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**THE ARMY REDUCED**

THE SECRETARY OF WAR REPORTS A REDUCTION IN THE AMERICAN ARMY OF 16,900 MEN.

**ONLY 13,480 IN THE PHILIPPINES**

No Danger of an Increasing Standing Army, Which Was Once Such a Political Bugbear.

Secretary Root's annual report shows that the American standing army has been reduced by more than 16,000 men within a year. The net strength January 1, 1903, will be 59,866, which is the minimum under the law. The improved conditions in the Philippine islands is shown in the fact that the army, which once numbered 30,000 men, will hereafter number 13,480 men. Only two years ago the partisan press was filled with awful predictions of A STANDING ARMY 100,000 STRONG and a form of imperialism which must eventually make a monarchy of America. The American people are not built on the plan which makes a despotism possible. They want an army of strength sufficient to maintain order and protect our possessions, but they rely upon the volunteers who rally at call 1,000,000 strong for any sudden grave emergency.

**THE BANKERS' RESERVE LIFE** is a home company. It is an American company. It has the lowest death rate of any American company. It insures only American risks; that is, only persons residing in healthy sections of America. It offers to them the very best, most modern and most attractive policies in the life insurance market. The Gold Bond policy now attracting most attention is a tribute to the American financial system.

B. H. ROBISON, PRESIDENT, believes the American dollar will always be worth 100 cents, and therefore the company guarantees that benefits under these policies shall be good for gold. Next year the Bankers' Reserve will write \$5,000,000 at least and will pass the \$10,000,000 milestone on its way to the \$50,000,000 goal, which is in sight for 1910. With assets equal to \$5 for every \$1 of liability; the cordial good will of Nebraska and the west; the best policies yet devised and a field force of exceptional strength, the people will not be disappointed who believe in the future of this progressive, substantial company. For particulars, territory or terms, address,  
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2 oz. 20 inches, \$0.90 3 oz. 24 inches, \$2.25  
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Remit five cents for postage.  
All short stem, three strands. Send sample lock of hair. We can match perfectly any hair. All orders filled promptly. Money refunded if desired. Illustrated Catalogue of Switches, WIGS, Curis, Bangs, Pompadours, Waves, etc., free. We send switches by mail on approval, to be paid for when received, if satisfactory. Otherwise to be returned to us by mail. In ordering, write us to this effect. This offer may not be made again.  
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**Cold Comfort**

To any but an envious man it is welcome news to hear that his neighbor is prospering, even if he himself is not doing as well as his efforts would seem to warrant. But when he knows that the exceedingly prosperous one is profiting at his expense, it is rather cold comfort to hear the news.

Nebraska farmers who voted against any increase in railroad taxes by electing the republican state ticket ought to be overjoyed at the increase in freight rates soon to be made, and especially so when they read the following, from the New York World, regarding the enormous railroad profits for the year ended June 30, 1902—before any raise in rates was made:

The interstate commerce commission's preliminary report on the railroad business of the country for the year that ended June 30, 1902, furnishes further proof that prosperity is not only a theory but a condition.

The gross earnings of the roads from all sources amounted to \$1,771,754,200—an average of \$8,736 per mile. Their gross operating expenses amounted to \$1,106,137,405—an average of \$5,645 per mile. Their net earnings were \$665,616,795—an average of \$3,091 per mile.

As compared with the previous year the railroads of the United States increased their net earnings by the handsome sum of \$51,395,421. With their freight yards blocked with merchandise which is delayed because cars cannot be made fast enough to overtake the enormous growth in the volume of traffic, the railroads will probably show still larger net earnings for the current year. Nor does the wage advance of 10 per cent, even if eventually extended to all lines, interfere with that pleasant prospect for the host of railroad shareholders. The net amount to be realized by the advance in freight rates is variously estimated, but no estimate puts it at less than enough to fully offset at least the advance in wages.

The contract between the ebb and flood tide of business is very accurately reflected in railroad earnings. Hence it is interesting to note that five years ago (1897) the net earnings amounted to \$338,000,000, using round figures—or not much more than one-half the amount just reported for last year.

**Plenty of Room**

The election shows plainly that the battle ground between the old parties has shifted from the central and western states to the east. The old position has been restored, with the west solidly republican and the south solidly democratic. Thus New York again becomes the pivotal state, and both the old parties will endeavor to so arrange their platforms as to carry that state. This means the complete elimination of Bryanism from the democratic creed, and it may also cause the elimination of Rooseveltism from the republican creed if the president should show that he is in earnest in advocating trust regulation. Under such circumstances there ought to be room for a progressive party, radical enough to propose effective means of checking monopolies and conservative enough not to attempt the impossible task of abolishing all private ownership of property.—Minnesota Forum.

Since the strike began on the Union Pacific, that road has lost three of its most efficient officers by resignation, namely, Superintendent Dickinson, Master Mechanic Barnum and Superintendent of Motive Power Higgins. The efficiency of the road in the past was owing largely to the superior ability of these men in their various departments. They had long been connected with the road and no doubt had no sympathy with the Burt management, so they quit. They have all secured equal or better positions on other roads. Mr. Burt's ideas about "piece work" is costing the corporation dearly. The strike is still on.

**Silver and Mexico**

There are certain men of the bondholding class in this country who are exceedingly anxious that Mexico should adopt the silver standard and so the great dailies are filled with stories of horrors produced by the silver standard in that country. So far as the people of Mexico are concerned complaint about the fall in the price of silver comes altogether from those whose business means the drawing of wealth from the country. The importing houses complain because they must pay gold abroad for the goods they buy and sell them in Mexico for silver. When a larger quantity of silver is required to equal a given amount of gold these firms have to increase their silver selling prices or reduce their profits. The natural result is that the Mexican people decrease their purchases of foreign made goods and buy goods made at home. Home industry

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Reference: First National Bank or The Independent.

- 75 lbs. Best Granulated Sugar.....\$1.00
- 20 lbs. Choice Prunes ..... 1.00
- 25 Bars Good Laundry Soap..... 1.00
- 10 lbs. High Grade Peaberry Coffee..... 2.00
- 10 lbs. Fancy Muer Peaches..... 1.00
- 2 lbs. High Grade Japan Tea..... 1.00
- 2 16-oz. Cans Best Baking Powder..... .50
- 6 lbs. Fancy Japan Head Rice..... .50
- 6 Packages 10c Corn Starch..... .50
- 6 Packages 10c Gloss Starch..... .50
- 3 Packages Good Soda, 16 oz..... .25
- 1 lb. Pure Black Pepper..... .25
- 3 lbs. Fancy Mixed Candy..... .30
- 1 Bottle Lemon Extract..... .10
- 1 Bottle Vanilla Extract..... .10

All the above for.....\$10.00

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We will deliver the following \$10.00 combination to any town in the state of Nebraska, freight prepaid by us, any time during the month of Dec. 1902.

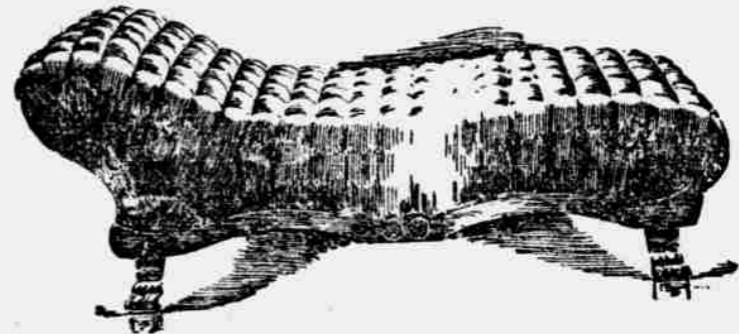
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thus is stimulated. The foreign holders of national and railway securities are those who are chiefly alarmed about the fall in silver. They are anxious to draw all the revenue they can out of the country. The Mexican importers, whose business is to sell foreign goods and draw revenue out of the country in that way, make up the remainder of the alarmists. Whether their influence proves to be strong enough to force President Diaz to place his country on a gold basis remains to be seen. The division in Mexico between those who favor the gold standard and those who do not is the same as in all other countries. The money lender, the holder of securities and the importer of foreign goods, generally speaking, want the gold standard, while the producers of the country, whose avocation it is to make wealth, prosper under the silver standard.

of the expenses of government, or for some other purpose, with the intention that a common burden shall be maintained by common contributions or sacrifices."—Professor Ely's definition.

The great coal strike has vastly increased the general interest in the question of what to do with the trusts; and Wilshire's Magazine, with its motto, "Let the Nation Own the Trusts," comes in for a proportionate increase in popularity. The newsstand sales have grown enormously, and still further growth is certain, as this magazine, though it is standard size, is now being sold for five cents a copy. Julian Hawthorne, novelist and essayist, and Charles Ferguson, author of "The Religion of Democracy," have recently associated themselves with its editorship.

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