

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

JANUARY 12, 1889.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. SPINOLA, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 11684.]

Mr. Spinola, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 11684), reviving the grade of lieutenant-general in the Army of the United States, reported the same with amendments, as follows:

The permanent establishment of the Army of the United States under the Constitution dates from the first Congress.

This body first recognized, in September, 1789, the establishment of 1787, and by subsequent acts perfected its organization and increased its strength. At their expiration the Army comprised 1 battalion of artillery and 2 regiments of infantry, for the command of which the President was authorized (act of March 3, 1791) to appoint a major-general. This organization continued with some slight modifications until, by the act of May 30, 1796, the Army was established as composed of a corps of artillerists and engineers, 2 companies of light dragoons, and 4 regiments of infantry, the rank of the Commander-in-Chief being retained as major-general. In December, 1796, Major-General Anthony Wayne died, and the following March the law establishing the grade of major-general was repealed and the brigadier-general fell in command. The strength of the Army at this time was somewhat less than 4,000 men, a number, especially when the small territorial extent of the country is considered, which suggests most appropriately the rank of a brigadier-general for its commander.

In 1798, war with France seeming imminent, Congress authorized the President (act of May 28, 1798) to call into actual service a number of troops, not exceeding 10,000 men, to organize them with a suitable number of "major generals" into artillery, cavalry, and infantry, conformably to the military establishment, and to appoint "a Commander of the Army, which may be raised by virtue of this act, and who being commissioned as lieutenant-general, may be authorized to command the armies of the United States." In July (act July 16, 1798) the President was authorized to raise 12 additional regiments of infantry and 6 troops of light dragoons, and to command the Army to be thus constituted he, that month, appointed George Washington lieutenant-general.

These several acts contemplated a force of about 18,000 men, and it will be noted fixed the rank of the officer commanding them as that of a lieutenant-general. It can not be appropriately considered that this grade was created as a reward for Washington, for he had already filled the highest office it was in the power of his country to bestow, and it

was not possible to confer upon him further honor, nor is it likely he would have desired such action; hence it must be concluded that in establishing the Army at this strength (less, it will be noticed, than that now fixed by law) with both major and brigadier-generals, that Congress thereby expressed their opinion that the grade of lieutenant-general for the general commanding was the one best suited to the military requirements of the situation.

By the act of March 2, 1799, Congress authorized the President in case of war to still further increase the Army by 24 regiments of infantry, 1 regiment and 1 battalion of riflemen, 1 battalion of artillerists and engineers, and 3 regiments of cavalry, and upon the following day, by section 9 of an act establishing an organization for these forces, provided—

That a commander of the Army of the United States shall be appointed and commissioned by the style of General of the Armies of the United States, and the present office and title of Lieutenant-General shall thereafter be abolished.

The latter act provided for an expansion of the Army, which, if it had been carried out, would have resulted in a force somewhat in the neighborhood of 40,000 men, and in confirmation of the view previously advanced as to the reasons influencing Congress in fixing the proper grade for the commanding general it will be noted that the proposed increase brought with it a corresponding advance in the grade of the commander, which for this force was established at the full grade of general.

When Washington accepted the appointment as Lieutenant-General it was with the condition that he should not be required to exercise personal command unless the troops were required to take the field for active service. This contingency, it is a matter of history, did not arise; the threatened war was fortunately avoided, and as the increased force contemplated by the latter acts was never raised, President Adams made no appointment to the higher grade, and Washington died the following December while still Lieutenant-General.

In February and May, 1800, Congress authorized the suspension of enlistments and appointments and the discharge of officers, privates, etc., appointed or raised under the before-mentioned acts, and two years later (act of March 16, 1802) fixed the military establishment at 1 regiment of artillerists, 2 regiments of infantry, and a corp of engineers, and to the force thus constituted, which was but little in excess of 3,000 men, limited to the grade of brigadier-general the rank of its commander, thus re-affirming the relation between the Army and its commanding general which had been established by a former Congress.

For some years after this date the command of the Army, of which the strength, though varied from time to time, was always very small, was held by a brigadier-general until, upon the breaking out of the war with England in 1812, Congress, by the act of January 11, 1812, authorized the addition of 10 regiments, of 4 brigadier-generals, and two major-generals, the senior of the latter officers commanding the Army.

The strength of the regular Army brought into the field during this war was only about 12,000 men, and on its conclusion a re-organization was effected (act of March 3, 1815), by which the force was reduced to 10,000 men, with 4 brigadier-generals, and 2 major-generals. The rank thus given to the commanding general was, therefore, entirely in accord with that fixed by former Congresses at different times during the previous twenty years.

By the act of March 2, 1821, the peace establishment was fixed at four regiments of artillery and seven regiments of infantry, with officers of en-

gineers, ordnance, and of the staff, and two brigadier-generals, all under the command of a major-general. This force, somewhat under 10,000 men, while slightly reduced in subsequent years, remained materially unchanged and with a major-general in command until the Florida war of 1838, when it was brought up to about 12,500; but on the close of hostilities was again reduced to about the former standard, and until the Mexican war comprised under 10,000 men, with all this time a commander having the rank of major-general.

The Mexican war caused a temporary increase in the regular Army and also the enrollment of a volunteer force, but upon the termination of hostilities the volunteer force was disbanded and the regular Army by successive acts reduced to about the same peace establishment as before the war, and remained so, with a force of a little over 10,000 men, under the command of a major-general, until 1855.

In that year, by the act of March 3, two regiments of infantry and two regiments of cavalry were added to the Army, which thereby was made to comprise, with the various staff corps, two regiments of dragoons, two of cavalry, one of mounted riflemen, four of artillery, and ten of infantry, or a total force of about 13,000, and having one major-general and three brigadier generals of the line.

Without any material change the Army as thus fixed, with a peace establishment greater than any former one since its first organization seventy years before, continued until the breaking out of the rebellion, and under the command of the major-general (General Scott), who, in accordance with a resolution approved February 15, 1855, had been advanced to the rank of lieutenant-general by brevet in acknowledgment of his eminent services in the war with Mexico.

During the war of the rebellion the armies were composed almost entirely of volunteers, the regular force in comparison being but moderately increased, and the highest rank being retained as that of major-general, until 1864, when, by the act of February 29 of that year, Brevet Lieutenant-General Scott, being then on the retired list of the Army, Congress revived the grade of lieutenant-general, and authorized the President to appoint and commission a lieutenant-general to command the armies of the United States. It was the intention of Congress that Major-General Grant should be commissioned to this office, and the President (Lincoln) so appointed him.

As a further recognition of the eminent services of Lieutenant-General Grant Congress passed an act (approved July 25, 1866) reviving the grade of general, and the President appointed him thereto, promoting Major-General Sherman to the vacancy thus occurring in the grade of lieutenant-general.

The peace establishment as fixed at this time comprised about 55,000 men, thus forming an appropriate command for an officer of the rank of general.

When General Grant became President, in 1869, he resigned the office of General Commanding the Army, and promoted Lieutenant-General Sherman thereto, and at the same time advanced Major-General Sheridan to be Lieutenant-General, and Brigadier-General Schofield to the grade of major-general.

In the following year, by the act of July 15, 1870, Congress declared that—

The offices of General and Lieutenant-General of the Army shall continue until a vacancy shall occur in the same, and no longer, and when such vacancy shall occur in either of said offices, immediately thereupon all laws and parts of laws creating said offices shall become inoperative, and shall by virtue of this act from thenceforward be held to be repealed.

In accordance with this law the grade of General on the active list expired with the retirement of General Sherman in February, 1884, (though he still has that rank upon the retired list), and the command of the Army, which he had relinquished to Lieutenant-General Sheridan on the 1st of the previous November, was held by the latter with that rank until June 1, 1888.

On that day Congress passed an act which provided—

That the grade of Lieutenant-General of the Army is hereby discontinued and is merged in the grade of General of the Army of the United States, which grade shall continue during the life-time of the present Lieutenant-General of the Army, after which such grade shall also cease; and the President of the United States is hereby authorized to appoint, with the advice and consent of the Senate, a General of the Army of the United States.

Under this law President Cleveland advanced Lieutenant-General Sheridan to the grade of General, and with that rank he continued as commander of the Army until his death, the following August.

The Army, to whose command the President then assigned the senior officer, Major-General Schofield, now comprises 3 major-generals and 6 brigadier-generals, besides 10 brigadier-generals of the staff corps, with about 2,150 officers of lower grades, and, with its 40 regiments and the men of the staff corps, contains a total enlisted force, as fixed by law, of 25,000 men.

Glancing back through the previous summary it will be perceived that, since the peace establishment was originally fixed by the first Congress just one-hundred years ago, during peace the command has been exercised by a brigadier-general when the force was less than 5,000 men, and by a major-general when the enlisted strength numbered in the neighborhood of 10,000.

Whenever the Army has exceeded the latter limit the rank of its commander has exceeded that of major-general, Washington being given the rank of Lieutenant-General for the command of 18,000 men and the law authorizing an advance to the grade of General for a proposed force of 40,000; Lieutenant-General Scott commanded 13,000 and Grant, with the rank of General, being at the head of a regular Army of over 50,000 men.

Sherman, with the rank of General, succeeded to the command of this force and held it during the reductions of the following years, until when, five years ago, he turned the command over to Sheridan (who had the rank of Lieutenant-General) the Army comprised a total of about 27,000 officers and men, thus forming a force with which the rank of its commander was properly commensurate.

For nearly five years the commander of the Army remained in the grade of Lieutenant-General, and when finally promoted to the rank of General it was entirely in recognition of his distinguished services during a most trying period of our national existence, and not as a measure of military necessity or expedience.

But military expedience does suggest that the rank of Lieutenant-General with which he formerly exercised the command of the Army should be revived. With a force equal to our own, scattered as it has been and must still continue over a territory of 3,000,000 of square miles and subject to demands for its assistance in the protection of the lives and property of 65,000,000 of people, it is eminently appropriate that the general in command should be of a higher grade than a major-general.

Even now, in a time of profound peace, with no demands upon the different garrisons beyond those always incident to their regular rou-

tine, one of the principal departments comprising a force equal to that of the entire Army when its command was formerly exercised by a brigadier-general, has to be conferred upon an officer of the rank of colonel (who thereby must be removed from the immediate command of his regiment and post) because a brigadier-general has to be placed at the head of a division in consequence of a major-general succeeding to the command of the Army.

The restoration of the grade of lieutenant-general would remove this embarrassment and permit the administration of the Army to be carried forward in the manner which past experience has proved so advantageous.

The measure now pending would accomplish the desired result; it provides—

That the grade of lieutenant-general be, and the same is hereby, revived in the Army of the United States; and the President is hereby authorized, whenever he shall deem it expedient, to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, a lieutenant-general, to be selected from among the officers in the military service of the United States, not below the grade of major-general, most distinguished for courage, skill, and ability, who, being commissioned as lieutenant-general may be authorized under the direction and during the pleasure of the President to command the armies of the United States.

The officers now in the grade to which this selection is confined are Major-Generals Schofield, Howard, and Crook, who, during their thirty-five years of service, have won most enviable records for patriotism, valor, and military ability.

The senior, the present commander of the Army, graduated from the Military Academy in the class of the lamented Sheridan, and after service in the Southern States and as an assistant professor at West Point, the outbreak of the rebellion found him a first lieutenant of artillery. In April, 1861, he became major of the First Missouri Volunteers, and during the following summer served as chief of staff to General Lyon until the latter's death. His ability was demonstrated by Lyon's campaign, and, as a consequence, in November, 1861, Schofield was appointed a brigadier-general of volunteers and placed in command of the militia of Missouri, and a year later, having been promoted to be major-general, organized the Army of the Frontier, which, under his command, drove the enemy out of Missouri and across the Boston Mountains.

In 1863 General Schofield commanded the Department of the Missouri with a force aggregating about 40,000 men, including the forces which captured Little Rock and Fort Smith and extended the Union lines as far South as the Arkansas River. His administration of that Department was such as to secure the strong commendation of President Lincoln, and his transfer, upon the recommendation of General Grant, to the command of the Department and Army of the Ohio, with a force aggregating 40,000 men. With one corps of infantry and one of cavalry from his department, General Schofield participated in all the operations and battles of the campaign under Sherman, which resulted in the capture of Atlanta, September 2, 1864.

After the close of that campaign and at the commencement of Sherman's march to the sea, Schofield was ordered to join Thomas in Middle Tennessee, to oppose the advance of the Confederate army under Hood until Thomas's troops could be assembled at Nashville. In these operations the immediate command of the army in the field devolved upon General Schofield. With two corps of infantry and an inferior force of cavalry he successfully defeated the maneuvers of Hood's superior force, and inflicted upon him the crushing defeat of Franklin November 30, 1864, thus effecting his junction with General Thomas at Nash-

ville the following day. In the succeeding battle at Nashville, December 15 and 16, General Schofield's troops bore a prominent part and assisted General Thomas in that final success over the main Confederate army of the West.

For his services in that campaign General Schofield was promoted from captain to brigadier-general and brevet major-general in the regular Army, to date from the battle of Franklin.

The war then being practically ended in the region of country from the Alleghanies to the Mississippi, General Schofield was, at his own suggestion, transferred with his corps to the coast of North Carolina, moving by river, rail, and sea 1,900 miles. There, his force being increased by the Tenth Corps under Terry, he captured Wilmington, defeated the Confederates in a three days' battle near Kinston, and united with General Sherman at Goldsborough, having established a base of supplies and a secure line of communication to the Atlantic for Sherman's army.

Soon after the close of the civil war General Schofield was selected, upon the recommendation of General Grant, for very important and delicate duties, under joint instructions from the State and War Departments, in reference to the then existing French intervention in Mexico. These duties he discharged with such tact and discretion as to avert an armed conflict between the United States and France.

Upon the passage of the so-called reconstruction laws, March 2, 1867, General Schofield was assigned to the command of one of the military districts created by that act, consisting of the State of Virginia. His mild and just, though strict, execution of those laws won the gratitude of the people of Virginia and the approval of the dominant party in Congress. So much so, that when, in the midst of his impeachment trial, President Johnson sent in the nomination of General Schofield as Secretary of War, it was confirmed by a nearly unanimous vote of the Senate. To such a degree had this young soldier, then only thirty-six years of age, won the respect and confidence of all parties by his services in war and by his wise administration in the midst of the most bitter partisan strife.

General Schofield continued Secretary of War until some days after the inauguration of President Grant, by whom he was promoted, on the 4th of March, 1869, to the grade of major-general in the regular Army. His administration of the War Department was above criticism and was universally commended by all parties. Under it, peace and good order were preserved throughout the South during that exciting Presidential election which followed the first effort at reconstruction of the Southern State governments.

Since the inauguration of President Grant, General Schofield has been employed in the usual military duties of his rank, having commanded in succession all the military divisions of the country. Of his seniors in the Army at that time, Sherman only is living. Sheridan, Halleck, Meade, Thomas, and Hancock are dead, while of the five major-generals appointed at later dates only two remain—Howard and Crook. McDowell is dead; Pope and Terry retired. The junior major-general of twenty years ago has become the senior, and is in command of the Army.

Twenty-five years ago, and for two years thereafter, this officer commanded a department and an army in the field comprising from thirty to forty thousand men, who never suffered defeat when under his personal command. Although his position was generally a subordinate one, his army being part of a greater one under Sherman or Thomas,

and hence his services less conspicuous, his subordinate duties were always performed with success, and the battles in which he held the chief command were among the most notable victories of the civil war. Such an officer is surely worthy of rank appropriate to the strength of the command he now holds.

General Howard graduated from the Military Academy one year after General Schofield, and on the breaking out of the war of the rebellion was a lieutenant of ordnance, which rank he resigned in June, 1861, to become colonel of the Third Maine Volunteers, three months later a brigadier-general, and in November, 1862, a major-general of volunteers. Until the fall of 1863 he participated in the various campaigns and battles of the Army of the Potomac, in which he held different commands up to finally that of the Eleventh Corps. He commanded this corps at Chattanooga when it was transferred to the West, and afterwards the Army of the Tennessee, which formed a part of Sherman's command on the Atlanta campaign and the march to the sea, and was commissioned a brigadier-general in the regular Army in December, 1864. After the war he was in charge of the Freedmen's Bureau, and has since commanded several of the military departments and divisions and now has that of the Division of the Atlantic.

His promotion to be major-general followed soon after General Hancock's death in 1886.

General Crook, the junior of the major-generals, entered the Military Academy in the same class as Sheridan, and after nine years' service in the Far West, where he saw much active service against hostile Indians, was a first lieutenant of infantry when the war broke out.

He was soon made colonel of the Thirty-sixth Ohio, a year later brigadier-general of volunteers, and was with the Army of the Potomac at South Mountain and Antietam.

For a year his service was then in the West, until in the fall of 1863 he was transferred to West Virginia, when he commanded the army in that department.

The battles of Cedar Creek and Fisher's Hill made him a major-general of volunteers, and in the closing battles of the war he commanded a division of cavalry under General Sheridan.

In 1873 President Grant appointed him a brigadier-general in the regular Army, and since that time his service in our western Territories in the control of their Indian population has added greatly to his already well-established reputation.

His commission as major-general dates from April 11, 1888.

It will thus be seen that these officers all commanded armies during the late war, and all then held the rank in the volunteer forces (major-general) that they now have in the regular Army.

It is an admitted fact that all three of the major-generals on active duty in the Army are worthy of the highest consideration at the hands of their country.

The committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill.

