

# Passing of the Famous First Nebraska Regiment Volunteers

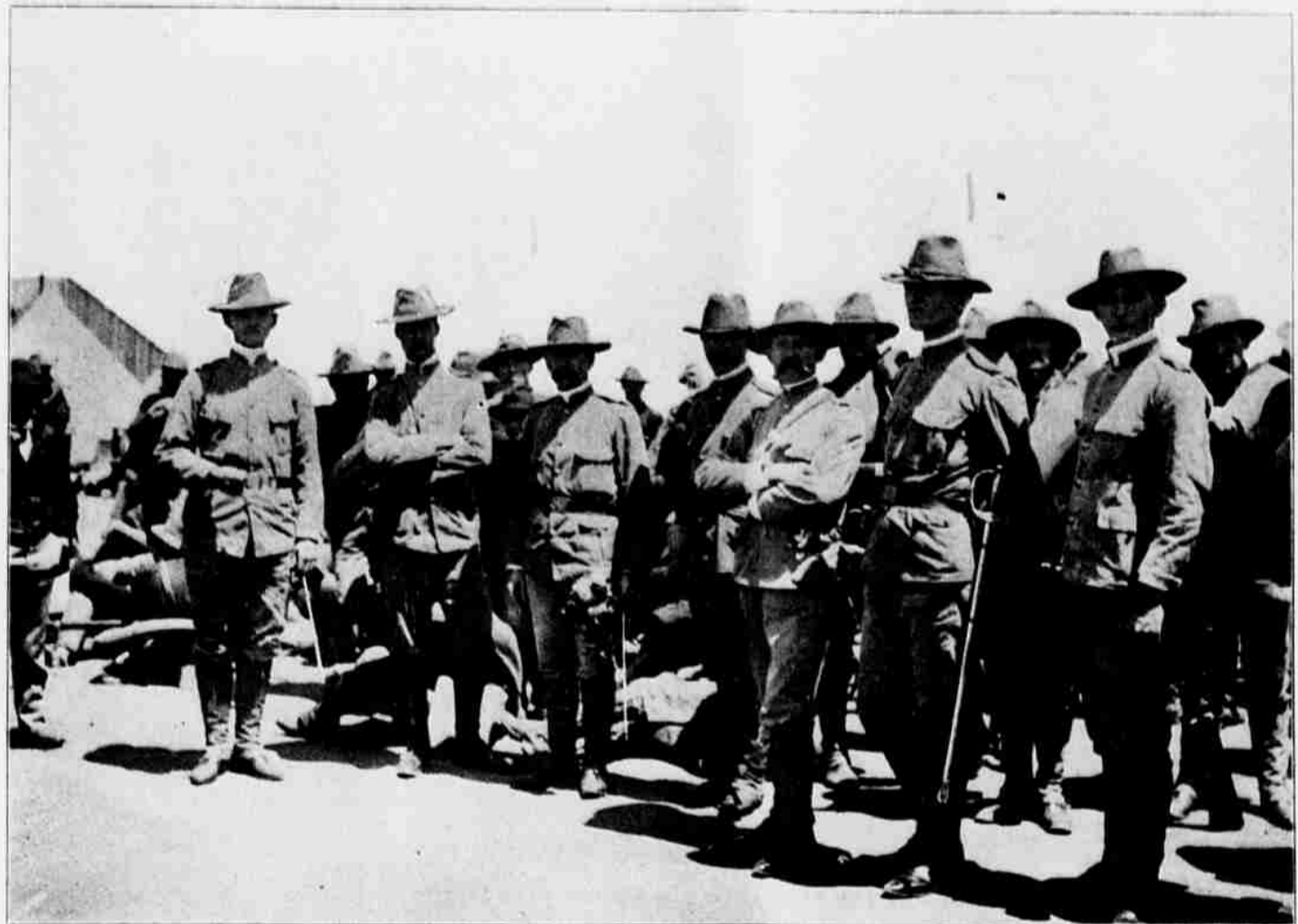
The First Nebraska regiment is now only a memory, albeit a glorious one. The final act by which its existence was terminated was enacted at the Presidio, San Francisco, promptly on the day announced, August 23. The mustering officer found the men all ready for their duty, just as they had always been ready when called upon for any other purpose. Camp was in order, with no litter left for those who come after to clean up, the rolls were prepared, the men received the money that was coming to them and the members of the First became again plain American citizens.

As citizens the men proceeded to hotels or boarding houses to wait the time when the special train which is to bear them home as the guests of the state should be ready for their departure. As citizens they behaved themselves as they had done while soldiers, with credit to themselves and to the state which is proud to call them its own.

The last days in camp were of an uneventful character. The time was taken up in the routine duty of army life, with a little more of the social features than are allowable under ordinary conditions. The men, in companies and as individuals, put in all

at San Francisco, but of the certainty that greater pleasures than it was within the powers of the people of the coast city to offer were waiting their homecoming. There were wives, mothers, fathers and sweethearts who had waited anxiously for the day when the soldier boy should return, and the prospective joy of these meetings must dim the pleasure of anything that strangers could offer, no matter what it might be. As the train which was to bear them home started on its long journey hearts were lighter than they had been for many a long day, and as the thump of the revolving wheels marked the passing of every rail joint the spirits rose in the same degree.

The volunteers, who are the idols of everyone in Nebraska, are now nearing the borders of their own state, and when they cross the state line there will be a reception beside which the great demonstration which marked the trip through San Francisco will appear feeble. There may not be so many people watching at the little stations and prosperous towns through which they pass as congregated in the great city on the western coast, but they will be Nebraska cheers which greet the ears of the returning soldiers, the outward evidence that their own people appreciate their sac-



GROUP OF RETURNED OFFICERS—TAKEN AT SAN FRANCISCO.



THE FOUR STORCH BROTHERS—Courtesy of W. H. Totten, Fullerton, Neb.

their spare time taking in the sights and accepting invitations to various excursions and to pleasure resorts.

When the time came for muscer out the men of the regiment were anxious that no unnecessary delay occur in starting on the return trip to their homes and every effort was made to expedite matters.

San Francisco met them with open arms when the men from the Antelope state arrived on their way to the war in the Orient; its people bid them Godspeed when they sailed away, and opened their doors to them when on the return trip the warworn veterans returned through the Golden Gate. The departure for home was not accompanied with any such elaborate ceremonies, but the friends they had made on the Pacific slope were on hand to extend their well wishes in an unostentatious way.

The last days in camp were filled with pleasant memories even though disturbed with an anxiety to hasten the departure. This anxiety was not born of any discomforts or lack of opportunities for enjoyment

rifices and accomplishments. When they march up the streets of Nebraska's metropolis the climax of their soldier career should have come.

## Valor of the Storch Brothers Recognized

"Among the many traits of character which endear President McKinley to the people of the country," relates the Washington Star, "none is more prominent than his prompt recognition of sacrifice and valor on the part of the men who are so devotedly supporting our flag in distant lands. Most of these acts of kindly impulse are never heard of by the public. An instance came to light at the War department today in the appointment, by the president, of Joseph A. Storch, a lieutenant of Company B, First Nebraska, to be second lieutenant in the regular army.

If the complete history of the war with Spain, with all its incidents, could be

written but few cases would be found to combine more of patriotism, devotion to duty and sacrifice than the services of the Storch brothers—the fighting Storches—of Nebraska.

"The record of the Storch family is an unusual one. When the first call for volunteers in the war with Spain was made four sons of Peter Storch, a worthy and honored citizen of Fullerton, Neb., enlisted in Company B of the First Nebraska volunteer infantry. All went with their regiment to the Philippines and participated in all the marches, the long watch-guards and the many engagements in which that splendid regiment participated. Joseph A. Storch, the young man who has just been appointed, is the first lieutenant of his company; James P., a quartermaster sergeant; Arthur, a second sergeant, and Oscar, a member of the band.

"Quartermaster Sergeant James F. Storch was among the number killed in that gallant charge at Quingua, where Colonel Stotsenberg, the commander of the regiment, also lost his life at the head of his men.

"When the circumstances surrounding these brothers' service were casually brought to the attention of the president he was deeply impressed and at once sent an order to the War department to appoint Joseph A. Storch a second lieutenant in the regular army and directed that General Otis be immediately notified by cable, so that the young man's examination might take place without delay.

"The young man who has been appointed a lieutenant in the regular army is a graduate of the Fullerton High school, as well as of the Nebraska State university. He is 26 years of age and has served over a year as a lieutenant in the First Nebraska, which regiment has been on the fighting line nearly all of the time since the outbreak of the insurgent hostilities on February 4. The honor which comes to him as official recognition of his patriotic devotion forges a strong link in the chain of evidence that a republic is not ungrateful when a generous and appreciative man directs its affairs."

The accompanying illustration shows these four Nebraska heroes in the uniform of their country. The quartermaster sergeant who gave up his life is seated in the center and on his left is Second Sergeant Arthur Storch and on the extreme left is Oscar, the bandsman. On the right is Joseph A. Storch,

who has just been honored by the president for the splendid devotion and patriotism of this quartet of Nebraska heroes.

## Utah's Fighting Artillerists

The members of the famous light artillery of Utah, which did such splendid service at the battle of Manila and in the war against the Tagals, reached Salt Lake City Saturday of last week and received a royal welcome home. They deserved the warm, enthusiastic welcome they received. No body of volunteers of equal number rendered greater or more effective service for the government or shed greater luster on American arms.

An idea of their skill as artillerists may be gleaned from a letter of the Manila correspondent of Leslie's weekly. He writes:

"Major Young of the Utah Light Artillery is General MacArthur's chief of artillery. He has frequently rushed his guns up to within from fifty to 200 yards of the enemy's position, and there poured in a fearful fire that has forced the little brown insurgents to take to their heels, leaving behind groups of dead. It is not mere bravado that makes Major Young fight his pieces a little more than arm's length, and thus upset all the traditions of field artillery practice. The nature of the country makes it necessary to run the field pieces up in the enemy's faces. At greater ranges the enemy would generally be invisible to the gunners on account of the numerous clumps of bamboo and the dense jungles. Major Young is a West Pointer, and a former army officer, and his hard fighting proclivities, as well as those of the splendid men under him, have made the Utahs famous all along the line. Wherever they go past troops on the way into action they are lustily cheered, and Americans have found that wherever these Utah men show up during a battle the fight is quickly over at that point.

"In every fight that has taken place so far at least one gun of the Utah Light Artillery has taken part. Captain Wedgewood and Captain Grant, commanding the two batteries of this organization, have had some of the liveliest work to do that could fall to the lot of an artillery officer. A list of the ranges at which these fighting men

have fired would make old artillery officers open their eyes. At Calabahan the range was 900 yards; at Talibahan river, 125 yards; near Malinte, 1,600 yards; near Meycauayan, 1,700 yards; at Marilao, sixty yards, and afterward at 2,000; at Bocaue, 900 and 700 yards. From here Major Young took a shot at 3,200 yards at a moving insurgent train on the railway at Bigua, the



COMPANY C, BEATRICE, AT DINNER—PRESIDIO.

shell striking the train and driving out several insurgents in a panic. At Guiguinto the range was 1,500 yards; at Santa Isabel, 1,050 yards, and at Quingua, 250 yards. On the Caloocan road, on February 5, the ranges ran from 150 to 1,000 yards; at La Loma, 450 to 1,200 yards; at San Palco, 300 to 1,000

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COMPANY H STREET AT SANTA MESA.



COLONEL STOTSENBERG AT MARILLO.