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SHALL CHINA FIGHT?
MILITARY STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS
OF THE MIDDLE KINGDOM.
Preparations Since the War With
Japan—Materials Imported and
Manufactured—No Great Armies,
but Plenty of "Food For Powder."



W
HAT is the extent and what the purpose of military preparation in the Celestial empire?
For the past five years, or since the war with Japan, China has been getting ready for something. If she is ambitious to be a military nation simply because Japan is, what does she intend to do with the military power when acquired? She has constructed arsenals, she has kept pace with the world in the manufacture of the most improved rapid fire guns and rifles, she has invented rifles of her own and applied the foreign inventions to them. Large quantities of Remingtons, of Mausers and the German arm, the one that proved so fatal in the hands of the Boers in South Africa, the Mannlicher, have been imported or manufactured. More than a dozen arsenals have been at work for years turning out rifles, and one of these has a capacity of 8,000 Mausers a year.

LANCASTER COUNTY EDITION
THE CENSUS AND OTHER THINGS
There has been considerable grumbling over the probable outcome of the census count in Lincoln this year. The final figures have not been given out, but none of those who are supposed to have inside information seem to think they will show forty thousand inhabitants. The last alleged census of Lincoln showed a population of about fifty-five thousand. The State Journal unbecomingly itself to the public at large and admits that census to have been stuffed.



CHINESE IMPERIAL GUARDSMEN.

to be released at the end of a short term. One of the peculiar institutions of China is the profession of soldier. The best of the active troops are born in the camp and never know any other life. To supplement this element the government has planted vast military colonies, where all the males expect to be called into the ranks in time of war. Custom rules in China, and the men go to military service without question. Taught to hate war, they have no jingo spirit, but when the emergency arises the man to stand behind the gun is there.

Without stopping to question the truth of the statement, which is intended to make the population shrinkage of Lincoln appear to be a little matter after all, it is apparent to the most careless observer that the shrinkage of fifteen thousand is not all due to stuffing of the last previous enumeration of inhabitants. The great bulk of the population in Lincoln, like that of other cities, is made up of laboring men and women. The field for laborers has constantly narrowed for the last ten years. There is not a trade in Lincoln but shows this. Take the printing trade as a sample. Ten years ago there were over three hundred printers employed in this city. Today not more than one-half that number find employment. There are not half as many bricklayers. There are not as many railroad men who make their homes here, in spite of an enormous increase in railway business. Almost the only business which shows an increase is the traction lines.

J. M. Russell & Co. are receiving daily consignments of basket peaches from their large orchard at Wymore, Nebraska. The crop this year is large and the fruit of fine flavor, and can be had at 1121 O street, at 40c for a good sized basket.

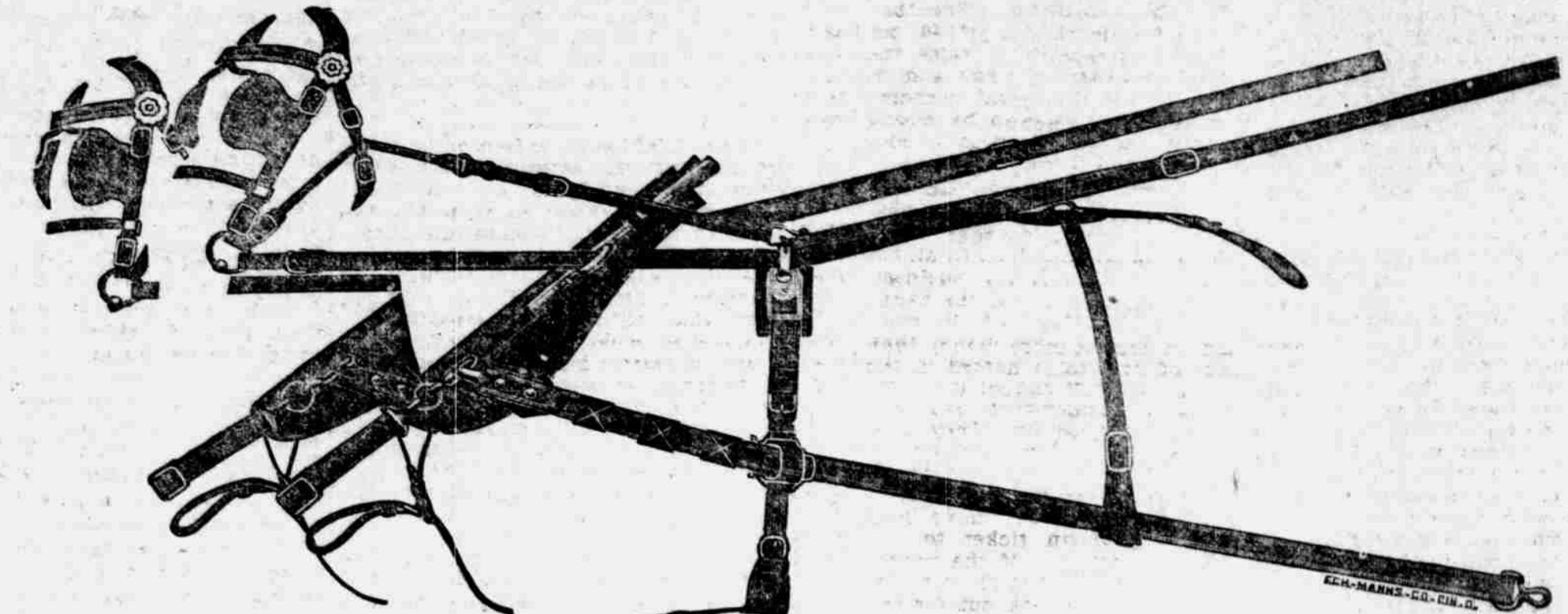
China manufactures smokeless powder and everything in fact that would be required by land forces except the ammunition for rapid fire guns. It is a little singular that she should be behind in the matter of making ammunition. The Chinese invented gunpowder, but all the new forms of destructive ammunition have been surprises to them.

The Chinese are very imitative, and when they saw that Japan held a place among the powers merely because of her military spirit naturally they wished to show what China can do in the same line. The powers fostered this pride and sent officers into the provinces to train the local armies, sent engineers to teach their art and skilled men to direct the manufacture of rifles

The FARMERS SUPPLY ASSOCIATION LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.

Within the last few years the practice of buying goods by "mail orders" has grown rapidly in popular favor. Large sums of money are sent out from Nebraska and other western states each month to supply houses in Chicago and other eastern cities in payment for goods and merchandise to be shipped to the various stations in the west. In every instance the western farmer or purchaser pays the freight, figured at local rates. To avoid this enormous loss to the consumers in Nebraska and adjoining states THE FARMERS SUPPLY ASSOCIATION, of Lincoln, has been organized and is putting in one of the largest supply houses in the west. In the stock will be found everything that a farmer needs from a needle to a threshing machine. Everything is sold for cash at wholesale prices. Everything is of the best quality and fully warranted. Comparison is invited and your patronage solicited.

DOUBLE HARNESS



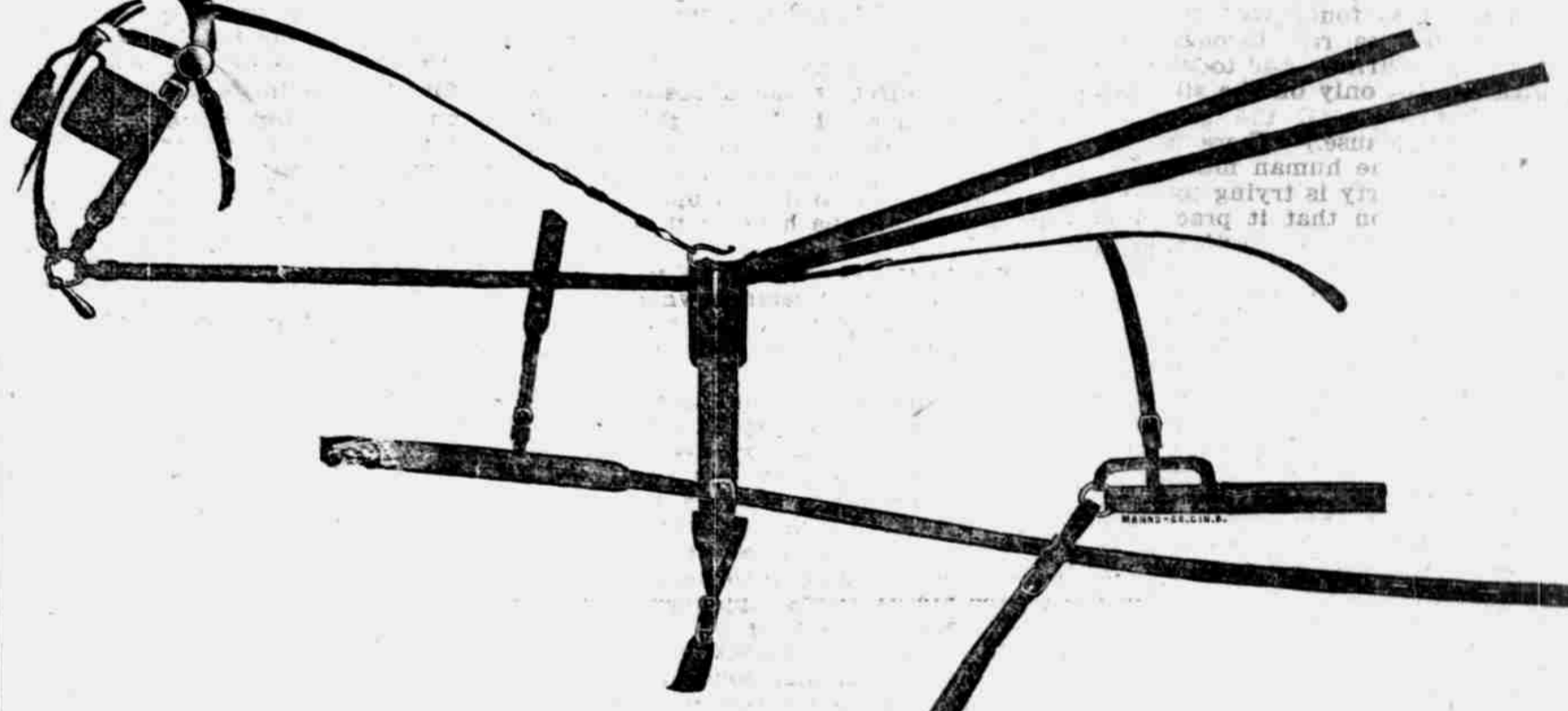
- Long Tug Wheel Harness
A Harness for Small Horses
Long Tug Lead Harness
DOUBLE SPRING WAGON HARNESS
CAMPBELL LOCK STITCH.

RANGES.



- No. 1060—Bridles 1/2 inch, pigeon-wing blinds; Lines, 4-inch, 14 feet long, snap ends; Hames, wood, painted black, with red tops, iron bound; Collars, full metal seamed, split leather rim and shoulder, imitation Kip Face. Traces, 1/2 inch double and stitched, clip cock eye ends; Back Bands, harness leather, felt lined, 1 inch lay; Belly Bands, 1 inch, flat riveted; Breaching, 1 inch single strap, 1 inch turnback, 1 inch hip straps; Breast Straps, 1 1/2 inch double and stitched, with slides and snaps; Choice Straps, Straps, 1 inch.

SINGLE HARNESS.



- No. 1000—Single Buggy Harness—Campbell Lock Stitch.
Regular Price \$13.50. Our Price \$10.00
No. 2—Single Buggy Harness—Campbell Lock Stitch.
Regular Price \$16.00. Our Price \$11.00
No. 10—Single Buggy Harness—Campbell Lock Stitch.
Regular Price \$20.00. Our Price \$14.00
No. 20—Single Buggy Harness. Hand Made.
Regular Price \$18.00. Our Price \$12.00

Wholesale prices to consumers.
All Goods guaranteed of best quality.
Comparison and patronage invited

The Farmers Supply Ass'n, Lincoln, Nebraska.