

**AN IMPERIAL
LUNATIC.**

The Omaha World-Herald has been devoting a great deal of its editorial space to the Des Moines Globe. It is reliably reported that Editor Chavennes of the Globe was but recently released from the asylum for the insane at Mount Pleasant. His lunacy establishes his competency to debate with the World-Herald.

**BRYAN THE
SOLDIER.**

Much has been said about Mr. Bryan's resignation from the army when his regiment was ordered to depart from the peaceful environment of the camp of instruction at Jacksonville, to undergo the hardships of real soldiers in hostile Cuban territory. The hero of many bloodless campaigns before the camera has been caustically criticised for deserting his command upon the eve of their embarkation for the enemy's country. Many, who were thoroughly charmed and completely awed by that fearless courage and heroic bravery characteristic of his invasion of "the enemy's" country in 1896, were painfully surprised and inconsolably grieved at his reluctance in 1898. Those, however, who were familiar with the manner in which Bryan got in the army were not surprised at the way he got out.

THE CONSERVATIVE will relate briefly the beginnings of Mr. Bryan's military career, the manner in which he organized his regiment, the third Nebraska. Mr. Bryan was no ordinary soldier. He did not enlist in the usual manner. It required a special dispensation on the part of a populist executive to enable this newly incubated opponent of militarism to become a part of Uncle Sam's fighting force. Before Mr. Bryan was seized with this overpowering impulse to defend his country's honor, a number of his fellow citizens had gone quietly to work and, under the advice and direction of Governor Holcomb, organized a regiment. It was composed of the very flower of the young manhood of the state, the boys who had put in years of patient toil acquiring a thorough military as well as academic training, at the military department of our state university. This regiment was accepted by the governor, tendered to the war department and promised recognition, if additional men were needed from Nebraska. It was known as the heavy artillery regiment.

Unhappily for the triumph of the military ambitions of these young men, a military despotism prevailed in Nebraska at that time. The despot was Bryan. Czar Bryan, that he might organize a regiment, become a colonel, and reward fawning friends, compelled the governor to set aside this regiment

and take one that he should organize. This imperial dictation of the czar of populism was, quite naturally, deeply resented by the young men who had been victimized by him. The story of Bryan's betrayal of these men, forms an interesting chapter in the political and military history of Nebraska. It can best be told in the language of the boys themselves. A committee representing the regiment under date of June 15th, 1898, issued a statement setting forth Bryan's perfidy. This committee was composed of five well known Nebraskans, all graduates of the University of Nebraska. It is true they are not men of great affluence politically in their respective communities, but they are all men of strict integrity and possessed of a high sense of personal honor, qualities little known and still less esteemed by Bryanarchistic leaders. The members of this committee were S. H. Martin, superintendent of schools at DeWitt, Nebraska; W. D. Reed, real estate broker, Omaha, Nebraska; J. B. Barnes, Jr., principal of high school, Norfolk, Nebraska; C. E. Adams, Jr., banker, Superior, Nebraska; and E. C. Elliott, superintendent of schools, Leadville, Colorado.

Those who know these men accept their statement without question. It proves itself. It is as follows:

"It was decided to try for the heavy artillery arm of the service because the officers of the regiment were not only especially competent as infantry, but in addition were experienced in light artillery, both essential qualifications for heavy artillerymen. This would indicate to the war department that Nebraska could furnish a regiment capable of being used not only as infantry, but also as heavy artillery. It did not occur to the members of the regiment that they would be discredited as infantry because they know something about light artillery any more than a mathematician would be debarred as a teacher of elementary mathematics, because he knew something about higher mathematics too. Nor could such a construction be conceivable among men acquainted with military organization.

"At a meeting of the officers of the regiment, held in the executive chamber of the state capital, April 30th, 1898, the governor expressed his entire approval of the merit of the organization and its efficiency from a military point of view, and stated there remained only one question to be determined before making a tender of the regiment to the war department. He first wished to satisfy himself that the regiment represented all sections of the state and requested certain information as to the manner in which the companies were being raised and their location. This information was supplied and he then accepted the organization and tendered

it to the war department in language that could not be misunderstood. This shows his complete satisfaction with the geographical location of companies and makes it impossible for him to raise objections in regard to that point now.

"It might be permissible to mention another event which occurred the same

day as the above mentioned meeting of officers

This may assist in throwing some light upon the recognition accorded the regiment by the governor and the gentleman (Bryan) who is now at the head of the third Nebraska. The officers of the artillery regiment thought it but fitting that they should tender a banquet to Captain Dudley, their prospective colonel, who was then in the city. Mr. Bryan, Governor Holcomb, Adjutant-general Barry, Colonel Stotsenburg and Brigadier-general Bills, were guests of the regiment on this occasion. Mr. Bryan was invited to act as toastmaster. In the presence of forty assembled guests he drank to the health of the regiment, and in a felicitous speech brought joy to the young aspirants for military honors by saying, 'While I haven't as much influence with the present administration as I had hoped to have, I will do what I can for you.' Those present could only place one construction upon this remark and others made voluntarily by the same gentleman, and that was that his friendship for the regiment and his interest in its success were sincere. Why should they have been so unkind, so uncharitable, to a fellow citizen, as to harbor the thought for a moment that he was not sincere and that he was not truly anxious for the recognition of their organization?

"Although a majority of the officers of the regiment differed with Mr. Bryan politically, their personal friendship was attested by the fact that they not only invited him to be present at their banquet, but also agreed to tender him the lieutenant colonelcy of the regiment, which they did about a week later. Mr. Bryan, in response to the request that he accept the lieutenant colonelcy, stated that he did not like heavy artillery, because of the terrific noise which was apt to produce deafness. It was explained to him that the regiment was essentially infantry and that there was every reason to believe that if called it would be for that branch of the service. He then said that if he went as infantry he would just as leave be colonel as lieutenant-colonel, and he was going to organize a regiment of his own.

"Governor Holcomb was then interviewed to find out what effect the prospective regiment with Bryan at its head would have on the heavy artillery regiment and if he would hold to the promise