question of submitting to insult, contumely, and indignity or to fight. I say fight."

District Attorney James W. Ridgway said: "The trouble with Chili originated, as I understand it, from an unprovoked assault upon American sailors, and, as a matter of course, an insult to the American Government. From the foundation of this republic the honor and dignity of our Government has never been impeached. It was Webster who said that it was to our union we owe our consideration and dignity abroad. Shall that good name of our country, untarnished for so many years, be dragged in the mud by a South American nonentity? If they refuse to apologize, then redress lies in war."

President Michael J. Coffey of the Board of Aldermen said: "Settle the trouble amicably if possible; if not, then I believe in sustaining the dignity of the Government at all hazards. In the event of Chili's refusal to make reparation, the Administration should at once take action tending toward bringing the affair to a speedy ending."

Commissioner of Public Works John P. Adams said: "War with Chili would be one of the most illicitic things the United States could possibly enter into. If the United States would apply the same principles in this affair that were insisted upon in the New Orleans trouble with Italy, the result would be peace and not war."

Commissioner Cotton said: "Chili should be punished if she does not at once apologize or make redress. It is time for the United States to take a stand one way or the other. If our people are insulted or molested, I believe the United States should stand up and assert itself. In the event of a war America would win easily."

A. E. Orr, President of the Produce Exchange, said: "Although I think we are very feeble in our war equipments, nevertheless if Chili has treated us with indignity I hope the United States will see to it and insist upon and enforce proper protection and respect toward her citizens abroad. I have always looked upon this matter as one that could be easily settled by an interchange of views and opinions without the unfortunate conditions which attend war."

Boss Ernest Nathan said: "By all means we should uphold the honor of our country. Chili is in the wrong and should be compelled to apologize and make redress. If arbitration has failed, then let it be war."

Boss Hugh McLaughlin said: "Chili insulted us and will not apologize. Arbitration has failed to give us our rights. When a man is right he is entitled to fight, and especially for what is righteously his."

Ex-Congressman Felix Campbell said: "I favor peace at all times unless it is paid for by a nation's honor. When the dignity of the United States is at stake, I say maintain it at any price. If Chili has refused or neglected to settle this difficulty amicably, then the Government should take such action as will uphold before the world the honor and pluck of our country."

Mr. Henry E. Pierrepont said: "Delay in this case would not result disastrously to the United States. If we had a strong man there as the representative of our Government, there is no doubt but that a settlement could be reached. If all other means fail, then there will probably be war."

Mr. S. V. White dictated the following: "In answer to whether a war with Chili would be justifiable under the present circumstances, I think everything depends on what Chili is going to do about it in the immediate future. There seems not to be a reasonable doubt that our marines were assaulted and murdered by Chilian police, as well as by a mob of lawless men. They were singled out because they wore our uniform. The plain duty of our Government is to make that uniform to be respected in the future. That should be done peacefully if we can, forcibly if we must. If Chili will apologize and give an indemnity to those injured, there should not be war and will not be.

"Concerning the probabilities as to Chili's course, I hope there may be good sense enough to avoid a war. But I hope the President is spoiling for a fight abroad to avert insurrection at home. And so there are very grave reasons to apprehend hostilities. Do I expect our Government to stand firm in its demands? Of course it will stand firm. So far the Executive has had all the responsibility, and, indeed, all the information. As soon as the facts are communicated to Congress the responsibility shifts, and there will not, in my judgment, be any divided sentiment. We have many parties, but only one country, and as soon as it is apparent that our national honor is involved Congress will back the Executive with men and money without limit.

"In regard to the outcome of the war, I say that for some time Chili will inflict more damage on us than we will on them. They have no commerce to prey upon, and while ours is not large compared with that of England and Germany, it is very considerable. We fight away from home—they fight on their own territory. But when once there is time to get ships and men to the front, 3,000,000 are not a match for 65,000,000, and of course the national dignity will be maintained. I shall regret to see any war, but if it awakens our people to the necessity of proper coast defences and a fitting navy, it will insure us from now on an unending peace."

JERSEY CITY FOR WAR IF NECESSARY

The Honor and Dignity of the United States Must Be Maintained.

The leading men of Jersey City are almost unanimous in the opinion that the United States Government should maintain its honor and dignity in the dispute with the Government of Chili, even if it becomes necessary to resort to the extremity of going to war.

Gen. William F. Abbett, a son of Gov. Abbett and Judge Advocate-General of the National Guard, said yesterday: "I think war should be declared against Chili unless proper apology and reparation is made by the Chilian Government. The United States, with its present naval force and its resources, ought not to back down from any nation on the face of the earth when it is in the right. It will be a lasting disgrace if our Government does not insist on having the wrong righted."

"What do I think of the propriety of the United States declaring war against Chili?" asked Col. Charles W. Fuller, repeating the reporter's question. Col. Fuller is one of the prominent Republicans of New Jersey. He has served a term in the Assembly and was State Superintendent of Education. "I think it is a pleasure business," he said after a moment's hesitation. "If the United States is spoiling for a fight, why doesn't it take somebody of its size? This dispute seems to me like a mastiff growling at a poodle. Suppose some sailors from a Chilian vessel landed here in Jersey City, went on a racket, got into a fight, and were licked by some of our people, do you suppose Chili would be justified in sending her navy here and blowing us all into smithereens? I think this dispute is only child's play, and beneath the dignity of full-grown men."

Col. Samuel D. Dickinson, Postmaster of Jersey City, said: "I think the United States ought first to be sure it is right, and then go ahead."

Col. Gilbert P. Robinson, who was a brevet Brigadier-General on the Union side during the late war, said: "The American flag ought to be a protection to an American citizen in any part of the world. Our Government is altogether too slow. There has been a great deal of time wasted in diplomatic correspondence over this affair. If an American citizen, and especially a party of American sailors wearing the uniform of our navy, cannot land on a foreign shore without running the risk of being attacked and murdered, then what protection is there in American citizenship? Declare war? Yes, the Government should declare war without any further dilly dallying."

Capt. Benjamin Murphy, another veteran of the war, who is now Chief of Police of Jersey City, said: "If sworn statements made by our sailors at the examination before the Board of officers of San Francisco are true, the Government should declare war against Chili without any hesitation, unless Chili makes ample amends. Chili should be brought to terms, if for no other cause than as a warning to other nations that American citizens are always and everywhere under the protection of the American flag, and cannot be assaulted with impunity."

Mayor Orestes Cleveland is opposed to war. He said: "I do not think the differences existing between the United States and Chili have assumed such shape on paper yet as to make it wise or proper for us to declare war. The offensive communication has been ordered withdrawn, and I believe Chili desires peace. Under such circumstances it would not be just for a great nation like the United States to hastily declare war. I know that certain Republicans desire to precipitate a war, in the belief that war would be popular and would carry that party in again, but to declare war without proper effort to avoid it is no longer popular, and the great moral sense of the people of this country is against war if it can honorably be avoided. The party that precipitates a war with a weak nation like Chili will make a great mistake, in my opinion. I am against war except as a last resort, and I do not think the Chilian question has reached that stage yet."

HOW THE WAR WOULD BE FOUGHT.

Gen. Howard Doesn't Think It Will Come, but Tells How We'd Meet It.

Gen. O. O. Howard, Major-General of the Army, was seen at Governor's Island by a SUN reporter yesterday afternoon. He was apparently more alarmed about the fog than the war cloud which is hovering over us. He did not want the weather to get so thick that it would prevent his coming over to New York in the evening to deliver his lecture on Gen. Sherman in the Scotch Church.

When asked what the prospects were for a war with Chili, he thought a minute and then replied:

"I do not believe that a war with Chili is at all probable. But still it is within the realm of possibility. A war with England, or Russia, or Spain, or Italy, or some of the ambitious little Governments in the southern part of North America is not likely to occur, but, nevertheless, it is possible."

Gen. Howard said that the insurgents of Chili had been very much exercised over the Itata incident, and by our slow recognition of what appeared to them to be their rights. The State Department is laboring with wisdom and forbearance, he said, to settle amicably all differences between this country and Chili, and he thought the department's work would be successful. But there is only one ultimate appeal for the final disposition of a dispute like this, if all attempts at arbitration should fail.

"If Chili should hold out against every reasonable argument," he continued, "and declare that she had been improperly treated; if she should perpetrate such acts against us as other nations have perpetrated at the beginning of war, then war would be declared and entered upon."

Gen. Howard believes that the first thing Chili would do would be to ally herself with some powerful nation.

"New, to meet aggression from abroad," Gen. Howard said, "a country situated on the sea should have three lines of defence. First, the navy itself; second, forts, torpedoes, and harbor defence vessels, and third, the army proper. In our case we are partially supplied with a navy; we have some good guns of old pattern mounted at principal harbors, and a number of submaring mines that could be utilized to shut out an enemy. Then we have all the tugs, yachts, and harbor boats which, fitted up with a long spar in front and some dynamite, could be used to protect the entrances to the harbor. With these means we might be able to keep an enemy out of our Pacific coast harbors.

"But assuming that these should not be enough, should an army attack fail, and further, that one harbor, San Diego, for instance, should come into full possession of the enemy, then a field army would have to be equipped and organized in order to regain that harbor.

"The ultimate direction in which a hostile force would act from San Diego would be up the coast toward San Francisco, probably attacking San Francisco at the same time from the sea. In such a contingency the United States would concentrate troops as rapidly as possible as near the front of the enemy's action as would be safe, and make a rapid movement toward Los Angeles. Probably, however, that place would fall into the hands of an enemy before we could gather there a sufficient number of troops to act against an invading army. Then we might concentrate on the line of the Southern Pacific Railroad, south of San Francisco and the Sacramento Valley.

"We have available, probably, not more than 10,000 troops of our present regular army for such a campaign. The remainder of the troops would be needed where they are now stationed to guard the people from local troubles or foreign attacks. Consequently, the States would be called upon to furnish men to meet the foe. A few States would send us well drilled militia. But they would be unaccustomed to field service and campaigning. Nearly all of the States, however, could furnish us nothing better than raw recruits. As a result, we would suffer the greatest loss of life at first.

"Our plan would be to confine the enemy within as close limits as possible until by equipping and drilling our green forces we should be strong enough to make an aggressive fight. While we might be defeated in one or more engagements, eventually we would certainly drive any hostile force that could probably be landed on our shores. The attempt, however, would necessarily cost us many lives and millions of dollars in money because of our unprepared condition.

"We have made great strides in the last five or ten years toward this preparation so far as our navy is concerned. We are also making fair progress so far as forts, torpedoes, and harbor-defence vessels are concerned. We have superb sets of breech-loading mortars that cover a wide field of approach and far out; we have splendid breech-loading cannon of the largest range and greatest penetrating power; we have a swift and sure torpedo boats; we have formidable floating batteries, and we have seacoast guns which spring up like magic, do their work, and then run to instant safety.

"But our movable army is in just the same condition as to numbers as it was twenty years ago. The number of trained officers, men, who came out of the war of the rebellion have passed away or are too old to take part in any future military operations. So we must begin, should a war come, at the very beginning and go very slowly in order to prepare an effective army, and then maintain it.

Gen. H. L. Abbot, President of the Engineers' Corps, was found in his office, sitting before a great map of North America and playing upon a typewriter. He was preparing a report which he was to take to Washington in the afternoon, and had time only to say: "We can lick Chili or any other country without any trouble."

Lieut.-Col. Wood, Adjutant-General of the United States recruiting service, said: "I don't think that there will be a war. War is a terrible thing, and a great many men would be killed on both sides. If there is an honorable way to avoid it, we ought to get out of it. There are two sides to every question, and until the full correspondence in this Chilian matter is laid before us we ought to withold a definite opinion. The longer the thing is left alone the easier it will be arranged, in my opinion."

STATE TROOPS AVAILABLE.

New York Has 14,000 and the Country Has 100,000 Trained Militiamen.

Adjt.-Gen. Porter was not sharpening his sword or loading his pistols yesterday when a SUN reporter found him, because they did not need it. The New York State troops, numbering now about 13,000, well equipped and well drilled men, could be massed in this city within twenty-four hours. Just exactly what could be done with them after they were here is an unsettled question. Some of the National Guardsmen assert that they enlisted for duty in this State, and that the President has no power to order them out of the State. If these National Guardsmen will consult the United States Revised Statutes on this subject they will find that the President can order the State troops out to repel an invasion; in case of rebellion against the laws of the United States or to enforce the Federal laws in a State, or if one State asked for assistance, he may call out the militia of any other State to give that assistance. The President is commander-in-chief of the army and navy and militia of the United States. Whether this means that the State troops in the event of a war with a foreign country could be called upon for service outside of the United States is a question that has never been tested.

"I don't think that the New York troops would be called on for such service," said Adjt.-Gen. Porter yesterday. "Personally I am in favor of strong measures on the part of the United States unless Chili makes satisfactory reparation. From purely selfish motives I suppose that the navy and the army and many of the members of the National Guard would like to see such a war declared. When the Chilean dispatches were under consideration we received a communication from the Secretary of War asking how many State troops could be massed at Ogdensburg, on the northern boundary of the State, and our reply was 10,000. At the present moment the National Guard of this State could take the field at once without any preliminary drill or instruction. The members of the National Guard have been receiving every year excellent instruction in practical camp work at Peekskill, and they would know exactly what to do in an actual campaign. I do not suppose that it is the purpose of the Government to increase the standing army, and in case of war the next best thing to the regulars would be the State troops of which there are now more than 100,000.

"The members of the National Guard, as a rule, are men of intelligence, and a little experience in actual warfare would make excellent soldiers of them. Intelligence and bravery—for of course every man is supposed to be brave to a degree, isn't he—is not all, however. The best blood of the country was represented at Bull Run, but there was lack of discipline, and the men did not know what to do. The members of the National Guard now do know what to do, and all that they need is experience. I do not suppose that in the event of a war they would be ordered out, but it is possible that on a call for volunteers separate organizations in the guard would volunteer. At any rate a discussion as to the actual value of our State troops and what they may be called upon to do in an emergency is of interest and value."

Adjt.-Gen. Porter's last report shows that the National Guard of this State consists of fourteen regiments, one battalion, and forty-five separate companies of infantry, five batteries of artillery, one troop of cavalry, and three signal corps. This report shows that there are 751 officers and 12,993 enlisted men, making an aggregate of 13,743 officers and men. The Naval Reserve has been mustered into the National Guard since this report was issued, and brings the total up to more than 14,000 men.

GEN. ALGER WANTS A SETTLEMENT.

Chili is Too Small a Nation, He Says, for Us to Attack.

DETROIT, Jan. 18.—The *Tribune* publishes an authorized interview with Gen. R. A. Alger, who has just returned from Washington. Asked about the Chilian war talk, he said:

"There is a good deal of it in Washington, and war may be the outcome of the present situation. The army and navy are naturally in favor of it, and their influence is being felt. War preparations always excite the masses of the people, too, and the war policy is apt to be temporarily popular on that account. But it does not seem to me that we have yet exhausted legitimate and proper means for effecting a peaceful settlement of our difficulties with Chili. We are a nation of 65,000,000 intelligent, wide-awake, well-governed people, and we are proposing to go to war with a country whose whole population does not number more than 2,700,000, which is many thousands of miles away from us, and which is, in fact, so inferior to the United States that war with it seems almost like trespass upon our own dignity. It seems to me that it would be both prudent and proper to send a commission to Chili, previous to a determination to begin hostilities, with a view of thus securing ample reparation and avoiding an appeal to arms, which would probably sacrifice not less than 10,000 lives and cost $300,000,000."

"What if the commission failed?"

"War would then be inevitable of course, and I only refer to the matter of appointing a commission as a means of honorably avoiding hostilities. The United States is committed to the policy of arbitration. I would not lower the dignity of the American flag, but simply urge that we live up to a standard which we have ourselves set. There has been one good result, however, of the war scare. It has convinced our people of the necessity for a strong navy, and I am glad of it."

THE CHILIAN ARMY

Not Formidable Except Upon Paper, but Made Up of Fighters.

The Chilian army is formidable only on paper. In 1883 it contained two regiments of artillery, ten battalions of infantry, and three regiments of cavalry, with 1,023 officers and 12,450 men. By the law of 1884, however, this establishment was reduced, and limited to 10,410 men at most.

In 1891 the strength of the standing army on paper had fallen to 397 officers and 5,719 men, organized in eight battalions of infantry, two regiments of field artillery, three regiments of cavalry, one battalion of sappers, and one battalion of coast artillery. The effective strength of this army, however, was estimated by a German Colonel last year as only 2,305 men, for during 1890 no fewer than 1,158 had deserted.

There is universal liability to service in Chili, and therefore there is the fiction of a "people's army," such as is supported in France and Germany, but in fact most soldiers are pressed into the service and are paid to stay in it, while exerting all their political influence to get out. When political influence fails, an unwilling soldier merely takes his case into his own hands and deserts, as the figures just quoted show.

Tourists in Chili frequently have much to say about the strength and efficiency of the fire departments in the large cities there. The explanation of this is that every fireman is exempt from military service. As it is not customary in Chili, however, as it is on the Continent, to drill the fire and police organizations for service in the field, the Chilian firemen would not be any more available for a war than the rawest recruits from the provinces. Besides the 2,305 officers of the Chilian Government has, in times of peace, a National Guard of 48,602 men and 2,119 officers, to which every Chilian able to bear arms is supposed to belong. The National Guard, like the regular army, is much more considerable on paper than it is in fact. The muster roll of last year it was estimated to contain but 27,000 men and 1,055 officers, poorly drilled and armed and almost undisciplined. This force is divided among thirty-four regiments of infantry and three separate companies, eleven squadrons of cavalry, and a few old-fashioned batteries.

"The organization of the Chilian army," wrote a German military authority last February, "is a pretty wretched affair, and patriotic Chilians have long urged a thorough reform. The training is hardly better than the organization. So, for instance, the cavalry drilled according to the Spanish system of 1807. On the other hand, the weapons of the regular army are sufficiently modern. The field artillery has Krupp guns, and the infantry has Mannlicher rifles. The ammunition factories and repair shops are under the supervision of German officers."

Not the least of the serious defects of the Chilian army is that it has an amazingly large number of commissioned officers. Every battalion has one Colonel, two Majors, and two Captains. The change, moreover, from the peace formation to the war formation has been in no way provided for.

The weakness of the Chilian army is more the result of poor management of War Ministers and Inspectors General than of lack of good material. The Chilian soldiers are fair fighters, as the Peruvians found to their cost when they with Bolivia and Peru some twelve years ago. They are, besides, hardy and uncomplaining, and of phenomenal endurance. In the last war the Chilian infantry did some astonishingly good marching. Marches of thirty or thirty-three miles a day beyond the power of the highly trained European troops were for them nothing extraordinary. The cavalry showed similar ability to withstand fatigue. Marching day and night it several times covered sixty or more miles at a stretch. The secret of this endurance of the mounted soldiers is that every Chilian is at home on horseback and that every horse, when ridden at a gallop, the only gait of the Chilian cavalry, has almost inexhaustible strength. Because the Chilians are famous riders, however, it is not correct to draw the inference that they are good horsemen. This is shown not only by the work of the infantry in the war with Peru, but also by the records of the couriers and professional runners. The latter often cover forty-five or fifty miles a day, although carrying burdens of forty pounds on their shoulders. That from such material fine soldiers can be made is self-evident.

CHILI'S NAVY AND OURS.

The Available Vessels at Command in Case of War.

Chili's best war vessel, and the only one which gives our navy any concern, is the Capitan Prat; and fortunately this has not yet come into her possession, being still under construction at Les Forges et Chantiers de la Méditerranée of Toulon. The Prat is an armored steel battle ship of 6,900 tons displacement, a little larger, therefore, than our Maine, and was launched Dec. 20, 1890. It is believed that she is now complete with the exception of receiving her battery. She has a belt of 12 inches of steel, and is credited with a speed of 19 knots. Her powerful armament includes, in the first place, four 9¾ inch Canet breech-loading rifles mounted in barbette turrets, one forward, one aft, and one on each side amidships. Central loading tubes enable these guns to be loaded in any position, and the thoroughly modern character of the vessel is shown by the substitution of electricity for hydraulic power in working the guns and turrets, while the latter can be worked also by hand in case of need. In addition there are eight 4¾-inch Canet rapid-fire guns, mounted on special carriages in pairs, in closed turrets, two on each side of the ship. These carriages also can be operated either by hand or by electricity. The secondary battery consists of seven Maxim machine guns, six revolving cannon, and eight rapid-fire guns of small calibre, together with four Canet torpedo tubes. Taking together her speed, her armor protection, and her great battery power, the Capitan Prat surpasses anything that we have at present ready to meet her. The question whether she will be delivered to Chili by her contractors before the outbreak of hostilities, supposing that war should actually occur, is a highly important one. If she should not be so delivered, she would be of no use to the Chilians, since she would undoubtedly be detained by the French Government.

Two other new vessels, launched at La Seyne in June and September, 1890, are the Presidente Errazuriz and Presidente Pinto. These have been delivered to Chili and are ready for service. They are protected cruisers of 2,080 tons displacement, or just about that of the Detroit and her sister ship launched recently at Baltimore. They have a length of 268 feet by a breadth of 35¾, and are built for speed. The Errazuriz, in trials under induced draught, ran six times over the measured course of 16¼ nautical miles, and her average speed was 18 2-5 knots. Under natural draught she reaches 17½ knots. The two vessels are certainly speedy, and it is said that they can steam 4,500 knots at the rate of 12 knots per hour, without recoaling. They have batteries of rapid fire guns, but we have plenty of much more powerful vessels to take care of them.

The Esmeralda was considered in her day the best all-around cruiser of her type afloat. She was launched in June, 1883, at the establishment of Sir William Armstrong & Co. She is a protected cruiser of 2,810 tons displacement, and originally carried two 10-inch and six 6-inch Armstrong guns. It has since been said that the heavier guns did not work well and were replaced by others. She has, of course, an auxiliary battery. This was the vessel that was sent to convoy the Itata in the San Diego affair, and there was no little speculation as to the result of a hostile meeting between her and the Charleston, when the latter was sent in pursuit. The Esmeralda's engines develop about 6,500 horse power, giving her a speed of eighteen knots.

The Almirante Cochrane of 3,560 tons, is a casemated battle ship, built at Hull in 1874, from designs of Mr. E. J. Reed. She was a sister ship of the Blanco Encalada, which was sunk by a torpedo in Caldera harbor last April. The former vessel has a new armament, consisting of five 8-inch 14-ton Armstrong breech loaders in the gun-deck casemate, while a sixth originally belonged to the battery but proved defective. She also has a number of Hotchkiss rapid-fire guns and revolving cannon in her secondary battery. She has two above-water torpedo tubes forward and one aft, with a spare tube carried amidships. It was reported some time ago that the Blanco Encalada was to be raised, if possible, but it remains to be seen whether Chili will attempt to use her again. At all events, her mate, the Cochrane, is an effective ship, with her good battery and her 6-inch armor at the waterline; but she is too slow, her engines developing only 2,900 horse power, and giving her a speed of about twelve knots.

The Huascar is an ironclad of about 2,000 tons displacement, captured from Peru in 1879. She was built in 1865, and has but 4½-inch armor at the water line, with 5½ and 8 inches on the turret. She carries two 12-ton Armstrongs and two 40-pounders, is slow and altogether not formidable.

The principal other war vessels of Chili are her torpedo craft, and in these she greatly excels our navy. Most noticeable among them are the pair of torpedo cruisers, the Almirante Lynch and Almirante Condell. They were launched by the Laird Brothers early in 1890, and the former promptly distinguished herself last year, shortly after her completion, by sinking the Blanco Encalada, as already mentioned. They have a length of 240 feet, a beam of 27½, and a draught not exceeding 10 feet. They have 38 water-tight compartments, a central bulkhead, separating the two engine rooms and the two sets of boilers. The following additional description is given of them by our Bureau of Naval Intelligence:

The machinery space is protected by steel bulkheads, extending from bilge to gunwale, and forming the coal bunkers. Two pair of triple-expansion engines give 4,000 I. H. P. and an estimated speed of twenty-one knots.

Battery: Three Hotchkiss 14-pounder R. F. G., two on the forecastle and one aft; four 3-pounder H. R. G. and two Gatlings. Five torpedo tubes are fitted, one in the bow and four on broadside.

These vessels have good freeboard at the ends, a high pointed ram for the bow and a cruiser stern terminating in a topgallant forecastle and half poop, which give ample space for the accommodation of officers and men.

In their trials the Lynch made a mean speed of nearly 21¾ knots, while the Condell apparently did still better, in a three hours' run at sea, with most unfavorable weather, with heavy wind and rough water, she secured 21¾ knots under an indicated horse power of 4,350. In her trials for coal endurance a continuous run of six hours at eleven knots gave a consumption of only eighty-eight pounds per knot, so that at this rate the Condell has a steaming radius of 2,500 miles, with a normal coal supply of 100 tons.

Besides these two vessels Chili has ten first-class torpedo boats and two second class, and a goodly supply of Whitehead torpedoes, which are likely to be augmented. There is no doubt whatever that she is better equipped than our forces in this particular, but our ships would profit by the experience of the Blanco Encalada, which did not take suitable precautions against a surprise, and also was poorly manned.

The O'Higgins, a wooden corvette of 1,100 tons, built in 1867, was damaged in an engagement with the Valparaiso forts last year. The Magellanes, a composite gunboat of 950 tons, built in 1874, and carrying one 7-inch rifle and some rapid-fire guns, was damaged at Chaharal last April in an engagement with the Lynch, the Condell, and the Sarjento Aldea, but drove them all off. The Aldea, a 70-ton torpedo boat, was nearly blown to pieces in this fight. The Chacabuco, of 1,100 tons, and the Abtao, of about the same displacement, an unarmored corvette, carrying 8-inch guns, complete with them may be put the Pilcomayo of 600 tons.

Perhaps a word should be given to the armed transports. The Imperiale, of 2,700 tons and 3,000 horse power, with a speed said to be 16 knots, was built at Birkenhead, in 1889, for the Compania Sud Americana de Vapores. She was seized by Balmaceda and equipped with a battery of twelve guns, three of them rapid-firing. The same company owned the Bio Bio, of 713 tons displacement, built at Glasgow in 1888, and also our old acquaintance the Itata, of 1,704 tons, built at Liverpool in 1873. A third vessel of this company, the Maipo, built at Glasgow in 1882, of 2,295 tons, was captured by the Congress party from Balmaceda under the guns of the Valparaiso forts. Two other vessels, used as armed transports last year, and belonging to the Pacific Steam Navigation Company, were the iron steamer Chilian of 2,309 tons, and the Aconcagua of 4,106 tons. The latter is said to have 14½ knots speed. She was injured in the Caldera fight with the Lynch and Condell.

Some minor craft, such as the school ships for the naval college at Valparaiso, which has ninety cadets, and the despatch and sailing vessels, need not be mentioned in detail. The personnel of the Chilian navy consists of about

Summing up the whole matter, the Prat is a 300 officers and about 1,600 sub-officers and sailors.

really formidable vessel, but is the only one that need give us much concern. The Cochrane, Esmeralda, Errazuriz, and Pinto, with the torpedo fleet headed by the Lynch and Condell, would certainly have to be looked out for, but they would be quite overmatched by our vessels.

UNCLE SAM'S NAVY.

The forces that can be immediately brought to bear on our side against Chili comprise, to begin with, a dozen modern steel unarmored vessels of the protected cruiser type, mounting more than 100 high-power, breech-loading rifles of the 6-inch and 8-inch calibres. In fact, our only steel cruiser which has not been made available for this purpose is the smallest of them, the Petrel, which, with her four guns, has been sent off to China.

Beginning first with the vessels now in the Pacific, ready to be concentrated along the Chilian coast, we have the Baltimore, of 4,400 tons, carrying four 8-inch and six 6-inch guns; the Charleston, of 3,730 tons, carrying two 8-inch and six 6-inch guns; the San Francisco, of 4,083 tons, carrying twelve 6-inch guns; the Boston, of 3,100 tons, carrying two 8-inch and six 6-inch guns; the Yorktown, of 1,703 tons, carrying six 6-inch guns. All these vessels are well supplied with rapid fire and machine guns in their secondary batteries, and all have good speed, the Charleston being classed as an 18-knot ship and the San Francisco and Baltimore as 19-knot ships.

Turning from these vessels on the Pacific station to Admiral Walker's squadron now at Montevideo, ready to proceed to Chili through the Straits of Magellan, we find it including the flagships Chicago, 4,500 tons, with her splendid battery of two 8-inch, four 6-inch and eight 6-inch guns; the Atlanta, of 3,100 tons, with two 8-inch and six 6-inch guns; the Bennington, of 1,703 tons, with six 6-inch guns. All these are modern steel vessels, and we need not reckon the wooden craft on that station, the Essex, 1,375 tons, and the Iantic, 1,000 tons.

The third squadron is that of Rear Admiral Bancroft Gherardi, which is now stationed at the West Indies, ready also to be sent forward if needed. It includes the Philadelphia, 4,324 tons, 19 knots speed, and twelve 6-inch rifles; the Newark, 4,083 tons, and also carrying twelve 6-inch rifles, now fitting out at Norfolk to join the squadron; the Concord, 1,703 tons, with six 6-inch guns. To this squadron also belongs the famous old wooden ship Kearsarge, which sent the Alabama to the bottom. Besides these vessels we have on the Pacific coast the important barbette-turret coast defender Monterey, of 4,048 tons. She is the craft largely relied upon to tackle the Prat. She has less speed than the latter, being designed only for sixteen knots; but she carries a trump card in her battery of two 12-inch and two 10-inch guns. The former propel an 850-pound projectile with a charge of 455 pounds of powder. They are carried in the forward turret, which is protected by steel plates four-teen inches thick, while the 10-inch guns will be in the after turret, protected by 11½-inch plates. The hull armor of this vessel is 16 inches at the maximum, a long distance amidships, covering the engines and magazines. Forward and aft the thickness is decreased. It also tapers amidships from 16 inches at the top down to 8 inches. This vessel can be made ready, it has been reported, within two months, and in fact she expects to be ready in ample season to meet the Prat, should hostilities come.

On the Atlantic coast we have the Miantonomoh, of 3,990 tons, carrying in her turrets four 10-inch breech loading rifles. She has a less effective armor protection than the Prat, her maximum plating, which is on the turrets, being 11½ inches. But something of an offset is furnished by her low freeboard. She, first of all, intended for harbor defence, but if the Prat proceeds from France to Chili she may be found following in that direction. In her harbor defence work she is to be aided by the single-turret monitors. Some of these are already getting ready for service, and it is probable that at least half a dozen of them, and perhaps more, will be fitted up, supplied with some of the surplus 8-inch and 6-inch guns they can be of excellent service as harbor defenders, being able with their light draught to go into waters where a heavy ironclad cannot follow them.

We should also by no means give the Chilians a monopoly of torpedo work, since the Vesuvius, the Cushing, and the Alarm are being fitted up for that purpose, and the supply of Howell and Whitehead torpedoes hurried forward. Of our wooden vessels, the Iroquois, Mohican, and others could aid, if necessary, and the steel Dolphin would take part as a despatch vessel. Merchant vessels would also be fitted out both as transports and as armed cruisers.

The upshot of the whole matter is that our navy would be abundantly able to take care of the Chilians, even with the services of the Prat conceded to them. Should a happy and peaceful settlement end the present trouble, as we must sincerely hope, our navy will nevertheless have had a most valuable experience in the art of getting ready in a hurry for possible hostilities.

ACTIVITY IN THE NAVY YARDS.

Monitors at League Island Ordered to be Prepared for Service.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18.—After years of comparative idleness, the League Island Navy Yard to-day began to show signs of life and industry. In pursuance of orders from Washington the formidable monitor Montauk will be prepared at once for service. A force of men was put to work this morning, sufficient to equip the vessel for sea in three weeks, though Capt. Coghlan, acting commandant at the island, said that if urgent necessity required it the Montauk could be equipped in a week. Capt. Coghlan added that the two other monitors at League Island, the Nahant and Jason, could also be gotten ready for service in a week. Though the orders from the Navy Department were brief and unexplained, the officers at the yard naturally construe them as bearing on the Chilian troubles.

"The Montauk," he said, "has not been out of the water for eighteen years, and she is a vessel with only her engines and guns aboard. That is to say, she is dismantled, as there was no occasion during a long period of idleness to have her equipped. She is preserved as well as it is possible for any boat to be. In order to preserve the engines it is necessary to separate many of the parts, and it is almost like building a new engine to put them together. It will take fifteen men three weeks to do it. As I have inferred, in case of emergency we could have her in condition in a week. The guns have always been kept in order. She has two of them, and they are rifled guns, and throw a 15-inch shell. It would take one week to put twenty-five or thirty tons of ammunition in the vessel. The powder is put in bags, each charge ready for the gun, and the shells are in racks. We have ample facilities for ammunition. The Montauk is 1,875 tons displacement. The complement of each ship is from 160 to 180 officers and men."

Capt. Coghlan was asked whether the department would be likely to send the monitors to Chili in case of war. He said: "It would be dangerous to do so. He regarded them as being admirable as means of coast and harbor defence, but it would entail great expense to take them to South America and would also consume much time.

"The chief engineer of the Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance," said Capt. Coghlan, "there was provision made to disarm the monitors of their 10-inch smooth-bore guns and substitute the latest pattern 8 and 10 inch projectile throwers, but I think, if there is going to be a war, the present armament will be employed."

There are eighteen monitors owned by the United States Government. Seven are at Richmond, three at League Island, one at Brooklyn, one at Annapolis, and one at Mare Island.

THE BALTIMORE ORDERED SOUTH.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18.—The cruiser Baltimore, now at Mare Island Navy Yard, has received orders to leave on Wednesday for the South. She will go direct to Acapulco or Callao without a stop. Nothing can be said to show that she will be joined by the Charleston or the San Francisco now at San Diego. Capt. Schley and all the officers of the Baltimore, whose cruise has expired, have asked to be reassigned to the ship, on the understanding that troubles occur with Chili. Nearly all the time-expired sailors on the cruiser have also reënlisted on a similar understanding. It is also stated that the Mohican, a wooden vessel, has been ordered to leave in a day or two for Panama. The Mohican is now at Mare Island nearly ready for sea.

BUSTLE AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Planning to Make Tugs Warlike—The War Fever at San Diego.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18.—Although Commandant Benham of the Mare Island Navy Yard denies it, orders have been received here for all officers on shore leave to report at once to the Admiral of the Pacific squadron for duty.

Four officers are stationed at the Union Iron Works supervising the construction of the Oregon and Monterey. These are Naval Constructor R. W. Steele, Assistant Naval Constructor A. W. Stahl, Chief Engineer F. Kutz, and Lieut. Flynn, inspector of electric lighting. A well-known naval officer said this afternoon that a "rush" telegram had been received by these officers from Washington on Saturday afternoon to report immediately to Admiral Brown for special duty. Admiral Brown is now on the San Francisco at San Diego, and the officers have already reported to him by telegraph and are now making arrangements to leave for San Diego as early as possible. The San Francisco has her full complement of officers, so the orders naturally give rise to the impression that some immediate action is going to be taken by the United States Government.

Despite denials that the Government is looking after Spreckels's new tug Fearless, Admiral Irwin and Capt. Schley were again at the Union Iron Works on Saturday and inspected the monster tugboat. The Captain was particularly pleased with the Fearless, and said she would make a splendid torpedo boat.

The only thing needed, he said, was to put protective armor over the engine room. The tug can be completed in about two weeks. She is 152 feet in length, 26 feet in breadth of beam, and has a depth of hold of 18 feet. She has a splendid electric search light, and could mount two or three 6-inch guns. Her indicated horse power is between 1,100 and 1,200, and she can steam 16 knots an hour and carry coal for a fifty-day trip.

The naval reserve here has established a bureau of naval intelligence, and every effort is being made to get all information regarding San Francisco Bay, its strong and weak points, the best place for an engagement, if such a thing be unavoidable, where to lay torpedoes, &c. A canvass will be also made of vessels in port to estimate the number of available ships that could be used in case of war, what tugs could be converted into torpedo boats, their coaling and steaming capacity, and, in fact, everything pertaining to naval warfare.

At San Diego they have the war fever very badly. Gen. D. P. Coon opened to-day a recruiting office for the first brigade of volunteers for a war in Chili. The town is wild over the reports from Washington.

The cruiser Charleston is not expected to leave before to-morrow. At Mare Island 1,000 tons of coal are being put aboard the Baltimore. A large force of machinists and coppersmiths are working on her.

Drew $250 from Bank and Disappeared.

Albert E. Coles has been missing from his home, at 602 Tinton avenue, since last Thursday. He was in business as a manufacturer of silverware for thirty-two years and retired a few years ago. He went to the Union Dime Savings Bank and drew $250 on the day he disappeared. He has a wife and a son. Mrs. Coles called at Police Headquarters yesterday and had a general alarm sent out.

Coles was arrested for intoxication and arraigned at the Jefferson Market Court last Friday and was discharged.

Dr. McGonigle Gets a Stay.

Justice Dykman handed down a decision this morning granting a stay of conviction and judgment of affirmance in the case of Dr. McGonigle, who was tried and convicted of manslaughter in causing the death of Annie Goodwin by malpractice. The Judge grants the stay pending an appeal. He also continues the bail bond.

Found Dead Between the Tracks.

Patrick Murphy of Hastings lived at Trenton street, Yonkers, and was a brakeman on the New York Central. He was found lying dead between the tracks at Sixty-seventh street and North River at 9 o'clock last night. No one seems to know how he met his death. The railroad men report that he was crushed to death while coupling cars. There are no visible injuries.

Nicholson's Liquid Bread, the famous malt tonic, is a liquid food for the sick and an invigorating tonic for the languid. The most popular article of the kind. Try it yourself.

A neglected cough is a dangerous menace to your health. A bottle of Piso's Cure for Consumption will cure. 25 ct. Druggists.

ROYAL is the only Baking Powder Absolutely Pure.

THE GREAT NEW YEAR'S BALL

MR. WARD M'ALLISTER'S LONG TALKED OF PLANS CARRIED OUT.

A Beautiful Spectacle Presented in the Madison Square Garden Assembly Rooms—A Sir Roger De Coverley Danced and a Cotillion Ends the Evening.

The youth and beauty of New York society braved the inclement weather last night to witness in the Assembly Rooms in the Madison Square Gar