

Mustered Out.

On Wednesday the 14th instant the last of the Mountaineer Battalion was mustered out of service. The organization is now numbered among the things that were, and will be remembered in after times for what of evil it has caused or what of good it has accomplished as regards the promotion of the interests of the district of country in which its services have been rendered. It was created for the purpose of ridding our own and adjacent counties of the intolerable curse of hostile Indians, who had been for years imbruing their murderous hands in the blood of our citizens, and who had been for as long engaged in the plunder and destruction of their property. If there be those who think the organization of the Battalion and the work it has accomplished have been prejudicial rather than beneficial to the interests of the community it has served, we must be permitted to say we think they do it great injustice, to say the least. The Battalion was composed of men who had been for years citizens and residents of the counties of Del Norte, Klamath, Trinity, Mendocino and Humboldt—men for the most part identified with the interests of one and all these, embracing in their number many of the most prominent, influential and substantial citizens in those counties;—the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, and the sturdy, strong-armed laboring man, were alike in its ranks. It was authorized and created for a special service. When mustered in, although for such special service, it became essentially a portion of the Volunteer Military force of the United States, was treated as such, and subject to the like regulations, with the exception that its services were not to be required outside of the district where Indian hostilities existed. Its duties were of a purely military character—to hunt, fight, and subdue the hostile Indians. Having accomplished these their labors were ended. Whatever else remained to be done to effect a complete and final adjustment of Indian matters, devolved upon another and different arm of the Government. If in the details of such adjustment errors or mistakes were committed, such could not be justly charged.

to none to effect a complete and final adjustment of Indian matters, devolved upon another and different arm of the Government. If in the details of such adjustment errors or mistakes were committed, such could not be justly chargeable to the Battalion, nor should it detract from the services it had rendered, or make it any the less entitled to credit for its achievements. A portion of the Battalion, if we remember correctly, took the field something over two years ago; others followed us they were mustered into service. Col. S. G. Whipple was the commanding officer of the Battalion, and guided and directed its operations and movements against the Indians down to the time a superior officer, in the person of Col. Black, was placed in command, and during the time the last named officer was here, a period of about five months, he saw no cause for disapproving the plans and policy of the former, but, on the contrary, directed their continuance. Upon Col. Black's retiring from the district, however, he became of the opinion, and took the occasion to represent to the Department commander of the Pacific coast, as we have been informed, that ten thousand men in five years could not hunt those hostile Indians out of our mountains. To this we believe the people of Humboldt county and this military district are indebted for the change of policy which culminated in the Hoopa Reservation, and for which neither Col. Whipple nor any other officer or enlisted man of the Battalion can in any wise be held responsible.

Without stopping to enter into the particulars and details of the career of the Battalion, we pass to the period of its mustering out, and ask whether the noble men who composed it—men who left their homes and farms, their workshops and stores, that they, their families, their neighbors, and the community in which they lived, might be freed from the incursions and dangers actual and threatened of a relentless and savage foe, and once more be permitted to enjoy the blessings of peace and security—whether these men have accomplished any and how much of the work they set out to perform. Who does not well remember the condition of our own county two years ago? and what we say of our county may be said of our immediate neighbors. Whose life was then safe from the murderous bullet of the merciless savage, even to the very limits of our populous town? Whose home was then secure from the torch? Where amid our thousand hills and dales of luxuriant grazing land was the herdsman's fence that was exempt from the

we say of our County may be said of our immediate neighbors. Whose life was then safe from the murderous bullet of the merciless savage, even to the very limits of our populous town? Whose home was then secure from the torch? Where amid our thousand hills and dales of luxuriant grazing land was the herdsman's range that was exempt from the incursions of the prowling savage? What avenues of communication and trade with the interior were there that were not entirely closed, or so closely beset and constantly infested as to render them unavailable and useless? Let the scores of new-made graves whose inmates fell victims to the Indian's savage hate; let the smouldering ruins of a hundred homes; let the bleaching bones of thousands of cattle upon the hills; let the vacant store-houses and the impoverished citizens of the county answer these questions. In what respect is the condition of our county and of our people different from what it was at the period alluded to? It cannot be denied that a mighty change has been wrought in that condition. The Indian War is at an end. In the place of smouldering ruins, new homes have been made; fields deserted and overrun with weeds now groan under the weight of rich and bountiful harvests; the herdsman's hands roam unimpeded upon the hills; the avenues of communication are re-opened and free from danger; security for life and property has again returned, and enterprise, prosperity and progress are marching along hand in hand. There must be a cause for these changes. As the depredations of the Indians and the war consequent thereupon was the cause of the train of woes and misfortunes with which we have been visited, in like manner must the removal of these causes account for the season of prosperity that has followed, and for this result we are indebted to the Battalion of Mountaineers. It is idle to say it has accomplished nothing, and it is folly to assert that it has done but little service; the facts and the truth tell a different story. The war has been brought to a close, and we are permitted again to enjoy the blessings of peace. The officers and men are alike and justly entitled to the honor of effecting this result. We cheerfully accord it to them.

THE HUMBOLDT TIMES.

Business Directory. The Silent Tear: Who has not marked the silent tear
The Press and the Public. The Last of the Virginians. Coming at the Old Price.

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