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The comrades of Carpenter Post, ³⁰⁸ in co-operation to some extent with the local authorities, have transferred to a plot in our cemetery during the past week the remains of — comrades who died in the County Poor House and were buried as a county charge in the graveyard attached to that Institution.

The occasion seems to me a proper one for the consideration of the financial relations of the government and the sold Federal soldiers of the war of Rebellion. In making such inquiry I propose to lay aside all questions of sentiment. We are told that this is a practical age; that money is the power that controls its energies and that we have neither

time nor inclination to waste our sym-
pathies on the more unfortunate. I pro-
pose, therefore, to institute a purely financial
inquiry as to what our government owes the
soldier, what it has paid to him, what is
still his due, what was the profit on
the investment and whether it can af-
ford now to ~~dissect~~ ^{succor} the pensioner as
a pauper. ~~to dissect his claims.~~

The picture of the old soldier who serves his country until his powers are wasted and is then turned a-drift upon a pittance or without a pittance, is one of the most familiar and touching episodes of history. Belisarius begging by the wayside, while the sowing he had sown rode by. Pericles mutilated after the most brilliant career in history for his crowning victories in the Peloponnesus; Marius sitting amid the ruins of Carthage — these and a hundred other like examples have drawn tears from the eyes of many generations and given rise to the maxim that "Republics are always ungrateful"

That this charge applies especially to republics is no doubt untrue. So far as the sentiment of gratitude is concerned they no doubt have it in as large a degree as any other form of government. Justice — as between the individual and the commonwealth — is a far rarer virtue under our form of government; and what we have set ourselves to inquire on this occasion is what justice demands, ~~and not~~ what gratitude prompts.

The duty of national defense — the forcible assertion of the public will against an armed foe, is one that rests equally upon every able-bodied citizen. By the consensus of all nations, ancient and modern the very old and very young are relieved from this responsibility. In most modern nations it extends from 18 to 45 years of age. This exemption is based upon the fact that during this period the average man is best fitted to endure the hardships of war and these limits are never exceeded except in great emergencies. During our civil war the Confederates having exhausted their avail-

available supply within those limits, extended it from 15 to 50, so that its service was peculiarly said to embrace all "between the cradle and the grave." Whole battalions of Junior Reserves every man under 18 and others of Senior Reserves, every man over 45 were made up some by voluntary enlistment and others by preemptions and conscription.

Within the prescribed limits the ^{obligation} duty is mutual and equal. It is just as much one man's duty as another's. Within these limits, however, ^{one} ~~two~~ classes of men is excusable from such duty by public policy, ^{sometimes from necessity} ~~and to wit~~, the physically incapable. Another class is excusable from voluntary service by the fact of their surroundings. There are those ~~to~~ upon whom rests the burden of supporting by their individual labor material dependents ~~for~~ who would become ~~seriously~~ ^{seriously} ~~be~~ public charges without such assistance. With these exceptions all stand upon the same level of duty.

By necessity, therefore, a popular soldiery comes from the very cream of a nation's life; but when as in our case, four-fifths of the men composing such an army are volunteers coming from all ranks and classes, it becomes an unavoidable conclusion that taken in the aggregate they are not merely the equals but the natural superiors of those who remain at home — in courage, in public spirit, in patriotic impulse, in intelligence and in capacity. The man who offers his life for the safety of the community is from that very fact likely to be a more valuable man in society, ^{other things being equal} than the man who hesitates to make such sacrifice. We have heard a good deal of late about the "dead-beats" in the army; has any one thought fit to inquire as to the "dead-beats" who staid at home. From my observation during the period of war I feel justified in saying that the class which suffered least depletion by it was that of the

professional loufer both in town and country.
At least three-fourths of the volunteers came
from the best classes, represented the best in-
telligence and the truest aspiration of the
country. I belonged to one of the first regi-
ments raised in this state. It had in it two
~~the~~ companies which were known as "tough"
companies. They were raised in two of our
inland cities. One was the company to which
I belonged. Yet in this company there were
not to exceed half a dozen who were not in
all respects the peers of our best citizens — only
two of them were of foreign birth; not a man was
unable to read and write; fully ^{one-half} ~~two-thirds~~ of them
were church-members; and probably ~~at~~ an equal
proportion had never ~~before~~ been under the in-
fluence of liquors in their lives. I was after-
wards a member of another regiment raised
in 1862. Fully half of the company to which I be-
longed were young men having a more or less

complete classical education - keen bright
clean men. Not a man in the company was in
any respect below the level of our northern
life. Only two among them were addicted to
the use of liquor. This company was a fair
average of the entire regiment except one
company which was of somewhat rougher char-
acter coming from a mining region. There
were a few of them who signed the muster-roll
with their mark. Out of the great cities came
a few companies and regiments hardly up
to this level. But I feel safe in saying that
three-fourths of our volunteers did not
fall below it. It may be accepted as an
undeniable fact, therefore, without making any
insidious comparison of individuals, that the
Federal Soldiers of the war of Rebellion
excelled in merit any ^{equal} ~~average~~ num-
ber of citizens taken on an average who
remained at home. In other words,

the 8,000,000 soldiers ^{in the federal armies} were more worthy
of just consideration and fair treatment
than the 3,000,000 people who inhabited
at that time the State of New York. Not
five percent of the whole army were of un-
worthy character or in any manner discred-
itable in conduct. I doubt if the percentage will
run as high — perhaps not more than half as high
as this. In stating the account between this
army and the Nation, therefore, we must start out
with the premise that they are meritorious ~~char-~~
~~acter~~ parties. All this cry about dead-
beats and frauds must be put aside as so much trash.
They were not all saints but a better average
of intelligence, morality, courage and devotion
than the rank and file of our army has never
been seen on American soil nor heard of
in the world's history.

In order to judge of the financial obligations relation between them and the Republic, it becomes necessary to inquire, first, what were the terms on which they engaged to serve, what the inducements held out to them and the consideration ~~on which~~ ^{by which} they ~~was~~ were moved.

Let us see. It was in the Spring of 1861. The country was prosperous. The West was booming and unfilled. Kansas had fewer people in it than this Congressional District has now. In all we were but 80. Millions then. Farm laborers working by the year were getting \$20. a month and board; ^{\$25 for the season of eight months.} Other wages were perhaps not quite as high in proportion. The country wanted men. It offered \$8. ^{and food} for a ^{year} prime article that would bear inspection. It engaged for three months at first - then for two years - ~~for~~ pretty soon for three. If the man lived he was to have \$100. bounty. If he died his ~~deaf~~ relatives if he had any entitled could have a pension ^{- if he had any such.} ~~under~~ ~~provision~~ ~~it~~ ~~was~~ ~~de-~~ ~~vised~~ ~~that~~ ~~he~~ ~~was~~ ~~contributory~~ ~~to~~

If his health failed or he was wounded he was also promised a pension unless it were capable of proof that he was not absolutely sound when he enlisted. The service required was infinitely more severe than agricultural labor; the rations were of a character that no employer of farm labor would dare set before his men; one out of every five died during the service; its restraints were of the most unpleasant character and it involved entire abandonment of social privileges. Now, with ^{the demand for} employment brisk, wages good, and food abundant and clothing cheap, — I would like to ask you how many of these men would have entered that service for the wages alone.

The answer is plain none but the small percent of loafers — and it is doubtful if they would have gone but for the wonderful spirit which impelled the others. If the government had come

into the labor-market as an ordinary employer asking for men at that rate on those terms and in the face of existing competition, the call for 75,000, instead of being overfilled in a fortnight would never have brought 5,000 to wear Uncle Sam's uniform! The soldier then cannot be regarded as a laborer for hire. It is true the wages were afterwards increased but before they reached \$16 - farm labor was in demand at \$30 to \$35. Every industry was booming and every one who staid at home made more money and made it easier than he had ever done before in his life. Wool was worth 80 cts in 1861 and 90 in 1863; bar-iron \$40 in 1861, \$105 in 63. Beef had doubled in value. Oats had trebled

Whiskey which was only 19 cts a gallon in 1861 was worth \$2.24 in 1864.

The soldier therefore was not a piece of merchandise. The payment of his wages does not square the account.

"Of course," says the objector but the "bounty" does."

The Bounty was as much a part of the war as the monthly wages.

The pension, under our law is merely an unjustly distributed gratuity - a contingent fee for accident.

Well then what is he entitled to? Do you want the Earth?

The appeal has been made to Caesar
— to Caesar let us go! ^{Pr.}

One of the great magicians declares
that the bill to give to every soldier
dependent on his personal labor
for support is the most stupendous
act of robbery ever devised, "and as-
serts that the square of justice must
be applied to the demands of a cov-
arant and greedy horde who seek to
profit by the accident of success."

Let us apply the rule and see what
the soldier sacrificed — what he
gave that is — what he received
and what he profited the gov-
ernment.

1 - He lost his opportunity for wealth and success in the greatest boom ever known on the Continent.

Four years between 20 and 40 =

2 - He came out to find every avenue full - clients, customers opportunities gone.

3 - He probably lost his health - and almost universally shortened his life.

Now what did the nation gain -
let us lay aside success, hon-
or & glory - That is sentiment,
come down to facts - solid finan-
cial facts.

- 1 - We conquered 680,000,000,
of land, enough at \$5.00. an acre which
it would have instantly brought at auc-
tion, to pay the whole national debt
and more too.
- 2 - We conquered all the Cotton Coun-
try and $\frac{3}{4}$ the tobacco - \$220,000,
000. of gold exports each year
since. \$400,000,000.
- 3 - The conquered territory yields
in ag. products alone 5-40 M M
a year.
\$1,000,000,000.

Since Lee's surrender.

4 - We conquered 14,000,000,
7 people now grown to 18,000,000.
What would the factories of the
North do without it.

So what we conquered has already
paid us more than the National
debt - and is good for a dozen
times that even today -

Now what has the government
done.

- 1- Paid soldier in greenbacks
and later in gold.
- 2- Soldier half-price for his
labor former full price
for his oats

and now impoverished

To be a prison of a soldier's
home, the poor house or
the