

SHERIDAN'S ARMY ON BORDER

Historical Precedent for Present Mobilization of Troops.

STIRRING TIMES ON RIO GRANDE

Tactical Situation at Close of Civil War and How it Was Handled—Withdrawal of French Troops.

The mobilization of thousands of United States troops in Texas is not a novelty in the history of the War Department. While it is said that the troops are in Texas merely for maneuvers, such was not the case when General "Phil" Sheridan was sent into that state with 20,000 veteran troops.

This move followed the occupation of Mexico by the French and the placing of Maximilian on the throne by Napoleon. When the American civil war was at its height, the emperor of the French sent troops to Mexico to establish a throne there, believing the government of the United States too much occupied with war to attempt to enforce the Monroe doctrine.

The occupation of Mexico by the French army was the most radical infraction of that doctrine ever attempted. Not until after the battle of Gettysburg and the fall of Vicksburg did Secretary Seward deem it wise to notify the French that the proceedings in Mexico were distasteful to the United States government, and not until after the war did Mr. Seward find the time to demand of Napoleon that the French armies be withdrawn from Mexico.

Even before the grand review in Washington, prior to the disbandment of the armies of the union, in which he longed to march, General Sheridan was ordered to the Texas frontier to put down the rebellion in that quarter and also to reinforce the demand of the United States government that Maximilian and his European allies evacuate Mexico.

Sheridan Sent to Texas. The day after Sheridan arrived in Washington from Petersburg, he received orders transferring him to a new command. The order directed him to restore Texas and that part of Louisiana held by the enemy to the union. He was told that he could have all the troops that could be spared by Major General Canby in Louisiana—about 25,000 men of all arms—the troops that were with Major General T. J. Reynolds in Arkansas—12,000—the Fourth Army corps at Nashville and the Twenty-fifth Army corps in Virginia.

Sheridan promptly called on General Grant to see if his orders were to be considered so pressing as to preclude his remaining in Washington until after the grand review. General Grant told him that it was absolutely necessary to go at once to force the surrender of the confederates under Kirby Smith. At that interview General Grant also told Sheridan that there was an additional motive in sending him to the new command. The motive was not explained in the written instructions.

Grant said that he looked upon the invasion of Mexico by Maximilian as a part of the rebellion itself, because of the encouragement that invasion had received from the confederacy. Sheridan was told that it would be necessary for him to act with great care, as Seward was opposed to the use of United States troops along the border in any active way that would be likely to involve the country in a war with European powers.

Sheridan's written orders, signed by U. S. Grant, lieutenant-general, concluded as follows: "In case of an active campaign to hostile one, I think a heavy force should be put on the Rio Grande as a first preliminary. Troops for this might be started at once. The Twenty-fifth corps is now available, and to it should be added a force of white troops, say those now under Major-General Steele.

"To be clear on this last point, I think the Rio Grande should be strongly held, whether the force in Texas surrenders or not, and that no time should be lost in getting troops there. If war is to be made, they should be in the right place; if Kirby Smith surrenders, they will be on the line which is to be strongly garrisoned. "Should any force be necessary other than those designated, they can be had by calling for them on army headquarters."

Cavalry Sent Across State. Sheridan left Washington without participating in the grand review. When he arrived at his station, he decided to cross the state with two columns of cavalry, sending one to San Antonio under Major General Wesley Merritt, and the other to Houston under Major General George A. Custer. Several regiments of cavalry from the east bank of the Mississippi were added to the mounted forces.

By the time the two columns were ready to start for San Antonio and Houston, General Frank Herron, with one division of the Thirteenth corps, had occupied Galveston, and another division under General Fred Steele had gone to Brazos to hold Brownsville and the line of the Rio Grande.

The object was to keep the escaping confederates from joining Maximilian. Sheridan soon asked for an increase of his force, so that he could send troops elsewhere in Texas. He wanted to concentrate at available points in the state an army strong enough to move against the invaders of Mexico, if conditions demanded. The Fourth and Twenty-fifth corps were then ordered to report to him and he sent the former to Victoria and San Antonio, and the bulk of the latter to Brownsville. From Brazos, Santiago, Sheridan had to build a railroad to Clarksville, about eighteen miles. All this work was done by the soldiers. The railroad was needed to transport supplies for the forces at Brownsville and along the Rio Grande.

In the latter part of June, 1866, General Sheridan went to Brownsville himself to impress the imperialists with the idea that the United States meant business. He also sent General Steele to make demonstrations all along the lower Rio Grande, and at the same time demanded the return of certain munitions of war that had been turned over by ex-confederates to the imperial general commanding at Matamoros.

These demands, backed as they were by such a show of force—a force startling not only numerically, but because of its composition of veterans of one of the stubbornest wars in history—were the cause of demoralization among the imperial troops, and measures looking to the abandonment of northern Mexico were quickly adopted by the authorities.

This policy would probably have resulted in the speedy evacuation of the entire country by Maximilian, had not the United States government weakened. His aggressive policy, General Sheridan always thought, as he later set forth in his memoirs, would have brought about and the speedy evacuation of the entire country by the Maximilian government, ordered by the French, had Sheridan received permission to cross the Rio Grande into Mexico.

LOOK, WHAT HAVE WE HERE!

A Bunch of the Kind of Funny Stories Englishmen Tell.

LOCAL "COLOR" GETS THE LAUGH

Standard Specimens of the Potatoes Which Reach the Ristretto of J. Bull and His Family.

For several years I did a column of humorous matter for the Brooklyn Times to offset Bob Burdette's efforts in the same line for the Eagle, and after years of deliberation it is a question who worked off the most chestnuts, Bob or myself. It was obvious to the cub reporter. One day he peered on my desk 'twas I then considered an insult, but later confessed the truth of it was: "Chestnuts revamped."

There is nothing new under the sun. Fun, satire, wit and humor has lived upon the people of the earth so far in the past that history wots not its beginning. Over 4,000 years ago a Chinaman came to a neighbor and requested the loan of a hamper rope.

"I can not lend it to you, as I have some rope to tie up in it," was the reply to the request. "But you cannot tie up rope in a rope," insisted the borrower.

"I can tie anything up in a rope that I do not wish to lend." This story has been accredited to the Arabs also. It was an ancient Greek who cautioned his son not to go near the water until he had learned to swim.

According to George Ebers, the celebrated Egyptologist, the mother-in-law joke antedates the pyramids by a few hundred years. Of course, the humor of the ancients was somewhat intermittent. They had no Doesticks, Dickens, Naaby, Billings or Twain. Nowadays there is not a country that does not have one or more humorous publications.

Foreigners, as a rule, do not understand our wit and humor. Sir Alfred Harmsworth once remarked to me that American humor was coarse and sometimes brutal. Mark Twain and Peter Finley Dunne are the only American humorists who are accepted by Englishmen. On the other hand, we do not appreciate the humor of Punch, the Englishman's delight.

What They Laugh At. I have seen an Englishman laugh heartily over a joke in Punch that I couldn't see any point to, until it was explained to me, and no doubt that gentleman considered me as dense as we consider them when we tell them a funny story and get a sort of pained look, rather than trying to be sure, instead of the laugh which was expected.

It is the local application of the joke that counts the world over. The funniest thing I ever saw was the charge a yearling Hereford bull made at a barbed-wire fence in the Texas panhandle. He struck the fence full tilt and the rebound caused him to turn a complete back somersault. He landed on his hoofs all right, and then he stood all straddled out with a look of astonishment on his face that was almost human. It was so ludicrous that I laid down in the mesquite grass and rolled over in spasms of mirth. Then he began to howl like a whipped child, turned tail and ran as from a banisher.

I was at dinner in a Bradford club and told about it, expecting to get a laugh, but all I got was this from Hon. Smith Feather, mayor of that Yorkshire city. "By jove! I didn't know those wire fences were so strong. It's a jolly good thing the poor brute was whipped, but however much we may deplore the fact that Englishmen can not see the point to our stories, I will say that I heard many a good story while in England. I was put up at the Savage club, and there met many of the prominent men of London. One day I was invited to join a party at the round table and there I heard the following stories, which go to prove that an Englishman can tell a good story that we can appreciate.

Good-Bye to the Sergeant. By Dr. Leander Jameson, who was responsible for the Boer war: "A drill sergeant had an awkward squad out putting them through their paces. One in particular was aggravatingly dense and the sergeant began to rag him. "Ere, you red-head, old your 'ead bur' higher. There, you bally hum of a Tommy Atkins, 'old it there.' "Must I always 'old it this way, sergeant?" asked the recruit. "Yes, 'old it there, blyme you!" "Then good-by, sergeant; I'll never see you again."

A Disgrace to the German Army. "That puts me in mind of a story I heard in Berlin, said Bram Stoker, celebrated as Henry Irving's man Friday. "This German drill sergeant had his awkward squad out. His eye lit on one tow-headed chap who had just been torn from home and mother to serve his term. "Hey, you, your shoes are dirty!" "Yes, my lord." "And your clothes are not brushed!" "No, my lord." "And your gun is dirty!" "Yes, my lord." "And your buckles are rusty!" "Yes, my lord." "And you are not shaved!" "No, my lord." "Well, thunder and lightning, what is your name, anyway?" "My name is Schmitt, my lord."

"So your name is Schmitt is it? Gott in himmel, what won't you do next to disgrace the German army?" Why the Highland Train Stopped. By W. W. Jacobs, who looks like the impresario of a comic opera company, but who writes charming longshore stories that have made him famous: "That doesn't remind me of anything, but I'll tell you a yarn that struck me as funny. Last month I was on my way to Liverpool. About ten miles out the train stopped, then went on a few feet, then stopped again. This happened several times and finally we came to a dead stop. Thirty minutes passed by. Finally I saw one of the guards sitting on the embankment and shouted to him: "I say, Sandy, what's the matter. Is there a wreck ahead?" "No, no, no; the water is just gone off the rails."

The Scotchman Saw the Joker. By Lord Mashin, who when a poor man invented appliances which now make him one of the greatest push manufacturers in the world: "That reminds me of a Scotch story, and this time, as usual, the laugh is on Sandy. It seems that an American and Scotchman were making a pedestrian tour of the land of mist and oat cakes. They came to a little town that prided itself on its local museum. It really was an interesting place, as I believe they had Bob Bruce's original spider web there. After gazing the rounds they came to the exit, upon which was a card reading: "Those who can not read the inscription please apply to the blacksmith across the road."

"Of course, it struck the Yankee that couldn't read the card, and he had a good laugh over it. Brown explained it to MacGregor, but the Scot never cracked a smile. "That night they put up at a pub. Brown was tired and went to bed early, sleeping the sleep of exhaustion in the night Sandy woke him up, gleefully shouting: "Wake up, man! I see it! I see it! I see it!" "Well for heaven's sake, what is it you see? Hurry up and let me sleep!" "I see the joke, Brown. 'Is a gran' one. Ha! ha! The smithy might be out."

What He Got for Sixpence. By Richard Kavanaugh, managing director of the Theatre Royal in Dublin: "That reminds me, speaking of Scotchmen, of the Scots Greys, who were quartered near Waterford, Ireland. Major Abernethy and several of his junior officers were riding through the country on pleasure bent. The day was hot and the road dusty. Some one spoke up and said a glass of brandy and soda, cold wouldn't go bad. He got a chorus of assent, but mile after mile was covered and no public house fell in sight. "At least they saw a chap coming who evidently, from his attempt to walk on

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Come All Ye Male Bipedes to Culp-Langworthy Clothes Shop



Vernal Opening Tomorrow

Every man in this neck of the woods will be offered a liberal education in new fashions at this store tomorrow.

Old Mother Earth is putting on her new clothes---ARE YOU?

The grass is peeping out to see what's here---ARE YOU?

Our Grass is the new creations that cover men who live---come in tomorrow and see.

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How to Avoid Street Car Accidents

VIII--Standing Up in the Car

WHEN compelled to stand, always hold to a strap or to the back of a seat, if the car has cross seats. The reason for this rule is that the rounding of a curve, or a sudden stop or collision with another car, may throw you to the floor or against some other portion of the car with such force that a broken bone, dislocation of a joint, or a bad contusion may result.

Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Ry. Co.



EMBARRASSING SWEATY FEET HOW TO RELIEVE QUICKLY

Excessive perspiration is one of the most common of foot ailments, distressing and embarrassing to all with whom they come in contact. It is caused by the odor produced by the feet in a warm, moist condition. This trouble can be quickly stopped and eventually overcome by using the following treatment. Bathe the feet in a solution of water in which two table-spoonsful of Calceol compound has been dissolved. This will bring an immediate relief, leaving the feet cool, dry and refreshed. It should be repeated for several nights or until the perspiration is controlled. Calceol compound is a remarkable preparation for all kinds of ailments. It is no longer confined exclusively to the use of the medical profession, but can be purchased by the general public from any good druggist. If he does not have it in stock, a package will be sent from his wholesale house. A package that sells for twenty-five cents is sufficient quantity to use for several weeks in fine condition. Calceol has a wonderful quick action for the relief and cure of corns, bunions, itching nails and tender feet. Frequently use two applications will result in a cure. Adv.

BRIEF CITY NEWS

Have Root Print It. Eyes Tested Free—Ivan Jewelry Co. Gas, Electric Fixtures, Burgess-Grandes. Times, Printing. For Wage Earners, the monthly payment plan of the Neb. Savings & Loan Ass'n. offers the ideal plan for savings. 116 Grand of Trade Building. Makes Late Complaints—John Cavanaugh of 265 N. street, South Omaha, complained to the police Thursday that two messenger boys robbed him of a gold watch and chain March 31. Why at Turner Hall—"The New Magazine" an ethical play, will be the program of the Dramatic club of the Bohemian Turners Sunday night at Turner hall. The dramatic club has been under the tutelage of Joe Mik all winter and some good talent has been developed. No Verdict in Damage Suit—"The case of Jacob Dreher against the street railway company wherein the plaintiff sued for damages to the amount of \$5,000 for the loss of the lower part of a leg and a portion of one foot came to an end Friday morning with a hung jury. The members of the jury were discharged by Judge W. G. Sears. First Lieutenant Fred V. R. Chamberlain, Second Infantry, will report to Colonel Aaron H. Arpel, medical corps, president of the examining board at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyo., to determine his fitness for promotion.

MacPherson 'ud haul me all about the smiffery for sapience.—L. B. Kline in the St. Louis Globe Democrat.

A Serious Breakdown results from chronic constipation. Dr. King's New Life Pills cure headache, stomach, liver and bowel troubles. 25c. For sale by Heston Drug Co.

Pulling Teeth in Scotland. By Theodore Schomburg, the great engineer who settled the boundary line dispute between Columbia and Venezuela. "Speaking of Scotland puts me in mind of the old Scotch woman who came up to London to visit her son. She was taken with a jumping toothache and upon the advice of her son visited a dentist, who soon had the offending molar flying in the air. With a sigh of relief the old lady climbed out of the chair and asked: "How moonsh?" "Ten shillings, mam," replied the dentist. "Ten shillings is it, ye robber," screamed the woman. "Why, I'll ha' ye know, Sandy

Fire, Burglars and Holdup Men

are a constant danger. Your valuable papers, jewels, etc. are never safe outside A PRIVATE SAFE in our Fire and Burglar Proof Vault. Better rent one today. Only \$5 by the year.

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TWENTIETH CENTURY FARMER One Dollar Per Year.