# THE EFFICIENCY OF THE INFANTRY.

## SPEECH -0F-

HON. CHAS. F. MANDERSON. OF NEBRASKA,

### Delivered in the Senate of the United Stales.

#### THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ARMY.

"War is an occurrence to which all nations are subject, democratic nations as well as all others. Whatever taste they may have for peace, they must hold them-selves in readiness to repel aggression."-De Tocqueville

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senator from Nebraska [Mr. MANDERson] asks the unanimous consent of the senate to proceed to the consideration of the bill (S. 137) to increase the efficiency of the infantry branch of the army. If there is no objection that will be considered as agreed to, and the bill is before the senate.

Mr. MANDERSON. I ask that the bill be read at length.

The chief clerk read the bill (S. 137) to increase the efficiency of the infantry branch of the army, as follows:

Whereas experience has shown that the three-battalion organization of the cavalry and artillery branches of the army is the most useful in time of peace and best adapted to expansion in time of war: Therefore,

1877:

the army will never have the disposition to

ieopardize the free institutions of the coun-

all time did the mass of the citizens place

upon its institutions the same intelligent

appreciation as that in which they are

devotion to the country to be regarded as a source of danger. On the contrary, he who understands its history must regard

it with pride and satisfaction as one of the

chief ornaments of the nation, as a school

wherein are taught and practiced the vir-

tues of valor, self-denial, obedience, and

patriotism, and as an institution which

has never called the blush of shame to the

soldier and pure-minded gentleman

is not a whit too strong, and I submit

Had the congress of the United States

To the disgrace of the American re-

face of an American.

try. Our nation would be safe indeed for

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, That section 1106 of the revised statutes of the United States of America be amended so as to read as follows:

'Each infantry regiment shall consist of twelve companies, one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, three majors, one adjutant, one quartermaster, one sergeant-major, one quartermaster-sergeant, and one chief musician, who shall be instructor of music, and two principal musicians. The adjutant and the quartermaster shall be extra lieutenants, selected from the first or second lieutenants of the regiment: Provided, That all appointments to the original vacancies above grade of second lieutenant created by this act shall be filled by seniority in the infantry army of the service."

### Mr. MANDERSON said:

that the objection to a standing army Mr. PRESIDENT: The constitution of the United States, framed by the peo-ple for the purposes expressed in its preof proper numbers, and a high degree of efficiency can be dismissed as one unworthy of serious consideration. amble, among which are to insure domestic tranquility and provide for always performed its duty as enjoined the common defense, grants to the by the constitution in this behalf, many congress the power to raise and supof the darkest pages of our history port armies, provide and maintain a would never have been written. When navy, provide for organizing, arming, war has come it is always the unexand disciplining the militia, and for pected that has happened. When it calling them forth to execute the laws does come, fortunate the nation that of the union, suppress insurrection, and finds itself prepared for the dreadful repel invasion. These grants were the trial and its adver ary lacking in natural incidents flowing from the knowledge of the wisdom that in peace great power vested in the congress, the prepares for war. right that is the highest prerogative of sovereignty, to declare war. The wise public it is to be said that no declaramen who drafted the sacred instrument. tion of war with a foreign power and coming to their labor fresh from the no rebellion to be grappled at home scenes of the war of the revolution, realized the necessity for the maintenance in highest efficiency of a body of men selected from the best citizens of the country, trained and educated to arms, who should form the rallying point, when danger threatened, for that well-regulated militia declared to be so necessary to the security of a free state that the right of the people to bear arms should not be infringed. Realizing fully the onerous burden to the people of the support of the nonproducing, much-consuming soldier, alive to the dangers of a large standing army, they realized just as fully that successful outcome to the governmental experiment just launched, and the maintenance of the new union of weak states as a nation upon the earth meant a condition of preparation for evils likely to threaten and the remaining in position to strike sturdy blows in vigorous attacks upon the traitor within or the foe without. I submit, in view of these grants of power thus hurriedly sketched, there came to the congress of the United States not only power but duty, and duty most high and imperative. Unforseen and unexpected circumstances within our own borders in the intercourse among states, or arising from contact with foreign nations, might render it necessary for the national preservation at any time to declare war. This fact made it the duty of maintained, render it unfit to meet the congress at all times to support an dangers incident to a state of war. army and maintain a navy, that we might be prepared for either attack or defense-be ready to give or receive loss resulting from the false economy blows. There is not in constitution or that did not permit us to keep apace statute a higher instance of where the optional may means the imperative shall. And not only is it its duty to support and maintain the army and navy, but of war, that meant the maintenance of it should see to it that by means of the our national honor, was so long finest armament, the best equipment, and the highest organization it is sufficient for the purposes for which it is to be used, affording the assurance of security in time of peace; and be the efficient, instructive nucleus to which Hull's surrender, the capture of the our volunteer and militia organizations shall adhere in time of war. The fact that the army is to be a small one, compared with the armsbearing population, is greater and more abundant reason for the highest order of organization and the best approved methods. The timid soul, afraid in the history was the victory at New of a standing army, who sees in it a Orleans, won after the terms of peace constant menace to the liberties of the people, and who fears the coming of hard with us if the great Napoleon had the military dictator, held in usurping not been giving Mother England so place by the bayonets of his hero-worshipping followers, has almost ceased to exist. But from the earliest days of a secretary of war of the United States, the republic his dismal forebodings have been heard, and 1 presume always will be until nations shall war no more. As long ago as when Mr. Calhoun, of South Carolina, was secretary of war these words were spoken by that farseeing student of history. To consider the present army as dangerous to our liberty partakes, it is conceived, more of timidity than wisdom. Not to insist on the character of the officers, who as a body are high-minded and honorable men, attached to principles of freedom by education and reflection, what wellgrounded apprehension can there be from an establishment distributed on so extended a frontier, with many thousand miles intervening between the extreme points occupied? But the danger, it may be said, is not so much from its numbers as a spirit hostile to liberty by which it is ill regul r ari

7,000 additional men during the whole bearing upon this subject, however, period from the close of the war of 1812 compared with those here to-day who to the commencement of the Mexican war saw the country pass safely through would not have amounted to two-thirds the dark days of the war of re-bellion and witnessed the vast of the direct expenses of the late war, not taking into account the large cost of the Seminole and other Indian wars, or the heavy losses by disease and in battle, or contending hosts disappear so magically. And yet the veterans of both the indirect losses inseparable from all sides, union and confederate, what wars thorough soldiers had they become! But the most instructive case of all is Many of them so youthful that they

that of the civil war. We do not doubt knew no other calling but "the pride that fifteen thousand regulars on the field and pomp and circumstances of glor-ious war;" the rest with civil pursuits of the first Manassas would have insured the complete rout of the raw confederates, and, in all probability, put an end to the war. They would certainly have enabled completely abandoned and their places in the busy marts of the world filled by us to drive the confederate government others; all inured to the field, with the out of Virginia, and have cleared the easthabits of the military life fixed upon ern portion of the state as completely as them; full of love for their old leaders, the work was accomplished a little earlier for they had followed Grant and Sherin West Virginia. The cost of maintaining these fifteen thousand additional troops man, Lee and Johnson-these men disfrom the close of the Mexican war to the appeared among the ranks of civilians, commencement of the war of secession losing their identity, except as they would not have amounted to one-fiftieth were known as the most liberty-loving part of the war debts of the general governof citizens. A most distinguished ment, the states, counties, and municipal soldier, equally prominent as civilian, ities. Should we compare it with the total amount of direct and indirect expenditures who passed to his reward but a few by both parties to the war, the losses of months ago, and had exceptional the two sections in lives, in property opportunity to know whereof he spake, destroyed, business rained, and capital General George B. McClellan, writes in sunk, we should be at a loss to express the relations, so absurdly small would be the All the incidents of the past prove that relative cost of those additional troops.

In the face of these lessons of the past shall we continue a false economy so destructive of the best material of the country? Pursuing the same subject to its legitimate conclusion, General held by the army, and were honor, integrity, and respect for the laws as much the rule among the people as they are in the regular army, which has given too many proofs of heroism, of integrity, of donation to the sector. McClellan says:

If it be true that it is the duty of every government to prepare in time of peace the means adequate to defend its territory and its people, the statesman-like method of proceeding is clear enough. Weighing the probabilities of the future in the light of the experience of the past, with due regard to the changes produced by them, the proper strength of the army should be determined and once fixed it should not be changed without good and sufficient cause. Then it should be so organized, posted, and administered as to insure the greatest possible efficiency in the performance of its The endorsement of this gallant duties and in its instruction, while economy is insisted upon to the greatest extent consistent with that efficiency. If an army is necessary at all it should, like any other necessary thing, be made in every respect efficient; and there is no true economy, but, on the contrary, real extravagance, in the policy of practicing ill-judged parsimony either by reducing the army below the requisite force or crippling its instruction and usefulness to save a few dollars.

> But, we are told, international disputes are to be settled hereafter not by the arbitrament of arms, but by peace foul conspirators. congresses. God speed the time when this shall be so, but it will not be in our day or generation. I do not believe, with Hobbes, that war is the natural state of man or, with Von Moltke, that the world would stagnate without it; but I do believe that while so many domestic ills are breeding discontent with the existing, while American citizens rights abroad are trampled upon, while our interests political and com-

Mr. Calhoun had limited experience | avoided. The cost of maintaining the the greatest of all; would educate civilize, Christianize him into capable citizenship; but it will take years, if not generations, to change the Indian nature, and while it exists these periodic outbreaks, with their attendant indescribable horrors of homes desolated, children captured or brained, men tortured and killed, and mothers and wives worse than murdered will occur. It is the clear duty of the government

to meet them by reaching the highest point of efficiency for the small army that must stand between the frontier above all others.

But there be other threatening dangers worthy consideration. Far removed from the thickly-settled east, almost isolated in their fertile mountain valleys, live a wealthy people claiming to owe a higher allegiance than to the government of the United States-living in open defiance of the laws of the country, hating our institutions, defying the officials appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate, and visiting vile vengeance upon the heads of those officers who try to obey their oaths and sustain the laws. The attitude of the Mormon church, with its leaders preaching defiance and its 25,000 of arms-bearing adult males ready to follow where these apostles of crime may lead, is a constant threat and standing menace to the peace of the nation. Nothing but fear, on their part, of the final outcome prevents the outbreak, and what man can predict the moment when religious fanaticism will cause them to forget the fear?

This great nation of Christian people would soon crush the rebellion, but it would save much blood and great treasure if its small army was made more efficient. There are other elements threatening internal disturbance, but we can only glance at them in passing to the consideration of the bill before us. The riots in New York, Pittsburg, Cincinnati, and other places within the last few years are the simple mutterings of a discontented condition liable to break out in widespread destruction and anarchy. The socialists and nihilthey consider rich soil in this land of the republic, uniting as they are for the consideration of evils under which they suffer, will not be deceived by these

Ultimately existing wrongs will be righted, and the millions of toilers, who are of the country's best citizenship, industrious, intelligent, the fathers of its families and the owners of its homes, who have the greatest stake in the welfare of the republic, will see to it that the needed reforms are peacefully doned it years ago as not adapted to a wrought out within the law and not in state of war, and therefore not fit to be with a field officer, will comprise a good defiance of it. But before the desired maintained in time of peace. end is reached there will be much of conflict with the devils incarnate, whose synonym for reformation is destruction. Time will not permit me to speak of complications that may arise with foreign nations. Sufficient is it simply to refer to our position with reference to the Isthmian canal; the importance of our maintaining a complete neutrality in inter-oceanic communication across the narrow neck of land connecting the great American continent; the necessity that Cuba, by passing from the hand of Spain, should not be added to the Bermudas and Jamaica, as another threat at our Atlantic seaboard by the great power that constitutes our chief rival; the investment of fifty millions of money by our citizens in nearly 2,000 miles of railway in the Republic of Mexico, inviting lawless confiscation and interference with our commercial rights by cur next neighbor; complications forty-eight regiments of three battalions likely to arise from interference by European powers with the rights of our adopted citizens visiting their old homes, and the disputes attendant upon the sharp struggle with all competing companies were substituted for six in the nations, as we seek markets abroad for the surplus products of our vast territory-these and others that will suggest ions. Since that time the three-battalion themselves to you are the fertile causes that may at any time "ery havoe, and let slip the dogs of war." It was undoubtedly such considerations as these that prompted the chief executive in his annual message to congress, and the leaders of both political parties, to urge in forcible language the bettering of the army, the building of seacoast defenses, the securing of the at every opportunity to cherish all that is necessary plant to forge and weld the mighty guns needed to pierce the armored sides of the modern steelclads, and the construction of ships re- | (Page 162.) quired to protect our seaboard cities, save our commerce, and carry the American flag victoriously over all oceans. Many bills to bring about about these desirable results have been introduced into both houses during this sess on. I will not take the time to refer to them | the organization of the infantry. A regior to speak of the many meritorious ment consists of three battalions of four in command of the army, he made schemes presented to aid in bringing | companies each. (Page 9.) the cavalry and artillery arms of the service to a point approaching that of are composed of eight companies, formperfection. This bill is designed to make more efficient the infantry of the army of the United States, Mr. President. By the training and experience that comes from commanding a regiment of infantry during the last war I feel better qualified to speak of that branch than of the others. The days of my early manhood were given to the study of its tactics, and I hope the day may never come when I shall cease to be interested in and to love it. In numbers, in the varied duties required at its hands, in the important part to be played by it in time of war the infantry is the main advancing civilization, and have hope arm of the service. Says Colonel Home of the British army, in his much esteemed work on modern tactics: In armies, infantry undoubtedly takes the lead, and to its action that of the taken at the Custer and other mas- other arms must be subordinated. It is the main stay and backbone of all whether it be reviewed in the light of numbers or its action upon the field of battle. Its fire is more deadly than that of artillery; its action is sure, while that of cavalry is superstructure of military operations must

	Officers.	Men.	Per ce
Infantry Cavalry	4,458	112,029	
Artillary	499	5 597	

Similar statistics of the armies enraged during our late war would undoubtedly show a much stronger comparative loss in the infantry arm. And yet while the other arms of the

service has been materially aided toward perfection of organization during the last twenty years, the infantry citizen and the disaster to be feared branch has been permitted to stand still, and to-day is as far behind in tactical organization as though it was armed with the flint-lock musket, carrying the buck-and-ball cartridge instead of the Springfield breech-loader with its deadly missile. It retains the ten-company, single-battalion organization that seems to have been adopted in 1821, and which would bring death, defeat, and disaster to our arms in any field engagement upon which we would enter, meeting, as we would, the changed conditions of tactics and armament of armies framed upon modern and approved methods. The bill under consideration proposes to change from the single battalion, now composing a regiment, to a regimental line composed of three battalions. Before passing to the tactical effect of this change, the causes that produced it, and the authority for it, let us investigate as to the present make-up of armies proper for us to look upon as models. In the very nature of things, a nation like ours, maintaining a small and comparatively inexpensive army during times of peace, must be

an imitator and copy from powers expending largely in costly experiments. It has ever been so. In 1775 Col. Timothy Pickering, of Massachusetts, afterward distinguished in the military and civil history of the United States, militia," which gave such of the British battalion movements as were adapted to American service.

When Baron Steuben came to this country and began to drill the Continental troops he published, in 1782, his "Rules of Discipline," which were ists have planted their seed in what almost literally translated from the drill and discipline which had been infree speech. I believe the laborers of troduced by Frederick, the great. In March, 1789, congress approved and established this system of tactics, which remained in use until the resolution was repealed in 1820. The tactics in use since then, whether of Scott, Hardee, or Upton, have all been adapted from the German and French systems. The existing and convincing panies each, or better, subdivided into fact is that not a single European power retains the single battalion organization of infantry regiments, all having aban-Nearly ten years ago the United States sent efficient officers, representing the three great branches of its army-General Emery Upton, Maj. George A. Forsyth, and Capt. J. P. Sanger - to erals Sheridan and Wilson during the war. visit Europe and Asia and report, after full investigation, what changes should be made in our army to modernize and perfect it. The very valuable report of these gentlemen was made to congress and published to the world in 1877, and the first and seemingly the most important recommendation made by them was that we should change to the threebattalion organization for infantry as we had already done for the cavalry and artillery. They did this because they found the following to be the condition of the advanced nations abroad. and I quote from the report known as "Upton's armies of Asia and Europe:" The infantry of the German empire consists in time of peace of one hundred and each. (Page 192.) The influence of the Franco-Prussian war in producing modification in military organization is nowhere more perceptible than in the French infantry. Four composition of a battalion, and a regiment was ordered to be made of four battalorganization has been adopted by France. (Page 226.) In Russia the regiments of the three divisions of the guard and the six divisions of the army of the Caucasas have four battalions of four companies each. All other regiments have three battalions of five companies each. (Page 149.) The Austrian infantry is organized into regiments composed of five field battalions of four companies each and one depot battalion of five companies. In case of war the six battalions are organized into two regiments of three battalions each, the fifth company of the depot battalion remaining as a common depot for both regiments. In Italy a battalion consists of four companies and a regiment of three battalions and a depot. The riflemen regiments are composed of four battalions each. (Page 102.) How completely the army of Japan has been Europeanized may be inferred from The infantry regiments of England ing two battalions of four com- was called to the matter. In 1883 the panies each. Even this organiza- general says: tion, so much better than ours, is On the 8th of February, 1884, I will severely condemned by her own mili- attain the limit of age fixed by congress for tary critics, notably by the eminent military service in the army, and I pur-General Sir Lumley Graham, who in- posely asked of the president the privilege sists that the Prussian three-battalion formation is much better. General Upton condemns it in the following terms: The adherence of England to a military system inherited from the last century can only be explained by her insular position. and the security from invasion afforded by a powerful navy. # # # Should England assail any of her tormidable neighbors, we may safely anticipate that the war will be followed either by a speedy reorganization of her army or by the total abandonment of the policy of armed intervention in foreign affairs. (Page 268, 269.) I might continue to quote and show conclusively that every war-like power has advanced beyond us and is ready In this battalion can be placed the officers to meet improved arms with improved organization.

amount of instruction required for troops in modern war, nor do they possess any knowledge of the methods of arranging and conducting troops in battle. • • The instruction witnessed at Pekin was a mero burlesque of infantry drill. • • It is the only country where the profession of arms is not honored. For ages a proverb to the effect that "as you would not use good iron to make a nail, so you would not use a good man to make a good soldier," has hung like a mill-stone about the necks of the officers and soldiers of the Chinese army.

The infantry organizations of these two uncivilized pagan nations, whose armies are laughed at by the world, is, that regiments shall be composed of a single battalion of ten companies, with each company of one hundred men commanded by one captain and two subalterns. This is the present formation of the United States infantry, and to the shame of the congress be it said that because it will not do its duty, as clearly enjoined by the constitution, this great republic stands, so far as the formation of its chief military arm is concerned, with the countries I have last described, Persia, China, and the United States. We are in proud com-pany, truly. Senators, it is for us as one branch of congress to say whether we will remain there.

This bill brings nothing new for your consideration. Its provisions, have been desired by General Grant. Generals Sherman and Sheridan have often urged it. Let me show you how much it has been sought for by the generals of our armies, and how often recommended by secr taries of war. In General Sherman's memoirs, published in 1875, referring to the organization of the army during the war, he says:

To the new regiments of infantry was given an organization differing from any that had heretofore prevailed in this country-of three battalions of eight companies each; but at no time did more than one of these regiments attain its full standard; compiled a "plan and discipline for the nor in the vast army of volunteers that was raised during the war were any of the regiments of infantry formed on the threebattalion system, but these were universally single battalions of ten companies; so that on the reorganization of the regular army at the close of the war congress adopted the form of twelve companies for the regiments of cavalry and artillery, and that of ten companies for the infantry, which is the pretended standard.

Inasmuch as the regular army will naturally form the standard of organization for any increase or for new regiments of volunteers, it becomes important to study this subject in the light of pastexperience and to select that form which is best for peace as well as war. A cavalry regiment is now composed of twelve companies, usually divided into six squadrons of two comthree battalions of four companies each. This is an excellent form, easily admitting of subdivisions as well as union into larger masses.

A single battalion of four companies, body for a garrison, for a separate exedition, or for a detachment; and in war three regiments would compose a good brigade, three brigades a division, and three divisions a strong cavalry corps, such as was formed and fought by Gen-. In the artillery arm the officers differ widely in their opinion of the true organization. A single company forms a battery, and habitually each battery acts separately, though sometimes several are united or "massed," but these always act in concert with cavalry or infantry. Nevertheless, the regimental organization for artillery has always been maintained in this country for classification and promotion. Twelve companies compose a regiment, and though probably no colonel ever commanded his full regiment in the twelve batteries, 'yet in peace they occupy our heavy seacoast forts or act as infantry; then the regimental organization is both necessary and convenient. But the infantry composes the great mass of all armies, and the true form of the regiment or unit has been the subject of infinite discussion, and, as I have stated, during the civil war the regiment was a single battalion of ten companies. In olden times the regiment was composed of eight battalion companies and two flank companies. The fifth and tenth companies were armed with rifles and were styled and used as "skirmishers," but during the war they were never used exclusively for that purpose, and in fact no distinction existed between them and the other eight companies. The ten-company organization is awkward in practice, and I am satisfied that the infantry regiment should have the same identical organization as exists for the cavalry and artillery, namely, twelve companies, so as to be susceptible of division into three battalions of four companies each. These companies should habitually be about one hundred men strong, giving twelve hundred to a regiment, which in practice would settle down to about one thousand men. Three such regiments would compose a brigade, three brigades a division, and three divisions a corps. Then by allowing to an infantry corps a brigade of cavalry and six batteries of field artillery, we would have an efficient corps d'armee of thirty thousand men, whose organization would be simple and most efficient, and whose strength should never be allowed to fall below twenty-five thousand men. In 1869, when General Sherman was similar recommendations to the secretary of war, who approved the same. In 1880, and again in 1882, attention of anticipating this date to enable my successor to make such recommendations as he may deem necessary; but before leaving I beg to record an expression of opinion that it will be found wise to provide a common organization for all arms of the service. namely: That each regiment of infantry be composed of twelve companies, the same as now with the artillery and cavalry, making three battalions, each of lour companies in time of peace, and of eight in time of war; that each company shall have a hundred men; and that in time of peace two of these battalions (eight companies) shall be maintained on a perfect war footing, while the other battalion (four companies) may be a mere skeleton, with its complement of officers, and used as a nucleus for recruits. and soldiers invalided by hard service or sickness, and such as are not weaned of home influence or family importunity. Were such an organization (thus briefly sketched, but more elaborately described DOSSESS the

has ever found it prepared for the conflict. The same lamentably defenseless condition that exists to-day has usually existed, and nothing except dread disaster and criminal sacrifice of blood and treasure has ever seemed to arouse us from our lethargy. We have then been saved, not through the wisdom of the law-making power, but because of abundant resources that the early loss, horrible as it was, could only temporarily embarras, and because of the endurance, skill, and self-sacrificing patriotism of the citizen soldiers of the country. It is also an historic fact that selfish aggressions of one people will many of the civil leaders of the past occasionally clash against the interhave permitted this unfortunate condition of affairs under a pretense of virtue, and have pleaded that their action was a proper and commendable economy. The false economists of this country have been its greatest curse. They have saved in "filthy dross" at the sacrifice of the best blood of the

nation. Mr. Calhoun well expresses it when he says: Economy is certainly a very high poli-

tical virtue, intimately connected with the power and public virtue of the community. In military operations, which under the best management are so expensive, it is of the utmost importance; but by no propriety of language can that arrangement be called economical which, in order that our military establishment in peace should be rather less expensive, would, regardless of the purposes for which it ought to be

Bear with me for a few moments, while I recall some of the disgrace and with the times in matters m litary. In 1812 we suffered insult after insult to the flag, ship after ship was searched upon the high seas, and the declaration delayed, because of our being wholly unprepared for war, that the blush of shame mantled the cheek of many a patriot of that day. The war came at last; but how bitter the recollection of capitol by a force of but thirty-five hundred men, and the burning of the public buildings. Disasters continued, save upon the high seas, thanks to our bold privateersmen, and at last a peace was patched up that left the right of search an open question. The only bright spot had been made. It would have gone much to do that she did not have the time to look after us very closely. Says commenting some years after the war of 1812.

The disadvantage of inexperience in the officers and men without the means of immediate instruction was the fatal error at the commencement of the late war that cost us so much treasure and blood. The peace establishment which preceded it was very imperfectly organized, and did not admit of the necessary augmentation.

Senators, I suggest to you that our position to-day is the same. And now let General McClellan tell the story of the Mexican war and that of the rebellion. I quote from his article upon the 1877:

for the safety of the white men and suffers more in action and more on the line commission returned from abroad it gress, the military peace establishment actual strength of the regular army was women who are so rapidly building of march, and on its tactics the whole declared that it knew no worse army could, I believe, be maintained on the about 5,300. The force with which Gencharming villages and making thrifty eral Taylor reached the Rio Grande was han that of Persia, and as to another present estimates, and be built. 3,000, and that with which he fought the | farm-houses throughout all that wonder-This observation is probably true when inestimable advantage of admitting of an eastern nation, it said: applied to standing armies collected into battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la fully beautiful new west. I am not one The following is an interesting table increase without "disorder or confusion" The decline in military organization from to 6,000 artillery, 12,000 cavalry, 30,000 large and powerful masses; but disposed as Palma only 2,100. There .an be no doubt of those who feel hatred for the Indian. in this connection, showing the loss in India to Persia is scarcely less marked infantry by the mere wratch of a pen and than from Japan to China. \* \* The the magic wand of money; and afterward ours is over so vast a surface the danger, I that if the strength of the army had With the vast majority of my fellow- the various arms of the service, during conceive, is of an opposite character—that both officers and soldiers will lose their Grande with 10,000 men the Mexicans sufficed to enable him to move to the Rio citizens of Nebraska I would accord to the Franco-Prussian war, of the Ger-Chinese army is as backward in its tactics by doubling the enlisted strength of each him more than his rights; would protect man army, the percentage given being as in armament. \* \* \* Its officers have company without the further addition of a military habits and feelings by sliding would not have crossed the river, and in all human probability the war would have been | him from all evils; including himself as | the loss of the whole force: not the slightest appreciation of the single officer we should have the respectable gradually into those purely civil.

mercial continue to clash with those of other nations of the earth that support large armies, grim visaged war is a necessity that must and will come. To quote from a sagacious observer, whose able article upon the military necessities f the United States is one of the best contributions to our stock of practical knowledge:

The epoch of peace and prosperity with which our land is now blessed can not last forever. Until human nature shall rise above its present weakness the ests of another; the policies of different nations will come into collision and the sword will be used to cut the knot diplomacy can not untie. However peaceable and non-agressive a nation may be circumstances may present it with the choice of several evils of which war will be the least. (Lieut. Arthur L. Wagner, United States army, in prize essay of 1884.)

The apathy of congress upon the grave questions of increasing the effieiency of the army and navy and the bettering, or rather creating, of seacoast defenses, is to me inexplicable. Repeated and oft-repeated recommendations from the presidents of the United States, from experienced secretaries of war and navy, and warning words from the veterans who led our hosts to victory during the late war, all fall unheeded upon ears usually quick to hear that which may prove advantageous to the country we love. The parting words of the last general of the army before he passed into retirement were:

1 can not help plead to my countrymen manly and noble in the military profession, because peace is enervating and no man is wise enough to fortell when soldiers may be in demand again.

The signs of the times are that they will very soon be in demand. They are now called for on our southwestern boundary where the murderous Apache lies in ambush among the rocks, or sweeps from his mountain hiding-place to murder the settler. The telegrams from Nev7 Mexico speak of the restlessness of many other bands of Indians, notably the Navajos, thousands of whom have grown to manhood since the last outbreak and keenly desire to rival the deeds of bravery recited by the older warriors about the nightly dance-fires. Prosperous Southwestern Kansas lives in hourly deread of an outbreak among the wild tribes just over the border. Upon the northern boundary of the fair state that I have the honor in part to represent upon this floor, are nearly 25,000 of the savage Sioux nation, the stalwart and sinewy braves armed to a man with the deadly Winchester. Within a short time 1 visited them at a few places on the 34,000 square miles devoted to their abuse rather than use. I rejoiced to see some evidences of for their future; but as I heard them, in the council-room by day and in the wild dance at night, recounting their deeds of war, boast of the murderous part sacres, saw the envious admiration gleaming from the faces of the listening young bucks, and the evidences of jealousy and desire for leadership on

But how stands the other side? What army of the United States, written in nation clings to the dangerous, obsolete, single battalion formation? When our informer reports) to be sanctioned by conthe part of contending chiefs, I feared fitful; upon it the brunt of battle falls; it When the Mexican war broke cut the