

# THE ARIZONIAN.

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## Retrenchment in Military Expenses.

Lately in the Senate, Mr. Pugh moved that the compensation of all army officers be cut down to the rate of 1857. Very properly this motion was defeated. Army officers do not receive one cent too much compensation. Most of those who do their duty are stationed in far-off quarters of the Union, isolated from many of the necessities and comforts of life, deprived of all society, exposed to danger and death, and doomed to spend the flower of their days in trailing Indians and living on spoiled bacon! It is a noted fact, that people who are in favor of cutting down the wages of others, are wonderfully tenacious about their own! But if Senator Pugh, or any other economical Senator, is really in earnest about reducing army expenses, we will put him in a way to do it. Let the "contracts" of the army be looked into. "There's where the money goes!" Here is an instance close at hand—a Fort of Uncle Sam's, which has the reputation of being the most expensive military post in the Department of New Mexico—Fort Buchanan. Make note of the "leaks" at this one post in the Department and draw consolation from the thought that there are no doubt fifty others at various points on the frontier, as bad, or worse.

During the different terms of service of Lts. Hastings and Lord, as Acting Assistant Commissaries of Subsistence at Fort Buchanan, there were purchased at the fort 117,000 pounds of good flour, (equal in all respects to the best army flour bought in "the States.") at 7½ cents per pound. The same quality of flour can be purchased at the fort, now, at 8 cents per pound, the contract taken and guaranteed by responsible American citizens. In spite of these truths urged upon the late General in command of this Department, again and again, by officers and citizens, the flour contract was given to Judge Hart, near El Paso, three hundred miles from the fort, at twelve and one-half cents per pound!

Now, we cannot censure Judge Hart for this extravagance. He is well known to be an honorable, liberal, public spirited and useful citizen as there is in Texas, and has a perfect right to get all the contracts he can, at the best possible rates. But somebody is to blame, for such a waste of money. Let us figure a little. One hundred and seventeen pounds of flour, at 8 cents, is \$9,360,00, and the same quantity of flour at 12½ cents, \$14,625,00, making a difference of \$5,265,00 which might be saved on the article of flour at one post.

Now take the item of corn, for the same post. Judge Hart received the contract for three thousand "fanegas" at 4cts per pound. Allowing one hundred and seventy pounds to the fanega, this is four hundred and ten thousand pounds; at 4cts would be \$4,400,00. Now there are an abundance of responsible people in the immediate vicinity of the Fort who would be glad to contract and bind themselves to deliver all the corn wanted, at 3cts per pound, which would save quite a little sum. Here is a chance for retrenchment—far more honorable and necessary than the paltry cutting down of officers' pay.

Again, when a military post is established in a new country it is supposed to have in view more than the mere defending of the country from Indians. It is supposed to encourage agriculture, settlement and labor, expend its money among the people, and do good generally. How does Fort Buchanan encourage agriculture (in a region where it needs encouragement,) when its flour and corn contracts are given to a citizen out of the Territory?—There has been no attempt to erect grist mills

in this region, nor any extensive farming, for the reason that there has been no encouragement, no market; government has drawn its supplies for the fort either from Sonora or the Rio Grande country, paying much higher rates than were asked near at hand.

We have no doubt that if Senator Pugh should set himself to work he could discover how a quarter of a billion of dollars might be saved to government, annually, in the Department of New Mexico. Abolish half the posts—they are of no use—concentrate the troops, save the double rations and transportation, and require the Commander of the Department to give out his corn, flour, forage, and beef contracts to citizens in the vicinity of the posts. By that means, if the posts are of no other benefit they will encourage agriculture and business in their vicinity, and give the inhabitants some little recompense for risking their lives and property, away from civilization.

## Cuba and Sonora.

The acquisition of Sonora is absolutely as important a measure as the proposed purchase of Cuba. While government offers one hundred millions for Cuba, Sonora can be had for the debts due American citizens from Mexico. With security and proper management the gold and silver mines of Sonora would yield enough to buy Cuba in ten years. Cuba will cost a vast sum of money and a bloody war; Sonora may be had by marching three thousand men across the frontier. Cuba produces silver, sugar, and tobacco; so does Sonora. Cuba has a lovely climate; Sonora equals her in that respect. The acquisition of Cuba is important as a means of national defence. Give us Sonora and we have an entry-port to the Treasury of the Continent. If we seize Cuba it brings upon us the hostility of other nations, while in occupying Sonora we perform an act of Christianity which ought to command the approval of the world, as we should erect order and peace instead of anarchy and war—relieve a people from misrule and oppression and extend the blessings of civilization where all is now distress and rapine!

There can be found in Sonora a dozen silver mines, which if worked properly, will produce more revenue, annually, than all the sugar plantations of Cuba. Why is it that these facts do not attract the attention of Congressmen? Why is it that government desires to pay one hundred millions for a piece of property when a valuable piece can be had for one-tenth that sum? Let the public press and our public men examine this subject and it will be found that Sonora has the best claim for annexation.

## Military News.

It is expected that Col. Thos. F. Fauntleroy, first Dragoons, will soon be placed in command of the Military Department of New Mexico. Col. Fauntleroy, is an officer of great experience, especially in Indian affairs, and will probably institute some much needed reforms in this Department.

From various sources we learn that the Fifth Infantry are now en route for Arizona, via California, from Salt Lake. The Fifth is one of the finest Regiments in the service. It is armed with the new rifle musket and drilled in Hardies new system of tactics. Col. Gustavus Loomis is in command.

Brevt. Lieut. Col. Reeve's company of the 8th infantry, is destined to remain at Fort Fillmore until further orders.

The company of infantry at Fort Bliss has been detailed as an escort for the Boundary Commission, under command of Lieut. Peck, from Fort Craig.

Lieut. Lazell is recovering from his wound, received in the fight with the Mesquero Apaches. The Second Cavalry is to be concentrated at some post in Texas, and the 3rd infantry will as soon as practicable assemble at Camp Cooper, Major S. P. Heintzelman, probably, in command. It is intended to commence active operations against the Comanches in a few weeks. Troops are also to be stationed at several points along the Overland Mail Route.

## Various Items.

The claims of United States citizens against foreign governments, lately reported to Congress, amount to over one hundred millions of dollars—nearly enough to build the Pacific Railroad.

There is a prospect of the next Congress, assembling several months earlier than usual.—By the first of June there will be a heavy deficiency in the Treasury—nearly forty-five millions of dollars! There must be less talk and more work on the part of Congress, or government will be seriously embarrassed.

We are sorry that no bill has passed Congress increasing the pay of Naval officers. They ought to be put upon comparatively the same footing as the officers of the army.

A splendid Opera House, costing \$300,000 has lately been opened in Cincinnati. The "Queen City" now vies with her Atlantic sisters in elegant and costly buildings.

Lieut. Gen. Scott, at last accounts, was on his way to New York from the South, in improved health. He has been inspecting fortifications on the Southern sea-board. The old hero is good for another campaign yet.

Already "Douglas Clubs" are being formed in the Eastern States, with a view of supporting Douglas for the Presidency. Too early, altogether! A year hence will be time enough for action. Many good men have been politically killed, by the hasty conduct of their friends.

General Twiggs takes a correct view of Indian affairs. He is opposed to the "moral suasion" doctrine with murderers and robbers, and believes in making plain to savages the power of the whites. His policy will soon rid Texas of hostile Indians. Major Van Dorn's successful campaign was worth a dozen temporary treaties.

Hon. John E. Ward, of Georgia has been appointed Minister to China. Mr. Ward was president of the convention which nominated Mr. Buchanan, and is a gentleman of fine ability.

Junius R. Roane, of the Fourth Artillery, in a fit of *deltirium tremens*, murdered a man at Brooklyn, Iowa, on the 11th inst.;—then blew out his own brains.

Congress has reduced the army appropriations for the present year \$1,473,000, clipping off bits from all the big items.

An amendment to the Post office appropriation bill authorizes the overland mail company to carry the mail over any route they may select. The amendment was offered by Blair, of Missouri.

The special Committee appointed to investigate frauds in certain Navy Yards have unraveled some astounding swindling schemes, in the way of "contracts." This contract business in the army and navy is a hot bed of knavery, and ought to be abolished.

We do not receive any favorable intelligence from the gold diggings on the Gila, nor has anything been heard from the "prospecting" parties who started up the stream. Some few miners are making small wages, but on the whole, there is nothing doing.

Our private letters from Washington, received by last mail, from well informed gentlemen, all concur in stating that a large body of troops is to be concentrated within striking distance of the Mexican frontiers ready for any emergency.

Our latest advices from Sonora confirm the intelligence last week received, that Gaudera is in the ascendancy. He has possession of Mazatlan, and friends were beginning to rally in from all quarters. One of Gaudera's sons, who has been residing at Tubac, for some time, left a few days since, to join his father.

The Mohave Indians are very troublesome at several points along the Colorado river, and express their determination to fight the troops sent into their country.

Most of the Paraguay fleet had arrived at the mouth of the Rio de la Plata, at last accounts.

## Special Message from the President.

On the 18th of February the President submitted to Congress a special message asking to be entrusted with extraordinary power to use the forces of the country to protect the lives and property of American citizens whenever an emergency may require, such authority to be guarded and restricted as Congress might see fit.

The President goes on at length to show the necessity for such authority at the present time, which he does in a very clear and satisfactory manner, referring to several cases where American interests are constantly in danger, and in which the Executive would have no power to secure redress. In reference to our relations with Mexico, the President says:

The Republic South of the United States, on this Continent has unfortunately been frequently in a state of revolution and civil war ever since they established their independence. As one or the other party has prevailed and obtained possession of the ports open to foreign commerce, they have seized and confiscated American vessels and their cargoes in an arbitrary and lawless manner, and exacted money from American citizens by forced loans and other violent proceedings, to enable them to carry on hostilities."

We trust that this message and the important change it proposed in our plan of government received from Congress that earnest attention to which it was entitled. It is a grave matter to place war making power in the hands of the President. A reckless, ambitious man might plunge the country into troubles which half a century would not efface. Still, it would be highly proper for Congress to place a limited power in the hands of the Executive, authorizing him to take immediate redress for wrongs inflicted upon American citizens or property, when Congress was not in session, reporting all the facts to Congress as soon as it convened. We shall look with great interest for the debates and action of Congress on this matter.

## England and Mexico.

The English government is prepared to take efficient measures in reference to the arrest and imprisonment of English subjects, by the robber revolutionists of Mexico. Queen Victoria in her late speech to Parliament uses the following decided language.

"The state of the Republic, distracted with civil wars, induced me to carry forbearance to its utmost limit in regard to the wrongs and indignities to which the British residents have been subjected at the hands of the two contending parties. They have at length carried it to such an extent that I have been obliged to give instructions to the Commander of the naval forces in those seas to demand, and if necessary, to enforce reparation."

Our government talks the same way, but does nothing, while day after day American citizens are insulted and plundered, banished and imprisoned, in every Mexican State!

POPE'S ARTESIAN WELLS.—Captain Pope is closing up his artesian well operations, which have utterly failed, after the expenditure of a large amount of money. He has never been able to get water within one hundred and eighty feet of the surface. His steam engine and boiler, in good order, the latter nearly new, is advertised for sale. Pope's camp is near Santa Fe. This artesian well expedition from which such great results were expected, has of late been the subject of much ridicule to those acquainted with its operations. Somebody has written a song about it, the first verse of which is as follows:

Pope told a flattering tale,  
Which proved to be bravado,  
About the streams which spout like ale  
From the Llano Estacado.

## A New Enterprise.

Within the last week a new enterprise has been started here; one of our citizens has engaged the services of about a hundred Papagoes to collect mezcal for the purpose of distillation. The Papagoes have established themselves in the Santa Rita mountains, about half way between Tubac and the Sonoita, and are busy as bees. If this enterprise is successful it will undoubtedly lead to more of a similar character.