

URGES CONSERVATION OF THE NATION'S RESOURCES

President Taft Sends Special Message to Congress Recommending Prevention of Land Frauds, Control of Water Power, Fostering of Soils and Kindred Subjects

Washington, Jan. 14.—Following is the complete text of the special message on the conservation of the nation's resources sent to the senate and house of representatives by President Taft today:

To the Senate and House of Representatives: In my annual message I reserved the subject of the conservation of our national resources for discussion in a special message, as follows:

In several departments there is presented the necessity for legislation looking to the further conservation of our national resources, and the subject is one of such importance as to require a more detailed and extended discussion than can be entered upon in this communication. For that reason I shall take an early opportunity to send a special message to congress on the subject of the improvement of our waterways, upon the reclamation and irrigation of arid, semi-arid and swamp lands, upon the preservation of our forests and the re-forestation of suitable areas, upon the re-classification of the public domain with a view of separating from agricultural settlement minerals, coal and phosphate lands, and sites belonging to the government bordering on streams suitable for the utilization of water power.

In 1860 we had a public domain of 1,053,911,288 acres. We have now 21,254,081 acres, confined to the mountain ranges and the arid and semi-arid plains. We have, in addition, 28,052,523 acres of land in Alaska.

Disbursement of Public Lands.

The public lands were, during the earliest administrations, treated as a national asset for the liquidation of the public debt and as a source of reward for our soldiers and sailors. Later on they were donated in large amounts in aid of the construction of wagon roads and railroads. In order to open up sections in the west then almost entirely unpopulated, the principal land statutes were enacted more than a quarter of a century ago. The homestead act, the pre-emption and timber-culture act, the coal land and the mining acts were among these. The rapid disposition of the public lands under the early statutes, and the lax methods of distribution prevailing, due, I think, to the belief that these lands should rapidly pass into private ownership, gave rise to a feeling of uneasiness on the part of the public domain which was legitimate, but which was not contrary to good morals to circumvent the land laws. This profligate manner of disposition resulted in the passing of large areas of valuable land into the hands of persons who felt little or no responsibility for promoting the national welfare through their development.

Fraudulent Titles.

The truth is that millions of acres of public lands were fraudulently obtained and that the right to recover a large part of such lands for the government long since ceased by reason of statutes of limitations. There has developed in recent years a widespread feeling of public mind respecting the preservation and proper use of our national resources. This has been particularly directed toward the conservation of the resources of the public domain. In the course of this discussion has appeared in the public prints in generalized form on this subject, but there has been little practical suggestion. It has been easy to say that the national interest would be promoted by forests, in water power, and in other public utilities, must be saved from waste, monopoly, and other abuses, and the general public is in accord with this proposition, as it is with most of the problems which are presented. It is how to save and how to utilize, how to conserve and still develop, for no sane person can contend that it is for the common good that nature's blessings are only for unborn generations.

Noteworthy Reforms.

Among the most noteworthy reforms initiated by my distinguished predecessors were the vigorous prosecution of land frauds and the bringing to public attention of the necessity for preserving the remaining public domain from further spoliation, for the maintenance and extension of our forest resources, and for the enactment of laws amending the obsolete statutes so as to retain governmental control over that part of the public domain in which there are valuable deposits of coal, oil, and of phosphate, and, in addition thereto, to preserve control, under conditions favorable to the public, of lands along the streams in which the fall of water can be made to generate power to be transmitted in the form of electricity many miles to the point of its use, known as "water power" sites.

The investigations into violations of the public land laws and the prosecution of land frauds have been vigorously continued under my administration, as has been the withdrawal of coal lands for classification and valuation, and the temporary withholding of power sites. Since March 4, 1899, temporary withdrawals of power sites have been made on 102 streams and these withdrawals therefore cover 23 per cent. more streams than were covered by the withdrawals made prior to that date.

The present statutes, except so far as they dispose of the precious metals and the purely agricultural lands, are not adapted to carry out the modern view of the best disposition of public lands to private ownership, under conditions offering on the one hand sufficient inducement to private capital to take them over for proper development, with restrictive conditions on the other which shall secure to the public that character of control which will prevent a monopoly or misuse of the lands or their resources. The power of the secretary of the interior to withdraw from the operation of existing statutes tracts of land, the disposition of which under such statutes would be detrimental to the public interests, is not clear or satisfactory. This power has been exercised in the interest of the public, with the hope that congress might affirm the action of the executive by laws adapted to the new conditions. Unfortunately congress has not thus far fully acted on the recommendations of the executive, and the question as to what the executive is to do in the circumstances, full of difficulty. It seems to me that it is the duty of congress now, by a statute, to validate the withdrawals which have been made by the secretary of the interior, and to use the secretary of the interior's power to withdraw lands pending submission to congress of recommendations as

to legislation to meet conditions of emergencies as they arise.

Properly to Classify Lands.

One of the most pressing needs in the matter of public land reform is that lands should be classified according to their principal value use. This ought to be done by that department whose force is best adapted to that work. It should be done by the interior department through the geological survey. Much of confusion, fraud, and contention which has existed in the present has arisen from the lack of an official and determinative classification of the public lands and their contents.

It is now proposed to dispose of agricultural lands as such, and at the same time to reserve for other disposition the treasure of coal, oil, asphaltum, natural gas and phosphate contained therein. This may be best accomplished by separating the right to mine from the title to the surface, giving the necessary use of so much of the latter as may be required for the extraction of the deposits. The surface might be disposed of as agricultural land under the general agricultural statutes, while the coal or other mineral could be disposed of by lease on a royalty basis, with the provisions requiring a certain amount of development each year, and in order to prevent the use and cession of said lands with others of similar character so as to constitute a monopoly forbidden by law, the lease should contain suitable provision subjecting to forfeiture the interest of persons participating in such monopoly. Such law should apply to Alaska as well as to the United States.

Statute Difficult to Frame.

It is exceedingly difficult to frame a statute to retain government control over a property to be developed by private capital in such a manner as to secure the governmental purpose at the same time, not to frighten away the investment of the necessary capital. Hence, it may be necessary by laws that are really only experimental to determine from their practical operation what is the best method of securing the result aimed at. The extent of the value of phosphate is hardly realized, and with the need that there will be for it as the years roll on and the necessity for fertilizers, the value of phosphate will probably attract the greed of monopolists.

Public Land Along Streams.

With respect to the public land which lies along the streams offering opportunity to convert water power into electricity, an important phase of the public land question is presented. There are valuable water power sites through all the public land states. The opinion is held that the transfer of sovereignty from the federal government to the territorial governments as they become states, included the water power in the rivers except so far as that owned by riparian proprietors. I do not think it necessary to go into discussion of this somewhat mooted question of law. It seems to me sufficient to say that the man who owns and controls the land along the stream from which the water is to be converted into electricity, owns land which is indispensable to the conversion and use of that power. I cannot conceive how the power in streams flowing through public lands can be made available, except by using the land itself as the site for the construction of the plant by which the power is generated and converted and securing a right of way for the transmission line. Under these conditions, if the government owns the adjacent land—indeed, if the government is the riparian owner—it may control the use of the water power by imposing proper conditions on the disposition of the land necessary in the creation and utilization of the water power.

Value of Water Power.

The development in electrical applications for the conversion of water power into electricity to be transmitted long distances has progressed so far that it is no longer problematical, but it is a certain inference that in the future the power of the water falling in the streams to a large extent will take the place of natural fuels. In the disposition of the domain already granted, many water power sites have come under absolute ownership, and may drift into one owner, so that all the water power under private ownership shall be a monopoly. If, however, the water power sites now owned by the government—and there are enough of them—shall be disposed of to private persons for the investment of the capital in such a way as to prevent their union for purposes of monopoly with other water power sites, and under conditions that shall limit the right of use to not exceeding forty years with renewal privilege, and some equitable means of fixing terms of rental and with proper means for determining a reasonable graduated rental, it would seem entirely possible to prevent the absorption of these water power sites by a power monopoly. As long as the government retains control and can prevent their improper union with other plants, competition must be maintained and prices kept reasonable.

Soils Must Be Conserved.

In considering the conservation of the natural resources of the country, the feature that transcends all others, including woods, waters, minerals, is the soil of the country. It is incumbent upon the government to foster by all available means the resources of the country that produce the food of the people. To this end the conservation of the soils of the country should be cared for with all means at the government's disposal. Their productive powers should have the attention of our scientists that we may conserve the soils, improve the old soils, drain wet soils, ditch swamp soils, leave river overflow soils, grow trees on the soils, pasture hillside soils, rotate crops on all moist dissected lands by cropping under land soils, find grasses and legumes for all soils, feed grains and mill feeds on the farms where they originate, that the soils from which they come may be enriched.

A work of the utmost importance to inform and instruct the public on this chief branch of the conservation of our resources is being carried on successfully by the department of agriculture; but it ought not to escape public attention that state action in addition to that of the department of agriculture (as for instance in the drainage of swamp lands) is essential to the best treatment of the soils in the manner above indicated.

The act by which, in semi-arid parts of

the public domain, the area of the homestead has been enlarged from 160 to 320 acres has resulted most beneficially in the extension of "dry farming" and in the demonstration which has been made of how to raise crops in a barren and arid character and mode of culture, of raising substantial crops without the presence of such a supply of water as has been heretofore thought to be necessary for agriculture.

But there are millions of acres of completely arid land in the public domain which, by the establishment of reservoirs for the storing of water and the irrigation of the lands, may be made much more fruitful and productive than the best lands in a climate where the moisture comes from the clouds. Congress recognized the importance of this method of artificial distribution of water on the arid lands by the passage of the reclamation act. The proceeds of the public lands created the fund to build the works needed to store and furnish the necessary water, and it was left to the secretary of the interior to determine what projects should be started among those suggested and to direct the reclamation service, with the funds at hand and through the engineers in its employ, to construct the works.

No one can visit the far west and the arid lands and not be struck with the fact that out being conserved that this is one of the most important methods of the conservation of our natural resources that the government has entered upon. It would appear that over 20 projects have been undertaken, and that a few of these are likely to be unsuccessful because of lack of water, or for other reasons, but generally the work which has been done has been well done, and many important engineering problems have been met and solved.

Funds Inadequate for Service.

One of the difficulties which has arisen is that too many projects in view of the available funds have been set on foot. The funds available under reclamation statutes are inadequate to complete these projects within reasonable time. And yet the projects have been begun; settlers have been invited to take up and, in many instances, have taken up, the public land within the areas, relying upon their prompt completion. The failure to complete the projects for their benefit is, in effect, a breach of faith and causes them in a most distressed condition. It is the duty of the government to afford the means to lift them out of the very deplorable condition in which they now are.

This condition does not indicate any excessive or extravagant action on the part of the reclamation service. It only indicates an over-zealous desire to extend the benefit of reclamation to as many acres and as many states as possible. The project already begun, that authority be given to issue, not exceeding \$30,000,000 of bonds from time to time, as the secretary of the interior shall find it necessary, the proceeds to be applied to the completion of the project already begun, and their proper extension, and the bonds running ten years or more to be taken up by the proceeds of returns to the reclamation fund, which returns, as the years go on, will increase rapidly in amount.

There is no doubt at all that if these bonds were to be allowed to run ten years, the proceeds from the public lands, which will become more and more water furnished through the completed enterprises, would quickly create a sinking fund large enough to retire the bonds within the time specified. I have no doubt that the secretary should provide that these bonds are to be paid out of the reclamation fund, it will be drawn in such a way as to secure interest at the lowest rate, and that the secretary of the interior will be pledged for their redemption.

I urge consideration of the recommendations of the secretary of the interior in his annual report for the year 1901, and the interest in proposing other relief for settlers on these projects.

New Law Requisite.

Respecting the comparatively small timbered areas on the public domain not included in national forests because of their location, and their use for agricultural or mineral purposes, it is apparent from the evils resulting by virtue of the imperfections of existing laws for the disposition of timber lands that the acts of June 20, 1890, and the act of August 10, 1892, should be repealed and a law enacted for the disposition of the timber at public sale, the lands after the removal of the timber to be subject to appropriation under the agricultural or mineral land laws.

What I have said is but an epitome of the recommendations of the secretary of the interior in respect to the future conservation of the public domain in his present annual report. He has given certain attention to the question of disposing of these lands under such conditions as to invite the private capital necessary to their development on the one hand, and the maintenance of the restrictions necessary to prevent monopoly and abuse from absolute ownership on the other. These recommendations are incorporated in bills he has prepared, and they are at the disposition of the congress. I earnestly recommend that the suggestions which he has made with respect to these lands shall be embodied in statutes, and, especially, that the withdrawals already made shall be validated so far as necessary, and that doubt as to the authority of the secretary of the interior to withdraw lands for the purpose of submitting recommendations as to future disposition of them where new legislation is needed shall be made complete and unquestioned.

Disposition of Forest Reserves.

The forest reserves of the United States, some 19,000,000 acres in extent, are under the control of the department of agriculture, with authority adequate to preserve them and to extend their growth so far as that may be practicable. The importance of the maintenance of our forests cannot be exaggerated. The possibility of a scientific treatment of forests so that they shall be made to yield a large return in timber without really reducing the supply has been demonstrated in other countries, and we should work toward that end. The methods as far as their methods are applicable to our conditions.

Upwards of four hundred millions acres of forest land in this country are in private ownership, but only three per cent. of it is being treated scientifically and with a view to the maintenance of the forests. The part played by the forests in the equalization of the supply of water on watersheds is a matter of discussion and dispute, but the general benefit to be derived by the public from the extension of forest lands on watersheds and the promotion of the growth of trees to places that are now denuded, and that once had great flourishing forests, goes without saying. The control to be exercised over private owners in their treatment of the forests which they own is a matter for state and not national regulation, because there is nothing in the constitution that authorizes the federal government to exercise any control over forests within a state, unless the forests are owned in a proprietary way by the federal government.

Improvement of River.

I come now to the improvement of the inland waterways. It would be blind indeed, who did not realize that the people of the far west, and especially those of the Mississippi valley, have been clamoring for the need there is for the improvement of the inland waterways. The Mississippi river, with the Missouri on the one hand and the Ohio on the other, would seem to offer a great natural means of interstate transportation and traffic. How far, if properly improved

they would relieve the railroads or supplement them in respect to the bulkier and cheaper commodities is a matter of conjecture. No enterprise ought to be undertaken the cost of which is not definitely ascertained in advance, and the advantage of which are not known and assured by competent engineers and other authority. When, however, a project of a definite character for the improvement of a waterway has been developed so that the plans have been drawn, the cost definitely estimated, and the frame which will be accommodated is reasonably probable I think it is the duty of congress to undertake the project and make provision therefor in the proper appropriation bill.

One of the projects which answers the description I have given is that of introducing dams into the Ohio river from Pittsburg to Cairo, so as to maintain at all seasons of the year, by slack water, a depth of nine feet. Upward of seven of these dams have already been constructed and six are under construction, while the total required is 26. The remaining cost is known to be \$25,000,000.

It seems to me that in the development of our inland waterways it would be wise to begin with this particular project and carry it through as rapidly as may be. I assume from reliable information that it can be constructed economically in ten years. I recommend, therefore, that the public lands, in river and harbor bills, make provision for continuing contracts to complete this improvement, and I shall recommend in the future, if it is necessary, that bonds be issued to carry it through.

What has been said of the Ohio river is true in a less complete way of the improvement of the upper Mississippi from St. Paul to St. Louis to a constant depth of six feet, and of the Missouri, from Kansas City to St. Louis to a constant depth of six feet and from St. Louis to Cairo of a depth of eight feet. These projects have been pronounced practical by competent boards of army engineers, their cost has been estimated and there is business which will follow the improvement.

As these improvements are being made, and the traffic encouraged by them shows itself of sufficient importance, the improvement of the Mississippi beyond Cairo down to the gulf, which is now going on with the maintenance of a depth of one foot over the rocks, may be changed to another and greater depth if the necessity for it shall appear to arise out of the traffic which can be delivered on the river at Cairo.

Cheap Rail Rate Necessary.

I am informed that the investigation by the waterways commission in Europe has established the existence of a waterway by no means assured traffic unless there is traffic adapted to water carriage at cheap rates at one end or the other of the stream. It also appears in Europe that the depth of the streams is rarely more than six feet, and never more than nine. But it is certain that enormous quantities of merchandise are transported over the rivers and canals in Germany and France and England, and it is also certain that the existence of such methods of traffic materially affects the rates which the railroads charge, and it is the best regulator of those rates that we have, not even excepting the governmental regulation through the interstate commerce commission. For this reason I hope that this congress will take such steps that it may be called the inaugurator of the new system of inland waterways. For reasons which it is not necessary here to state, congress should fit to order an investigation into the interior department and the forest service of the agricultural department. The results of that investigation are not needed to estimate the value of, and the necessity for, the new legislation which I have recommended in respect to the public lands and in respect to reclamation. I earnestly urge that the measures be taken and disposed of promptly without awaiting the investigation which has been determined upon.

WILLIAM H. TAFT.

A Bird's Savings Bank.

In California the woodpecker stores acorns away, although he never eats them. He hores several holes, differing slightly in size, at the fall of the year, invariably in a pine tree. Then he finds an acorn, which he adjusts to one of the holes prepared for its reception.

But he does not eat the acorn, for, as a rule, he is not a vegetarian. His object is storing away the acorns because he foresees that their food value for acorns remain intact, but, becoming saturated, are predisposed to decay, when they are attacked by maggots, which seem to delight in this special food.

It is that the woodpecker reaps the harvest his wisdom has provided, at a time when the ground being covered with snow, he would experience a difficulty otherwise in obtaining suitable or palatable food.

His "Penitential Den."

"And now I must show you what I call my penitential den," said a popular author. "This," he continued, as he drew open a door, "is where I occasionally spend an hour or so when I am developing symptoms of that by no means uncommon malady among successful men called 'swelled head'."

The room was a charming little snugger about seven feet square, the only remarkable feature of which was the wall-covering. "If you look closely," explained the host, "you will see that my wall paper consists, on two sides of the room, of those too-familiar and unwelcome printed forms on which editors express their regrets at declining one's per manuscripts."

Zoological Puzzle.

Italian zoologists have a puzzle to solve, owing to the discovery on Mount Blanc of the body of a white bear, which has been brought to Aosta. It was thought at first that the bear must have died some three hundred years ago, and must have been preserved by the ice, since it has always been held that white bears vanished from the Alps three centuries ago. But it has since been demonstrated that death could only have taken place a few days previous to discovery. At this would seem to show that there are still white bears in the Alps, expeditions are to be sent to test the theory.

Tooly Lural!

"How far is it between these two towns?" asked the lawyer.

"About four miles as the flow cries," replied the witness.

"You mean as the cry flows?"

"No," put in the judge, "he means as the fly crows."

And they all looked at each other, feeling that something was wrong—Everybody's Magazine.

WATERWAY BILL TO BE REPORTED

Congress, However, Likely to Be Slow to Sanction Certain Specific Projects.

RIVALRY AMONG PROMOTERS

Civil Service Commission, Tired of Moving, Makes Plea for Permanent Quarters—Army Affairs in Good Shape.

Washington.—It is probable that the rivers and harbors committee of congress will report a bill at this session recommending the appropriation of a good many millions of dollars for the improvement of the waterways of the country. It is yet a matter of great doubt, however, if the sanction of the committee will be given to certain specific projects in favor of which there has been country-wide agitation. It may be, perhaps it is safer to say probably will be, the opinion of the committee that the recommendation for an appropriation to begin the digging of a deep waterway from the lakes to the gulf or from Cape Cod to the Carolinas shall be put off until the congressional waterways commission, which has been studying the general subject of commercial highway improvements, shall have turned in its report.

The friends of the deep waterway from Chicago to the Eads' jetties are active in their methods of promoting the plan which they have at heart. The same thing hold true of the men who want congress to sanction the ship channel from Cape Cod down through the coast states to a point somewhere in South Carolina or possibly Georgia. There is an intense amount of rivalry between the promoters of these two great plans, but the rivalry is kept under the surface as much as possible in order that the promotion efforts may not cause controversy enough to upset the chances of success of either project.

Other Highway Projects.

The Mississippi valley waterway and the coast line waterway are not the only interior commercial highway plans which have friends in congress. The projects which have been suggested and to a considerable extent advanced in planning, are numerous. The southern states want easier water communication between different points, and there are plans for waterway improvement in the north and northwest.

When President Taft was in New Orleans at a meeting of the waterways congress he said a kindly word for the general plan of improving the rivers of the country, but he advised president haste slowly. As soon as the president finished his speech and the men who are devoting their time and energies to paving the way for waterway legislation had had time to digest the remarks, they met and in effect made a political issue out of the campaign for deeper river channels.

The political aspect of the matter has to some extent influenced congress, and representatives from many districts have been told in effect that they must use every effort to push waterway improvements, even if their plans seem to be antagonistic to the wishes of the leaders in congress and of the administration itself.

To Investigate Fully.

Congress always has a way of meeting demands for work along certain lines with a seeming approval of their general features, but it also has a way of delaying things so that it can be given time for a survey of the field and obtaining of an actual knowledge of the needs of the case. The friends of the plan for an immediate improvement of the waterways say that congress simply seeks a means of postponement hoping that some of the demands made will be moderated. He this as it may, congress appointed a national waterways commission of which all the members were either senators or representatives.

On this waterways commission are men who are extremely conservative on the subject and men who have been insisted that the work should be begun at once. The chairman of the committee, Senator Theodore E. Burton of Ohio, was for some years prior to his election to the senate chairman of the house committee on rivers and harbors. Mr. Burton knows all about every harbor and stream in the United States and it is admitted by the men who think that he is too conservative that he has a pretty clear idea of the needs of every locality.

Senator Lorimer of Illinois has been for many years an active advocate of a ship channel from Chicago to the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Lorimer is impatient of delay. There are other members of the commission who may be said to occupy the middle ground in the matter at stake. It is expected that before long the commission will make its report.

Merit Board Wants Home.

As the country has been told recently, it is probable that congress will investigate the entire civil service system of the government with a view of having both the letter and spirit of the law apply to promotions as well as to appointments. It is probable that the civil service commissioners who are stationed in Washington wish that congress would, in addition to investigating the workings of the system, make a rigid ex-

amination of the building in which the officials of the service are obliged to transact their business, with a view to providing for them better quarters.

There have been some communications sent to congress which in a descriptive way the word "unique" fits admirably, but it is likely that no paper intended for any president ever contained a more striking paragraph than one which occurs in the message which was sent not long ago by the civil service commissioners to the chief of the nation's authorities.

The commissioners are tired of being moved about from place to place, and are particularly tired of their present quarters. There is some humor in the situation, and it is shown by this paragraph which occurs in an official letter which carries the signature of Gen. John C. Black, the president of the civil service board, with the signatures of his fellow commissioners added.

Humorous Protest.

"The moral element in this proposition, Mr. President, is worthy of consideration. A man is hardly respected head of the family until he owns a roof under which he may gather with his family. Any bureau of department of the government wholly peripatetic and without permanent quarters is subject to suspicion and a slighting consideration. We want to be helped out of this situation."

This plea borders on pathos, but it has a strength of its own, and congress has been asked to give that heed to the request of Gen. Black and his colleagues, which will give them more room and will be in keeping with the dignity of their work. The day when civil service is mentioned by members and senators with the sneer of Roscoe Conkling as "snivel service," has gone by, and while the work of the commissioners has robbed the congressmen of much patronage, it is likely that they will see to it that habitable quarters are given to the officials and their employes.

It is hardly probable that the country realizes the growth of the civil service. The employes of the commission supervise and complete the work of 1,359 local boards composed of 4,690 members, distributed throughout the territorial extent of the United States, Hawaii, the Isthmus of Panama and the islands of Porto Rica. There are now 225,000 in the competitive class, and in the last fiscal year there were nearly 200,000 applications for examination.

Army Bill Meets Favor.

Congress is taking more kindly to the army appropriation bill this year than has been the case for a long time. Secretary of War Dickinson managed to get several millions of dollars from the estimates for the support of the land forces, and under his direction the chiefs of the different bureaus made reductions that have appealed to the members of congress as an evidence that economy this year is the army's watchword.

General Leonard Wood before long will be made chief of staff of the United States army with headquarters in Washington. Gen. Wood is the ranking officer of the service. If the general were to be ordered into the field in case of war he could have placed under his orders within two months over a half million Americans armed with the latest type of American rifle, the new model Springfield, which is believed by American army officials to be the best weapon known to modern military science.

The house committee on military affairs at its hearings on the needs of the army complimented Gen. Crozier of the ordnance department on the marked reductions that he had made in expenses, reductions that the general showed were possible while they did not tend in any way to decrease the efficiency of the service.

The committee reported favorably on the recommendation that a reserve supply of one million rifles of the modern approved type be provided. When the authorized limit of one million is reached the manufacture of the rifles will be stopped, only to be taken up again when the necessity is shown or when new inventions make new rifles imperative.

No Need for Large Army.

Congress does not believe that the United States will ever need an enormous army for war purposes. It takes it for granted that the navy will be able to keep all foreign foes at a distance and that being safe from invasion the army of half a million men at the outset will be sufficient to meet any seemingly possible emergency. The army officers, however, look at the matter in another light. They say that the most unexpected thing happen in military affairs and that it would be little less than a sin for the United States to be unprepared as it was at the time of the opening of the Spanish war. Congress has been told that there is no first-class power other than the United States which cannot put into the field almost instantly an army of 3,000,000 men.

There is a much closer relation existing to-day than ever before between the regular service and the national guard. It is the intention of the war department to order the regulars next summer into camp with regiments of the state troops in many parts of the country for the purpose of instructing the civilian soldiers in the art of war and of bringing about a better understanding and a feeling of closer fellowship between officers of the national and state.

Turkish Retrogression.

Asiatic Turkey had a civilization thousands of years ago. The interior of that country is populated to-day by farmers, to whom modern knives and forks are unknown; the spoons they use are of wood and each family makes its own.