

SOME LETTERS BY GOV. KIRKWOOD.

Soon after the outbreak of the rebellion in 1861, apprehensions arose that there might be trouble along the southern frontier of this State from incursions of guerrillas or regular Confederate forces from Missouri. The attention of Gov. Kirkwood was early directed to providing some adequate means of defense. His chief reliance at that time, in the management of these border affairs, was upon the Hon. Caleb Baldwin, who was afterwards Chief Justice of the State. In order to give him sufficient authority to act, Gov. Kirkwood appointed him to the office of Colonel of the Militia of the State of Iowa, "to take rank from the 25th day of April, 1861." As a matter of course a great deal of correspondence ensued. We have none of the letters of Judge Baldwin, but copies of three of Gov. Kirkwood's have come into our hands, with a promise of the originals for the Historical Department. We have strong hopes of hereafter securing the remainder of the correspondence on both sides. Upon this occasion, however, we can only present the three letters of which we have received copies. It will be noticed that our "war governor" wasted no time upon the matter of style, but expressed himself in plain, vigorous English which no one could fail to comprehend. These letters are indicative of his grasp of the situation and of his straightforwardness and directness in the transaction of more important public business than ever before or since devolved upon a Governor of Iowa. They are as follows:

I.

IOWA CITY, June 20, 1861.

Hon. C. Baldwin, Des Moines, Iowa:

DEAR SIR: Edwards,* I presume, is now in the district assigned him, embracing Decatur County. He has by this time powder, lead and caps, and has some money. I am moving heaven and earth to get arms, and would try the other place if I thought there was any chance. I have E. Clark† now in New York to try to get arms without money or money to

*Hon. John Edwards, Speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives of 1860, and later a brigadier-general.

†Hon. Ezekiel Clark, a prominent business man, State Senator from Johnson County, etc.

get arms. He and Dodge* meet there this week and if the thing can be done they will do it.

I will send you on Saturday 40 rifled muskets and accoutrements complete, several kegs of powder and another cannon, to the Bluffs. Call on Auditor Cattell† and get a draft on my secret service fund for two hundred and fifty dollars (\$250). You can give the muskets to the company in Fremont, if they are right—but you must be responsible that they are the right men to get arms and have the pluck to keep and use them.

I have received today a dispatch from Dodge. He has got an order from Cameron‡ accepting 3 more regiments of infantry and one of cavalry from this State. Dodge is to be colonel of one infantry regiment and it is to be camped at the Bluffs. I expect him here in a few days and as soon as he comes will reorganize the 4th regiment and give you an entire regiment on the spot, and at once put them in rendezvous at the Bluffs.

This I think will make you all right out there.

Very truly,

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

II.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, IOWA, June 21, 1861.

Hon. C. Baldwin, Council Bluffs, Iowa:

DEAR SIR: The regiment which is to rendezvous at Council Bluffs will be made up of the four companies already selected for the fourth regiment from Guthrie, Pottawatomie, Mills and Page, and six other companies to be selected by you from the south-western portion of the State. There are companies in Taylor, Decatur, Montgomery, Adams, Lucas, Ringgold, Madison and perhaps other counties, from which to select.

Dodge is to be colonel of that regiment. Order them to Council Bluffs just as soon as they can get there and be quartered. Advise me immediately how soon they will be in Council Bluffs, so that I can inform the War Department and have a mustering officer there to take them into United States service by the time they arrive.

I send you a circular asking your particular attention to that part concerning clothes, which try and have carried out.

Very truly,

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

III.

DES MOINES, IOWA, Sept. 1861.

FRIEND BALDWIN: Withrow§ told me a letter received from you on yesterday. I had written you before I received your letter to him. I fully

*Grenville M. Dodge, the distinguished soldier who rose to the rank of major-general.

†Hon. Johnathan W. Cattell, then of Cedar county, Auditor of State, and afterwards State Senator from Polk county.

‡Hon. Simon Cameron, Abraham Lincoln's first Secretary of War.

§Hon. Thomas F. Withrow, reporter of the Supreme Court. He had also served a private secretary to Governors Lowe and Kirkwood.

appreciate your situation, because I am laboring under similar but greater embarrassments.

Except in the matter of arms intended for Dodge's regiment, which I ordered sent, but were not sent, I have done more for your region than for any other. The arms intended for Dodge were detained contrary to my express orders at the time the battle was fought at Athens, in Missouri, opposite Croton, in Iowa. The people near there learning the intended attack took possession of the arms, and before the danger was over learned that Dodge had gone on to Missouri, and supposing the arms were for his regiment and that he would be armed at St. Louis, still kept the arms. I was then in Washington. When there, I had shipped to my address 3,000 muskets; of these 1,000 are ordered to you, and you will get them unless Fremont gets hold of them before they are started to you. I have no money to get arms. Dodge had bargained for 500 carbines, 800 revolvers and 800 sabres, for me, but when the time came for delivery I had no money to pay for them and could not get them. Arms can be bought only for cash, and you have as much of that as I have. It is next to impossible to get arms from the U. S. The government finds it very difficult to arm the men it is receiving, and it is almost an impossibility to get any arms for any other men. Your people should not expect impossibilities, for if they do they will be disappointed. I can't give what I have not and can't get. I think there is no doubt of your getting the 1,000 muskets, the only fear is that before they were started across the State to you Fremont learned their whereabouts. If so, he will take them. If he has, I will try to gather up others, but have fear I can't.

You say you are under protest—so am I. You are bound individually for large sums—so am I, for more than I am worth—and the consolation we both have is that we are cursed by those who neither know what we have done nor have done anything themselves.

I think the auditing committee* will be with you next week—certainly before the 20th. As soon as they get through with you I can get some money at Washington. You may rest assured that all is being done that can be done, and if the people will not be content with that they must be discontented. If our people would spend some of their time in effecting the sale of our bonds, thus furnishing the means to get what is needed, instead of spending all their time in cussing me for not doing what I have no means to do, the effect would be decidedly beneficial.

About your cannon I said on yesterday all that is necessary. If your judgment says get them there I say get them. If this is not satisfactory to you, then get them although you may be in doubt, the cost is nothing, if the guns are necessary.

Are the brass pieces with you yet? If so, have plenty of ammunition prepared—get things in as good shape as you can, for I fear trouble. I

*This State Auditing Committee consisted of Schuyler R. Ingham, John N. Dewey, and F. R. West, all of Des Moines. Dewey and West died some years since. Col. Ingham now resides in New York City.

will have your arms if possible. If I can't get them I will go out among you in case of trouble and share your danger. I will know more about arms as soon as I get back.

Very truly,

SAMUEL J. KIRKWOOD.

A FORGOTTEN CENSUS.

It has been well known that an enumeration of the population of Wisconsin was taken in 1836, when what is now the State of Iowa was a part of that Territory. That work has been mentioned in the prefaces or introductions to other enumerations, and the aggregate of our population at that time included in summaries of these statistics. The State of Wisconsin in quite recent times has published so much of that first census as pertained to her own present territory, but that of the region west of the Mississippi has remained in the original manuscript, now dingy with age, in the archives of that State. A few months ago Dr. Benj. F. Shambaugh of the Iowa State University, while making a search for original documents in the archives of Wisconsin unexpectedly found this interesting document. He copied so much of it as refers to Dubuque county, proffering the manuscript to the Historical Department for publication. By authority of the Trustees, it has been printed in a neat pamphlet of 47 pages. This is now ready for distribution, and will soon be sent to public libraries and the press throughout the State. The document has been carefully edited by Prof. Shambaugh, who has supplied it with a historical introduction. This is the first appearance of the first census taken in Dubuque county. It is a very simple affair as compared with the elaborate census of the present decade. The names of the heads of families are all given. These are followed by an enumeration of—"I. Males over 21 years. II. Males under 21 years. III. Females over 21 years. IV. Females under 21 years." Dr. Shambaugh has "followed the original manuscript literally as to spelling, capitalization, punctuation," etc., even including palpable errors. He proposes to revisit Madison and copy the census of "Demoine

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