

AN ARMY OF UNSUITABLES.

The recent enlistments in Cedar Rapids for the United States army have given several people cause to make a new and deeper study of the reasons that cause men to enlist, and the general conclusion is that vanity rather than patriotism, and lack of information rather than education on the subject, is responsible for the enlistment of a lot of boys who would gladly serve five years each even on a stone pile and under the orders of their fathers, to be released from the oaths that they have taken.

These boys are altogether unfit for the life of the soldier in any country and under the best of conditions, and to send them to the Philippines is to inflict on 30 of every 100 of them the death penalty for their folly and not for any crime that they have committed. If they were farmer boys, if they had worked in foundries, machine shops, at anything that would have toughened their muscles, the case would have been somewhat different. The majority of them are of the class who never did what might be called a hard day's work. They have carried no loads heavier than their school books. They have had no style of living except on beds of the best kind, in easy chairs, at the tables presided over by their mothers, and in hammocks with companions for solace. Compelled to prepare a meal for themselves they might as well consume the material raw, and compelled to make their own quarters they might with as good effect sleep on the ground with the sky for a covering. They are totally unfit for the life to which they have been assigned by the government and there should be some one in the war department with enough courage to tell the truth and to say that if soldiers are needed the government has the right to call for soldiers and the right to command that the call be obeyed.

These boys have seen the Iowa national guard in camp. They have been made aware that feather-headed girls and women flock about the camp to do homage to epaulettes, leg stripes, swords, rifles, brass buttons, and gray slouch hats, worn with a "who cares a rap" air. These boys are close observers of these things and do not appreciate having their company pay attention to blue clothes and a swagger gait. Shallow as this reasoning may appear to the men who have forgotten that they were boys, that there was a time when a smile meant

more to them than the possession of a section of Iowa land, and that they would leave their mothers to split the kindling and do all the chores for the blessed privilege of bestowing five cents' worth of gum drops on some girl and enjoying her society until the gum drops had been consumed, this is the potent reasoning that has made soldiers of many boys who should at this time be at home spading the gardens and making preparations to assist their mothers in the cultivation of flowers about the lawn.

Now that it is too late for them the boys have seen the awful error they have committed, have arrived at the conclusion that their fathers had some sense when they advised them to stay at home, and know that a great deal of money will have to be spent and a great deal of worry undergone to secure their release. That a great many of them forged the names of their fathers to their papers seemed a light matter, for they believed that their fathers would not prosecute. It is a different matter now and they would even rather be in jail. One lad writes home that on the occasion of the visit of the wife of a petty officer to the camp a troop of "cavalry" was ordered out for her edification. This cavalry consisted of a lot of callow boys who might have ridden well broken broom sticks or hobby horses, but they were given barbarous bronchos, fresh from the reservation, and with all the instincts of the heathendom of horse flesh in their minds. As a result eight of the troop were seriously hurt. One had a broken leg, another a broken arm, several had broken ribs and the others were sent to the hospital for various reasons. But the wife of the officer had a perfectly lovely time—almost as entertaining as any ever enjoyed by the dames of Rome when newly-caught Christians were fed to the lions of the royal menagerie for their entertainment. Thus they have been cajoled into the army by the blandishments of feather-headed girls to encounter more of the same thing in the personality of some of these girls who have realized their fondest ambitions and have married men allowed by law to wear shoulder straps and real swords.

If the United States has any cause in the Philippines that should appeal to the patriotism of the country it is strange that men of mature years do not enlist. It is strange that men able and educated to form opinions of their own are not wanted. It is

strange that a great nation will dodge like a coward from incurring the liability of pensions if there is any holy cause of liberty and right at stake. But the men of mature years and sound judgment might not believe all that might be told them, and they might form conclusions of their own as to the propriety of the movement. While they would yield loyal obedience under arms they might be able to tell the truth and in a convincing way on their return home and they might interfere with the plans of the army pets and poodles in the field. They are not wanted. The callow boys of the nation, who have had experience with nothing more effective than sling-shots and air guns, are to be weighted with haversacks and Kraag-Jorgensens and sent against a mature and crafty enemy, with all the advantages of knowledge of the jungles, familiarity with the resources of the country and fitness for the climate on their side. The case is one that calls for correction and the press of the country should have the hardihood and honesty to tell the truth. If men are wanted, then send men. The United States is cowardly to send these striplings to death for the sole reason that they have no heirs to demand pensions for the sacrifice.—Cedar Rapids Evening Gazette, of April 9.

THE UNEARNED INCREMENT IN BUSINESS.

The following articles, one from a leading Western and the other from a leading Eastern financial publication, are significant of a growing recognition in financial circles of essential economic, business and moral differences between investments in monopoly values and in legitimate capital values.

WHERE THE BLAME ACTUALLY RESTS.

Editorial in the August, 1901, issue of Finance, "a review of the financial, industrial and development interests of the great West," published in St. Louis.

Some little time ago the United States Investor, of Boston, one of the greatest financial journals in the world, in considering editorially the cause of what are commonly called periods of bad times, said:

The speculative advance in land values alone explains the period of bad trade which regularly succeeds a period of good trade throughout the industrial world. As already stated, this advance in rents is not brought about by the will of land owners, who are no more responsible for it than other people. It is none the less of the nature of a lockout against capital and labor. And in these days of rapid material progress it produces results more disastrous than were possible in quieter and less