

OUR NAVY.

Points in the Annual Report of Secretary Herbert.

Recommendations Construction of More Battle Ships and Torpedo Boats—Estimates for Coming Year—Naval Militia.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The secretary of the navy in his annual report to the president recommends that congress be asked to authorize the construction of three battle ships of about 10,000 tons displacement each, to cost, exclusive of armament, not exceeding \$1,000,000 each, and twelve torpedo boats of from 100 to 300 tons each, at the discretion of the secretary of the navy to cost not exceeding an average of \$170,000 a total expenditure for naval increase of \$14,000,000.

The naval estimates for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1895, amount to \$30,622,000, of which \$18,299,332 is to make payments upon work hitherto authorized. The construction of steam machinery, armor and armament of the new vessels, now approaching completion. This appropriation, which is to be made in installments before the end of the fiscal year, will be substantially the last for with the expenditure of \$750,000 in 1897 the existing navy will be entirely paid for.

The secretary announces the adoption of a new naval policy regarding the movements of ships in commission. He has decided in the interests of economy and efficiency and for the more perfect protection of American interests abroad to put into operation a policy which will keep a number of cruising vessels sufficient for the needs of the navy, and soliciting on each of the six stations, North and South Atlantic, North and South Pacific, Asiatic and European, the South Pacific being a new station, now for the first time announced. This policy, it is thought, will allow frequent fleet and squadron evolutions which are necessary for the instruction of officers and men.

The secretary alludes to Secretary Chandler's references to the wastefulness resulting from many different yards and from the methods pursued in them. What our navy needs, says the secretary, is more ships and guns, not more yards.

Under this head the secretary says that the ordinance work at the Washington gun factory has progressed satisfactorily during the past year. Our plant, all of the newest pattern and most approved design, was selected with the greatest care and constructed with commendable foresight. It remains unsurpassed in the world. During the year 45 guns, ranging from 4 to 13-inch, were ordered, and of these 340 have been completed.

During the past year the development of rapid fire guns, which are the need of the day, has been in numbers, with an extension of the system to guns of higher calibers, and the department has been at work on similar lines. It is difficult to overestimate the advantages of rapid fire.

The progress made in this country in the manufacture of armor has been remarkable. To make such armor requires a plant costing millions of dollars and workmen of skill and experience. Two great armor manufacturing plants have been established in this country. The very first plates produced are believed to have been equal to any then turned out in the oldest establishments of Europe. The department, however, was not satisfied with this. It demanded improvement upon European armor, and improvements were made, first by the introduction of an armor of thicker plates, and secondly, by face-hardening by means of the Harvey process. Thus, it is believed, our armor became very early in the process of its manufacture far and away the best in the world. European navies are now adopting similar methods.

Interest in the naval militia continues unabated, and it is apparent to the department that its efficiency is being improved within the past year. During this period organizations have been perfected in Michigan and Connecticut, and the formation of others has been authorized in the States of Vermont, New Jersey, Virginia and Georgia. At the present time the number of officers and men of the various states mustered in and serving numbers 2,548. The movement is still in its infancy, and certainly promises gratifying results, but the exact relations of the naval militia to the regular service, and how the two shall best and most efficiently cooperate in the defense of the nation, is not yet distinctly marked out. There are, however, undoubtedly many directions in which the splendid bodies of young men now being organized in case of need render effective service. The department will continue to extend all the material aid in its power, and will always be ready, by suggestions and otherwise, to assist in perfecting any plans that may promise to be the helpful and harmonious cooperation of the militia with the regular navy.

The secretary asks authority to put the old warship Constitution in a condition to preserve her indefinitely. He recommends that congress authorize the construction of a special battleship to perpetuate the name of the Constitution, and he urges the transfer of the coast survey establishment to the navy.

CITIZEN BANDITS.

Alleged Scoundrel Whereby Wealthy Cattlemen Defraud Express Companies.

ELRENO, O. T., Nov. 29.—Twenty-five thousand dollars was expressed from Kansas City to George Isaacs, a wealthy Chickasaw cattleman at Canadian, Tex., arriving at that point Saturday evening last. When the train pulled into Canadian station a gang of bandits held up the express car, opening a general fusillade on the train.

Sheriff McGee, of this county, was called in and took a hand at the shooting in protecting the express company and was shot by the robbers, being literally shot to pieces, and several others were fatally wounded in the engagement, among them being some of the robbers, who were carried away by their pals.

It is stated that a combination has been made by wealthy cattlemen and Kansas City parties whereby money is to be shipped into the territory where the express companies are to be despoiled. The shippers will then present their claims to the express companies for settlement. A number of wealthy cattlemen of the Chickasaw Indian nation are said to be implicated.

George Isaacs, a wealthy stockman living in the western part of the Chickasaw nation, has been arrested. Isaacs shipped to himself from Kansas City two packages said to contain \$25,000. They were addressed to Canadian, Tex., and were on the train attacked by the robbers, in the defense of which Sheriff McGee was killed. The packages were opened and found to contain \$200 in \$1 and \$2 bills. Two of the robbers were identified as Isaacs and a friend. The former was captured.

HEALTH OF THE PRESIDENT.

He Has Suffered Severely from Rheumatism, But Is Better.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29.—The president continues to improve in health. He is much better and expects to be out in a few days, said Secretary Thurber, in reply to an inquiry concerning the health of the chief executive. The president has suffered much pain from his foot, and at times has been obliged to lay aside his work on this account. He has had these rheumatic attacks before, and the trouble is no more severe than those he has previously experienced.

TRADE REVIEW.

The Outlook as It Appears to Dun and Bradstreet.

New York, Dec. 1.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: "The complete success of the government loan and the replenishment of the gold reserve have not perceptibly affected business, nor prevented an advance of foreign exchange near to its former point. As January interest has soon to be met, and the operations of the syndicate are thought likely to prevent much selling of the bonds to foreigners, some exports of gold are probable."

"Money commands better rates since the sale of bonds, but there is scarcely any improvement in commercial or industrial demands, and the flow of currency hitherto has been at any time since September. Importers make moderate demands, and the call from merchants is only for immediate needs."

"Meanwhile domestic trade and industry have been little influenced by the heavy defalcation in one bank and minor disorders in two others, nor by the failure of the Erie railway to meet interest on its bonds. The closing of sugar refineries will diminish the industrial force more than it is increased by the resumption of the Bethlehem steel works and a few other concerns. The controlling factor, then, although in two instances wages have been increased, the earnings of the working force and its purchasing power are not on the whole enlarging at present, and prices of the chief farm products do not materially improve."

"Cotton reached 6 cents last Saturday and has reacted 1-16 after a week of heavy speculation. Wheat is 1-16 higher than a week ago, and the lowest receipts since last year's, while exports from all ports have been about 21,000,000 bushels smaller. Corn has advanced 21,000,000 bushels smaller. Receipts being larger than a year ago, and the outlook for farmers has not so improved as to promise larger buying by the west and south."

"The average for railroad stocks has declined 1-16, and shares in the shoe and leather industry, in part because the shoe and leather industry, and other bank irregularities caused some unreasonable influences, but more because the earnings continue uninspiring."

"The number of enlisted men in service on October 31 was 23,516. Deducting the sick, those in confinement, recruits not yet joined, those absent on furlough, and others employed in the various departments of the army, the effective field strength on the same date was 21,141 of all arms."

The report says: "I earnestly recommend that congress authorize the legislation necessary to establish in the army the battalion formation, now adopted by the armies of every other civilized nation. As necessary to effect that change I recommend the removal of the limit of \$2,000 men fixed by the act of June 18, 1874, and a return to the limit fixed by the act of July 15, 1870. Legislative approval of these two propositions will restore to the effective force about 1,000 men, bringing the actual strength of the army up to the nominal strength now fixed by law. By these changes the army will be increased in efficiency 20 per cent, in numbers 15 per cent, and in cost of maintenance only about 6 per cent."

"The organization of the line of the army has undergone no material change since the act of July 15, 1870. During this period of thirty years the army has been completely reorganized. Changes and improvements in arms and ammunition and equipments have forced upon the leading tactical changes of the past century. The organization of a broad departure from the old systems. All have adopted the battalion as the tactical unit for infantry and artillery serving as infantry, and nearly all the equivalent of the cavalry of the empire as the tactical unit. The light artillery battalion has a similar composition. Should our army ever be brought into collision with disciplined foreign troops, it would embody this universal principle of modern military thought."

"For pay, rations and clothing of the infantry, the army has received an increase of \$1,200,000 in annual appropriations will be required. Retrenchment in the administrative branches of the war department has reduced expenditures for the current fiscal year by half a million dollars, compared with last year, and the estimates contemplate further retrenchment for the coming fiscal year. These economies in the administration of the army have not, however, been turned to the benefit of the army, and so regarded, the proposed increase in numbers and the higher efficiency in organization of the army are not only necessary, but are also required by the necessities of the war department."

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OUR WARRIORS.

Secretary Lamont Thinks the Army Should Be Increased.

Thirty Thousand Men About the Right Number—Battalion Formation Urged—Report on Operations of His Department.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Secretary of War Daniel S. Lamont in submitting his annual report to the president gives the expenditures of his department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, at \$50,039,000.34. The appropriations for the fiscal year of 1895 are \$52,429,112.78. The estimates for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, are \$52,316,629.53.

The reports of the officers in command of the several geographical departments corroborate the opinion, expressed in the last annual report that Indian warfare is virtually at an end in the United States, and that but occasional calls for police duty in the neighborhood of Indian reservations, the army will henceforth be relieved to a greater degree each year of the labor of armed surveillance over the tribes of the interior.

It was found necessary during the period beginning with March and extending through July of the current year, in various sections of the country to employ a considerable part of the army to execute the orders of the United States courts, otherwise successfully defied and resisted, to protect the dispatch of the United States mails, to remove restraints to travel and commerce and to guard the property of the government. The movement of troops thus necessitated was the largest which has taken place since the close of the civil war.

The difficulty and extraordinary tasks imposed upon the officers and men of the army were discharged promptly, firmly and judiciously, in a manner which attested to the courage, intelligence and loyalty of those called into this duty, and the thorough efficiency of every branch of the service. The militia of the states wherever employed also proved generally to be composed of qualified and reliable soldiers.

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