

strains of "John Peel" and the last review was under way.

Even the led horses, and there were many in ranks, seemed to sense the solemnity of the occasion. As the successive lines passed the reviewing stand at a slow and measured walk, they dressed smartly to the right. Sabers flashed in the bright sunlight as each succeeding platoon approached and passed the Colonel and his Staff—guidons dipped in a "hail and farewell." Then came the regiment at the faster gaits and following the review it was reassembled facing the reviewing stand.

The enlisted men entitled to become Knights of the Black Hawk were about to be inducted into that organization. These men have served in the First Cavalry at least one enlistment and have earned a character of "Excellent" on their last discharge. They were drawn up in single rank with the Regimental Standard in the center. Behind them were ranged the men who had previously been made Knights of the Black Hawk, and in a third rank were the men who had not yet earned that honor. In this formation the regiment was moved forward at a trot to the stirring music of the "Black Hawk March," and halted when the front rank approached the reviewing stand.

The Black Hawk Creed was recited and then the novices subscribed to the obligation of the order.

#### THE CREED OF THE BLACK HAWK KNIGHT

"A Knight of the Black Hawk is a soldier *'sans reproche'*. He is brave, yet gentle, truthful and honorable."

"He strives constantly to improve in efficiency and he spurns and despises all that is mean and petty."

"He is loyal to his country, his Regiment and to the motto, *'Animo Et Fide.'*"

"He zealously guards his character because he has been recognized as being worthy, and a Black Hawk Knight never betrays nor disapproves."

"He is prompt and persevering in his defense of honor and justice, and, if anyone present feels that he is unworthy or cannot subscribe to this creed, let him withdraw now, before taking the sacred obligation of the Black Hawk Knight."

#### THE OATH OF THE BLACK HAWK KNIGHT

"I do solemnly swear, upon my knightly honor, to be honorable and upright in my relations with my fellow men;"

"To honestly endeavor to increase my soldierly worth, and, by my conduct and character, prove worthy of the best traditions of the First Dragoons, and to be deserving of the respect and confidence due a loyal soldier,

an American gentleman and a faithful Knight of the Black Hawk."

Following the ceremony, Colonel William A. Austin, the Commanding Officer of the First Cavalry, eloquently delivered an inspiring address.

At the conclusion of the Colonel's remarks, all officers and enlisted men of the regiment, dismounted, faced toward their horses, uncovered, and with their right hands on the polls of their mounts, stood for a long moment in a silent farewell to their faithful servants.

As the men faced again to the front, "Louie," patriarch Knight of the Black Hawk, the oldest horse in the First Cavalry, caparisoned in black, with the Regimental Crest adorning his right side, was led across the front of the regiment, the band again playing "John Peel."

The stirring notes of "Boots and Saddles" were sounded by the massed buglers, and the regiment mounted up. But it was the last "Boots and Saddles" to be played in the First Cavalry and so, when mounted, all uncovered and the sweet, melancholy tones of "Taps" were heard. As the last notes died out, the band commenced to play "Auld Lang Syne," and the men of the regiment dispersed to return individually to the stables. The Standard Bearers dismounted and bore the colors from the field.

Thus passed the oldest Cavalry Regiment in the United States from its proud estate as a mounted organization.

In recognition of the importance of this occasion the Paramount News sent a staff camera-man to Marfa to secure moving pictures of the final ceremonies of the First Cavalry, Horse. He was given an opportunity to take such "shots" as he desired and some additional exercises were held to make his record complete.

After the troops had returned to the stables, their led horses were left at the troop picket lines and all mounted men returned to the parade ground where mounted saber charges were delivered in column of platoons.

Field picket lines were then set up in the rear of the reviewing stand and all horses were tied on these lines, facing the parade ground. "Louie" was tethered to his place in the reviewing stand as the senior horse in the First Cavalry. The regiment was formed, dismounted, with sabers drawn, and marched by the reviewing stand, rendering the Black Hawk salute by platoons as they arrived at saluting distance. This completed the morning exercises.

Immediately after lunch, Officer's Call was unexpectedly sounded, and upon arriving at headquarters the officers of the regiment found that a list of their tentative assignments for new details had been received from