

WE ARE INVINCIBLE.

Great Military and Naval Resources of the United States.

Soon We Will Be in a Position to Cope with the Greatest Powers of Europe, or Any Combination of Them.

[Special Correspondence.]

It has always been our boast that we are a peaceful nation; yet just as soon as talk of war electrified the country it became apparent that our defensive and offensive strength is equal to that of any country in the world.

The battleships Kearsarge and Kentucky, recently launched at Newport News, will be ready for service in a

The defensive strength of our war establishment must always depend on the navy. Our geographical location renders invasion by a military force virtually impossible, but to ward off naval attacks and prevent the bombardment of our great sea coast cities we must have coast defenses and battleships.

The table given herewith, showing the relative strength of the navies of the world, indicates that we still have much to do in the line of shipbuilding before we shall be among the first naval powers, but a fair beginning has been made and no one can doubt that we shall in time occupy the place rightfully ours.

While our regular army is a small body—numbering but 27,000—our mil-

CUBAN RESOLUTION.

How It Was Passed by the Two Houses of Congress.

A Legislative Proceeding with Which Not Many Readers Are Familiar—The Delicate Duties of Conferees.

[Special Washington Letter.]

Making laws in the national capital is carried on in a manner which is mysterious to the people; but perfectly palpable to close observers.

For example, look at the Cuban joint resolutions which so recently attracted the attention of the country. How did those resolutions originate, and how did they pass both houses of the congress? Have you ever thought of the details of it?

In the first place resolutions were offered by ten or more senators, declaring that this country must intervene to stop the barbarous warfare in Cuba; to feed the starving people there, with the aid of the warships; to avenge the battleship Maine; and to demand that Spain withdraw her military and naval forces from Cuba and take her flag from this hemisphere.

How could the congress dispose of all of those legislative propositions? All of them were important, and every senator who introduced a series of resolutions believed that he had solved the grave problem confronting the country. All of them wanted immediate consideration of their proposition, with full debate. But none of them succeeded.

Congressional procedure is simplified by the appointment of standing committees. All matters of legislative intention are referred to appropriate committees, and those committees first give these proposed legislative propositions ample consideration.

For example, when a man wants a pension by act of the congress his senator or representative introduces a bill. That does not bring the matter before the congress; not at all. The congress pays no attention to the bill. It is referred to the standing committee on pensions, consisting of 11 senators in one branch of the congress and 15 representatives in the other branch. Those committees consider the merits or demerits of the bill. When they have reached a conclusion they report the bill either favorably or unfavorably. That is the first step, and the most important step. If the committee reports the bill unfavorably it is never again heard of nor thought of in the congress.

The reason is very simple. After the members of the committee have investigated the matter, and have concluded that the bill has no merit, the congress goes on about its business, and the other members take no interest in the bill.

The members of every committee are jealous of their official standing. They will bitterly and vindictively oppose any effort on the part of the house or

tion bill can be hurried along by unanimous consent, let us look at the emergency appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the national defense. That is an immense amount of money, and, under ordinary circumstances, it would take the congress two or three months to dispose of it. There are always men in the senate and house of representatives who want to ask questions and make long speeches before they will vote for large appropriations of the public money.

But in this case it was different. Congressman Cannon, of Illinois, chairman of the house committee on appropriations, had a conference with President McKinley, who informed him that our battleship had been destroyed in Havana harbor, that war would most likely result, and that this country was not prepared for war. We needed sea-coast defenses, battleships and all sorts of military and naval accessories of war.

Congressman Cannon went to the capitol and quietly introduced a bill ap-



LEMUEL E. QUIGG. (New York's Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.)

propriating \$50,000,000 for the national defense. The very next morning the committee on appropriations took up the bill, received information concerning our national situation, and then, without delay, the committee favorably reported the bill. Chairman Cannon reported the bill to the house, and asked "unanimous consent" for its immediate consideration.

Without any public speechmaking, every member of the house of representatives had been given to understand that this was an emergency appropriation; and there was no objection to its immediate consideration. It was passed that day—within 30 hours' after it had been introduced. This shows that the congress can act quickly if it is deemed necessary.

Now, as to the Cuban independence resolutions. All of them were referred to the committee on foreign relations. That committee considered all of the propositions advanced by those resolutions, but did not approve of any one of them. On the contrary, the committee prepared and favorably reported a new set of resolutions, embodying the best features of all which had been introduced; and the new set of resolutions came before the senate with the favorable report of the committee.

In the meantime the committee on foreign affairs of the house of representatives had considered a score of resolutions of similar import, and had reported a new set of resolutions entirely different from the resolutions reported to the senate. Inasmuch as both the senate and house must absolutely agree on every point before a bill or resolution can be enacted, this brought about a peculiar condition. The senate passed its resolutions, and the house passed its resolutions.

Now what was to be done? Both bodies must agree, but how? This brings us to "the committee on conference." What is the committee on conference? It is this: The senate appoints three senators and the house appoints three representatives. Those gentlemen meet and discuss the differences existing between the senate and the house of representatives. That is the case in all matters of congressional disagreement.

Well, as to the Cuban resolutions, the "committee on conference" met in the room of the senate committee on foreign relations; and they could come to no agreement. The senators reported to the senate, and the representatives reported to the house, and they could not agree. They were then directed to hold another conference. Again they met; and this happened four times in one day and night—they were at it until long after midnight.

Finally these gentlemen, who were called "conferees," reached an agreement. The senators agreed to recede from a part of their propositions. The representatives agreed to recede from a part of their propositions. They reported to the senate and to the house their mutual agreements and concessions. The senate and house accepted the conclusions which had been reached by their constituted "conferees," and the contest was over. That is the way it was brought about. After all the senate, consisting of 90 senators, and the house, consisting of 350 representatives, left the conclusion of the great and grave matter to the wisdom and conservatism of six men, three of the best men from each branch of the congress. This is the method of reaching conclusions between those great bodies.

SMITH D. FRY.

A cargo of yellow pine lumber has been shipped from Texas to Bombay.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Various Items of Useful Information for the Careful Housewife.

The clouded condition of a highly-polished piano surface is said to come from climatic changes. A piano finisher is authority for the statement that a clean, soft chamois wrung out of clear water and wiped rapidly over the surface before a good polish is applied is the proper treatment to remedy the defect.

There is so much individuality nowadays in furnishing that many women are more than delighted to have it executed directly under their own supervision. So many harmonious draperies and furniture coverings can be picked up now at low price that, with a dexterous pair of hands to aid, cushions, cozy corners, divans, cabinets and the like can be readily and inexpensively evolved.

To be sure of having a successful dinner in every respect, see that the dining-room is thoroughly aired for at least a half hour before dinner is served. The dining-room may well be a little under rather than over a moderate temperature, though arrangements should be made to keep the air fresh without allowing draughts.

In cleaning matting use a weak salt-water solution, and always rub lengthwise with the grain. If there are grease spots, take boiling soapsuds and the scrubbing brush, then rinse carefully with the salt water and rub dry.

It is reported that in some of the industrial schools classes in home upholstery are formed, where young women may learn the rudiments of this useful art, and then go out by the day to carry on the work.

If a baby has a cold in the chest, rub well with camphorated oil, cover with soft flannel cloths soaked in olive oil and protect the clothing with another layer of flannel.

To save time and strength in the weekly ironing, remember that dish-towels and common towels can be ironed quite well enough and in half the time if folded together once.—Washington Star.

TROUBLE HIS SPECIALTY.

In the Civil War He Was a Rebel, But Was Drafted Into the Union Army.

"I think if we have war I will enlist, even if I am too old," said a Missouri man who was in a crowd that was waiting for the Cuban news. "I never could keep out of trouble. As my wife used to say, it's my specialty. When the civil war broke out I was a constitutional union man, until we came to the conclusion that the constitution wasn't worth a cent. Then I sidled over to the confederate side, put up some money for the boys and helped them to the front. About a year after, when we heard the south was calling for men, my wife said she reckoned I ought to go, and I got ready. The night before I was to go a squad of federals arrested me and I was taken to the guardhouse and kept there a week. I was finally paroled, but in order to get my liberty I had to furnish bonds and to take the oath of allegiance, as well as the Drake-Rodman oath, which no man could take without perjury.

"I tried to attend to business, but somehow I devoted more time reading Pomeroy's Democrat and Pat Donan's Caucasian than I did to my own affairs.

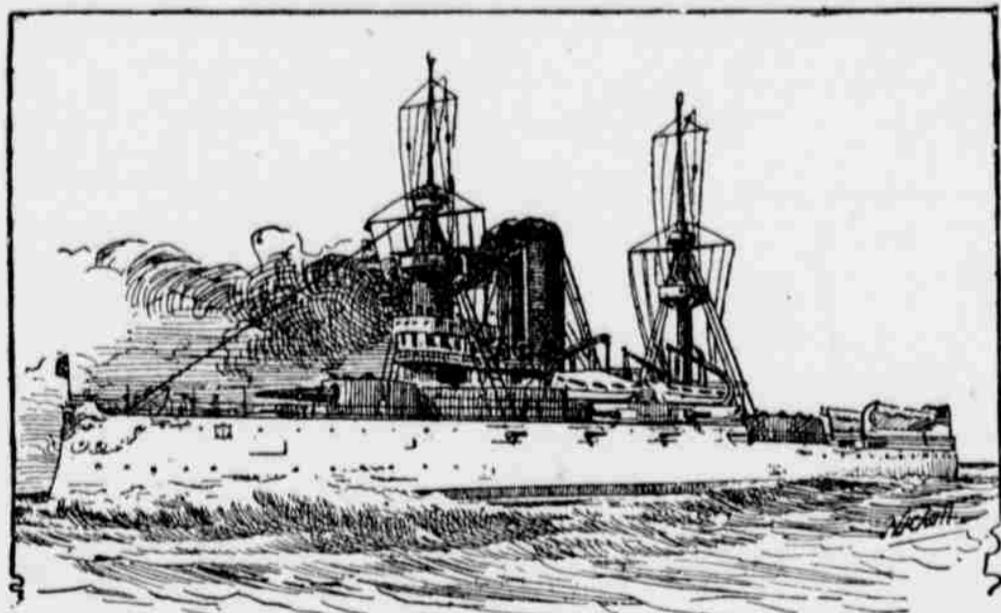
"Along toward the close of the war the governor ordered a fresh draft, and nearly every man in the town suddenly became near-sighted or had some incapacitating ailment. One day I received notification to call at the captain's office, and there I was informed that I had been drafted, and was required to report for examination. Out of six men in my end of town I was the only man that pleased the examining surgeon. He said I was the finest specimen of physical manhood he ever beheld. For the first time in my life I envied cross-eyed men and hunchbacks.

"I explained that I was not sufficiently loyal to make a good union soldier. But I was informed that I could find a substitute who would be. It was at a time when substitutes were active and in demand. And when I at last found one who was acceptable it cost me \$500.

"Aside from wanting to fight, anyway, I shall enlist if they will take me, for if I don't they'll get me later, if not on one side, on the other."—N. Y. Sun.

Meringue Rice Pudding.

Boil one cup of rice in one quart of milk until it is tender, remove from the fire, and stir in the yolks of three eggs that have been previously beaten; add sugar to suit the taste, a pinch of salt, the grated rind of one lemon and a little of the juice; turn this into a buttered pudding dish; make a meringue of the whites of the eggs by beating them stiff, and add to them four tablespoonfuls of sugar and the remaining juice of the lemon. Put the meringue roughly over the rice mixture and brown it lightly in the oven. This pudding may be served warm or cold. Stirring the yolks of the eggs into the hot rice cooks them sufficiently.—Housewife.



BATTLESHIPS ILLINOIS, ALABAMA AND WISCONSIN

short time; and the three great battleships Illinois, Alabama and Wisconsin are rapidly advancing to the launching state. These vessels are sister ships, exactly alike in construction and armament, and will be the most effective floating forts in existence. Their length on load water line is 368 feet; normal displacement, 11,525 tons; load displacement, 12,150 tons; maximum indicated horse power, 10,000; speed, 16 knots; complement, 490. Main batteries will consist of four 13-inch breech-loading rifles, supplemented by 14 six-inch rapid fire guns. The 13-inch guns are mounted in two barbette towers of 15-inch Harveyized steel. Each of these guns fires a hardened steel shot of 1,100 pounds, with an impulse of 33,027 foot tons. While the navies of several European countries contain battleships of greater dimensions, yet these new American destroyers will have superior powers of offense and defense, owing to more advanced construction and more modern armament.

It is evident that within ten years the United States will be the second naval power, a place now occupied by France. The ships now in course of construction, under an act of congress passed in 1896, were not to have been completed for some years, but circumstances made hurry imperative, and they will probably be ready for active service within 12 months. At the same time work is to be begun on the fleet authorized by the present congress, which is to consist of three battleships of the first class, one to be called the Maine; six torpedo boat destroyers, six torpedo boats and one gunboat for the great lakes, to take the place of the obsolete Michigan. Everything, in short, points to the quick establishment of a great modern naval power which, in point of effectiveness, is destined in time to surpass that of Great Britain even.

tary resources are capable enough of expansion and development to make us the most powerful military nation in the world, the organized and unorganized strength of each state being as follows:

Table showing military resources of states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, District of Columbia.

A recapitulation of this total by arms of service shows as follows: Generals, 58; officers on the general staff, 918; regimental field and staff officers, 2,420; company officers, 5,802; non-commissioned officers, 20,455; musicians, 4,644; privates, 80,067.

Certainly a nation so defended need not be afraid of the armies and navies of any foe.



JOSEPH B. FORAKER. (The Most Radical Member of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee.)

of the senate to override their action as a committee. They always succeed in their opposition.

On the other hand, if a bill is reported favorably by a committee, it is placed upon the calendar along with a thousand or more other bills which have been favorably reported, and it must take its turn for consideration. Thus even when a bill has been favorably reported there is no certainty that it will have any opportunity to become a law by congressional action. You must remember that a bill or a joint resolution must be passed by the senate and also by the house of representatives; and that is a very hard matter to accomplish.

But bills and joint resolutions of national interest take precedence, and are pushed along with rapidity. They go through the regular channels of committee consideration, but they are hurried along by what is called "unanimous consent." That is to say, everybody in the congress agrees that there shall be no delay, and hence there is an opportunity to hurry matters.

For example: It usually takes an appropriation bill two months to get through the committee on appropriations. Then the bill goes to the calendar and awaits a convenient opportunity for the chairman of the committee to call it up from the calendar, and bring it to a vote. Sometimes appropriation bills are debated for a week at a time or longer.

But to show you how an appropri-

A COMPARISON OF NAVIES.

Table Showing Strength of American and European Fleets.

Table comparing American and European fleets across various classes of vessels: Battleships, Guns of same, Seagoing coast defense, Non-seagoing coast defense, Armored cruisers, Protected and partially protected cruisers, Unprotected cruisers, Gunboats, Torpedo boat destroyers, Hulls and stationary vessels, Dispatch, training, transports, repair, tug and miscellaneous vessels, Others.

*This column is inserted for purposes of comparison. Includes marine corps, U. S. Heavy guns of main battery, S. S. Secondary batteries of light guns. In the table given above, the enumeration of vessels of the United States navy includes those built and building.