

RALPH NEWMAN'S

# CIVIL WAR SCRAPBOOK

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## A President Is Inaugurated—the Confederacy Is Ready

**H**aving formally seceded from the Union in the fall and winter months of 1860-61, the "new nation" had to organize at once in order to assume the functional responsibilities of government.

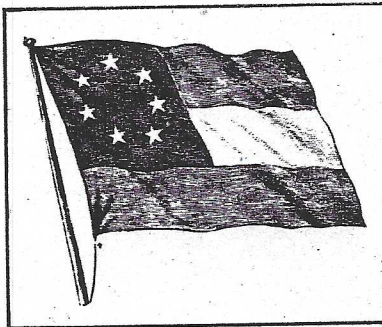
Accordingly, Jefferson Davis of Mississippi (lately United States Senator, onetime Secretary of War, a military man who had served well in the Black Hawk and Mexican wars) was inaugurated President of the Confederate States of America on February 18, 1861. The ceremonies were held at the state house in Montgomery, Ala., erstwhile capital of the Confederacy.

A stage was erected under the front portico between the towering white pillars of the west facade of the building. Howell Cobb, who had been president of the convention of delegates which elected Davis, administered the oath of office. The Bible used in the ceremony is now a treasured relic in Alabama's World War Memorial building, and the spot on which Davis stood is marked by a bronze star.

In his inaugural address, Davis declared that his government was prepared to stand alone, and that the Federal government must bear the respon-

sibility if and when war came.

Once in office, Davis appointed a cabinet which included three former United States Senators. The provisional government enacted extensive legislation to raise money, organize an army, and establish relations with foreign governments.



The first official banner.

By March 11 a permanent constitution had been adopted, to take effect on Feb. 18, 1862, one year from Davis' inauguration. A provisional congress adjourned on March 16, and the member states rapidly ratified the document.

A committee had been at work designing a flag for the new nation. Some felt the em-

blem should be as similar as possible to the Stars and Stripes. Others wanted a sharp difference; but all favored the traditional colors of red, white, and blue.

Scores of designs were submitted, but the one chosen was the Stars and Bars — three stripes of equal width, one white between two red, and a blue union extending thru the first two stripes. In the center of the union was a circle of seven white stars, one for each state of the Confederacy.

**T**he adoption of the design on March 4, 1861, was too late for the new flag to be raised, as hoped for, at the exact hour of Lincoln's inauguration. Instead, at 4 o'clock with bands blaring, Miss Letitia Tyler, granddaughter of ex-President John Tyler, hoisted the emblem over the state-house, while an honor guard fired a seven-gun salute.

The Stars and Bars, provisional flag of a provisional government, would be for more than two years the flag to which the new nation would rally.

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