HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DEC. 30, 1864.—To be printed.

[By Mr. SNEAD.]

AMENDMENTS

To the Bill to be entitled An Act to authorize the Consolidation of Companies, Battalions and Regiments.

Strike out the 1st section, and insert:

SECTION 1. Whenever the average strength of the several companies forming a battalion or regiment shall be less than forty (40) men, excluding prisoners of war, men permanently detached from their commands by disability, detail or otherwise, men absent without leave, and deserters, the general officer commanding the department in which such battalion or regiment may be serving, shall forthwith so consolidate such companies, that each new company shall have "present for duty" at least the minimum number of men required by law; and he shall immediately thereafter organize such new companies into battalions and regiments; and he may in like manner consolidate independent or unattached companies. But troops from different States shall not, without their consent, be consolidated into the same company, battalion or regiment.

Strike out the 2d section, and insert:

SEC. 2. The officers of each new company shall be elected by

the men thereof; and the field officers of each new regiment or battalion, by the newly elected officers of the companies composing it. But no one shall be eligible to the captaincy or lieutenantcy of a company, who was not an officer in one of the companies consolidated into it, or a field officer or adjutant of one of the battalions or regiments to which said companies belonged; nor shall any one be eligible to the colonelcy, lieutenant colonelcy or majority of a regiment or battalion, except field officers of the commands consolidated into it. The officers thus elected shall forthwith assume their respective commands, subject, however, to the approval of the President, who, if he disapprove the election of any officer, may, with the advice and consent of the Senate, appoint to the vacancy thus created, any one who was originally eligible thereto.

Further amend, by adding the following section:

SEC. 6. The commissions of those officers who may be elected to the same grade in a new organization, which they held in an old, shall date from the day of their original appointment to that grade. The commissions of all others shall date from the day of their election or appointment to the new grade.

SEC. 7. Promotions to fill vacancies in the new commands shall be made by the departmental commander, subject to the approval of the President; but except in cases of urgent necessity, no vacancy shall be filled in any company, battalion or regiment, the effective strength of which shall be less than half

of its minimum strength, as required by law; and this clause shall be so construed as to include vacancies in the grade of non-commissioned officers.

SEC. 8. Prisoners of war, men detached from their companies permanently, or for an indefinite time, by disability, detail, or otherwise, men absent without leave, and deserters, shall not be consolidated with the new companies; but the officer consolidating their companies shall forward complete rolls of all such men to the Secretary of War, who may, upon their return to duty, transfer them to any company from their own State.

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