Chairman: I am going to ask Mrs. Hatch, Chairman of F. I. D. A. C. to read her report now.

Mrs. Hyatt C. Hatch (Chairman, F. I. D. A. C.): What is F. I. D. A. C.? A federation of our Allies with the American Legion. The name is derived from the initials "Federation, Inter-allies, Des Ancien Combattant."

Its aim is to strengthen, outside of all political and religious opinions, the ties of Brotherhood sealed upon the field of battle.

I am including facts taken from the bulletins of our National Chairman, Mrs. Speakman.

F. I. D. A. C. feels that if the allied people wish to remain united none will dare attack. Surely progress and humanity some day will organize courts of justice, rectify frontiers, form voluntary federations, unite countries or something capable of abolishing war. With a spirit of conciliation and a spirit of union the causes of war may be removed.

HISTORY

F. I. D. A. C. was founded in Paris in 1920, initiated by representatives from France, Great Britain and the United States. It includes now over 7,000,000 veterans of nine countries.

At The American Legion Auxiliary Convention held in New Orleans an invitation was extended to representatives of F. I. D. A. C. to organize auxiliaries to groups of F. I. D. A. C.

similar to ours. Two years later the British Legion, at their fifth annual congress, elected Mrs. Lowell F. Hobart, our first National President, as President. This was a great international recognition for our Auxiliary.

To strengthen the ties of brotherhood among nations we must understand each other. Misunderstandings mean war. Knowledge means peace. Our government leader has declared a policy of friendliness and understanding, but in a democracy the people are supreme, so the people must be convinced to back up that policy. This means education in international affairs.

Since the World War we have become more conscious of other peoples. We are interested in international events and world history. Yes, we women who gave of our boys even unto death, we are interested in other countries. What they do and think concerns the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of America.

We are interested in the relations of our nation to other nations. We are interested in the things done or refused to be done between nations. The women of our allies are interested.

With this new interest comes a seeking for information on these matters so vital to all. Women of our Allies are reaching out to us, to bind us into a large international family. They desire to learn of us, we of them.

Although Americanization, Rehabilitation and Child Welfare must ever be our chief aim, as Mrs. Speakman says, the time has come to give more place to education. The American Legion Auxiliary with its large membership has a splendid opportunity to be of service in this work of education.

Our leading newspapers recognizing this new interest in foreign affairs are meeting this demand in a splendid manner. And of course we have many splendid books and the magazines.

Mrs. Speakman suggests that a course in international affairs be made compulsory in our secondary schools. You remember that some twenty-five years ago, largely through the efforts of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the study of physiology and hygiene with the evil effects of alcohol was put into our schools. What resulted? Prohibition.

If another war comes we'll fight and we'll give again to our utmost. But who knows but that Christian youth guiding affairs with trained minds along international lines, sympathetic because we have found out we are all human with the same hopes and purposes, who knows what may be brought about.

We are told that in April our government opened a school to provide trained personnel for foreign service. It is believed that this school created by President Coolidge will eventually place American diplomacy on a parity with the best trained and the most shrewd representatives of foreign governments.

We fought the Spanish-American War and extended our possessions to the farthest Pacific. We have opened the Panama Canal and obtained control of one of the greatest highways of international trade. We fought the World War shedding freely

American blood on European soil. This should stir us, we are concerned in other lands.

So it is suggested that we have F. I. D. A. C. day once each month in every Unit. A unit chairman will present bulletins as received, and conduct discussions, working slowly of course. She would try to stimulate reading and study by individual members of international problems and events. Also would study the life, the customs, condition and needs of other people. Oh, let us know each other. Let us help to form public opinion that we may judge calmly and understandingly international questions because that judgment is based upon facts.

If The American Legion Auxiliary can with her other work also do this she will have wonderfully furthered that for which our boys so nobly fought, and in the years to come we will see "Ties of Brotherhood strengthened," sympathy and understanding, the awfulness of war and no more. Shall we do it? (Applause.)

I move the adoption of the report. Seconded. Carried.

The Chairman: Mrs. Hatch has had, I am sure, her heart in this work or she could not have brought us this wonderful report for the little time she has had in the office.

Mrs. Williams (New York): Madam President, since we have only one candidate for the office of Department President I'd like to make a motion that we dispense with the roll call and we cast a ballot for her election. Carried.

The Secretary: The next order of business is the election of three Vice-Presidents. There are four candidates. They are Mrs. A. L. Burnham, Mrs. Louise Williams, Mrs. H. J. Cookinham, Jr., and Mrs. Ruelah Donovan. Each county is entitled to vote for three candidates, three of the four and when you announce your vote you will announce it "three for Mrs. So and So, 3 for Mrs. So and So." I use the number three because that was in my mind, the three highest naturally will be elected. We have with us two Past Presidents who are delegates at large to this Convention so they will be included in this roll call.

Mrs. Smith (Teller): The report of tellers is as follows: Mrs. Donovan 423, Mrs. Burnham 325, Mrs. Williams 236 and Mrs. Cookinham 142. The first three named are elected. (Applause.)

The Secretary: We find that Mrs. Pritchard has withdrawn as candidate for alternate for the National Executive Committee-woman leaving Mrs. Garrison the only alternate.

Mrs. Pritchard: I'd like to move that the Secretary be instructed to cast one ballot for this convention for Mrs. Garrison as alternate to the National Executive Committee-woman. Carried.

The Chairman: We will now vote on the Chaplain. We have the name of Mrs. Pritchard and Mrs. Paddleford as candidates for Chaplain.

At this point the Secretary calls the roll by counties for the ballot on Chaplain.

At this point Mrs. Burnham, newly elected Vice-President is presented with a gift and bouquet of flowers.

At this point Mrs. Ransom is presented with basket of flowers by Nassau County.

Mrs. Jeffs, Chairman of Credentials is presented with flowers.

The Chairman: I think while we are waiting for the tellers and things are a little informal I might at this time again thank this delegation for their courtesy throughout the meeting. I am thanking them not only for myself as presiding officer but for the rest of the State Committee. I want to thank each and every one for her loyalty throughout the year and I am going to ask you again to pledge your loyalty to the incoming administration that you have always pledged in the past and to Mrs. Bell and her co-workers—they must again be thanked.

Mrs. Bell may, as Mrs. Jeffs, have wondered what I had against her when I asked her to be Chairman of this Convention but I only had in my mind the idea that Mrs. Bell could and would carry this convention to a successful close and our convention has proven that I was right in my choice. (Applause.)

At this point Mrs. Cookinham is presented with basket of flowers.

Mrs. Smith: Mrs. Pritchard 258, Mrs. Paddleford 215.

The Chairman: I thereby declare Mrs. Pritchard elected Chaplain. (Applause.)

I have asked our National Vice-President, Mrs. Cocklin to install the incoming officers at this time. Will those officers please come forward that are elected?

Our tellers will be discharged with thanks.

Mrs. Cocklin (National Vice-President, The American Legion Auxiliary): We will go right on to the installation and omit the opening as your hour is very late and you are all anxious to get out.

My sisters, you have been chosen to fill the various offices of your Department. You will, I know, vindicate the trust that has been reposed in you and fulfill in every way the obligations that trust entails. You will at once familiarize yourselves with the duties of your particular office. You must know that the welfare and success of this Department depends upon you and you must know also that upon your shoulders rest the burdens of preserving the integrity of The American Legion Auxiliary. You must protect its good name before the people of the United States. You must exalt it in their eyes. You must make them know as we know its purpose and its policy. Ever remember the tolerant spirit that animates The American Legion Auxiliary. Allow no distinction of class or creed to appear among its members. There is no rank among us for each serves as the equal of her sisters and all strive

for the same goal which is the realization in the life of the Republic of the ideals of Justice, Freedom, Democracy and Loyalty.

You will raise your right hands and repeat after me, giving your name, do solemnly pledge myself to perform faithfully and impartially the duties of the office I am to assume.

My Sisters, I present to you the officers of your choice. I congratulate you on the selection you have made and now that you have chosen them to guide the destinies of this Department it is your duty to aid them in every way, help them keep The American Legion Auxiliary an organization of free women faithful to its principles and ideals and to you. I extend the congratulations of the Department of New York and wish you well as you assume the duties of your office.

And by my authority as installing officer I place in your hand, Mrs. Parkhurst, the emblem of authority, knowing it will never come down on an unjust decision. I decorate you with your President's badge. (Applause.) May the great Commander of us all guard and guide you in your year's work.

Mrs. C. V. Parkhurst (Newly elected President, Department of New York): Madam Vice-President, Past Department President, I hope everyone of you are going to stand shoulder to shoulder with me, help me to be the right kind of a President, help me to be big enough for the job. Thank you.

Mrs. Cocklin: And now, Mrs. Garrison, a year ago the Department of New York elected you to the highest office of your Department. In electing you to that office they showed you the trust and fidelity that they had in your work, they knew that you would lead them on to success in your work and I have been given the happy privilege of pinning on you as Past President a Past President's badge as a small token of their appreciation of your success in this year and may I add as your National Vice-President it has been a pleasure to work with you. You have always come up to every order or every bulletin that has been issued to you and I extend you my heartiest thanks from the national organization. (Applause.)

Mrs. Garrison: Mrs. Cocklin, Members of the Convention— I have done my best to live up to the obligation imposed upon me and I thank you for the trust. (Applause.)

At this point Mrs. Parkhurst assumes the Chair.

The Chairman: I think before I am ever able to make a speech I shall have to go home and practice on my friend husband. So I am not going to say very much. I know you all want to go home and I know you have had a trying session. I would like to meet the members of the new Executive Committee for just a moment and I would like to have your opinion as to whether we have our executive meeting now or a little later in the day.

And at this time I want to thank my District for the beautiful flowers they sent me and to my own dear Charles Miller Post, how can I ever express to you just how much I appreciate everything you have always done for me.

Mrs. Pooley: (Buffalo) Madam President, I would like as District Chairman of the Eighth District to invite all the delegates to Niagara Falls next year. We hope you will have a good time. As the National President says they are going to have a wonderful electrical display at Omaha. You know Niagara Falls has the power for electricity and we will have you all lit up while you are there. (Applause.)

The Chairman: We have already enjoyed a sample of Metropolitan hospitality, everyone come up and see us to show you what Up-State can do.

At this point Mrs. Boullee of Kings County is presented with flowers.

The Chairman: At this time we will have the retirement of the Colors.

The Colors are retired by the Guard.

Motion is made that the Convention adjourn. Carried.

The Convention adjourned on Saturday at 2:03 P. M.

APPENDIX B

Summary of Legislation Affecting ex-Service Men Through the Session of the Legislature of 1924

Until The American Legion was formed, practically no legislation of value to veterans of the World War was enacted in New York State. At the State Convention held at Rochester in the fall of 1919, a resolution providing for the standing Legislative Committee was adopted, and such committee has been functioning from that time and has been able to secure more legislation beneficial for the ex-service men than has been obtained in any other State.

In this summary the laws are given alphabetically for convenience sake. There are also included for historical reference those matters of legislation which have been declared unconstitutional by the courts.

AMERICAN FLAG, IMPROPER USE OF:

Using the American Flag for a receptacle for the placing, depositing or collecting of money or any other article is a misdemeanor. (Ch. 428, Laws of 1921.)

Making it a misdemeanor to raffle or pawn the American Flag. (Ch. 276, Laws of 1924.)

AMERICAN UNIFORM, IMPROPER USE OF:

It is a misdemeanor for any person in uniform of the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps or of the National Guard to sell merchandise, solicit orders or beg alms. (Ch. 277, Laws of 1925.)

BENEVOLENT ORDERS:

Including The American Legion among the lists of corporations receiving the benefit of the Benevolent Orders Law. (Ch. 245, Laws of 1924.)

Including The American Legion in the list of Benevolent Orders. (Ch. 604, Laws of 1924.)

BONUS:

A referendum was passed appropriating \$45,000,000 to pay the veterans of the World War a bonus of \$10 per month. (Ch. 972, Laws of 1920.) This referendum received a favorable majority of over 800,000. The Commission for the payment of this bonus was provided for by Chapter 315, Laws of 1921, and the sum of \$25,000,000 was made immediately available by Chapter 344, Laws of 1921. However, thereafter the Court of Appeals declared the bonus bond issue to be unconstitutional. Counsel for The American Legion appeared with the Attorney-General on behalf of the constitutionality of the issue.

The Legislatures of 1922 and 1923 passed a resolution, providing for a Constitutional Amendment, which was approved by the people at the election in 1923, giving the Legislature the right to vote a bond issue for the payment of a bonus to World War veterans, without submitting the bond issue to the people for approval. This bond issue was voted by the 1924 Legislature.

Providing for the issuance of \$45,000,000 in bonds for the payment of a bonus of \$10 a month to World War veterans, with a maximum of \$150 to any veteran. (Ch. 19, Laws of 1924.)

The provisions of this Act were extended to relatives of those who died in service; and the time for the filing of claims was extended to July 1, 1926. (Ch. 26, Laws of 1925.)

Appropriation of \$659,565 premiums from the sale of bonus bonds for administration purposes of the Bonus Commission, provided in Chapter 508, Laws of 1925.

An additional appropriation of \$2,500,000 for the payment of bonus, provided by Chapter 209, Laws of 1925.

CIVIL SERVICE:

Martin-Baumes Resolution for an absolute preference to veterans of all wars passed the Legislatures of 1919 and 1921, but was defeated at the referendum to the people in 1921.

Officers and employees of the State who entered Federal military or naval service without consent of the Governor and who received honorable discharges are entitled to the same rights and privileges conferred on those who received the Governor's consent to enter the Federal service. (Ch. 288, Laws of 1920.)

The time spent in military service by any officer or employee of the Civil Service of this State, Counties or Municipalities shall be considered as part of the term of Civil Service entitling such officer or employee to any pension, privilege or immunity. (Ch. 266, Laws of 1920.)

Civil service employees who while in the military or naval forces of the United States were unable to take promotion examinations are given the right to take such examinations upon their return, and upon passing are to be given the medium amount of salary provided for such grade and shall be preferred for any appointment or promotion made in such grade in the Department. (Ch. 282, Laws of 1920; Ch. 589, Laws of 1921.)

The Court of Appeals in the case of *Barthelmess v. Cukor*, 231 New York, 435, declared this law to be unconstitutional.

Leave of absence to officers or employees of the State or municipalities who are in the National Guard or Naval Militia are granted when such men are engaged in military or naval duty, and during such absence they are to receive the difference between their military pay and that received from the State or municipalities. (Ch. 624, Laws of 1920.)

Officers and employees in the State who entered the Federal Military service without procuring the consent of the Governor and were honorably discharged are granted such part of their

salary or compensation paid during their military service notwithstanding the failure to procure such consent of the Governor. (Ch. 630, Laws of 1920, and Ch. 590, Laws of 1921.)

Veterans of the Civil War or World War in the Public Buildings Department who shall have been employed for a continuous period of at least five years and shall have reached the age of seventy years are to be retired on one-half pay. (Ch. 638, Laws of 1920.)

Where physical examination is required for original appointment or promotion in Civil Service, the examination is waived in case of World War veterans suffering from disability resulting from service where such disability does not prevent the veteran from efficiently performing his duty. (Ch. 750, Laws of 1920.)

Veterans of the World War, together with veterans of other wars in which the United States took part, are given a preference in retention in State and Municipal Civil Service positions, and provision is made for transferring such veteran to another department where position is abolished. (Ch. 833, Laws of 1920.)

World War veterans employed in the Adjutant-General's Office for ten years are to be retired on one-half pay on reaching the age of seventy years. (Ch. 843, Laws of 1920.)

Civil Service employees who resigned their positions on entering Federal military service may be restored to their original positions upon application made in one year from the date of their discharge. (Ch. 652, Laws of 1921.)

A person in the Federal military service who was notified of his appointment to a position in the State or Municipal Civil Service and was prevented from accepting such appointment, but was subsequently appointed, the time between the first appointment of any person to such position and the veteran's subsequent appointment shall be considered as part of the term of Civil Service entitling such veteran to any pension, privilege or immunity except compensation for such period. (Ch. 654, Laws of 1921.)

Absolute preference granted to disabled veterans on original appointment and further preference is given veterans over non-veterans receiving the same mark. (Ch. 702, Laws of 1921.) (This section comes within the Barthelmess case and is now considered unconstitutional.)

State and Municipal employees, members of the Military, Naval or Marine Reserve granted a leave of absence with pay when called for active duty, such leave not to exceed more than thirty days in any one year. (Ch. 458, Laws of 1923.)

Honorable service in the armed forces during times of war may be considered in the rating of members of the New York City Police Department on promotion examinations. (Ch. 625, Laws of 1923.)

The Police and Fire Commissioners of New York City are given the right to rehear charges of those who were dismissed or resigned to enter the Military Service of the United States during the World War. (Ch. 783, Laws of 1923.)

Those receiving Civil Service promotion or increases in salary for 1920 because of conditions caused by the World War and who have served in such higher grade for three years shall upon passing an examination be given permanent positions and seniority rating from the date of entry into service. (Ch. 876, Laws of 1923.)

Providing that disabled veterans, having completed a four-year course under the Veterans' Bureau, may be entitled to take examination for architect without the five years' experience in an architect's office, ordinarily required. (Ch. 244, Laws of 1924.)

Providing that in examinations for promotion in the Civil Service, honorable service in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Army Nurse Corps may be considered as an item of credit. (Ch. 632, Laws of 1924.)

Providing that time spent in any vocational school of the United States Veterans' Bureau shall be credited as experience in training in all Civil Service examinations in the State. (Ch. 633, Laws of 1924.)

Providing that persons on eligible Civil Service list who were disabled in Federal military service shall be entitled to have their name certified on the eligible list for appointment for a period of two years from the date of his final release from hospital or vocational school. (Ch. 635, Laws of 1924.)

DISCHARGES RECORDED:

The discharge of any honorably discharged soldier, sailor or marine may be recorded in the County Clerk's Office and a certified copy thereof is considered sufficient in lieu of the original for all purposes of this State. (Ch. 214, Laws of 1920.)

Providing for this recording to be done without the payment of any fee. (Ch. 283, Laws of 1922.)

ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE:

Any one convicted of violation of the Selective Service Act shall never hold public office in the State of New York. (Ch. 180, Laws of 1922.)

HEADSTONES FOR GRAVES AND RECORD OF GRAVES:

The grave of any veteran who dies without leaving means to defray expenses of a headstone shall have a headstone. Application should be made to the County Treasurer.

The amount of fifty dollars for a headstone, as set forth in chapter 199 of the Laws of 1920, has been increased to seventy-five dollars by chapter 522 of the Laws of 1921.

The City of New York, as well as the Boards of Supervisors in each county, may appropriate funds for the burial of ex-service men, the maximum of such expenses to be one hundred dollars. (Ch. 484, Laws of 1923.)

Providing that the Adjutant-General shall keep a record of the burial place, within the State, of all those who served in military

naval forces of the United States. (Ch. 290, Laws of 1924.)

HISTORIANS:

Cities, towns and villages authorized to appoint local historians and publish history and records relating to World War. (Chs. 632 and 634, Laws of 1921.)

HOSPITAL FOR SHELL-SHOCKED VETERANS:

The sum of \$3,000,000 was appropriated for the purpose of erecting a hospital in the Borough of Queens, to be used by the Federal Government in the care and treatment of New York State veterans suffering from mental diseases. This hospital was to be leased to the Federal Government for a period of ten years at the annual rental of 10 per cent of its cost. (Ch. 893, Laws of 1920.) The State authorities had plans prepared and were ready to proceed, but the Federal officials then refused to sign the contract which had been drawn up in accordance with their suggestions. World War veterans admitted to the Kings Park Hospital under suggestions laid down by The American Legion. (Ch. 420, Laws of 1922.)

One and a half million dollars was appropriated for the construction of a State Military Memorial Hospital at Kings Park, to be used solely for the care and treatment of World War veterans. (Ch. 144, Laws of 1923.)

Providing for an additional appropriation of \$1,500,000 for the completion of the State Military Memorial Hospital at Kings Park. (Ch. 70, Laws of 1924.)

The name of the Soldiers and Sailors Hospital Division at Kings Park is changed to be known as Veterans' Memorial Hospital Division by Chapter 535, Laws of 1925.

Appropriation of \$45,000.00 for teaching of vocational therapy to veterans in State institutions provided in appropriation bill.

INSTRUCTION IN SCHOOLS:

Providing for the instruction in the history and meaning of the Constitution of the United States in all public schools beginning in the eighth grade. (Ch. 64, Laws of 1924.)

Providing for instruction in the schools of the proper use and display of the flag. (Ch. 525, Laws of 1924.)

Also a joint resolution directing the Commission of Education to investigate the history text-books used in this State and make reports thereon to the 1925 Legislature.

LOYALTY TEST FOR TEACHERS:

Every teacher in New York State must obtain a certificate of qualifications which shall show that such teacher is loyal to the Government of the United States and to the State of New York, and has never advocated a change in our form of government by violence or any unlawful means.

After January 1, 1922, no one can be a teacher in the State without that certificate. (Ch. 666, Laws of 1921.)

No alien may be a teacher in schools of this State without having made application to become a citizen and thereafter having consummated his citizenship. (Ch. 315, Laws of 1922.)

MEDALS:

Where any New York State service medal has been lost the Adjutant-General is empowered to issue a duplicate. (Ch. 219, Laws of 1920.)

A conspicuous service cross is awarded to all New York State veterans who received citations during the World War. (Ch. 627, Laws of 1920.)

This law was repealed subsequently but was reenacted by Ch. 136, Laws of 1925.

A suitable service ribbon for New York State veterans of the World War was authorized. (Ch. 142, Laws of 1921.)

Any one not a member of The American Legion who wears the Legion emblem is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Ch. 42, Laws of 1921.)

(This has been construed by the Attorney-General to mean that any one who has not paid his dues by the time provided for by The Legion authorities has no right to wear The Legion emblem.)

Any person who fraudulently wears any badge, insignia, clasp, rosette or button issued by the United States, the State of New York or our allies during the World War, is guilty of a misdemeanor. (Ch. 143, Laws of 1921.)

MEMORIALS AND MEMORIAL BUILDINGS:

Municipalities and monument associations are allowed to acquire land for erecting monuments or other structures as a memorial to veterans of the United States. (Ch. 380, Laws of 1920.)

Counties are allowed to appropriate funds for erection of public monuments or other structures in commemoration of those who served in the military or naval forces of the United States. (Ch. 391, Laws of 1920.)

Soldiers' monument corporations are allowed to be formed under the Membership Corporations Law. (Ch. 506, Laws of 1921.)

Town and village boards may acquire land and erect memorial buildings in commemoration of the services of veterans of the World War at a cost not to exceed 1 per cent of the assessed value of such town or village. (Ch. 616, Laws of 1920.)

The sum of \$100,000 was appropriated for fitting up a flag room in the State Capitol at Albany. (Ch. 668, Laws of 1920.)

The county Boards of Supervisors are allowed to appropriate money for the erection of monuments or memorials in commemoration of the veterans of any war. (Ch. 283, Laws of 1921.)

Cities and counties are allowed to construct and maintain memorial buildings, parks or monuments in commemoration of the veterans of any war. (Ch. 421, Laws of 1921.)

Granting of land in Bronx County for a memorial to World War veterans. (Ch. 474, Laws of 1923.)

Allowing town and village boards to acquire lots and erect memorial buildings in honor of the veterans and veteran associations of any war, and allowing such boards to issue bonds for such purposes. (Ch. 286, Laws of 1924.)

Allowing counties to issue bonds for the erection and maintenance of memorials in commemoration of the veterans of any war in which this country has taken part. (Ch. 523, Laws of 1924.)

MEMORIAL DAY:

Town boards are allowed to appropriate \$75 for observance of Memorial Day by the Legion, and in towns of over 5,000 inhabitants, \$100; in towns of over 10,000 inhabitants, \$200. (Ch. 360, Laws of 1920.)

In the City of New York the Board of Estimate and Apportionment may provide for whatever sum it deems proper for the observance of Memorial Day, to be expended by The Legion. (Ch. 366, Laws of 1920.)

Allowing villages to appropriate not to exceed \$200 for the observance of Memorial Day. (Ch. 339, Laws of 1924.)

All veterans employed by the State or the various counties, cities or villages must be given leave of absence with pay for twenty-four hours on the 30th day of May to observe Memorial Day. (Ch. 384, Laws of 1920.)

Cities are allowed to appropriate sums for the observance of Memorial Day, to be expended by the American Legion. (Ch. 411, Laws of 1920.)

Cities of the third class are authorized to appropriate a sum not exceeding \$600 for observance of Memorial Day. (Ch. 326, Laws of 1921.)

PRINTING LEGION REPORTS:

The printing of 5,000 copies of the proceedings of the Annual Convention of The American Legion by the State is authorized by Chapter 337 of the Laws of 1921.

A deficiency appropriation of \$1,000 for printing the record of the 1921 Convention of The Legion, Department of New York, and a like appropriation for the printing of the proceedings of the 1922 Convention is provided for in chapter 397, Laws of 1922.

An appropriation of \$1,000 for the printing of the record of the proceedings of the 1923 Convention of The American Legion. (Ch. 225, Laws of 1923.)

Appropriating \$1,500 for printing of the proceedings of the 1924 Convention of The Legion. (Ch. 140, Laws of 1924.)

Appropriation of \$1,500.00 for printing of proceedings of the 1925 Convention of The Legion.

RENT PAID BY TOWN BOARDS:

Town boards in every county are allowed to appropriate not exceeding \$200 for rental of rooms for The American Legion. (Ch. 579, Laws of 1920; Ch. 133, Laws of 1921.)

Municipalities are allowed to lease to The American Legion Posts, for a term not exceeding five years, any public building or part thereof, rent free. (Ch. 230, Laws of 1920.)

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Four hundred and fifty scholarships of tuition and \$100 a year for three years for World War veterans providing for vocational or technical training. Three scholarships are given in each Assembly district under rules provided by the State Commissioner of Education. (Ch. 893, Laws of 1920.)

SOLDIERS' HOME:

World War veterans to be admitted to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath on an equal footing with Spanish-American and Civil War veterans. (Ch. 646, Laws of 1922.)

The Legislature of 1922 and 1923 passed a resolution, approved by the people at referendum, giving inmates of soldiers' and sailors' homes the right to vote.

The Commander of the Department of New York, The American Legion, is made an ex-officio member of the Board of Trustees of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Bath. (Ch. 490, Laws of 1923.)

Giving inmates of the soldiers' and sailors' homes the right to vote. (Ch. 446, Laws of 1924.)

TAXATION:

The section of the State Income Tax Law which provided that the amount of money received from the Federal government must be deducted from the personal exemption, was repealed. (Ch. 588, Laws of 1920.)

World War veterans who lost a leg or arm in service, or who are unable to perform manual labor by reason of injuries received or disabilities incurred while in service, are exempted from the payment of the village poll tax. (Ch. 412, Laws of 1920.)

Real property purchased with the proceeds of pension, bonus or insurance granted by the United States or the State of New York is exempt from taxation up to \$5,000 if owned by the pensioner, his wife or widow. (Ch. 413, Laws of 1920.)

By chapter 169 of the Laws of 1921, this also applies to property secured from such bonus or insurance and now owned by the mother of a veteran.

Property owned by The Legion is exempted from the payment of tax for the use of water in the counties of New York, Kings, Queens, Richmond and Bronx. (Ch. 607, Laws of 1921.)

Allowing cancellation of last year's taxes, water rents and assessments on Kings County building of The Legion. (A saving of approximately \$1,100 to the Kings County Organization.) (Ch. 560, Laws of 1922.)

Allowing the cancellation of taxes, water rents and assessments on the Kings County building of The American Legion. (Ch. 312, Laws of 1923.)

All real property of Posts or The American Legion, used exclusively for Legion purposes, is exempted from taxation. (Ch. 676, Laws of 1923.)

Exempting honorably discharged soldiers, sailors and marines in the United States from the payment of a village poll tax. (Ch. 611, Laws of 1924.)

USE OF BUILDINGS BY THE LEGION:

On application to the commanding officer of the Brigade, American Legion Posts will be provided meeting rooms in the State archives of this State free of charge. (Ch. 249, Laws of 1920.)

American Legion Posts in Jefferson County are given the right to use meeting rooms in the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Hall in the city of Watertown. (Ch. 357, Laws of 1920.)

The American Legion is given use of school houses for meetings and for entertainments and permission to charge an admission fee is granted. (Ch. 82, Laws of 1921.)

VETERANS' MOUNTAIN CAMP:

One hundred and fifty thousand dollars was appropriated for the construction of a road to the Veterans' Mountain Camp of The American Legion. (Ch. 143, Laws of 1923.)

VETERANS' PEDDLERS' LICENSE:

World War veterans to receive peddler's license from the County Clerk without payment of fee. These licenses are to have a photograph of veteran upon them and duplicates are to be issued upon satisfactory proof of their loss. (Ch. 264, Laws of 1922.)

Ex-service men crippled in service are exempted from some of the provisions relative to peddling in cities. (Ch. 42, Laws of 1919; Ch. 494, Laws of 1921; Ch. 35, Laws of 1923.)

VETERANS' RELIEF:

Municipalities are allowed to appropriate funds to be expended by an officer of The American Legion for the relief of indigent veterans of the World War and their families. (Ch. 803, Laws of 1920.)

The State Veterans' Relief Fund, was incorporated, with Legion men as incorporators, to assist needy New York State World War veterans and their dependents. (Ch. 648, Laws of 1921.)

Creation of the Veterans' Relief Commission with an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to give relief to disabled or incapacitated World War veterans whose condition is the result of service and who have been unemployed for at least fourteen days. Payment of \$30 per month to those who are single and \$45 per month to those who are married, provided they do not receive that amount from the Federal Government. The maximum to any veteran is \$250. (Ch. 589, Laws of 1922.)

Appropriation of an additional \$1,000,000 for the relief of needy veterans provided. (Ch. 326, Laws of 1923.)

A pension to Peter J. Kogler, a World War veteran, injured while attempting to prevent an escape at Sing Sing, is provided for. (Ch. 237, Laws of 1923.)

Ten thousand dollars appropriated for the payment of \$500 annually to each New York State veteran totally blinded as a result of service in the war. (Ch. 244, Laws of 1923.)

Providing that veterans permanently and totally disabled by reason of loss of sight shall receive \$500 per year, to be paid semi-annually. (Ch. 559, Laws of 1924.)

A veteran declared incompetent by the United States Veterans' Bureau may secure the appointment of a committee on the certification of the Veterans' Bureau without a jury trial. (Ch. 246, Laws of 1925.)

The County Board of Supervisors authorized to make appropriation for use of Veterans' Associations for care of disabled. (Ch. 506, Laws of 1925.)

VICTORY HALL ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED:

Victory Hall Association, Inc., was authorized, empowered to acquire by condemnation proceedings real property in the State of New York for a building to be used as a memorial to World War veterans. (Ch. 361, Laws of 1920.)

VOTERS' REQUIREMENTS:

New voters must pass the literacy test to be given by the State Board of Regents. (Ch. 809, Laws of 1923.)

APPENDIX C

The Constitution of The American Legion

PREAMBLE

For God and country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the great war; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will upon earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to concentrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE I

NAME

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be THE AMERICAN LEGION.

ARTICLE II

NATURE

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect nor increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in The Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any convention of The Legion.

Sec. 2. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be absolutely non-political and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a remunerative elective public office shall hold any office in THE AMERICAN LEGION or in any department or Post thereof.

Sec. 3. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be organized in Departments and these in turn in Posts. There shall be one Department in each State, in the District of Columbia and in each territory of the United States. The National Executive Committee may

establish additional Departments in the territorial possessions of the United States and in foreign countries.

Note.—Authority covering National Executive Committee contained in Article VII hereof.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION who was regularly enlisted, drafted, or inducted or commissioned and who was accepted for and assigned to active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States, at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the naval, military or air forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War; provided, that no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States during said period, refused on conscientious, political or other grounds, to subject himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circumstances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

Sec. 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership, and dues shall be paid annually or for life.

Sec. 3. No person may be a member at any one time of more than one Post.

ARTICLE V

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Section 1. The legislative body of The Legion shall be the National Convention to be held annually at a time and place to be fixed by the preceding National Convention.

Sec. 2. In the National Convention each department shall be entitled to five delegates and one additional delegate for each one thousand members, or major fraction thereof, whose current dues have been received by the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the meeting of said Convention; and to one alternate for each delegate. The delegates shall be chosen at Department Conventions to be held not less than two weeks before the National Convention.

Sec. 3. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from his department. Alternates shall have all the privileges of delegates except that of voting.

Sec. 4. A quorum shall exist at a National Convention when 60 per cent of the Departments are represented as provided above.

ARTICLE VI

NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1. The National Convention shall elect a National Commander, five National Vice-Commanders, who shall serve without seniority, and a National Chaplain. No two Vice-Commanders shall be chosen from the same department. No person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National Commander or National Vice-Commander.

Sec. 2. Such officers shall serve until the adjournment of the succeeding National Convention following their election and thereafter until their successors are chosen. Vacancies in these offices occurring between National Conventions shall be filled by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. The National Executive Committee at its first meeting following the National Convention shall appoint a National Treasurer, National Judge Advocate and National Historian, such officers to hold office at the pleasure of the appointing power. All persons having the custody of funds shall give adequate bonds, which shall be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 4. The National Adjutant shall be elected by the National Executive Committee upon the nomination of the National Commander, and may be removed by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 5. All Past National Commanders while in good standing in their respective Posts, shall be members for life of the National Executive Committee, without vote, and shall also be life delegates to all National Conventions of THE AMERICAN LEGION, with vote, to be exercised with their respective departments.

(By vote of the Convention this paragraph relative to National Commanders being life members of the Executive Committee and life delegates to National Conventions was defined to mean that it shall not apply to any individual not a member of a local Post in good standing.)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE RULING

The Executive Committee in executive session, December 20, 1919, ruled that there shall be no seniority as First, Second, Third, Fourth or Fifth of the National Vice-Commanders. All official reference shall be made by alphabetical order. In the event, however, of the absence of the National Commander a chairman shall be appointed from among the five Vice-Commanders by the National Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Between National Conventions the administrative power shall be vested in the National Executive Committee, which shall be composed of the National Commander and Vice-Com-

manders in office and of one representative and one alternate from each department to be elected as such department shall determine.

Sec. 2. The term of office of such representatives and alternates shall be two years. The term of office of each representative and alternate shall commence immediately upon the adjournment of the National Convention next ensuing after their election and shall end at the adjournment of the second next succeeding Annual Convention.

Sec. 3. Members of the National Executive Committee shall be delegates to the National Convention, with vote, which vote shall be exercised with their respective departments.

ARTICLE VIII

DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Departments shall be chartered by the National Executive Committee and shall be composed of the Posts within their respective areas. Each Department charter shall be signed by the National Commander and National Adjutant.

Sec. 2. Each Department shall have a Department Commander; one or more Department Vice-Commanders, a Department Adjutant, and a Department Executive Committee, and such other officers as the Department shall determine.

ARTICLE IX

POST ORGANIZATION

Section 1. Those who desire to form a Post shall make application for a charter to the Commander of the Department in which they reside. The charter shall be issued by the National Commander and National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the projected Post, but only when such application is approved by the Commander of the Department, or by the Department Executive Committee. Post charters shall be countersigned by the Commander and the Adjutant of the Department.

Sec. 2. The minimum membership of a Post shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Department in whose area it lies.

Sec. 3. Each department may prescribe the Constitution of its Posts. Post charters may be revoked by the Department Executive Committee with the approval of the National Executive Committee. Post charters may be suspended or cancelled as provided in the By-Laws.

Sec. 4. No Post shall be named after any living person.

OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION

Department Commanders are respectfully referred to the nineteenth resolution from the approved report of the Committee on Resolutions of our First National Convention, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, THE AMERICAN LEGION as an organization of veterans of the World War may best prove its purpose and most efficiently and practically pursue its policies through community or geographic units; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a ruling be made eliminating in the future Posts of any other class and confining organization to community Posts; and

Resolved further, That the State organization be requested to endeavor, in so far as possible, to effect combinations or unions of already established unit Posts with others organized on the present regular and recommended basis.

ARTICLE X

FINANCE

Section 1. The revenue of **THE AMERICAN LEGION** shall be derived from annual membership dues and from such other sources as may be approved by the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The amount of such annual dues shall be determined by each National Convention for the ensuing year.

Sec. 3. **THE ANNUAL DUES SHALL BE COLLECTED BY EACH POST AND TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT TO THE NATIONAL TREASURER.**

Sec. 4. Annual dues shall be payable October 20th of each year, beginning with the year 1926.

ARTICLE XI

DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The National Executive Committee, after notice and a hearing, may suspend or revoke the charter of a department which violates this Constitution or which fails adequately to discipline any of its Posts for any such violation, and may provide for the government and administration of such department during such suspension or upon such revocation.

ARTICLE XII

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Section 1. Any member in good standing in a Post removing from his Department shall be entitled to a certificate from his Post, stating his membership and duration thereof.

ARTICLE XIII

AUXILIARIES

Section 1. **THE AMERICAN LEGION** recognizes an auxiliary organization, known as "The American Legion Auxiliary."

Sec. 2. Membership in the Auxiliary shall be limited to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of members of **THE AMERICAN LEGION**, and to the mothers, wives, daughters and sisters of

all men and women who were in the military or naval service of the United States between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, and died in line of duty or after honorable discharge; and to those women who of their own right are eligible to membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION.

Sec. 3. The Auxiliary shall be governed in each department of THE AMERICAN LEGION by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and thereafter approved by such department of THE AMERICAN LEGION.

Note.—Eligibility has been defined to mean: Any person related to any member of The Legion, either by birth or law, under the name of mother, wife, sister or daughter, is entitled to membership in this organization.

ARTICLE XIV

RATIFICATION

Section 1. All acts performed and charters heretofore granted by the temporary organization of THE AMERICAN LEGION are hereby ratified and confirmed.

ARTICLE XV

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution may be amended at any National Convention by the vote of two-thirds of the total authorized representation thereat. Provided, that the proposed amendment shall have been submitted through the National Adjutant to the several departments and members of the National Executive Committee by mailing same to them at least 30 days prior to the convening of the next National Convention; and provided further, it may be amended by unanimous vote at any convention without notice.

ARTICLE XVI

NATIONAL INCORPORATION

This Constitution is adopted conformably to the act of the Congress of the United States of America of date September 16, 1919.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. In case of death, resignation, or removal by his respective Department of any National committeeman or alternate to the National Executive Committee, the successor shall be selected as such Department shall determine and shall serve for the remainder of such unexpired term.

Sec. 2. The National Executive Committee shall meet within twenty-four hours after adjournment of the National Convention,

and shall also meet during the second week of January, the second week of May, and immediately preceding the holding of the succeeding National Convention. Special meetings may be held upon reasonable notice at the call of the National Commander. The National Commander shall call a meeting upon the written request of fifteen or more members of said Executive Committee.

Sec. 3. Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum of the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 4. The National Commander shall name such committees as he shall deem advisable, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee at its next meeting succeeding the appointment.

Sec. 5. The National Commander shall appoint, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee, a National Finance Committee, to be composed of three members. Of the three members appointed following the National Convention of 1922, one shall serve for one year, one for two years and one for three years; thereafter, each succeeding appointee shall serve for the full three-year term, or until removed by majority vote of the National Executive Committee. The National Commander and National Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of said Committee, and the National Adjutant shall be ex-officio Secretary of the said Committee. The National Finance Committee shall be charged with the preparation of the yearly budget and the handling of funds under that budget, such other duties as shall be prescribed by the National Executive Committee, all under the direction and subject to the approval of the National Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. There shall be the following standing committees: National Rehabilitation Committee, National Americanism Commission, National Child Welfare Committee and National Legislative Committee. The committee shall consist of such number of members of THE AMERICAN LEGION as the National Executive Committee may, from time to time, determine. Appointments to such committees shall be made by the National Executive Committee. The term of office of each member of such committees shall be three years, one-third thereof to be chosen each year, under such initial regulations as the National Executive Committee shall prescribe.

Sec. 7. The National Executive Committee shall provide for the appointment and employment of such subordinate officers and employees as may be needed for the administration of the affairs of THE AMERICAN LEGION, and prescribe their duties and emoluments.

Sec. 8. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of National Officers shall be referred to and determined by the National Executive Committee. All questions affecting the election, eligibility and conduct of the National Committeeman from any department, or of Department officers or members of Department Executive Committees, shall be referred to and determined by the Executive Committee of the Department involved, which shall be the final authority thereon.

ARTICLE II

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. National Commander.—The National Commander shall be the elective head of THE AMERICAN LEGION with full power to enforce the provisions of the National Constitution, National By-Laws, and the will of the National Convention. He shall be the chairman of the National Convention and the National Executive Committee. He shall appoint all necessary committees subject to ratification of the National Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 2. National Vice-Commanders.—The National Vice-Commanders shall act as representatives of the National Commander on all matter referred to them by him, and shall, on his request, preside over the meetings of the National Convention or National Executive Committee, and perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 3. National Adjutant.—The National Adjutant shall be charged with the administration of the policies and mandates of the National Convention, the National Executive Committee and of the National Commander. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. He shall also be authorized in the event of the death or resignation of a National Commander, to summon the National Executive Committee for the election of a successor.

Sec. 4. National Treasurer.—The National Treasurer shall be the custodian of the funds of the National Organization. He shall sign all checks disbursing the funds of the National Organization and shall make reports upon the condition of the National Treasury when called for by the National Commander. The National Treasurer shall furnish a surety bond as hereinafter prescribed. He shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 5. National Judge Advocate.—The National Judge Advocate shall advise the National Officers and the National Executive Committee on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the National Constitution and By-Laws and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

Sec. 6. National Chaplain.—The National Chaplain shall perform such divine and non-sectarian services as may be necessary, adhering to such ceremonial rituals as may be recommended by National Headquarters from time to time.

Sec. 7. National Historian.—The National Historian shall collect from year to year all records and data of value and interest for the National Headquarters of THE AMERICAN LEGION and shall compile during his term of office a complete history of the year's activities. He shall also assist Department and Post Historians so as to coordinate and unify the work of these officials, and shall have such other duties as the National Committee shall prescribe.

ARTICLE III

CHARTERS

Section 1. In addition to the revocation, as provided in the Constitution, charters may be canceled or suspended. The Department Executive Committee in which the Post involved is a member may order the suspension of a charter for a period not to extend beyond the closing of the next succeeding Department Convention, as a disciplinary measure, or pending action relative to final revocation. The cancellation of a charter is a matter of business wholly, the request being taken through proper channels to the National Executive Committee for final action. A cancellation shall be in order where two or more Posts merge, where a Post voluntarily ceases to function or under such other conditions as might make such action necessary within a department.

Sec. 2. Any Post failing to meet the obligations imposed upon it by the Constitution and By-Laws or ceasing to function for six months as an American Legion Post, or refusing to pay the per capita tax due State and National Departments, shall, upon order of the Department Commander, surrender its charter. Upon failure to surrender such charter, immediate steps may be taken for its revocation.

Sec. 3. American Legion Posts suffering the revocation of their charters may appeal from the decision of the Department Commander and the Department Executive Committee to the National Executive Committee as hereinafter prescribed.

Sec. 4. Upon notice of appeal the National Commander shall appoint a sub-committee of not more than five nor less than three members of the National Executive Committee for the purpose of passing upon the action of the Department Executive Committee in revocation of said charter. This Committee shall meet at least one day prior to the meeting of the National Executive Committee next following such revocation and to this Committee shall be referred the complete record in writing of said revocation, with such exceptions thereto as are made by the Post of which the charter has been revoked. This Committee shall review the case and recommend to the National Executive Committee the action to be taken thereon. The National Judge Advocate shall be an ex-officio member of the said Committee.

Sec. 5. In case of revocation of the charter, the Post of THE AMERICAN LEGION organized under that charter shall cease operations and turn over to the Department Headquarters, not only its charter, but all records and properties in the possession of the Post.

ARTICLE IV

DISCIPLINE OF POSTS AND POST MEMBERS

Section 1. Each Post of THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the Constitution and By-Laws.

Sec. 2. Members may be suspended or expelled from The Legion, only upon a proper showing of cause. Charges shall be based upon disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty and conduct unbecoming a member of THE AMERICAN LEGION. All charges must be made under oath in writing by the accusers, and no member in good standing shall lose his membership until given a fair trial in such manner and form as the Department By-Laws and Department Executive Committee shall prescribe.

Sec. 3. Any member who has been suspended or expelled has the right of appeal to his Department Executive Committee, or to the Department Convention, according to the provisions in the By-Laws in such Department. The decision of the Department shall be final.

Sec. 4. Members in arrears four months in payment of dues shall be classed as delinquent, and six months arrearages shall automatically impose suspension from all privileges, and one year's arrearages shall automatically forfeit membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION. Any member so delinquent or suspended who is not in arrears for as much as one year may be reinstated to active membership in good standing by vote of the Post upon payment of all amounts due by such member to the Post for arrears, in addition to the dues for the current year in which the reinstatement occurs, and any member whose membership has been forfeited for non-payment of dues for one year may be reinstated by vote of the Post upon payment by such member of one year's arrears in dues in addition to the dues for the current year in which such reinstatement occurs.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in THE AMERICAN LEGION is membership in the National Organization of THE AMERICAN LEGION by affiliation of Posts.

ARTICLE VI

MONEYS AND COLLECTIONS

Section 1. All National, Department and Post officials handling American Legion moneys shall be properly bonded with a good and solvent bonding and surety company, as surety, to cover double the average amount of money handled in a single year. In case of delinquencies in the payment of amounts due Department or National Headquarters, action shall be taken at once by the proper officials to bring about a speedy and complete settlement. The bonds provided by National officials shall be approved by the National Judge Advocate and the National Executive Committee, and those provided by Department and Post officials shall be approved by the Department Judge Advocate and the Department Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. National Headquarters shall, should it be deemed advisable, detail special auditors to investigate the membership roll

and financial statement of any department, and should that department so desire, assist in a similar audit of Posts within that Department.

ARTICLE VII

TRANSFER OF POSTS

Section 1. Posts of THE AMERICAN LEGION formed within units of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps or other organizations liable to transfer from one place to another, and which are organized under the department in which they are located, may transfer to another department in a manner similar to the transfer of individuals from one Post to another.

ARTICLE VIII

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended by any National Convention of THE AMERICAN LEGION by the vote of the majority of the total authorized representation thereat, provided that the proposed amendment shall have been read at said Convention at least twenty-four hours before the vote thereon.

APPENDIX D

Constitution and By-Laws, Department of New York, The American Legion

As amended in the Sixth Annual Convention, American Legion, Department of New York, Alexandria Bay, N. Y., September 4-6, 1923.

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be **THE AMERICAN LEGION, Department of New York.**

ARTICLE II

OBJECTS

The objects of this organization shall be: To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred per cent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any person shall be eligible for membership in **THE AMERICAN LEGION** who was regularly enlisted, drafted, inducted, or commissioned, and who served on active duty in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps of the United States at some time during the period between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918, both dates inclusive, or who, being a citizen of the United States, at the time of his entry therein, served on active duty in the Naval, Military or Air forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during the Great War. Provided, That no person shall be entitled to membership (a) who, being in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States during said period, refused on conscientious, political, or other grounds, to submit himself to military discipline or unqualified service, or (b) who, being in such service, was separated therefrom under circum-

stances amounting to dishonorable discharge and has not subsequently been officially restored to an honorable status.

Sec. 2. There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership as hereinabove provided.

ARTICLE IV

NATURE

Section 1. THE AMERICAN LEGION is a civilian organization; membership therein does not affect or increase liability for military or police service. Rank does not exist in The Legion; no member shall be addressed by his military or naval title in any Convention or meeting of The Legion.

Sec. 2. THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles or for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment. No candidate for or incumbent of a salaried elective public office shall hold any office in THE AMERICAN LEGION or in any subdivision or Post thereof.

Sec. 3. Each member shall perform his full duty as a citizen according to his own conscience and understanding.

ARTICLE V

ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. The Legislative Body of the organization shall be a State Convention to be held annually at a place and time to be fixed by vote of the preceding Convention, or in the event that the preceding Convention does not fix a time and place, such shall be fixed by the Executive Committee, hereinafter provided for.

Sec. 2. The annual Convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each county. Each county shall be entitled to four delegates and four alternates and to one additional alternate for each two hundred and fifty memberships or the major fraction thereof paid up thirty days prior to the date of the State Convention. Each county shall be entitled to a total vote equal to that granted under the State Constitution and By-Laws regardless of the number of delegates present, provided a majority of the delegates to which the county is entitled be present.

Sec. 3. The delegates to the State Convention and the alternates shall be chosen by each county. Each County Committee shall provide the method of election of the delegates and alternates from its county in such manner that each Post in the country has a proportionate voice in their election, such proportion to be on the same basis as that of the Post representation on the County Committee.

Sec. 4. The Executive power shall be vested in the State Executive Committee which shall be composed of the six State officers hereinafter mentioned, the National Executive Committeeman and a District Chairman from each of the Judicial Districts as estab-

lished by the Constitution of the State of New York, to be elected by the delegates from each District to the State Convention. At the time of the election of the District Chairman an Alternate District Chairman shall be elected. The State officers shall be a Commander, three Vice-Commanders, who shall be without seniority, an Adjutant and a Treasurer. These officers shall be elected annually by the State Convention. All Past Department Commanders while in good standing in their respective posts shall be members for life of the Department Executive Committee without vote.

Sec. 5. There shall be a County Committee in each county which shall consist of one member from each Post in said county and at least one additional member for each additional hundred members in excess of the minimum membership. Each County Committee shall provide the method of electing a Commander, one or more Vice-Commanders, and Adjutant, Treasurer and an Executive Committee of as many members as may be deemed desirable, in such manner that each Post in the county has a proportionate voice in their election, such proportion to be on the same basis as that of the Post representation on the County Committee and may elect such other officers as it may desire. The State Executive Committee may prescribe provisions of the County Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE VI.

LOCAL UNIT

Section 1. The local unit shall be termed the Post, which shall have a minimum membership to be determined by the State Executive Committee. Those who desire to form a Post shall make application for a charter to the County Organization of the county in which they intend to have their headquarters. The charter will be issued by the National Commander and the National Adjutant upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the projected Post, but only when such application is approved by the State Commander or by the State Executive Committee. Post charters shall be countersigned by the State Commander and the State Adjutant.

Sec. 2. The State Executive Committee may prescribe provisions of Post Constitutions and By-Laws.

Sec. 3. No Post shall be named after any living person.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Each Post shall pay annually to the County Organization on or before January 20th, for each of its individual members the sum of fifty cents, in addition to whatever amount is required to be paid to the National organization. A similar payment shall be made on the 20th of each month for all members who have joined the Post since the 20th of the previous month. On the 10th of the following month, each County organization shall pay to the

State organization the sum of twenty-five cents per member, in addition to whatever amount is required to be paid to the National organization on account of each member. The State organization shall pay to the National organization whatever sum is required for each individual member. The minimum annual dues of individual members to be charged by each Post shall be two dollars per member.

ARTICLE VIII

QUORUM

A quorum shall exist at a State Convention when there are present thirty-two or more counties partially or wholly represented as hereinbefore provided.

ARTICLE IX

RULES

The procedure at the State Convention shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended by the State Convention to be held annually. It shall also be amended from time to time by the State Executive Committee whenever and in so far as necessary to conform to changes hereafter made in the National Constitution.

BY-LAWS

The American Legion, Department of New York

ARTICLE I

NAME AND OBJECTS

Section 1. The name of this organization is The American Legion, Department of New York.

Sec. 2. The object of this organization is that set forth in the Constitution.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The membership provided for in the State Constitution shall be divided into Posts as described therein. The Post may restrict its membership as it desires, subject to the approval of the County Committee of the County in which it is located. The maximum number of members may be fixed by the County Committee. Only persons eligible to membership in The American Legion shall be members. Applicants for membership must enroll in THE AMERICAN LEGION and pay their dues to the Post before becoming members.

Sec. 2. A member in good standing in one Post can become an associate member in any other Post or Posts. He shall pay full dues in the Post in which he is a regular member and his membership shall be counted in the County and State total only in that Post. In the Posts in which he is an associate member, he shall pay the amount required by its by-laws. He shall be entitled to all privileges of the Post and shall be entitled to vote on questions of local affairs and can vote for officers of the Post. He cannot vote for members of the County Committee or delegates to the County Convention. He shall be eligible to hold office or be on a committee to handle local affairs, but is not eligible to become a member of County Committee or a delegate to a County Convention.

Sec. 3. Each Post shall be the judge of its own membership, subject to the restrictions of the National and of the New York Department Constitutions and By-Laws, respectively; but a member may be suspended or expelled from The American Legion only upon due conviction of disloyalty, neglect of duty, dishonesty or other conduct unbecoming a member of The American Legion. All charges must be made under oath in writing by the accusers and no member in good standing may be expelled unless and except upon a fair trial in such manner and form as the Department Executive Committee shall, and which it hereby is authorized and directed to prescribe.

ARTICLE III

POSTS

Section 1. Each Post shall have a headquarters with a post-office address to which all notices and documents may be sent. It shall be the duty of the Post at time of application for a charter or at any time of changing its headquarters to notify its County organization of such address, and all notices and documents shall be held to have been duly sent to or served upon such Post when mailed to it at the address so furnished. In default of a Post having furnished such address, any notice or document shall be held to have been duly served upon a Post if the same is mailed to it at the address of its Commander or Adjutant or other member signing the application for charter.

Sec. 2. Each Post shall have a Constitution and By-Laws to govern its affairs and shall have officers to be known as Commander, three Vice-Commanders, an Adjutant, a Treasurer and an Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall be bonded. The Post shall subscribe to the Constitution, By-Laws and Regulations of its County organization and of this organization, and shall not incur any obligation in the name of any other Post, subdivision, organization, branch, committee, or group of members of The American Legion.

Sec. 3. Posts shall submit copies of their Constitution and By-Laws and all amendments thereto through their respective County organization for approval of the State organization.

ARTICLE IV.

COUNTY ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The County organization shall be that prescribed in the State Constitution.

Sec. 2. Upon organization each Post shall elect its member or members of the County Committee and thereafter as its membership increases shall elect such additional member or members of the County Committee as it is entitled to under the State Constitution and shall certify to the County Committee over the signature of its Commander and Adjutant the number of its individual paid-up members entitling it to such additional representation.

Sec. 3. The County organization shall pass upon each application for the charter of a Post in its county and upon the proposed Constitution and By-Laws of each such Post. It shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws for its own government. In addition to the officers provided for a County organization by the State Constitution each County organization shall have an Executive Committee, comprised of as many members as may be deemed desirable, including said officers which shall have power to act in the interim between meetings of the County Committee.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the County organization to see that Posts are properly organized and conducted in each city, town and village in its county.

Sec. 5. Each County Committee shall provide for standing committees on Finance, Publicity, Membership, Credentials, Conventions, Post Activities and Welfare, Post Applications for Charters, and Post Constitution and By-Laws, or on such subjects as may seem desirable. The power of these standing committees shall be to recommend appropriate action to the County organization or to the County Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. The County Treasurer shall be bonded.

Sec. 7. All payments to be made to the County organization shall be made to the County Treasurer.

Sec. 8. Each County organization shall pay from the funds remaining in his hands, after payment of the amount required to be paid per member to the State organization, as provided in the State Constitution, all necessary and actual railroad and Pullman fare of its delegates to the first and subsequent annual State Conventions, as well as the necessary and actual lodging expenses of such delegates while in actual attendance at such conventions; the method of payment to be prescribed by each County organization.

ARTICLE V

STATE OFFICERS

Section 1. The State Commander, the three Vice-Commanders, the Adjutant and Treasurer, shall hold office for one year and until the close of the Convention at which their respective successors shall have been chosen, as provided in the State Consti-

tution. They shall perform the customary duties pertaining to their respective offices. The State officers shall be members of the State Committee and of the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The Commander, and in his absence a Vice-Commander requested by him so to do, shall preside at all State Conventions and at all meetings of the State or State Executive Committees.

Sec. 3. The Adjutant shall give notice of all State Conventions and of all meetings of the State Executive Committees, and shall conduct the correspondence and keep the records of the State organization including lists of names, serial numbers and addresses of all Posts in the State of New York and list of members, officers and committeemen of the State and of each County shall keep the minutes of such Conventions and meetings. He shall furnish to the Treasurer the names and addresses of the officers and the address of the headquarters of each County organization. He shall notify the State officers and committeemen of their election.

He shall also be authorized in the event of the death or resignation of the Department Commander to summon the Department Executive Committee for the election of a successor. Passed.

Sec. 4. The Treasurer shall, subject to the control of the Executive Committee, be charged with the collection and custody of the funds of the State organization, including the payments to be made by each County organization, according to the State Constitution, and he shall keep the accounts of the State organization and report thereon at each regular meeting of the State Executive Committee. His accounts shall be audited annually. He shall pay all bills when audited and approved in such manner as the Executive Committee shall prescribe. He shall give bond with sufficient surety, to be approved by the Executive Committee for the faithful performance of his duties as Treasurer.

Sec. 5. In addition to the six State officers named above, the annual Convention shall elect a State or Department Historian and a State or Department Chaplain, who shall perform the duties usually attached to their respective positions subject to the control of the Executive Committee. They shall hold office for one year and until the close of the Convention at which their respective successors shall have been chosen. They shall not be members of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 6. The Department Commander, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Department Judge Advocate to hold office for one year and until a successor is appointed. The Department Judge Advocate shall advise the Department Commander and the Department Executive Committee on all legal matters, including the construction and interpretation of the Department Constitution and By-Laws, and shall perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office. (It was the concensus of opinion that the Judge Advocate further have the status of an Executive Committeeman.)

Sec. 7. Vacancies in State offices shall be filled by the Executive Committee for the unexpired terms, provided, however, that in filling a vacancy in the office of Commander, such election shall be from among the then Vice-Commanders.

ARTICLE VI

STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive power and management of this organization is entrusted to the State Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. The State Executive Committee shall consist of six officers of the State organization, the National Executive Committeeman and nine other members to be elected on the basis provided in the State Constitution. The member representing each judicial district shall be elected by the delegates to the State Convention representing such district at a meeting to be held prior to the close of the State Convention. They shall hold office until the close of the next State Convention and the election of their successors.

Sec. 3. A vacancy existing in the State Executive Committee, other than the officers thereof for any cause other than the expiration of a term shall be filled by the Alternate District Chairman from the district concerned.

Sec. 4. The State Executive Committee shall meet at regular periods or on five days' previous written notice to all members by the Commander and Adjutant, or upon the written request of a majority of the Committee.

Sec. 5. There shall be State Standing Committees on Finance, Publicity, Membership, Credentials, Convention Program, Convention Arrangements, County and Post Activities, Welfare Legislation and Military Affairs, or such subject as the State Executive Committee may determine, each composed of from five to fifteen members who shall be appointed by, and shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as may be directed by the State Executive Committee from time to time. It shall be the duty of the Finance Committee to examine and audit the Treasurer's accounts at the end of each fiscal year and at such other times as it may deem necessary.

The term of office of each member of such committee shall be 2 years, one-half of the committee to be chosen each year under such initial regulation as the Department Executive Committee shall prescribe. Passed.

Sec. 6. All such committees shall keep regular minutes of their transactions and cause them to be recorded in a book kept for the purpose and report the same to the State Executive Committee when called for.

Sec. 7. In the event that a District Chairman of the State Executive Committee is unable to attend a meeting of that committee his alternate shall serve.

ARTICLE VII

STATE CONVENTION

Section 1. The annual meeting of the New York State Organization of THE AMERICAN LEGION shall be a convention called pursuant to the provisions of the State Constitution.

Sec. 2. County organizations will be notified sixty days in advance of the time and place of such convention and will in turn notify the Posts in their respective counties accordingly within ten days after the receipt of such notice.

Sec. 3. Alternates will have the privilege of voting on the floor of the Convention only in the absence or inability of the regular delegates, but they shall have all other privileges of delegates including the right of serving on committees.

ARTICLE VIII

REPRESENTATION IN NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Section 1. The State organization shall be represented on the National Executive Committee of THE AMERICAN LEGION by one member and one alternate to be elected at the Annual State Convention and to hold office for two years from the time of the Annual National Convention immediately following their election or until their successors are chosen.

Sec. 2. The State Organization shall be represented at the National Convention of THE AMERICAN LEGION by five delegates-at-large and five alternates-at-large, and one additional delegate and one additional alternate for each one thousand memberships paid up to the National Treasurer thirty days prior to the date of the National Convention, who shall be elected at the annual State Convention.

ARTICLE IX

EXPENSES

Section 1. From the funds remaining in his hands after payment of the annual dues per member to the National Executive Committee of THE AMERICAN LEGION as provided in the National and State Constitutions, the Treasurer is authorized to pay the current expenses of the State Organization, including stationery and printing, rent of offices, salary of employees, and other necessary expenses of the State Organization, as may be directed by the State Executive Committee. He is also authorized to pay the necessary and actual railroad and Pullman fares of the delegates from the State of New York to the National Convention and also the necessary and actual lodging expenses of such delegates while the actual attendance at the National Convention under regulations established by the State Executive Committee.

ARTICLE X

REGULATIONS

Section 1. The State Executive Committee is authorized to make and publish regulations for the organization, management and conduct of this organization and of the county, Post and all other organizations of the New York State Department of THE AMERICAN LEGION. Such regulations shall not be inconsistent with the State Constitution or these By-Laws and shall be complied with by all concerned.

ARTICLE XI**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**

The Women's Auxiliary shall be organized in accordance with the provisions of the National Constitution and shall be governed by such rules and regulations as may be prescribed by the National Executive Committee and approved by the State Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XII**AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to these By-Laws may be made at any meeting of the State Convention by a majority vote of the members present. They shall also be amended from time to time by the State Executive Committee whenever and in so far as necessary to conform to changes hereafter made in the National Constitution.

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