

FOR A NEW SOLDIERS' HOME

J. H. Freeland's Plans for the Structure Have Been Accepted.

There Were Six Contestants from All Parts of the Country—Buildings Will Cost \$1,000,000.

As a result of a final competition between six architects, plans for the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, to be erected near Johnson City, Tenn., have been accepted from Joseph H. Freedlander, one of the younger members of the profession in this city. The announcement was made yesterday, and after consultation with Gen. John T. Richards of Maine, the Superintendent of Construction, Mr. Freedlander will proceed with the working drawings. Ground will be broken at once, and it is the firm belief that the institution will be ready for occupancy by New Year's Day, 1904.

The object is to provide a home for 2,500 volunteers, both of the Union and Confederate Armies of the civil war and of all other wars in which the United States has been engaged, and the plans as already prepared call for the expenditure of about \$1,000,000. Incidentally it is believed that the institution will bring the beautiful mountain region in which it will stand into prominence both as a Winter and Summer resort. The site is about three hours' ride on horseback over the mountains from Asheville, N. C., where Biltmore, the palatial seat of George Washington Vanderbilt is situated, though, owing to the circuitous route necessitated by the hills, it takes about two hours longer to make the journey by train.

The site embraces a tract one and three-quarter miles long by three-quarters of a mile wide. It is fallow farm land, but nestles in thick forest, and through a ravine at one end runs a mountain stream, which will furnish abundant water power at all seasons for electric lighting and other purposes of the institution. The tract embraces about thirty-five buildings, which will be built of brick and trimmed with the beautiful limestone of the surrounding country. The forests, too, will provide the necessary timber.

The principal buildings will be in the style of the French Renaissance. At the entrance of the grounds a great triumphal arch and gateway, flanked by two porters' lodges, will be erected. Through this a broad avenue will lead to the parade ground, with its flagstaff and battery, and just within the gate, so as to be ready of access to the outside public having business with the institution, will be the administration building. At one end of the parade ground will stand Memorial Hall, a great auditorium, with its galleries, which will seat the entire number of occupants of the home. At the other end of the ground will be spacious conservatories, and behind these again will be a canteen built and conducted on the plans which found most favor in the regular army before canteens were abolished and the soldiers driven to seek recreation outside of post limits.

At the side of the parade ground facing the main avenue will be the mess hall, which will seat 1,250 at a time, and behind that will be the twelve two-story barrack buildings, set in a double row in the form of a semi-ellipse, with broad radial paths leading from each to the mess hall. To the right of this settlement will be the spacious hospital, where the inmates of the home naturally will spend much of their time. The chapel will be convenient to the barracks.

Groves and gardens already have been planted, and the rest of the tract will be laid out as a beautiful park, with extensive driveways. In one corner will be a beautiful cemetery, where the old soldiers will take their final rest. The Southern Railroad will erect a station before the main entrance to the grounds, and will lay a spur on which supplies can be taken directly to the storehouses. A trolley road is also to be built to the gate from Johnson City, and it is expected that the visitors will number about 300,000 annually.

Mr. Freedlander, the successful architect, was born in this city a little less than thirty years ago. He was graduated from the Boston Institute of Technology in 1889, and then studied at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, in Paris, receiving his diploma from the French Government in 1895. He was one of the final six competitors after the great open competition between architects for the plans for the New York Public Library, and was one of the eleven final competitors for the University of California. He was also a prize winner in the competition for the Maine Monument to be erected in this city. He remodeled Greystone, the home of Samuel J. Tilden; he built the St. Louis Club, a very important building, and a beautiful villa at Elberon is perhaps its masterpiece. His office is at 244 Fifth Avenue.

Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers are the President of the United States, the Chief Justice, and the Secretary of War, ex officio, and Gen. Martin T. McMahon of this city, President; Gen. William J. Sewell, Camden, N. J., First Vice President; Col. John L. Mitchell of Milwaukee, Second Vice President; Col. George W. Steele, Marion, Ind., Secretary; Gen. William B. Franklin, Hartford, Conn.; Gen. Alfred L. Pearson, Pittsburg; Gen. Charles M. Anderson, Greenville; Col. Sidney G. Cooke, Herington, Kan.; Gen. Thomas J. Henderson, Princeton, Ill.; Gen. J. Marshall Brown, Portland, Me., and William H. Bonsall, Los Angeles, Cal.

COLLEGE MAN IN JAIL.

Alleged Graduate of Boston University Arrested Charged with Forgery.

Police Captain Delaney of the East Thirty-fifth Street Station announced last night that John Wenzel, thirty years old, formerly of Boston, a man long wanted by the police of this city to answer a charge of forgery, had been arrested in New London and brought to this city. He was arrested last Wednesday, and is now in the Tombs.

According to Capt. Delaney, the prisoner in the early part of this year was indicted by the Grand Jury for an alleged forgery, the complainant being Mrs. Mary K. Sinkhivowitz of this city. Wenzel met Mrs. Sinkhivowitz before she was married and

when she was a student in the Boston University. Wenzel then tried to get Mrs. Sinkhivowitz to endorse checks, but she refused. Afterward, it is charged, Wenzel forged the complainant's name to checks and passed them in Perth Amboy, N. J.

Wenzel, it is said, was graduated with high honors from the Boston University in 1890, and for three years afterward was University Librarian. He is married, he said, and has three children. The police say that besides Mrs. Sinkhivowitz's charge there are similar ones against the prisoner in Perth Amboy, N. J.; Worcester, Mass., and this city. The Savoy Hotel, it is said, was one of Wenzel's victims.

FREE BATHS AT SCHOOL.

Rooms in Henry Street Building Opened • and President O'Brien Bathes Fourteen Boys.

With little ceremony the first free baths ever installed in a public school of the City of New York were put into operation by President Miles M. O'Brien of the Board of Education at School No. 1, in Henry, between Oliver and Catharine Streets, yesterday afternoon. After he had helped wash the first fourteen boys, representing the capacity of the plant, Mr. O'Brien expressed himself as well satisfied with the result.

Although the work of putting in the apparatus was begun early last Winter, reports on Wednesday were that still another week would be required to complete it. Mr. O'Brien, however, issued a peremptory mandate that the baths must be ready within twenty-four hours, and they were. He walked into the school playground shortly after 1 o'clock, and after a brief talk with the teacher in charge approached a group of boys exercising on the parallel bars, while the other pupils formed a crowd about him.

"Who are the best fourteen boys in the school?" he asked. Two hundred hands went up, and the President abandoned the idea of making his own selections. The teachers promptly lined up that number of little boys from Henry Street, whose grimy hands and faces showed them to be particularly fit for the bath and marched them down the basement stairs to a chorus of hoots and catcalls from their envious schoolmates.

The baths consist of fourteen showers, each inclosed in a little room of white enameled iron and translucent glass, and each capable of division into two compartments by rubber curtains. A few quick movements and the lads were ready for the spray. President O'Brien, the janitor of the school, and a number of newspaper men turned on the faucets, and the water streamed over the children, a lot of it splashing over the spectators. Mr. O'Brien himself getting more than most. Gradually the boys' skins changed to a uniform pink, and then the baths were pronounced done. As he came up stairs President O'Brien said he thought it had been a success.

"If it proves to be so," he said, "I'll do my best to have free baths put into every schoolhouse in the city which stands in a crowded neighborhood."

Old Man Returned to Prison.

Jacob Gerhardt, aged sixty-nine, was taken to Dannemora Prison yesterday to serve a sentence of twenty-six years for burning his sister's barn. Gerhardt was pardoned by Gov. Roosevelt after serving nineteen years of a life sentence for murdering his sister-in-law.