

ation and maintenance of the national wealth is now more fully realized than ever before.

Wise forest protection does not mean the withdrawal of forest resources, neither of good water or game, from contributing their full share to the welfare of the people, but, on the contrary, gives the assurance of larger and more certain supplies.

The practical usefulness of the national forest reserves to the mining, grazing, irrigation and other interests of the regions in which the reserves lie has led to a widespread demand by the people for the forest reserves to be protected and extended.

At present the protection of the forest reserves rests with the general land office, the mapping and surveying of the land, and the preparation of plans for their conservative use with the bureau of forestry, which is also charged with the general advancement of the forest reserves.

The present diffusion of responsibility is from every standpoint a defective one. It is not effective co-operation between the government and the men who utilize the resources of the reserves without which the interests of both must suffer.

The scientific bureau should be placed under the department of agriculture. The president should have by law the power of transferring lands for use as forest reserves to the department of agriculture.

The wise administration of the forest reserves will be not less helpful to interests which depend upon water than to those which depend upon wood and grass.

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In the late war with Spain the ships that dealt the decisive blows at Manila and Santiago had been launched from two to fourteen years, and they were able to do as they did because the men in the conning towers, the gun turrets and the engine rooms had through long years of practice at sea learned how to handle their weapons.

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Under the wise legislation of the congress and the successful administration of a succession of patriotic secretaries of the navy belonging to both political parties the work of upbuilding the navy went on, and ships equal to any in the world of their kind were continually added, and what was even more important, these ships were exercised at sea singly and in squadrons until the men aboard them were able to get the best possible service out of them.

The result was that in the short war with Spain which was decided with such rapidity because of the infinitely greater preparedness of our navy than of the Spanish navy.

The Part Played by Congress. While awarding the fullest honor to the men who actually commanded and manned the ships which destroyed the Spanish fleet in the Philippines and in Cuba, we must not forget that an equal meed of praise belongs to those without whom neither blow could have been won, and without whose patriotic secretaries years in advance the money to lay down the ships, to build the guns, to buy the armor plate, the department officials and the business men and workmen who furnished what the congress had authorized, the secretaries of the navy who asked for and expended the appropriations and finally the officers who in fair weather and foul on actual sea service trained and disciplined the crews of the ships when there was no war in sight— all are entitled to a full share in the glory of Manila and Santiago and the respect accorded by every true American to those who wrought such signal triumph for our country.

It was forethought and preparation which secured us the overwhelming triumph of 1898. If we fall to show forethought and preparation now, there may come a time when disaster will befall us instead of triumph, and should this time come the fault will rest primarily not upon those whom the accident of events puts in supreme command at the moment, but upon those who have failed to prepare in advance.

There should be no cessation in the work of completing our navy. So far ingenuity has been wholly unable to devise a substitute for the great war craft equipped with the most powerful guns of the high seas. It is unsafe and unwise not to provide this year for several additional battleships and heavy armored cruisers, with auxiliary and lighter craft in proportion. For the exact numbers and character I refer you to the report of the secretary of the navy. But there is something we need even more than additional ships, and this is additional officers and men. To man our battleships and cruisers we must lay them up, with the expectation of leaving them unmanued until they are needed in actual war, would be worse than folly. It would be a crime against the nation.

More Men Required. To send any warship against a competent enemy unless those aboard it have been trained by years of actual sea service, including incessant gunnery practice, would be to invite not merely disaster, but the bitterest shame and humiliation. To send a thousand additional marines should be provided, and an increase in the officers should be provided by making a large addition to the classes at Annapolis. There is another small matter which should be mentioned in connection with Annapolis. The pretentious and unmeaning title of "naval cadet" should be abolished; the title of "midshipman," full of historic associations, should be restored.

Even in time of peace a warship should be used until it wears out, for only so can it be kept fit to respond to any emergency. The officers and men alike should be kept as much as possible on blue water for it is there only they can learn their duties as they should be learned. The big vessels should be maneuvered in squadrons containing not merely battleships, but the necessary proportion of cruisers and scouts. The torpedo boats should be handled by the younger officers in such manner as will best fit the latter to take their part in any emergency.

Every detail ashore which can be performed by a civilian should be so performed, the officer being kept for his special duty in the sea service. Ashore the gunnery practice should be unceasing. It is important to have our navy of adequate size, but it is even more important that, ship for ship, it should equal in efficiency any navy in the world. This is possible only with highly drilled crews and officers, and this in turn imperatively demands continuous and progressive instruction in target practice, ship handling, squadron tactics and general discipline. Our ships must be assembled in squadrons actively cruising away from harbors and never long at anchor, so that the crews will be kept in the hulls must be endured. A battleship worn out in long training of officers and men is well paid for by the results, while, on the other hand, no matter in how excellent condition it is useless if the crew be not expert.

The Necessity of Drill. We now have seventeen battleships appropriated for, of which nine are completed and have been commissioned for actual service. The remaining eight will be ready in from two to four years, but it will take at least that time to recruit and train the men to fight them. It is of vast concern that we have trained crews ready for the vessels by the time they are commissioned. Good ships and good crews are simply good weapons, and the best weapons are useless save in the hands of men who know how to fight with them. The men must be trained and drilled under a thorough and well planned system of progressive instruction, while the recruiting must be carried on with still greater vigor. Every effort must be made to exact the main function of the officer—the command of men. The leading graduates of the Naval academy should be assigned to combatant branches, the line and marine.

Many of the essentials of success are already recognized by the general board, which, as the central office of a growing staff, is moving steadily toward a proper efficiency and a proper efficiency of the whole navy under the secretary. This general board, by fostering the creation of a general staff, is providing for the official and then the general recognition of our present conditions as a nation of the true meaning of a great war fleet, which means, first, the best men, and second, the best ships.

The naval militia forces are state organizations and are trained for coast service, and in event of war they will constitute the reserve line of defense. They should receive hearty encouragement from the general government.

But, in addition, we should at once provide for a national naval reserve organized and trained under the direction of the navy department and subject to the call of the chief executive whenever war becomes imminent. It should be a real auxiliary to the naval seagoing peace establishment, and should be found in time of war. It should be composed of graduates of the Naval academy, graduates of the naval militia, officers and crews of coast line steamers, longshore schooner fishing vessels and steam yachts, together with the coast population about such centers as life saving stations and lighthouses.

The American people must either build and man an adequate navy or else make up their minds definitely to accept a secondary position in international affairs, not merely in political but in commercial matters. It has been well said that the only way to avoid a national disaster than to be "opulent, aggressive and unarmed."

It is not necessary to increase our army beyond its present size at this time, but it is necessary to keep it at the highest point of efficiency. This is the duty of those who are in command of the army, and we have good reason to believe, at least as efficient as those of any other army in the entire world. It is our duty to see that their training is of a kind to insure the highest possible expression of power to these units when acting in combination.

The conditions of modern war are such as to make an infinitely heavier and more than ever before upon the individual character and capacity of the officer and the enlisted man and to make it far more difficult for men to act together with effect. At present the fighting is done in extended order, which means that each man must act for himself and at the same time act in combination with others with whom he is no longer in the old fashioned show to show each other, under such conditions a few men of the highest excellence are worth more than many men without the special skill which is only found as the result of special training applied to men of exceptional physique. It is possible, but nowadays the most valuable fighting man and the most difficult to perfect is the rifeman who is also a skillful and daring rider.

America's interest in the material effects upon our business prosperity, and yet with a view to these effects alone it would be to the last degree important for us immediately to begin it. While its benefits are incalculable, perhaps the most marked upon the Pacific coast and the Gulf and South Atlantic states, it would also greatly benefit other sections. It is emphatically a work which it is for the interest of our country to begin and complete as soon as possible; it is one of those great works which only a great nation can undertake with prospects of success and which when done are not merely permanent assets in the nation's material interests, but standing monuments to its constructive ability.

I am glad to be able to announce to you that our negotiations on this subject with Great Britain, conducted on both sides in a spirit of friendliness and mutual goodwill and respect, have resulted in my being able to lay before the senate a treaty which if ratified will enable us to begin preparations for an isthmian canal in the spring of 1902, and which guarantees to our nation every right that it has ever asked in connection with the canal.

This treaty, the old Clayton-Bulwer treaty, so long recognized as inadequate to supply the base for the construction and maintenance of a necessarily American ship canal, is abrogated. It specifically provides that the United States alone shall do the work of building and assume the responsibility of safeguarding the canal and shall regulate its neutral use by all nations on terms of equality without the guarantee or interference of any outside nation from any quarter. The signed treaty will at once be laid before the senate and if approved the congress can then proceed to give effect to the advantages it secures us by providing for the building of the canal.

The true end of every great and free people is self-respecting peace, and this nation most earnestly desires sincere and cordial friendship with all others. Over the entire world of recent years have between the great civilized powers have become a more and more marked one of barbarous and semibarbarous peoples come in an entirely deplorable category, being merely a most regrettable but necessary international police duty which must be performed for the benefit of the world.

The Monroe Doctrine. This same peace conference acquiesced in our statement of the Monroe doctrine as compatible with the purposes and aims of the conference. The Monroe doctrine should be the cardinal feature of the foreign policy of all the nations of the two Americas as it is of the United States. Just seventy-eight years have passed since President Monroe in his annual message announced to the world our policy of non-interference. It is not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power.

In other words, the Monroe doctrine is a declaration that there must be no territorial acquisition by any American power at the expense of any American power on American soil. It is in nowise intended as hostile to any nation in the world. Still less is it intended to give occasion for aggression by the new world power at the expense of any other. It is simply a step, and a long step, toward assuring the universal peace of the world by securing the possibility of permanent peace in this hemisphere.

During the past century other influences have established the permanence and independence of the smaller states of Europe. Through the Monroe doctrine we have determined to secure like independence and secure like permanence for the lesser among the new world nations. This doctrine has nothing to do with the commercial relations of any American nation to form such as it desires. In other words, it is really a guarantee of the commercial independence of the Americas. We do not ask under this doctrine that we should not have commercial dealings with any other American state. We do not guarantee any state against punishment if it misconducts itself provided that punishment may be taken in the form of the acquisition of territory by any non-American power.

Our attitude in Cuba is a sufficient guarantee of our own good faith. We have never asked Cuba to secure its sovereignty at the expense of any of our neighbors. We wish to work with them hand in hand, so that all of us may be uplifted together, and we rejoice over the good fortune of the island which has secured its material prosperity and political stability and are concerned and alarmed if any of them fall into industrial or political backwardness. We do not wish to see any old power reassert its influence on the continent or to be compelled to become a military power ourselves. The peoples of the Americas can prosper best if left to work out their own salvation in their own way.

The work of upbuilding the navy must be steadily continued. No one point of our policy, foreign or domestic, is more important than this to the honor and material well-being of the nation and the opportunity of our nation in the future. Whether we desire it or not we must henceforth recognize that we have international duties no less than international rights. Even if our flag were hauled down in the Philippines and Porto Rico, even if we decided not to build the isthmian canal, we should need a thoroughly trained navy of adequate size to insure our rights. It is our duty for all time to abandon the idea that our nation is among those whose sons go down to the sea in ships. Unless our commerce is always to be carried in foreign vessels we must have war craft to protect it.

Inasmuch, however, as the American people have no thought of abandoning the path upon which they have entered, and especially in view of the fact that the building of the isthmian canal is fast becoming one of the matters which the whole people are united in demanding, it is imperative that our navy should be put and kept at the highest state of efficiency and should be made to answer to our growing needs. So far from being in any way a provocation to war, an adequate and highly trained navy is the best guarantee against war, the cheapest and most effective peace insurance. The cost of building and maintaining such a navy represents the very lightest premium for insuring peace which this nation can possibly pay.

Probably no other great nation in the world is so anxious for peace as we are. There is not a single civilized power which has anything whatever to fear from our aggressiveness. On the other hand, we want peace, and toward this end we wish to be able to secure the same respect for our rights from others which we are eager and anxious to extend to their rights in return, to insure fair treatment to us commercially and to guarantee the safety of the American people.

Our people intend to abide by the Monroe doctrine and to insist upon it as the one sure means of securing the peace of the western hemisphere. The navy offers us the only means of making our insistence upon the Monroe doctrine anything more than a declaration of intention. We desire the peace which comes as of right to the just man armed; not the peace granted on terms of ignominy to the craven and the weakling.

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