

OUR COAST DEFENSES.

REVIEW OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.

Protection of Harbors—Mines and Guns Make New York Fairly Safe—Much of the Coast Exposed—Value of the National Guard in an Emergency.

The system of coast defense which has been mapped out for the United States is surely formidable enough, but unfortunately it is not quite as near a state of perfection as could be desired in case of actual hostilities with a powerful enemy.

High Power Guns.

Emplacements for high power guns are either finished or nearly so at the following points: Portland Head and Great Diamond Island, Portland, Me.; Fort Constitution, Portsmouth, N. H.; Grover's Cliff, Paddock's Island, Long Island Head, Boston harbor; Dutch Island, Narragansett Bay, Great Gull, and Plum Islands, eastern entrance Long Island Sound; Fort Hancock, New York harbor; Flinn's Point, approach to Philadelphia; North and Hawkins' Points, approach to Baltimore; Fort Washington and Sheridan Point, approach to Washington, D. C.; Fort Caswell, Wilmington, N. C.; Fort Moultrie, S. C.; Tybee Island, Savannah; Fort Morgan, Mobile, Ala.; Fort St. Philip, New Orleans; Fort Point, Galveston, Tex.; Ballast Point, San Diego, Cal.; Fort Baker, San Francisco harbor; Marrowstone Head, Puget Sound. Guns are in position at Fort Hancock, New York harbor; Portland Head, Me.; Grover's Cliff, Boston; the approaches to Philadelphia and Washington; Fort Caswell, Charleston, Mobile and Galveston harbors. At Fort Hancock, Sandy Hook, there are mounted two fifteen-inch and one eight-inch pneumatic dynamite guns, two twelve-inch and four ten-inch rifles, and a mortar battery of sixteen twelve-inch mortars.

Guarding the Narrows.

Forts Hamilton and Wadsworth, guarding the Narrows, are amply provided with eight and ten-inch rifles and

Spain has been obtaining most of her coal from the United States. An instance in point is the Vizcaya, which received a supply of coal in New York after its trip from Spain. The only formidable sea coast fortifications Spain possesses in Cuba are in Havana. There are the defensive works at Playa del Chino, which mount two twelve-inch rifles; the Santa Clara battery, mounting four eight-inch and three ten-inch modern guns.

Militia Under President.

In replying to a criticism that the President can not send the militia out of the United States, as they are strictly a home guard, the Army and Navy Journal will say: "We have made no mistake. The control of the President over the militia is absolute and unlimited in time of necessity, and as he is the sole judge of that necessity there is practically no limit upon his discretion. In speaking of the militia, however, we refer to the national militia and not to the national guard. Most of the members of the national guard are militiamen, and as such are subject individually to the orders of the President, issued in accordance with law, but the organizations of the guard are not recognized by the government as organizations.

Gun Cotton Didn't Explode.

Among the latest discoveries in the Maine is a startling one made by Gunner Morgan. He found a lot of gun cotton in the crystal tubes in which it was kept. The tubes were intact, and the gun cotton absolutely dry. It was the highest explosive on board the battleship, and it is intact.

Petitions of Coast Cities.

Now that the government has entered upon a definite policy of constructing and equipping sea coast defenses to meet the exigency of war, scores of persons representing various cities and towns on the Atlantic and gulf coasts have applied to the war department for a generous share of the expenditures to be made for such purposes. As a rule the administration refuses to be impressed by the petitions for defense at particular points. The definite policy has already been adopted of following the judgment of the army engineering corps, modified by the advice of army officers, whose opinions in strategic matters are expert. Above all, the department aims to make expenditures at this time with particular reference to the danger of war with Spain at an early day.

The President has authorized allotment of \$2,975,000 for the use of the engineering branch of the army in constructing sea coast defenses, mount-

officer at the department said that 5,000 landmen could be secured in a day if they were desired.

The New Projectile Thrown.

The ordnance bureau of the war department has just awarded contracts for a large number of steel armor piercing and deck piercing projectiles for the coast fortification guns. There were several bidders, but instead of giving the contract to one concern, the bureau divided the contract so that supplies will be coming from several quarters at the same time. The award is as follows: Carpenter steel company—150 eight-inch armor-piercing shot, 300 ten-inch armor-piercing shot, 150 ten-inch armor-piercing shell, 250 twelve-inch deck-piercing shell of 800 pounds each, 238 twelve-inch deck-piercing shell of 1,600 pounds each. Sterling steel company—100 eight-inch armor-piercing shell, 150 ten-inch armor-piercing shot, 250 ten-inch armor-piercing shell, 250 twelve-inch deck-piercing shell of 800 pounds each, 205 twelve-inch deck-piercing shell of 1,600 pounds each. Midvale steel company—680 twelve-inch deck-piercing shell of 800 pounds each, 344 twelve-inch deck-piercing shell of 1,000 pounds each.

Chicago's Plans Are Changed.

A change has been made at the Brooklyn navy yard in the plans for preparing the cruiser Chicago for sea. Several mounts for the five-inch guns had been hoisted aboard during the week, but have now been put back on the dock. It is said the mounts are being held for possible use on the auxiliary cruisers. The Dolphin is slated to go into commission Thursday. Commander Lyons is now engaged in selecting the rapid fire guns for his vessel.

TWO VOICES.

A SOUTHERN VOLUNTEER. Yes, sir, I fought with Stonewall, And faced the fight with Lee; But if this here Union goes to war, Make one more gun for me! I didn't shrink from Sherman As he galloped to the sea; But if this here Union goes to war, Make one more gun for me!

I was with 'em at Manassas— The bully boys in Gray; I heard the thunderer roarin' Round Stonewall Jackson's way, And many a time this sword of mine Has blazed the route for Lee; But if this old Nation goes to war, Make one more sword for me!

I'm not so full o' fightin', Nor half so full o' fun, As I was back in the sixties. When I shouldered my old gun; It may be that my hair is white— Such things, you know, must be, But if this old Union's in for war, Make one more gun for me!

I h-in't forgot my raisin'— Nor how, in sixty-two, Or thereabouts, with battle shouts I charged the Boys in Blue; And I say: I fought with Stonewall, And blazed the way for Lee; But if this old Union's in for war, Make one more gun for me! —Atlanta Constitution.

HIS NORTHERN BROTHER, Just make it two, old fellow, I want to stand once more Beneath the old flag with you, As in the days of yore Our fathers stood together And fought on land and sea The battles fierce that made us A nation of the free.

I whipped you down at Vicksburg, You licked me at Bull Run; On many a field we struggled, When neither victory won. You wore the gray of Southland, I wore the Northern blue; Like me we did our duty When screaming bullets flew.

Four years we fought like devils, But when the war was done Your hand met mine in friendly clasp, Our two hearts beat as one. And now when danger threatens, No North, no South, we know, Once more we stand together To fight the common foe.

My head, like yours, is frosty— Old age is creeping on; Life's sun is lower sinking, My day will soon be gone. But if our country's honor Needs once again her son, I'm ready, too, old fellow— So get another gun. —Minneapolis Journal.

Operations in Mexico.

Secret agents of the Madrid and Havana governments will proceed to Vera Cruz soon upon a Spanish warship, probably the Vizcaya, to promote an anti-American sentiment against the United States, and they seem to think Mexico will co-operate with such an Austro-Spanish alliance to prevent Americans from acquiring absolute command of the Gulf of Mexico. They will try to affect sentiment in Mexico by the establishment of newspapers at the capital and the subsidizing of others throughout the republic. Like commissions will be sent to Venezuela, Chile and other South American countries, accompanied by experienced press agents. It is reported that the Austrian cruiser Donau will follow the coast to Mexico to emphasize its commander's opinion expressed in the toast at the banquet that Spain and Austria are to revenge the Maximilian incident. These bombastic freaks seem to wish the strutting up of Diaz as well as Uncle Sam. The Spanish colony in Mexico is said to be preparing a grand reception at Vera Cruz to the battleship Vizcaya.

Many Millionaires in Berlin.

It is an easy thing to be a millionaire in Berlin. A yearly income of \$5,000, representing the interest on 1,000,000 marks, is the qualification for that title, which is enjoyed by 2,092 Berliners. The rich set of the millionaires has a capital of about \$31,000,000.

THE MARCH 4TH EDITION OF THE AMERICAN CONTAINS A COMPLETE REPORT OF THE SALINA CLEWETT CASE AGAINST THE HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD, of St. Paul, Minnesota. THE Daily Newspapers have not dared to publish the proceedings in this celebrated case, which has been on trial in the St. Paul Courts for some weeks, but THE AMERICAN will give its readers a full report made up from the Court Records. Owing to the large demand for extra copies of the March 4th edition of THE AMERICAN already booked we have decided to print many thousands of extra papers and will supply them at the following prices: 1,000 copies, \$10.00; 500 copies, \$7.50; 100 copies, \$2.00; 50 copies, \$1.25; 10 copies, 30 cents. Cash must accompany the order. AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, 1615 Howard Street, OMAHA, NEB.

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JUST THINK of the vast amount of good you will be able to do by sending a few sample copies of THE AMERICAN in sending a silver dime cut a hole in a thin card board the size of the dime. Paste paper over dime on both sides of the card and the dime will not be lost when enclosed in an envelope. Any FRIEND who will send 50 of THESE BALLOTS with in each can have 250 copies of that edition of your friends should read it. CUT OUT the following Coupon, write the names of your choice thereon and the names and addresses of the person to whom you wish the papers sent on another slip of paper and enclose all in an envelope together with a silver Dime and mail it to us; each coupon will be entitled to one vote for choice for President and Vice President.

BALLOT. For President in 1900, For Vice-President in 1900, HIS WORST BLOW YET FOR ROME! BISHOP J. V. MCNAMARA, The Converted Priest, has brought through Press His New Book, entitled "Rev. Mother Rose. A Bishop and Two Priests." Price in Paper Cover 25 cts. Sent by Mail.

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RELIGION IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES. An Essay by Chase Roys, throwing a blaze of light on American history—shows that the Jesuits were the cause of all the colonial wars, Indian and French massacres of those times and many startling facts not generally known. In pamphlet form—Price 10 Cents. Address: CHASE ROYS, Washington, D. C.

W. A. SAUNDERS, Attorney, Merchants National Bank. SHERIFF'S SALE—By virtue of an order of sale issued out of the district court for Douglas county, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 12th day of April, A. D. 1898, at ten o'clock A. M. of said day, at the EAST front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas county, Nebraska, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash the property described in said order of sale as follows to-wit: Lots four (4) in block 134, and lot five (5) in block 164 of the Original Plat of the city of Omaha, as surveyed, platted and recorded, all situated in Douglas county, state of Nebraska. Said property to be sold to satisfy Walter E. Keeler, plaintiff herein, the sums as follows, to-wit: On lot 4 in block 134, above described, the sum of \$1,997.00, together with an attorney's fee of \$100.00; On lot 5 in block 164, above described, the sum of \$675.45, together with an attorney's fee of \$100.00. Which said amounts according to the judgment of the district court bear interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum from September 25th, 1896, and are first lien upon said property. To satisfy the further sum of three hundred and nineteen and 15/100 (\$319.15) dollars costs herein, together with accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas county, at its September term, A. D. 1896, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Walter E. Keeler is plaintiff and Phoebe Rebecca Elizabeth Elwine Linton and Adolphus Frederick Linton, her husband, John Morris, William Morris and Frank Crisp, co-partners doing business as Ashurst, Morris, Crisp & Company, John Whittaker Cooper and William Isaac Shard are defendants. Omaha, Nebraska, March 11th, 1897. JOHN W. McDONALD, Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska. Walter E. Keeler vs. Linton, et al. Dec. 35, No. 174. Ex-Doc. 11, Page 96. 3-11-5

DR. C GEE WO He Treats all Acute and Chronic Diseases, such as Catarrh, Rheumatism, Sick Headache, Female Weakness, Lost Manhood, Nervous Debility, Kidney, Liver and Stomach Troubles, all diseases. REFERENCE: DR. F. WILLIAMS, ISAAC S. HASCALL, 150 South Thirteenth street, Omaha. Mr. Williams is secretary of Omaha Republican Bimetallic League. Mr. Hascall has for years been a member of the Omaha city council. Ex-Constable Clark, 313 South Fourteenth street. Charles Carlson, corner Twentieth and Ames avenue, kidney and bladder trouble, 4 years' standing. John Brooks, 524 North Eighteenth street, of sprained back, liver and kidney trouble of three years' standing. Is now a well man. Mrs. H. A. Dugay, 504 Park avenue, Kansas City, Mo. Heart trouble and nervous debility of many years' standing.

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A VIEW OF BARCELONA, SPAIN. COULD BE EASILY BOMBARDED.

mortars, as also are Fort Schuyler, Wilet's Point, and Fort Slocum, guarding the approaches to the eastern entrance of the harbor. Submarine mines are to be relied upon in a great measure to keep hostile ships out of New York harbor, or at least greatly retard their advance, and give the artillery men a chance to effectively serve their guns. In this connection, it is well to show the weakness of the Long Island southern coast, which is in the main unprotected, and would serve as an excellent landing place for a foreign enemy, who might gain decisive advantages if steps were not taken to oppose him. In view of the extent of this Long Island coast line, a large number of men would be required for this patrol duty, and it is here that the National Guard of New York might be utilized. These, numbering about 13,000, might be mobilized in two days in and around New York City, and soon be in readiness for active work.

Use for Infantry. Infantry would be of great use in case of hostilities by serving in and about sea-coast defenses, doing sentinel and police duty and allowing the trained artillerymen to give their entire attention to serving the high power guns. In this manner the maximum efficiency would be obtained from the artillery. In offensive operations in Cuba the infantry would be the active force, and would bear the brunt of the fighting. The present force available is inadequate, and must be expanded before campaigning begins. This shows the urgent need of the immediate passage by Congress of the regular infantry reorganization bill and the national militia bill. Immediately after a declaration of hostilities all available troops would be ordered by the President to concentrate on the Atlantic coast, and probably a portion would be transported to Cuba to aid the insurgents, who would redouble their activity.

Be that as it may, we must attend to our defense first, and then we may become aggressive. Well fortified and well defended coast defenses, with the co-operation of the infantry, can surely keep out hostile ships and prevent landing by the enemy. Large battleships and cruisers can not and do not run by forts well armed and served. Let us pay close attention to this fact.

Not Easy for Spain to Coal. Spain would have difficulty in coaling if she were at war with the United States. Puerto Rico would soon be untenable as a base of supplies. A battleship without coal is useless, and

ing guns, and for other work in connection with that department. The war department has answered all inquiries in reference to new coast defenses with the statement that no additional projects will be considered. The funds which the President will authorize the department to use are to be applied for the completion of works already under way.

EXPENSES CLIMBING UP.

Vast Increase in Pay Rolls. Some idea of the activity in naval circles is given by the statement that the pay roll of the construction department, only one of several departments, in the Mare Island navy yard for March was \$80,000. This great expenditure during the late war. It is said to be the purpose of the President and his advisers to keep a separate and distinct account of all funds expended from the \$50,000,000 emergency appropriation made by congress for the na-



SPANISH LEGATION, WASHINGTON.

tional defense. In accordance with this intention a separate form of requisition has been prepared and all amounts allotted from the fund are made upon the direct order signed by the President himself. "The President wants to report to congress just how every cent of this money is spent," said a member of the cabinet today, "and for this reason is adopting the course above outlined." The amount paid for the Mayflower was about \$400,000.

Recruiting for Navy.

Recruiting is going on apace at all stations for the army and navy. The Michigan at Erie, Pa., has enlisted 55 men so far, and good reports come from all quarters. The Columbia and the Minneapolis are still 219 men short of their proper force. This is accounted for by the fact that firemen, machinists and coal passers are wanted. An