

# Call for Volunteers Issued Here Following Attack on Fort Sumpter on April 12, 1861

Almost immediately following the attack on Fort Sumpter on April 12, 1861, citizens of Fall River were called together, convening at City Hall, April 19, where a resolution was offered by Dr. Foster Hooper.

The call was signed by the Hon. N. B. Borden, James Ford, Hon. James Buffinton, Hon. E. P. Buffinton and 28 other prominent citizens. The opening words of the call were: "Be this our motto," it said, "our God and our country. War is proclaimed; rebellion stalks abroad as yet unscathed; the enemy is plotting the nation's destruction, and fight or fall is the inevitable result."

The following resolutions were adopted by acclamation:

"Resolved, That the Government of the Union shall be sustained.

"That the City Government be requested to appropriate \$10,000 in aid of those who may volunteer, and for the support of their families.

"That each volunteer be paid the sum of 20 dollars per month from

the City Treasury, in addition to what is paid by the Government."

## Committee Reports

On April 24, the committee of the City Council to whom these resolutions were referred, reported as follows:

"Whereas, etc., in the southern section of our country public law is disregarded, the authority of the United States set at defiance, and armed forces have been, and are, organizing with the avowed purpose of overthrowing the government as formed by our Revolutionary fathers, and of establishing a new government in which freedom of the press, of speech and of the individual man shall be more restricted—in a word, a government for the perpetuation of slavery; and

## Request for Militia

"Whereas, etc., for the repelling of such forces the standing army being inadequate, the President of the United States has made requisition on the several States for militia therefore, to the end that said requisition may be more readily answered.

"Ordered, That to each of our citizens who may join a militia company of our city, organized according to law, pledged to render military service whenever and wherever required, whether by authority of the State or the United States Government, there be paid from the city treasury the sum of 15 dollars for outfit, when such company shall be mustered into service; and thereafter for a term not exceeding three months, 15 dollars a month, the latter to be applied for the support of the family or dependents, as the soldier may direct; and if, at the expiration of the service, a balance, or the whole, shall remain unpaid, then payment to be made to the soldier in person, or his legal representatives; these payments to be made in addition to compensation that may be realized from the United States Government."

## Public Meeting Called

As the war was prosecuted with greater strength and vigor on the part of the Government, the energies put forth by Fall River did

not flag. The President, having called for 300,000 more men, a public meeting was held July 11, 1862, at which it was recommended to pay each volunteer for three years' service a bounty of 100 dollars. The following resolution among others was adopted:

"Resolved, That our old men contribute of their substance, and our strong young men tender their services; remembering that if in ancient times 'for a good man some would ever dare to die,' surely for the necessary support of the righteous cause there should be no hesitancy because life would be attended with hazard."

## Resolutions Adopted

The resolutions were adopted the next day by the city government, and the Mayor was directed to make arrangements for enlisting men. An Aug. 14, that year, another citizens' meeting was held, at which it was resolved that "the patriotism of Massachusetts will sustain the Government in putting

down the rebellion at any cost of men and money."

It was also voted to raise, by subscription, money sufficient to add 100 dollars to each volunteer's bounty. A resolution was passed to aid the Rev. Elihu Grant to raise a military company for active service. Sept. 1, the city government voted to pay a bounty of two hundred dollars to each volunteer for nine months' service, when credited to the quota of the city, and 45,000 dollars was appropriated for the purpose.

Thus the work went on, the succeeding years until the close of the war witnessing no reduction in the loyalty or energy of the people.

The city furnished 1,845 men which was 21 over and above all demands.

## TAXES AT DISCOUNT

Assessor Chairman David Anthony announced in July of 1841 that taxes were due. All who paid within 30 days could take a four per cent discount; within 60 days, a two per cent discount; after 60 days, the property taxed would be seized.

During the smallpox scare of 1899 a total of 60,455 persons were vaccinated.