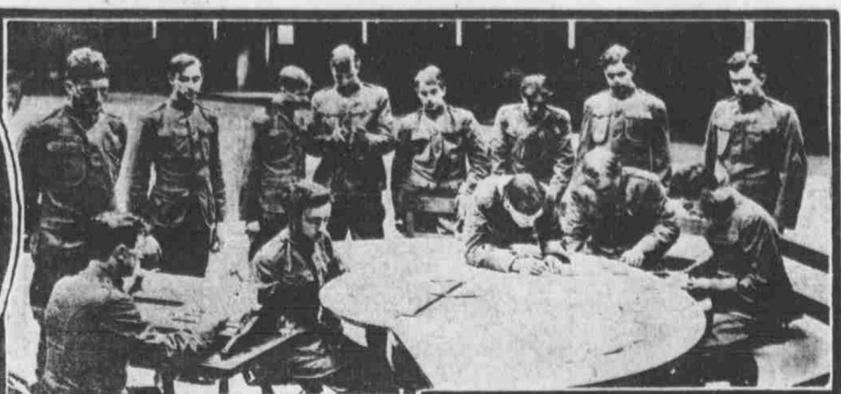


# Millions Needed for Arms and Ammunition



HENRY STIMSON  
SECRETARY OF WAR



COAST ARTILLERY ENGINEERS  
EXERCISING RANGE FOR 12-INCH GUN



GEN. LEONARD WOOD

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—What arrangements in Uncle Sam's patriarch, making for his American children? It is all right to talk about peace, but war with a foreign nation is likely to come at any moment. Uncle Sam has no chip on his shoulder, but he will have to fight if occasion demands. Just before our fleet made its proteomic tour of the Asiatic waters, Mr. Root, then in President Roosevelt's cabinet, made some remarkable statements regarding a possible war with Japan. This was to a party of newspaper men. He did not mention the Japanese in so many words, but everyone knew to whom he referred. Said he, in substance:

"Many of the foreign nations are sensitive. Some of them look upon the voice of the press as the voice of the nation, and I hear you newspaper writers to be careful about what you say as to foreign affairs. Your words may be taken as an insult, and you must remember that a nation is like a man. If its feelings are insulted and outraged it must fight."

The way he said this, at that time, when the treasury box of the militia was empty, made me think of the condition of a poor man in the streets, down at the heels, with a family half-starving. All of the man's interests might demand that he keep out of trouble, but if someone came up and hit him in the face without provocation, or called him a liar, he would have to fight; he could do no other.

Take the case of the blowing up of the Maine. However we may feel in the light of recent investigations, at the time of the explosion we took it as an insult and an outrage, and the result was our war with Spain.

Only a few years before that, President Cleveland sent a message to England as to the Venezuela complications that brought war clouds into the international sky. It was only through the forbearance of John Bull that the heavens became overcast. Another president may send a similar message to a nation which will not be so forbearing. We may some time attempt to divide in Germany and the warm-blooded Kaiser, with the greed of a South American Deaf-blind in his eye, may defy us, and with his powerful army and navy smash the Monroe doctrine to pieces.

Uncle Sam's Army.

All this is preliminary to my investigations this week as to the American army and Uncle Sam's plans for making it big enough and strong enough for any emergency. Much of my information comes from the War department, and it is based upon talks with the virtile joint secretary of war, Mr. Stimson; the long-experienced fighting chief of staff, Major General Wood, and a number of others who rank high in the military affairs of the nation.

In the first place let me give you some idea of what our army is and how it ranks among those of the world. I shall take the peace strength. By the last report of the secretary of war, the number actually serving is a little over 100,000, with an authorized strength which brings it up to about 160,000. We have now less than 2,500 officers and less than 75,000 men. The peace strength of the German army is 220,000, that of the French 290,000 and of Great Britain 250,000. Little Switzerland can call two or three hundred thousand men into the field at a touch of the telegraphic button, and Japan has now 400,000 men under arms.

On the other hand, every one of the great nations of Europe has from a half million to a million of reserves or men who have had experience in the army and who are ready to take their places in the ranks at the call of their country. Great Britain has over 500,000 reserves, and its total war strength is 800,000. Austria has about 1,500,000 reserves, and France has the same, while Russia and Germany have each over 2,000,000. This total war strength of Germany is 4,000,000 and that of Russia is 5,000,000. France can call into the field more than 2,000,000 soldiers. Austria-Hungary 1,800,000, and little Japan can muster out 1,000,000 all told. Italy has more than 1,000,000. Sweden and Norway between 300,000 and 400,000 and Spain with a peace strength equal to ours has 450,000 reserves. Outside of this, each of these countries has a large number of men who could be called into the field just as our volunteers are, and in some cases every man and boy is a soldier in that he has had a training in the regular army.

As I write this a graphic illustration of the size of our army as compared with those of the other great powers lies before me. It consists of figures of men drawn to a scale. The figure representing the United States army is not as long as the nail of my thumb, while those of Germany and Russia are as big as my whole index finger. As to the cavalry, the figure which represents Uncle Sam is like a toy soldier on horseback, while France, Germany and Russia are giants in uniform on gigantic steeds. This picture was made for the War college this year, and it is exact. It was given to me by the chief of staff.

The Secretary and National Reserve.

We are accustomed to consider the militia a mighty addition to the army in case war should arise. Uncle Sam appreciates the value of these troops, and he is now having them trained in connection with the regular army and doing all he can to harmonize and unify the two systems. Secretary Stimson, who has had a long experience in the New York militia, said to me that the value of that branch of the service might be greatly increased by giving it a closer association with the regular army. He says that the service has in the past at times lacked the force and efficiency that should come from companies of the character which have been called into action. The militia is largely directed by the states that in times of trouble the national government has found itself somewhat hampered in its efforts to use it. The secretary believes in the militia, but he says we need in addition to it and in conjunction with it a reserve force of regular troops who have had their military training in the regular army and who have gone through the maneuvers with it from time to time. This is a part of the plan for the national reserve which has been proposed as a part of the defense of the nation. It is somewhat the chief of staff, General Wood, believes might be carried out with great profit.

How the Swiss Do It.

In talking with General Wood about a national reserve and the reduction of the term of enlistment, he spoke of the efficiency of the Swiss army plans, whereby that little republic is able to put more than 200,000 men into the field. Said he: "I spent some time in Switzerland not long ago, and during my stay there met many of the men belonging to the reserves. Every man in the country is a soldier, and is ready at any moment to go to the field. I have stopped at little houses far up in the mountains, and have found there men who have their rifles and complete equipments ready for march. Each has his instructions as to just what he is to do in case of a telegram from the War department. He knows what railroad station he is to go to, what train to take and for what point. The plans are such that, although Switzerland has but a small standing army, it could call a force of 200,000 or 300,000 together within a few days. Service in the national force is compulsory and universal. Those excused or rejected paying extraordinary

taxes. The first training is gotten in the recruit schools, where the men are required to serve sixty-five days for the infantry and the foot artillery, seventy-five days for the field artillery and ninety days for the cavalry. After that they serve eleven days annually. Physical exercise and military training are given also to the schoolboys in the public schools, and as a result the Swiss might have a comparatively large army strength in time of war. The Swiss army is a national militia, and a militia so trained would be very valuable to us.

"But that, of course, is impossible. We do not want compulsory military education in this country, but we might largely increase our force of trained men in private life by making the regular army a training school into which men might go for a period of two or three years, and then return to private life to give place to others."

300,000 Citizen Soldiers.

"That is the proposed scheme for the national reserve, is it not?"

"Yes, that is one of the proposed plans. The idea is to make the army a great military training school and to pass through it as many men as possible in order to form from them a reserve upon which we could call in time of war. They would not be called out to subdue riots or strikes, but would be only used for the defense of the nation. As it is now about 30,000 men annually leave the army or the militia for civil life. If we could keep our hold upon these men and bring them together for a few days of training and maneuver each year, we would in time build up a large reserve fighting force. One idea was to cut down the term of enlistment to two years instead of three and to have the service expire at that time. This would bring a set of new young men numbering from 30,000 to 20,000 into military training every year, and it would add that many each year to our reserve fighting force. In six years at 20,000 we might have 300,000 men in the national reserve and with the army and militia be then able to command in time of war 500,000 well-trained soldiers. The national reserve would have short periods of military training each year or every other year, and they would be expected to continue their training for six years thereafter. The total time consumed in this way during the six years would be about six months, or an average of one month per year. One idea would be to pay them something like \$2 per month throughout the year, and for this they would keep us informed of their addresses and their movements.

"This plan would keep our army composed of young men and the national reserve would be greatly increased as time goes on. A young man going into the regular army at 20 and leaving it at 22 would be in the national reserve for two years, but if the nation demanded it he might make one of the units of an efficient fighting force for almost twenty years thereafter, or until he was 41 or 43 years old. In the Swiss reserve the liability of service extends from the seventeenth to the end of the forty-eighth year, and the actual service begins at the age of 20."

Millions for Arms and Ammunition.

"But it would take millions of money to supply the arms and ammunitions for such a force?"

"Of course," replied the general, "but the army is a plant, where you cannot economize as to its supplies. The only way to stop the waste is to stop the fighting, and often the great expenditure of arms, ammunition and men in battle is real economy. In time of war you cannot count the cost. The only way to economize is by stopping the fighting, and that brings victory. As it is now, we are adding to our arms and ammunition cost as rapidly as possible, and we shall soon have something like 1,000,000 rifles and 1,200,000 rounds of ammunition in our storehouses. What we need more than anything else just now is guns and ammunition for the field artillery. The artillery guns are very complicated, and they take time to make. You can not have them within a few days upon order. We need about 1,000 of them, and they will cost altogether something like \$20,000,000. The men who operate such guns require special training, and we should have them just as soon as possible. As to ammunition, we should have 1,000 rounds for each gun. This is only one-half the amount that the European armies carry."

Ready For War.

During my talk with Secretary Stimson

are being instructed and aided by officers of the regular army detailed for them, and the militia is to a certain extent supported by the national government and encouraged by it.

The Value of The Army.

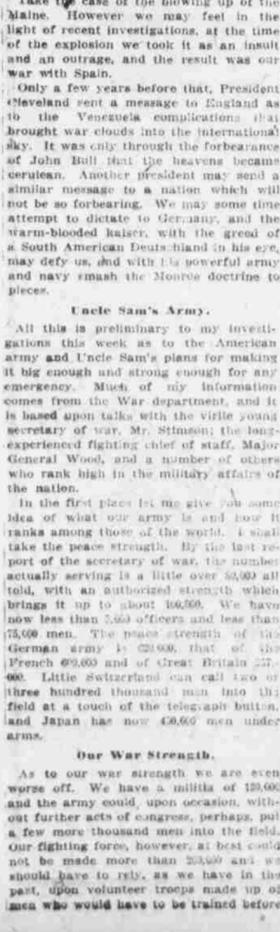
The secretary of war has a great respect for the army and says that it is worthy the respect of all the people. Said he:

"The army has done a great deal for the country in addition to that for which it has credit. Take, for instance, its work in improved sanitation. You know of the object lesson at Panama where our troops practically wiped malaria from the canal zone and gave us an object lesson which has made healthy many parts of the United States until now considered not so. It was the army which discovered how to wipe out the yellow fever. That was in Cuba and it was through the information gained there that that terrible plague has been removed from our Gulf and South Atlantic coast cities. Men interested in the commerce of the south tell me that yellow fever has in the past cost on the average something like \$50,000,000 per annum. Now it costs only about \$20,000,000 to maintain the army, so you see that in this yellow fever discovery alone the army has earned five-eighths of its cost.

"Moreover," continued the secretary, "the army is one of our great educational forces. Nearly every soldier has been to the Philippines or the West Indies and every officer has had the benefit of foreign travel. Our war with Spain has broadened us in our knowledge of geography. It has made us a world power, and we feel that we are a part of the whole world and a factor that must be considered as to all that goes on with it.

"The army is also a training school in patriotism. It makes men and patriots. It offers opportunities to the ambitious. The West Point graduate is at the beginning of his career when he leaves school. He has a short term in the service and if he makes good there he can continue his education in the schools at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, and from there can advance to the War college at Washington and be a part of the staff or brains of the army. The private has plenty of chance for advancement. He can rise to be an officer and can make a place for himself."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.



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