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REPORT

OF THE

New York Board of Commissioners,

GETTYSBURG MONUMENTS.

24 Sept 12
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To

The Legislature :

The undersigned, Commissioners appointed under chapter 466, of the Laws of 1886, to designate and mark the positions occupied by New York troops on the battle field of Gettysburg, and to make suitable recommendations to the Legislature for the erection of monuments commemorating the services of New York Regiments and Batteries in that battle, have the honor to report :

That in the discharge of their duties the Commissioners have held sundry meetings at Gettysburg, Albany and New York, to which they invited delegations representing the survivors of the eighty-seven New York regiments and batteries that fought at Gettysburg, and after hearing all parties interested, the Commissioners have determined and marked all the positions where monuments should be placed.

These positions are shown on the map accompanying this report, prepared after a careful survey of the battle-field by Gen. Charles K. Graham, civil engineer, chosen for that duty by the Commissioners, and appointed as the engineer of the Board at their first session in Gettysburg, held in July last.

So far as the Commissioners are informed this survey of the battlefield is the most comprehensive and accurate of any that has been made, and is of itself a valuable contribution to the historical records of the battle. The Commissioners have paid from the small appropriation available to them, only the actual expenses incurred by the engineer in the performance of his duties ; the sum appropriated by the Legislature, \$5,000, being insufficient to provide for any compensation to the engineer, or to the Commissioners, who have only drawn upon the fund for their necessary traveling expenses.

Upon the organization of the Board of Commissioners in June last, Major-General Daniel E. Sickles was chosen Chairman, Major George W. Cooney was appointed Secretary, receiving \$100 a month for his services in attending daily at the office of the Commissioners in New York, and for conducting the large correspondence of the Commission and keeping its records.

Of the sum of \$5,000 appropriated by chapter 466 of the laws of 1886, to pay the disbursements of the Board in the performance of their duties \$2,893.82, have been expended; leaving in the treasury \$2,106.18, still available for the purposes of the act.

The Commissioners have the honor to transmit herewith the draft of a bill embracing such enactments and appropriations as will, in their judgment, be necessary to provide for the erection of suitable monuments to commemorate the services and sacrifices of the New York troops at Gettysburg, and this bill is respectfully submitted for the consideration of the Legislature.

It will be observed that it is proposed (section 1,) to make an appropriation of \$1,500 for each regiment and battery of New York troops, engaged in the battle, to be expended under the supervision of the Commissioners, in the erection of appropriate monuments with suitable inscriptions, marking the respective positions of our troops during the conflict. In this recommendation the Commissioners have followed the example of all the States which have made similar appropriations, they have all made provision for separate monuments, designating the position of each regiment and battery.

There are now erected on the battlefield 90 regimental and battery monuments. Of this number Massachusetts has 30, including all her regiments and batteries that took part in the battle; Pennsylvania, 28; Connecticut, 4; New Hampshire, 3; Rhode Island, 4; Indiana, 6; Delaware, 3; whilst the State of New York, which had eighty-seven regiments and batteries in the battle, is only represented by two regimental monuments, both of which were paid for by the survivors of the respective battalions, to wit: the 124th N. Y., of Orange County, known as the "Orange Blossoms," and belonging to the Third Army Corps; and the 157th Regiment, of Madison and Cortland Counties, and belonging to the 11th Corps. Ohio has appropriated \$1,500 each for all of her regiments engaged at Gettysburg, and her monuments will be dedicated this year. All of the States above named, except New York, have appropriated from \$500 to \$1,500 for each command.

The cost of the ninety monuments so far erected, ranges from \$1,000, expended for the monuments built for

the 1st Massachusetts, and for the 124th New York, respectively, down to \$750, which is the amount appropriated by Delaware, for each of her regiments and batteries. In nearly every instance, considerable additions have been made by subscriptions raised among the survivors, to the sum appropriated by the Legislatures; and as we have already mentioned, the only two monuments marking the positions of New York regiments, were wholly paid for by the survivors themselves, in the absence of any appropriation from our State.

Several States, including New York, have made appropriations for the purchase of land on which their monuments are placed, and for laying out avenues leading to them. For these purposes Pennsylvania has given \$16,000; New York, \$10,000; New Jersey, \$3,000; Vermont, \$2,500; Massachusetts, \$5,000; Rhode Island, \$1,000; and New Hampshire, \$1,000.

The Commissioners respectfully recommend a further appropriation for the purchase of necessary lands for sites and avenues leading to them, which, in their judgment, should not be less than \$10,000, to be expended under the direction of the Commissioners, with the approval of the Comptroller.

If it be the pleasure of the Legislature that the Commissioners shall proceed in the execution of the duties assigned to them in the proposed Bill, an appropriation not less than the amount provided for in section 7, to wit, \$10,000, will be necessary to pay the engineer and his assistants, and to meet other proper expenditures.

It is unnecessary for the undersigned to undertake anything like a discussion of the reasons which commend liberal appropriations to provide suitable monuments commemorating the heroic conduct of our troops at Gettysburg. By common consent this famous battlefield has been chosen to signalize the patriotism, valor and fortitude of the defenders of the Union in the great Civil War of 1861-5. It was a decisive victory, won at a moment when defeat might have been ruinous to our cause. The assaults upon our lines at Gettysburg were made by the most powerful army ever encountered by the Union forces; the advance of the army of Gen. Lee to the Susquehanna marked the extreme limit reached by the invading forces

of the South; the victory of Gettysburg, contemporaneous with the capture of Vicksburg, proved to the European powers the supremacy of the North and deprived our enemies of all hope of foreign interference in their behalf; to the Union forces in this decisive conflict the State of New York contributed more men than any other State, and our losses in killed and wounded were greater than those of any of our sister Commonwealths. It is surely most fitting that upon a battlefield so memorable in American annals, and in which the volunteer soldiers of our State bore so distinguished a part, New York should be represented by monuments not inferior in impressiveness to those erected by any other State.

The surviving volunteer soldiers of New York, mindful of the large expenditures necessary in recent years for the completion of our capital at Albany, have deferred making any application to the Legislature for such an appropriation as is now asked for, because they felt unwilling to increase the burdens of taxation for purposes not demanded by any exigency. But now when our State is becoming conspicuous in comparison with Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Delaware, for what it has *not* done in recognizing its grateful appreciation of the services of its soldiers, it is believed that the moment is opportune for the consideration of the Bill submitted by the Commissioners.

Besides the regimental memorials marking the positions where the New York troops fought, it is respectfully suggested that in honor of more than eight hundred nameless dead, who fell in the ranks of the New York troops at Gettysburg, and who are buried on the field, that a conspicuous monument should be erected on the battlefield by the State of New York. Such a monument is provided for in Section 6 of the bill submitted by the Commissioners with this report. The estimated cost of the several designs proposed, is from \$50,000 to \$100,000, according to the dimensions given. It seems fit and proper that the unmarked remains of nearly a thousand of our brave sons should no longer lie unnoticed and neglected on the ground where they gave their lives to their country. The state monument which the Commissioners ask authority to erect would testify to unnumbered genera-

tions the grateful recognition accorded by our people in these tranquil and prosperous days, to those who sacrificed all they could give for the honor and welfare of the Union.

Although the amount appropriated in the accompanying Bill is considerable, it is augmented by the very large number of New York commands which took part in the battle of Gettysburg. Nevertheless, the sum asked for is not more than \$29.50 a head for the New York killed and wounded in the conflict, and not more than the aggregate bounties paid in 1864 for two hundred recruits. Three hundred and seven commands in the army of the Potomac officially report losses at Gettysburg, amounting in the aggregate to twenty-two thousand nine hundred and ninety officers and men; and, of these, the eighty-seven New York commands in the battle lost six thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, nearly one third of the total number of casualties.

In all ages of the world's history, and in all countries, the admiration of the people for their military heroes has sought expression in costly monuments, built in honor of great commanders. In this country the disposition is to commemorate the virtues and services of our citizen soldiers, upon whom the brunt and burden of our civil war mainly fell. The monuments for which provision is made in this report, and the accompanying Bill, will have a touching interest for hundreds of thousands of our citizens in all parts of our State, who are associated by ties of blood and friendship with the New York commands that fought at Gettysburg. It will be the aim of the Commissioners, so far as their authority shall extend, to supervise the designs and materials adopted for the New York monuments, so that these tributes of a grateful and patriotic people, paid to the memory of their defenders, shall not be unworthy of the culture and art of the epoch in which we live.

D. E. SICKLES,
H. W. SLOCUM,
J. B. CARR,
C. A. RICHARDSON,
J. PORTER.

Albany, Feb. 17th, 1887.

AN ACT to provide for the erection of suitable monuments to the memory of the Soldiers of the State of New York, who were engaged in the battle of Gettysburg.

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The commissioners appointed by and pursuant to Chapter 466 of the Laws of 1886, are hereby authorized and directed to erect a monument on the battlefield of Gettysburg, in the State of Pennsylvania, to each of the regiments and batteries of the State of New York, hereinafter mentioned, at an expense \$1,500 each, upon the site which shall have been designated by said commissioners as the principal and proper position of such regiment or battery on said battlefield, but prior to the erection of such monuments, the said commissioners shall secure, through the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, a corporation formed by an act of the General Assembly of the State of Pennsylvania, approved April 30th, 1864, or by other proper means, the dedication of the ground upon which each of said monuments shall rest, to the memorial purposes for which said monuments shall be erected, with the right of free access thereto by the public, subject, nevertheless, to the rules and regulations of said Memorial Association for the protection and preservation of said grounds and the monuments to be erected thereon.

The following are the regiments and batteries for which monuments shall be erected under the provisions of this act:—

The Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Regiments of New York Cavalry; batteries B, C, D, G, I, K, L and M of the first regiment of New York Light Artillery; the First, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Thirteenth and Fifteenth New York Independent Batteries, and the Tenth, Thirty-Ninth, Fortieth, Forty-First, Forty-Second, Forty-Third, Forty-Fourth, Forty-Fifth, Forty-Ninth, Fifty-Second, Fifty-Fourth, Fifty-Seventh, Fifty-Eighth, Fifty-Ninth, Sixtieth, Sixty-First, Sixty-Second, Sixty-Third, Sixty-Fourth, Sixty-Fifth, Sixty-Sixth, Sixty-Seventh, Sixty-Eighth, Sixty-Ninth, Seventieth, Seventy-First, Seventy-Second, Seventy-Third, Seventy-Fourth, Seventy-Sixth, Seventy-Seventh, Seventy-Eighth, Eightieth, Eighty-Second, Eighty-Third, Eighty-Fourth, Eighty-Sixth, Eighty-Eighth, Ninety-Third, Ninety-Fourth, Ninety-Fifth, Ninety-Seventh, One Hundred and Second, One Hundred and Fourth, One Hundred and Seventh, One Hundred and Eighth, One Hundred and Eleventh, One Hundred and Nineteenth, One Hundred and Twentieth, One Hundred and Twenty-First, One Hundred and Twenty-Second, One Hundred

and Twenty-third, One Hundred and Twenty-Fourth, One Hundred and Twenty-Fifth, One Hundred and Twenty-Sixth, One Hundred and Thirty-Fourth, One Hundred and Thirty-Sixth, One Hundred and Thirty-Seventh, One Hundred and Fortieth, One Hundred and Forty-Fifth, One Hundred and Forty-Sixth, One Hundred and Forty-Seventh, One Hundred and Forty-Ninth, One Hundred and Fiftieth, One Hundred and Fifty-Fourth, One Hundred and Fifty-Seventh regiments of New York Infantry, and the First Regiment of U. S. Sharp Shooters.

§ 2. In case any proper representative organization of the survivors of any such regiment or battery shall desire to have one or more monuments to such regiment or battery erected at a greater expense than \$1,500, such organization may present its application with designs and specifications for such monument or monuments and estimates of the cost thereof, and said commissioners may in their discretion approve of such designs and specifications, or of any modification thereof, or substitute therefor which shall be offered by such organization, and when the designs and specifications of such organization shall have been approved and accepted, the said commissioners may erect such monument or monuments upon the condition that said organization shall pay all the expenses thereof in excess of \$1,500. And said commissioners may make such rules and regulations as they may deem necessary and proper to carry out the provisions of this section, and to protect the State in the erection of such monuments.

§ 3. The said commissioners shall have full control in every respect of the erection of said monuments, but each monument shall bear upon some conspicuous part thereof, the coat of arms of the State of New York, and so far as practicable a statement of the precise time when the position was held by the regiment or battery it represents, and the principal movements made by such regiment or battery during the battle.

§ 4. The said commissioners are hereby directed to consult and advise with the survivors of said regiments and batteries so far as practicable, concerning the designs of said monuments and the inscriptions to be placed thereon, and to prescribe rules and regulations to govern the consideration and determination of the matters relating thereto.

§ 5. When said monuments shall have been erected to the satisfaction of the said commissioner, as provided by this act, the care and custody of them may be entrusted to the said Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association for protection and preservation in accordance with the rules and regulations of said Association therefor, provided however that the State of New York shall have the right at all times to take such proper measures to secure the protection and preservation of said monuments and the grounds on which they stand as shall be consistent with the sovereignty and jurisdiction of the State of Pennsylvania.

§ 6. The said commissioners are hereby further authorized and directed to cause to be erected upon said battlefield a suitable memorial structure to the memory of the officers and soldiers of the State of New York, who fell in the battle of Gettysburg; and said memorial structure and an appropriate inscription thereon shall specially relate to the New York soldiers who are buried in the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

§ 7. The following sums, or so much thereof as may be necessary, are hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, to wit: \$50,000 for the erection of the memorial structure authorized by section 6 of this act; the sum of \$130,500 for the erection of the monuments authorized by section 1 of this act; the sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for securing proper sites for all of said monuments and suitable avenues leading thereto; and the sum of \$10,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for the payment of the services of the necessary engineers, surveyors, agents and employes of said commissioners, and for such other expenses as may be required to carry out the provisions of this act, including the actual and necessary traveling and other contingent expenses incurred by said commissioners in the discharge of their duties.

§ 8. The money hereby appropriated shall be paid by the Treasurer upon the order of the Comptroller on proper vouchers therefor, duly audited and approved by said Commissioners, and certified by the presiding officer of said board of commissioners, and the said commissioners shall make a full report of their proceedings to the next Legislature, and at such other times as may be hereafter required by the Governor or the Legislature.

§ 9. It shall be the duty of the Governor from time to time, as he shall deem proper, at least once in every three years, to cause to be inspected all the monuments which shall be erected under this act, and the grounds and avenues secured therefor, and to examine and inquire into the means employed for their protection and preservation, and report their condition, with such facts in relation thereto as he may deem proper, to the Legislature.

§ 10. This act shall take effect immediately.

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