

GUARD MUST TAKE RIGID EXAMINATION

July 24
All Militiamen Not Called Out For
Border Duty Will Undergo
Physical Tests

From unofficial reports from Washington received here in private advices, the War Department is about to require that every officer and enlisted man now on the rolls of the organized militia, which includes all members of the militia of the different states and the Territory of Hawaii who have not been called into Federal service by the recent order of the President, be subjected to a physical examination to determine whether or not in each case the individual may benefit from the various funds devoted to the support of state troops.

The recent mobilization order has developed the startling fact that hundreds of commissioned and enlisted militiamen, who have been for years unfit for service, have during this period received pay for service and have directly benefited by the appropriations made by congress for the training and equipment of the organized militia. Efforts will also be made to amend the recently enacted national defense law in the matter of having the professional examinations for commissioned officers of the militia conducted by boards of regular officers and not as now provided, by joint board of regular and militia officers or by boards composed of militia officers only.

Militia Schools On Border

In dozens of cases it has been shown that the National Guard officers now at the Border are unfamiliar with even the elementary subjects that a company officer is supposed to know. School for officers of the national guard are now being held in each militia unit on the border and on the completion of the course, each officer is to be examined from sets of questions forwarded from Washington and all who fail to qualify are to be discharged.

On July 6, the War Department made the announcement that the incomplete reports which have reached Washington regarding the mobilization of the national guard, indicate that from thirty to sixty per cent of the enlisted men who were in the national guard at the time of the call to the colors have been rejected for failure to meet the physical requirements.

Afraid of the Rain

As the regiments before mustering in had to stand at a minimum peace strength of sixty five men, a large proportion of the guardsmen on the border are raw recruits in every sense of the word. Under the Dick law the physical standard for admission to the militia are supposed to be maintained at the regular army standard but few of the states have lived up to the requirements.

Washington was considerably amused the other day by a report from General Funston to the effect that a national guard infantry regiment refused to leave its train when it reached the border town where it was to take station because it was raining. The General added that he found the means, forwith, to clear the cars.