

Fort Missoula, Mont.
August 9th. 1894.

Orders
No. 81

In view of the return of the troops who were detached from this post to prevent obstruction and resistance of the laws of the United States by railroad strikers and their sympathizers, the Commanding Officer deems it just and proper to convey to the officers and men so engaged, his keen appreciation of the satisfactory manner in which they conducted themselves, not only as well disciplined soldiers but as patriotic citizens of this country.

Their fidelity, patience and courage, under the trying circumstances, are a lasting credit to themselves and the service of the United States.

By order of Colonel Curt.

H. T. Conners
1st Lieut. and Adjutant 25th Infantry.
Post Adjutant

*Altaconda Handwritten
(Dear) Aug 7
Altaconda Mont.*

MISSOULA...

The Missoula Office of THE STANDARD is at 220 Higgins Avenue. Telephone No. 35. Advertising rates furnished on application.

DID THEIR WORK WELL

Missoula Has No Criticism to Offer of the Colored Troops.

THEY MAKE GOOD SOLDIERS

During All the Time the Northern Pacific Was Under Military Control the Men Acted With Wisdom.

MISSOULA, Aug. 6.—The military control of the Northern Pacific road is at an end except for the detachment under Captain Andrews, which is guarding the Marent and O'Keefe trestles. The sentries, who had become a familiar sight about the depot and yards, have vanished and the visitor at those points no longer runs against a bayonet when he attempts to mount the platform steps or walk to the roundhouse. It is no longer necessary to dig up a passport to gain admittance to the headquarters building, for every walk and path is free and open. The troops are once more quartered at the post and Captain Hodges, who was in command of the detachment in camp, has resumed his duties on the governor's staff in connection with the state militia.

Leaving out of consideration the question of the advisability of ordering out the troops, it is generally admitted that the conduct of the soldiers during the time that they were on duty here was exemplary, and demonstrated beyond a doubt the excellence of the negro as a soldier. During the entire period that the guard was on duty, no act of the troops was open to criticism, and there was not a single instance of an unjust exercise of authority. There were several instances when an imprudent act might have led to serious results, but at these critical times the conduct of the men was admirable. The railroad authorities are naturally loud in their praise of the troops, and the majority of the strikers admit that if the soldiers had to be called out there could have been none better than the companies of the 25th infantry who were encamped here.

The prejudice against the colored soldiers seems to be without foundation for, if the 25th is an example of the colored regiments, there is no exaggeration in the statement that there are no better troops in the service. During the strike opportunity was afforded to compare them with the white soldiers and in no instance did the 25th suffer by the comparison. When asked by a STANDARD reporter the other day as to the disciplinary measures necessary to handle his command, Captain Hodges replied "There are none. The men are soldiers because they like the life and, during the time that we have been in camp here, there has not been an instance of insubordination and not a man has been punished, simply because it wasn't necessary." This is considered by army men to be a remarkable record and is indicative of the excellent spirit, which prevails among the men.

Of the life of the colored troops at the post the STANDARD has previously made mention. They are model soldiers when in garrison, and their conduct whenever they have been called into the field has been excellent. Twice within a year they have been in active service, the first time in the attempt to rescue William E. Carlin and his party in the Clearwater, and again to guard the railroad property. The men are orderly and quiet, and all who have visited the post and studied the existing conditions, involuntarily share the pride which Colonel Burt and his officers feel in the 25th-infantry. It is a splendid regiment and worthy of unstinted praise.

SLANDERING THE FLATHEADS.