

# Military Branch of Woodmen of the World is Potential



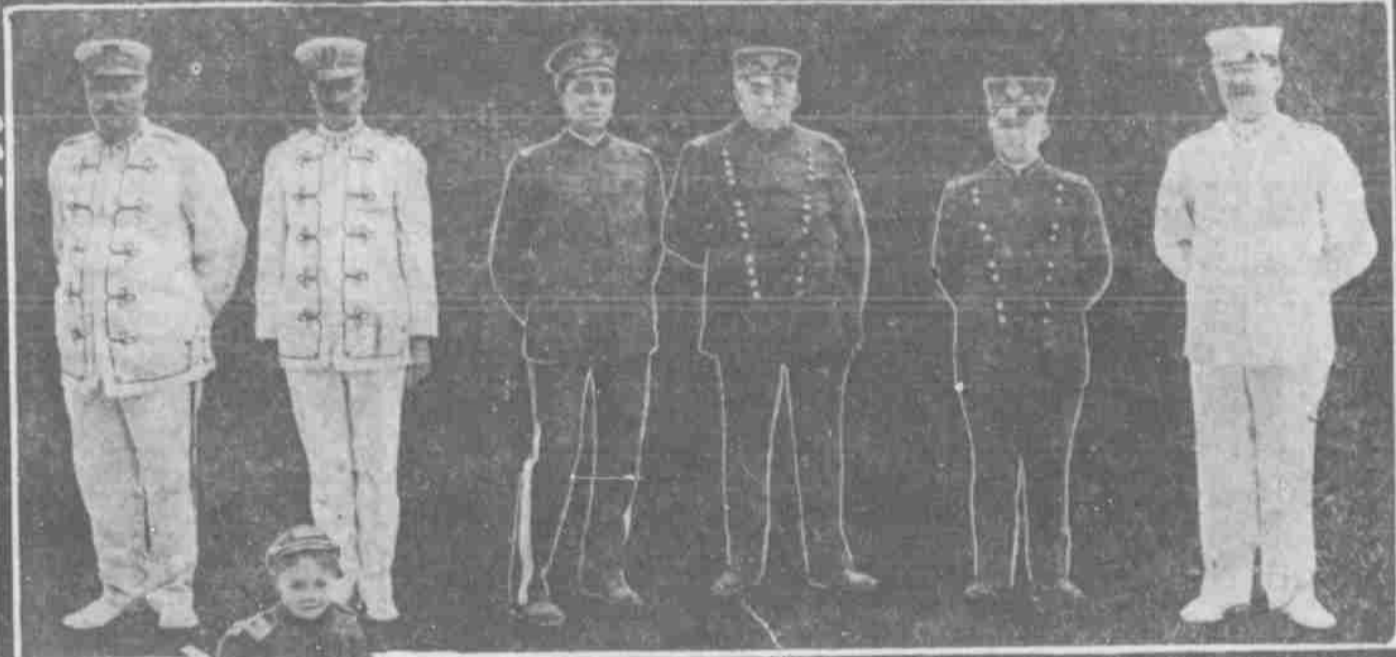
ADJ. GEN. E. Z. MATHER

GEN. J. C. ROOT

MAJ. GEN. JOHN T. YATES



SEYMOUR GUARDS - W.O.W. CHAMPIONS



GEN. J. C. ROOT AND STAFF

OMAHA is national headquarters for one of the greatest and most influential semi-military organizations in the United States; or in the world, as a matter of fact. This is the Uniform Rank of the Woodmen of the World.

This city is also the home of Company B of the First regiment, attached to Omaha Seymour Camp No. 16, known as the Seymour Guards. This company has repeatedly defeated all comers in drill and exemplification of the beautiful floor work of the order. At this time the Seymour Guards hold possession of the sovereign camp trophy, a silver loving cup valued at \$200. By reason of this admitted proficiency and superiority the Omaha crack company was designated to proceed to Little Rock, Ark., where it exemplified the ritual and conferred the Protection degree on a class of new members Saturday, December 3.

To confer the degrees on classes here and there is a very ordinary occurrence in the Woodmen of the World organization, but to do the floor work for a class of 5,000 new members taken in at one time is an honor that rarely, if ever, falls to the lot of any group of men. It is such a significant thing even in this remarkable fraternal society that the birthday anniversary of Sovereign Commander J. G. Root was selected as the date when the great event should occur.

Accompanying the Seymour Guards on the trip to Little Rock was General J. C. Root, Major General John T. Yates and others of the general staff, bringing the party up to the number of thirty in all. They left in a special car over the Missouri Pacific Thursday evening and will be away several days. After the initiation of the immense class at Little Rock the Omahans went to Muskogee, Okl., where they are initiating a second big class today. Coffeyville, Kan., will also see the work of the Omaha experts in welcoming a large class, and then the party is due in Kansas City, Kan., where a fourth group of candidates is to be taken in. In the three cities mentioned the size of the classes prepared is not as great as at Little Rock, but the number in each instance is very much out of the ordinary.

The personnel of the degree team making this trip is as follows: S. S. Hamilton, past consul commander; Dr. John E. Simpson, consul commander; C. E. White, adviser lieutenant; Earle R. Stiles, banker; John N. Crawford, escort; R. J. Spoerri, watchman. Drill team—Charles M. Richards, captain; A. F. Rasmussen, first sergeant; J. O. Heitler, Herman Roth, Ben W. Harvey, F. H. Meek, T. C. Mustain, T. G. Sanders, Harry H. Smith, W. A. Wunrath, W. F. Berger, Paul Davis, Guy Furness, J. H. Crowley, J. E. Welch, A. E. Peterson and C. C. Custer.

### Purpose of Uniform Rank.

"The Uniform Rank of the Woodmen of the World was organized to create uniformity in the ritualistic work throughout the entire order," said Colonel C. L. Mather, adjutant general of the Department of the East, of which Omaha is headquarters. "Its companies participate in the dedication of forests, Memorial day exercises, laying of cornerstones, street parades and unveilings. By the excellence of the drill work spectators are profitably entertained and new members are sincerely impressed with the lessons taught."

Colonel Mather explained in this connection that fraternal initiations are taboo in this organization. "We rely, rather, on the grandeur, beauty, thought and poetical element, and when our ritualistic work is put on by a well-drilled team it is a never-ending delight." He explained, also, that the official drill regimens made especially for the Uniform Rank give the setting-up exercises and illustrative diagrams of the manual and movements. "The United States government looks favorably upon and encourages the uniform rank of any fraternal organization," says Colonel Mather, "because in time of need they can be recruited, are much more serviceable and can be gotten in line quicker than raw recruits unacquainted with military manuals. Such organizations may be considered in reality auxiliaries of the army."

The Woodmen of the World have four official uniforms that are decidedly neat and attractive. They consist of the blue, or dress, uniform; the olive drab, for general use; a white uniform, for southern companies; and the khaki, or service uniform, for rough work. Annual encampments are held throughout the country, which bring the companies together for competitive drills and for exemplifying the Protection degree. These encampments serve the double purpose of affording pleasing recreation to the members and enabling them to acquire valuable experience in their drill work.

At the present time the Department of the East has 125 regiments, comprising about 25,000 uniformed men, which would provide a most welcome basis for an army in the field should the government ever need it.

Major General John T. Yates is the commanding officer of the Department of the East, with the following staff officers: Chief-of-staff, Colonel R. L. Forgan, Oklahoma City, Okl.; adjutant general, Colonel C. L. Mather, Omaha, Neb.; inspector general, Colonel E. T. Lowry, New York City, New York; judge advocate, Colonel J. P. Mead, Joplin, Mo.; chief quartermaster, Colonel T. W. Burchmore, Omaha, Neb.; commissary general, Earle R. Stiles, Omaha, Neb.; chief surgeon, Dr. A. D. Cloyd, Omaha, Neb.

### Military Procedure Followed.

When a company reports to headquarters it is assigned to a regiment in a particular district. A company consists of sixteen chapters and a captain. Four companies constitute a battalion and three battalions a regiment. Each battalion is in command of a major with regulation staff, and each regiment is commanded by a colonel, with staff. Two or more regiments make up a brigade, with a brigadier in command. Competition for excellence between companies, regiments and brigades is always keen among the uniformed Woodmen, and such a trip as the Omaha Seymour Guards are now making attracts the lively attention of the whole order everywhere.

General J. C. Root, sovereign commander of the Woodmen of the World, is the commanding general of the Uniform Rank, all departments, with the following staff officers: Adjutant general, A. H. Williams, Denver, Colo.; inspector general, W. A. Fraser, Dallas, Tex.; judge advocate, N. B. Maxey, Muskogee, Okl.; quartermaster general, T. E. Paterson, Chattanooga, Tenn.; commissary general, J. E. Fitzgerald, Kansas City, Mo.; surgeon general, I. W. Porter, Omaha, Neb.; paymaster general, H. J. Root, Omaha, Neb. All have the rank of brigadier general.

Personal Staff—Colonel and aide de camp, T. W. Mitchell, Atlanta, Ga.; J. W. Kaiser, Kansas City, Kan.; B. W. Jewell, Omaha, Neb.; E. B. Lewis, Kingston, N. C.; H. F. Simrall, Columbus, Miss.; E. D. Campbell, Ft. Huron, Mich.; A. H. Burnett, Omaha, Neb.; A. F. Borden, Los Angeles, Cal.; and P. J. Bakula, Topeka, Kan.

The Department of the East comprises the sovereign jurisdiction, the Department of the West comprises the Pacific jurisdiction and the Department of Canada comprises the Canadian jurisdiction. Each department is in command of a major general.

### Organizers Set Arkansas Afire.

Officials of the Woodmen of the World in Arkansas, and the people of that state as a whole looked forward to the taking in of the 5,000 class as an occasion that would advertise the state of Arkansas far more favorably than anything that has occurred in many years. The campaign to secure the full number for this class has been conducted in a manner as systematic as enthusiastic.

Attending the Little Rock initiation, besides the Seymour Guards and the Omaha party of high officers, were companies of the Uniform Rank from all parts of Arkansas and adjoining states. Major General John T. Yates was in command of a monster parade that moved through the streets of Little Rock amid the plaudits of great multitudes of visitors. Excursions were run to the Arkansas capital from all points of

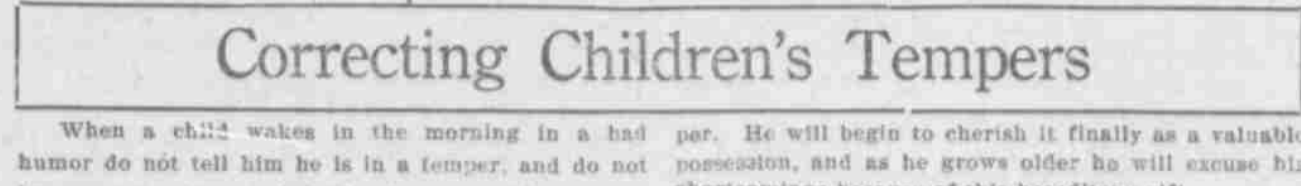
that section of country. Hundreds of camps had their entire membership present.

State Manager Miller of Arkansas, writing to the Omaha headquarters of the prospects for filling the class, said: "The farmers of this state have been blessed with the best crop they have had for years, for which they will realize richly." This prosperous material condition has worked for the success of the tremendous undertaking in a way that would not have been possible in other years. In fact, the Arkansas hustlers of this great society having its home in Omaha took practical advantage of the psychological hour to carry out their plans. Manager Miller and his aids went all over the state arousing interest and the more the people of Arkansas thought about it the more enthusiastic they became.

It will be interesting to note the methods used by the fraternal campaigners. Barbecues of the good old southern kind were organized and drew crowds of

large proportions. Picnics were also standard attractions, with social affairs of various kinds, both indoors and out. For the success of these functions every "sovereign," as the members are called, worked with vim and intelligence. They were attended by many thousands of people in the aggregate. Prominent citizens in every community were interested and officials high in public life pledged their membership in the big class. Then they, in turn, got busy among their friends. Camps located throughout Arkansas vied with each other in promising to bring in candidates, and when the parade moved it was estimated at least 10,000 Woodmen were in Little Rock. The enthusiasm and interest had been kept alive so effectively that the people of Arkansas heard almost nothing else talked but the Woodmen of the World 5,000 class for months.

Three prizes offered for Arkansas drill teams of \$75, \$50 and \$25 were really the least among the at-



MAJ. GEN. JOHN T. YATES AND STAFF

## Correcting Children's Tempers

When a child wakes in the morning in a bad humor do not tell him he is in a temper, and do not lose your own temper in trying to correct him.

This is more easily said than done, and a nervous mother often finds herself at these trying times on the very verge of a precipice, says a writer in the New York World. If she loses her head and topples over just from sheer exasperation, she simply puts herself on the same plane as the cross child, and her power for controlling him goes down one degree or several.

On the other hand, if she meets his bad humors calmly and gently she is very apt to be able to manage him without a scene. A child will nearly always copy his mother's anger and go her one better if he gets a chance. Then, in order to handle the situation, she must go him one better, and the result is a conflict of rages which is exhausting and futile.

On the other hand, if she is capable of meeting his rage with a gentle self-possession, and then endeavor to divert his mind from his imaginary troubles, she is laying the foundation for years of ease and quietude later on. Nothing good ever comes from rage confronting rage, and to manage a little child by such methods is to achieve finally a sort of cat and dog life in the household, or, if the mother's rage is greater than the child's, and he is frightened, it is more than apt to make him secretive, and this quality is the last thing to encourage in children.

It is also most unwise to tell a child he has a tem-

per. He will begin to cherish it finally as a valuable possession, and as he grows older he will excuse his shortcomings because of this hereditary gift.

A little indulged only child, on a visit to her grandmother one day, exclaimed:

"Grandma, if you won't give me that candy, I shall be in a very bad temper with you."

"Nonsense," answered the old lady. "Whoever said you had such a thing as a temper? That is not a pretty thing to have."

The next time the little girl indulged in a fit of rage with her grandmother for a piece of cake the whimsical old lady smiled at her encouragingly.

"Would you like a piece of shadow cake?" she asked.

"Yes," cried the child furiously.

"Annie, bring me the shadow cake, will you?"

The maid, previously instructed, brought an empty plate, from which grandmamma cut an imaginary slice of cake and handed it to the little girl.

"Go to your room now," she said sternly, "and eat it alone."

There was a strange look on the child's face as she slowly left the dining room. By and by she came back in a perfectly good humor and laughing, and from that day to this she has never mentioned her temper again.

But in this little girl there was very good material to work upon, and children are not always so easily cured.

tractions offered. The fraternal spirit had been aroused to white heat, and that this interest extended far beyond the membership of the order is indicated by the following clipping from the Arkansas Gazette:

### Business Organizations Enlisted.

"Philip Miller, state manager for the Woodmen of the World, was in conference yesterday with Secretary George R. Brown of the Board of Trade in regard to the state convention of the order, which will be held in this city December 3. It was stated that between 8,000 and 10,000 members of the order will be here for the meeting, and a class of 5,000 will be introduced during the convention. A feature of the convention will be a competitive military drill among the Woodmen. There are twenty entries for this drill already. The meetings of the convention will be held in the Auditorium rink. J. C. Root, founder and sovereign commander of the order, will be in Little Rock for the convention.

"The Board of Trade, in conjunction with the other commercial organizations, will ask the railroads to grant a rate of one and one-half fare for the round trip.

"There are about 31,000 Woodmen in the state and about 2,000 of them are in this city. It is expected that the coming convention will be one of the biggest held in the south this year."

Generals Root and Yates and the other Omaha men accompanying the champion drill team were given the warmest kind of reception, including balls and banquets, by the city and state officials and the people of Little Rock and Arkansas generally. Their presence, and the work of the Seymour Guards, helped very materially to make it known throughout the southwest that Omaha, the metropolis of Nebraska, is the chosen home of what its members and friends claim is the greatest among the many great fraternal orders of the United States and Canada.

### "Boys of Woodcraft."

The most recent branching out of the Woodmen of the World is in the "Boys of Woodcraft" organization. For this auxiliary to the parent organization merely nominal dues are charged. It takes in boys between 7 and 18 years of age, has a special ritual and is growing most encouragingly. The main object, as stated in the prospectus, is mutual help and encouragement to observe the "golden rule." Discipline is also a prime object, and training in parliamentary practice. The boys also have drills and a ritual of their own. The benefits are stated as "visitation, fruit and flowers and attention when sick, attendance and a ceremony on the death of a cadet, and a marker or monument at the grave should the relatives be financially unable to provide one." At 18 a boy secures free admission to the Woodmen of the World.

### Order a Giant Financially.

Financially, this Omaha institution is very strong. It has now passed its twentieth milestone, and its last statement makes the following showing:

Benefits in force January 1, 1910, \$800,000,000. Total death claims, disability and monuments paid, \$48,000,000.

Reserve or emergency fund invested, \$10,500,000. Total membership, sovereign jurisdiction, 560,000; total number of camps, 9,000.

The combined branches have 850,000 members, and the combined emergency fund totals \$16,000,000. Combined monuments erected, 25,000; combined death claims paid, \$60,000,000; combined camps, 12,000.

On this statement, the order claims to be the richest fraternal society in America; the second largest in numbers in America; to have the lowest assessments consistent with absolute permanent protection; five to seven years' life insurance free. It has the distinctive feature of placing a monument on every grave, and pays old age disability benefits.

The present large headquarters building in Omaha having proven inadequate to the demands of the growth of the order, ground is shortly to be broken for a monster skyscraper to be erected at the corner of Fourteenth and Farnam streets.