

the relation of the national guard to the militia and volunteer forces of the United States should be made, and that the place of the national guard as a practical and efficient system should be adopted.

Provision should be made to enable the secretary of war to keep cavalry and artillery horses when out on the public service of the country. Such horses often but a trifling value sold, and rather than turn them out to the misery awaiting them when thus disposed of it would be better to provide that at light work around the posts and when necessary to put them painlessly to death.

For the first time in our history naval maneuvers on a large scale are being held under the immediate command of the admiral of the navy. Such horses often but a trifling value sold, and rather than turn them out to the misery awaiting them when thus disposed of it would be better to provide that at light work around the posts and when necessary to put them painlessly to death.

The first time in our history naval

maneuvers on a large scale are being held under the immediate command of the admiral of the navy.

Constantly increasing attention is being paid to the gunnery of the navy, but it is yet far from what it should be.

The earnest urge that the increase

placed in the gunnery of the navy in the appropriation for improving the marksmanship be granted.

In battle the only shots that count are the shots that hit; it is necessary to provide ample

time for practice with the guns in time of peace.

These funds must provide not only for the purchase of projectiles

but for allowances for prizes to encourage gun crews, and especially the gun pointers, and for perfecting the training

system under which alone it is possible to get good practice.

There should be no halt in the work of

building up the great railroad system of our nation's fighting craft.

We have a very rich country, vast in extent of territory and great in population, a country,

however, which has an army diminutive indeed, and which is not possessed of other first class power.

We have deliberately made our own certain foreign policies which demand the possession of a first class navy.

The isthmian canal will speedily be completed if we can afford it.

If the navy is of sufficient size, but if we have an inadequate navy then the building

of the canal would be merely giving a

host to any power of aggression attacking.

The Monroe doctrine should be treated as

the cardinal feature of American foreign

policy, but it would be worse than idle

to assert it unless we intended to back it up.

It would be cracked up over a

thorough good navy, and a small navy

not a provocative of war.

If it is the surest

guaranty of peace.

Each individual unit of our navy should

be the personal object of its kit as regards

both material and personnel that is to be

found in the world.

I call your special

attention to the need of providing for the

manning of the ships, particularly training

them so that we cannot do better than

we are now doing as regards securing the

services of a sufficient number of the highest

type of seafarers, of sea mechanics.

The veteran members of our warships are

of all kinds, type as can be found in the

navy which rides the waters of the world.

They are unsurpassed in daring, in resolution,

in endurance, in thorough knowledge

of their profession, and in every consideration

that can be shown them.

But there are not enough of them.

It is more possible to improvise a crew than

it is possible to improvise a warship.

To build up a ship, to man it, to maintain it,

battery, and to send it afloat with a raw

crew, no matter how brave they were in

individually, would be to insure disaster if a

few of average capacity were encountered.

Nothing can be done, nothing can be improvised

when war has begun.

We need a thousand additional officers

in order to properly man the ships now

provided for and needed construction.

This class at the navy school at Annapolis

should be greatly enlarged.

At the same time that we thus add the officers where

we need them, we should facilitate the re-

ruitment among the men of the land who

whose usefulness has been largely ignored.

Promotion must be fostered if the service

is to be kept efficient.

The lamentable situation of officers and

men of rank and of men of in-

skilled men necessarily put aboard the

new vessels as they have been com-

misioned has thrown upon our officers and

especially on the lieutenants and junior

grades, an undue labor and fatigue and has

gravely strained their powers of endurance.

Nor is there sign of any immediate

letup in this strain.

It must continue for some time to come, however, before the

graduates from Annapolis can until the

recruits become trained and skillful in

their duties. In these difficulties incident

upon the development of our war fleet the

complaints of all kinds are not to be expected

as far as the service is concerned.

It is to be hoped that the congress will make

liberal arrangements for the compensation of the

service already established and for its further ex-

ension.

Few subjects of more importance have been

raised by the congress in recent years than the

inauguration of the system of nationally aided

irrigation for the arid regions of the far west.

A good beginning therein has been made.

Now that this policy of national irrigation has been

adopted, the most rapid and effective form

of protection will grow more rapidly than ever

throughout the public land states.

Legislation should be provided for the protec-

tion of the public land and creation generally

on the forest reserves. The senseless slasher

of game, which can by judicious protection be

permanently preserved on our national reserves

for the people, for instance, against the

buffalo and the elk, and against the bear and

the grizzly bear, and so on, against the

moose and the deer, and so on, against the

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