

ARMY SHORTAGE HERE.

Department of East Has Only Half Its Complement of Men.

The shortage of men in the ranks of the army, to which The Tribune called attention yesterday, is felt as seriously in the Department of the East as in other sections of the country.

Major General Fred D. Grant, who is in command of the Department of the East, is in the South at present, but his military secretary, Colonel H. O. S. Helstead, who is familiar with every detail of the situation, said yesterday: "The time is past when the chief requirement of a soldier, for which he received \$13 a month, was that he could carry a gun and drill, and perhaps dig a ditch. Those were excellent wages. Now the requirements are increased but not the pay. The army to-day is a big industrial school, which must fill the demands of civil employers."

The great shortage of officers, Colonel Helstead said, was caused by the different details which take away from the army some four hundred officers. Some are on recruiting service and some are detailed for duty at the military colleges.

"The adjutant general of the army is endeavoring to make the best of the situation by availing himself of the services of retired officers, one hundred of whom are detailed with the various military colleges; some are also in the recruiting service. Two officers are stationed at Porto Rico."

Table with columns: Regiment, Authorized, Actual. Lists various regiments and their personnel counts.

Colonel Helstead declared that the only remedy for the depletion in the ranks of the army was, first and foremost, an increase of pay.

FRENCH INVENTOR BRINGS AUTO BOAT

Says It Can Make 40 Miles an Hour on Land and 19 Knots in Water.

Jules Julien Ravouiller, the French inventor who has recently perfected a combination boat and automobile, which he calls a "canot voiture," arrived here yesterday morning on La Gasconne.

MEAT PRICES GOING UP.

General Advance All Along the Line to Come in Few Days.

Following the report from Chicago about the reduction in the price of meat, which was denied within the next twenty-four hours, meat will be advanced, according to several of the large meat packers yesterday, in the next few days all along the line from last week's highest figures.

According to the packers, the advance is attributed to the lack of cash with which to get the cattle, and the consequent holding back from the big Western markets of beef on the hoof.

"The shortening of the receipts," said a member of the firm of a large packing house yesterday, "has been material in Kansas City and other yards. If the packers can't get their money meat will go up."

WEATHER TO RULE FEAST.

Regulates Thanksgiving Turkey Prices—Money's Scarce, Too.

Whether New York's Thanksgiving turkey will be more expensive this year than it was last season will depend upon the weather.

The poultry expert of one of the largest commission houses in the country said yesterday that turkeys are now quoted at from 21 cents to 24 cents, according to quality, and that broiling turkeys, which are regarded as game and are always expensive, will be in short supply.

"But there will probably be a big change in the prices," he said. "Owing to the tightness of the money market, buyers were not able to gather up as many turkeys as usual in the Middle West. The farmers would not sell on credit, but preferred to wait for the farmers to the Eastern market. Whether the prices go up or down will depend almost entirely on the condition in which the fowls reach here."

ROADS PLEAD POVERTY IN BRONX.

Answers from the New Central and the New York & Harlem railroads were received to the complaint of William Keating, that the local service of those roads in The Bronx was not up to the mark.

ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

Board of Ordnance and Fortifications Makes Annual Report.

YEARS WORK OF ORDNANCE BOARD—Guns, armor plate, range finders, disappearing carriages and all sorts of miscellaneous ordnance devices were subjected to exhaustive tests during the last fiscal year by the board of ordnance and fortifications, and all of these are set out in detail in the annual report of the board just made public.

WILL COMMAND THE PANTHER—Captain C. F. Nelson has been selected to command the transport Panther, which has been fitted out as a repair ship and will accompany the battleship fleet on its cruise to the Pacific.

APPOINTED NAVAL AID—Commander Abraham E. Culver, commanding the protected cruiser Des Moines, now at the Boston Navy Yard, has been ordered to this city for duty as naval aid to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, as the relief of Captain John M. Bowyer, who has been ordered to assume command of the battleship Illinois in time for the cruise of the Atlantic fleet to the Pacific Coast.

GENERAL BELL BACK AT DUTY—Major General J. Franklin Bell, chief of staff of the army, resumed his duties at the War Department to-day after a month's stay at a health resort in New York State. He appears to be in excellent physical condition.

SURGEON FATALLY WOUNDED—Information was received by Surgeon General Wyman, of the Public Health and Marine Hospital service, to-day of the accidental fatal wounding by gunshot of Passed Assistant Surgeon Berry near Tampa, Fla.

ARMY ORDERS ISSUED—The following army orders have been issued: Major General ADOLPHUS W. GREELY, from Department of the Columbia, to command the Department of the Columbia.

ARRIVED. Nov. 1—The Marlette, at Puerto Cortez, Honduras. Nov. 3—The Albany, at Salina Cruz. Nov. 4—The Helena, the Villalobos and the Nanshan, at Shanghai.

SAILED. Nov. 1—The Abarenda, from Bradford, R. I., for Norfolk, the Albany, from Launceston, San Salvador, for Salina Cruz, Mexico. Nov. 2—The Chicago, from Acapulco, San Salvador, for Acapulco, Mexico; the Rocket, from Norfolk to Washington.

ONLY SUPERVISED WORK—CRIMMINS.

John D. Crimmins yesterday said he was not a director in the streetcar company when the work of electrification was begun in 1897; that he assumed this work at the personal solicitation of H. H. Vreeland and others in the company; that while he himself was the best qualified man for this work, he personally did not contract for it, but supervised the work, which was let to sub-contractors, and that at the end of a year because of the great strain he resigned all connection with the work.

NEW WAY TO MAKE LINEN.

Inventor Says His Process of Treating Flax Will Work Wonders.

Benjamin C. Mudge, a chemist and inventor, of Lynn, Mass., who recently perfected a process for treating flax which he and his friends hope will revolutionize the linen industry, gave a demonstration of the chemical part of the process at No. 235 Fifth avenue yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Mudge took the flax, which had previously been extracted by his machine and showed how he got the gums out of it by chemical treatment. It has never before, he says, been possible to remove all these gums, but now he is able to make his product absorbent and produce absorbent linen by special treatment.

Mr. Mudge says he can make linen products of all kinds, including the absorbent linen, which is called exolint, much cheaper than cotton products can be manufactured.

Heretofore America, which raises next to the largest amount of flax of any country in the world, has used the product only for the seed, out of which oil is made. By Mr. Mudge's processes every bit of the flax can be utilized, even the tow, out of which is made a heavy linen paper.

QUEER VISIT TO HITCHCOCK'S LAWYER

Counsel Tells of Mysterious Request to Meet Missing Actor.

Herman Fromme, counsel for Raymond Hitchcock, said yesterday that an offer to take him to see the missing actor was made to him on Sunday by a man who said he had a message for the actor.

Mr. Fromme was positive that Hitchcock was kidnapped by members of a blackmailing gang, but he hoped that he would be able to produce his client in court on Thursday, to which day the hearing was adjourned.

BOGART HAS NO ASHOKAN DAM CLAIM.

Former Engineer Does Not Even Own Land He Is Said to Have Valued at \$99,000.

John Bogart, former State Engineer and Surveyor, today denied yesterday the statement that he had asked the Board of Water Supply or its representatives \$9,000 for sixty-four acres of land needed for the Ashokan Dam.

METZ CHANGES WAY OF BOOKKEEPING

Adopts System Recommended by Bureau of Municipal Research.

Controller Metz authorized yesterday the adoption of a new system of accounting recommended by the bureau of municipal research. It will go into effect in the departments of Street Cleaning, Health, Water Supply, Gas and Electricity, and in Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, early next spring.

WILL NOT HOLD UP SUBWAY.

Controller Metz said yesterday that it was a mistake to believe the Mayor's announcement of retrenchment in city expenses and his orders to his heads of departments not to make any more contracts for improvements meant that the Fourth avenue subway was to be held up.

TO DIE FOR ARMENIAN MURDER.

Badros Hampartioomian was sentenced to die in the electric chair at Sing Sing Prison in the week beginning December 15 by Justice Dowling, in the Supreme Court, yesterday.

Bracing food for steady nerves— Nutritive food for healthy appetites— Strengthening food for sturdy muscles— The most nourishing wheat food

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HUNT FOR BAKER WILL.

Detectives Hold Conference with Bogota Prosecutor.

Friends of Walter F. Baker, who died after becoming suddenly ill in the Hotel Rialto, continued their search here yesterday for a will which they believe he made.

Frank Nay, of the Boston law firm of Bates, Nay & Osgood, and Dr. Sherwin Gibbons, also of Boston, were in New York yesterday seeking to learn whether the will and possibly other documents that might show Mr. Baker's relations with his friends were in some safe deposit vault.

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STATE AND ALIEN LABOR.

Kracke Denies That Norwegian Was Brought Here as Dairyman.

"Our attitude all the time has been within a strict observance of the federal immigration laws, and we have never made any attempt to exceed them," said Henry H. Kracke, Acting Associate Commissioner of Agriculture, in charge of the metropolitan district, yesterday in discussing the case of H. N. Shoen, the Norwegian who was detained at Ellis Island and later released in the custody of the Rev. Mr. Peterson, pastor of the Swedish Immigrant Home, at No. 8 State street.

"The young man is said to have stated that he came to this country to obtain work as a dairyman in response to a letter from the State Department, in which he was promised a job as a dairyman. He has not been here. I talked with C. L. Flanders, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, in Albany, over the telephone this morning and called his attention to this case. He told me that there had been no violation of the immigration law in anything the state had done on behalf of the farmer in obtaining laborers."

BURGARS LOOT LARCHMONT STATION.

Burglars forced an entrance into the Larchmont station of the New Haven Railroad last night and, it was said, secured more than \$3,500 in cash.

The Sisters of Mercy appeal for help for their home for working girls in East 106th street, which has recently been enlarged. The home is expected to be self-supporting eventually, but there is a heavy initial cost to be met, and the amount is too small to pay for the buildings.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF.

A warrant was issued yesterday for Albert A. Somerville, who mysteriously dropped out of sight while sitting as a juror in a case on trial before Judge Crain, in General Sessions. Judge Crain declared a mistrial, and detectives were sent to look for the missing man.

ASK AID FOR WORKING GIRLS' HOME.

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GEORGE BLAIR PLEADS GUILTY.

George Blair, superintendent of the department of outdoor poor under Mayor Van Wyck, pleaded guilty to a charge of larceny yesterday afternoon in Part I, General Sessions. Judge Rosalsky, before whom the case was being tried, suspended sentence. The indictment was filed against Blair on February 11, 1906. The charge is that he appropriated \$400 and jewelry valued at \$200, taken from Mrs. Dora Johnson, of No. 181 West 46th street, who was an inmate of the insane pavilion at Bellevue Hospital. In March, 1902, Blair was dismissed as superintendent of the department of outdoor poor, but was reinstated in the same year. Two years later he was again removed, charged with being unable properly to account for funds. Blair for the last two years has been manager of a manufacturing concern.

B. R. T. MAY HAUL ASHES ANY TIME.

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission yesterday Mr. McCarroll reported that for the present the commission would not issue an order requiring the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company to transport ashes and garbage at night only, because of the terms of the company's contract with the city practically forbidding such action.

WILLIAM C. CORWELL OF J. S. BACHE & CO.

William C. Corwell, of J. S. Bache & Co., will speak on the present financial situation before the students of the School of Commerce, Accounting and Finance of New York University to-morrow evening at the Washington Square Building.



"YES, BOYS. My ancestors used to feed the good old Prophet in the wilderness, but nowadays we ravens are taking it rather easy, for we gave the recipe to the Postum Co., over at Battle Creek, and I believe you fat rascals have been eating the food. Eat it with cream and sugar do you? Well, I don't wonder you like it. It's easily the most delicious flavour of any flake food known. And so the groceryman sells the large Family size for 15 cents, and they call it what?"

Elijah's Manna