

# MAYORS OF 75 CITIES IN LEAGUE FOR DEFENCE

### Ex-Secretaries of War Root and Stimson Indorse Larger Part of Garrison Programme—National Security Congress Also Approves It.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Two former Secretaries of War under Republican administrations, Ellihu Root and Henry L. Stimson, indorsed today the larger part of the Garrison programme for the expansion of the army.

The National Security League at the close of its congress here to-night also went on record as approving the larger part of the defence measure proposed by Secretary Garrison, with a further demand, however, for universal obligatory military service.

The increase of the navy and its personnel and the establishment of a naval general staff in accordance with the recommendations of the General Board rather than the recommendations of Secretary Daniels were also advocated by the league. The idea of using the National Guard was rejected.

Plans for broadening the preparatory campaign were laid at the closing session of the congress. It was announced that upon the invitation of Mayor Kiel and the citizens of St. Louis, with the cooperation of Mayor Mitchell of New York, a national defence conference of Mayors and the representatives of Mayors of cities of the United States will be held at St. Louis March 3 and 4. The nucleus of this gathering will be committees appointed by the Mayors of more than seventy-five cities.

**A Consolidated Movement.**  
A movement was also started to bring about cooperation among the various organizations interested in the national defence propaganda. This was undertaken by the Navy League, the National Security League, the National Defence Society, the Aero Club of America, the national defence committee of the National Chamber of Commerce and the American Legion. It is understood that the consolidated organization will be headed by Robert Bacon of New York, ex-Ambassador to France, who will direct the campaign for national defence.

To the resolutions reported by the special committee were added by unanimous vote a resolution recommending that steps be taken to allow the manufacturers of munitions of war only restricted profits to be regulated by the government and a resolution providing for cooperation among the defence societies.

Gen. Woodhull of Boston proposed conscription to organize a continental army. This was defeated largely on the plea of Gen. Luke Wright that the American people did not like the word conscription.

An uproar was caused by Owen Miller, a delegate from St. Louis, representing, as he said, the labor element of the country. Mr. Miller aroused the meeting by alluding to the charge that the preparatory movement was supported by munition makers. This was explained by the fact that the charge was to be false did the tumult subside.

He advocated the establishment of yards and the factories and shops with some approval, but it was rejected when it came to a vote.

Col. Franklin Q. Brown of New York took occasion earlier in the day to deny specifically that the Security League received support from the munition and armament makers.

The National Security League brought its sessions to a close to-night with a banquet, at which Senator Lodge of Massachusetts delivered an address on America's danger; George W. Wickert, former Attorney-General, spoke on the subject of universal training and democracy; and George H. Putnam of New York, on the defence of the republic and the fulfilment of national obligations.

**Mr. Root's Views.**  
The views of Ellihu Root on the immediate problem of preparedness were expressed in a letter read to the congress. In this he said:

"In my view it is idle to talk of developing the National Guard itself into an adequate army for national defence, and any such attempt would inevitably result in the failure of the whole movement and the waste of all the energy and effort devoted to it.

"The National Guard are primarily State troops for State purposes, and they must continue to be so. The power to raise them and to train them and to appoint their officers rests with the separate States.

"Under the enlightened policy of the militia act of January 21, 1903, they have been fitted to render most useful service primarily in coast defence in cooperation with the national army in time of war.

"In time of peace they are rendering a most useful service by training in the elements of military service a great number of young Americans to whom the President may turn when he seeks suitable men to be appointed officers in the national army. The idea, however, that these forty-eight different bodies of troops, with officers appointed by forty-eight different governors, can be made the basis for developing an effective mobile national army is quite absurd.

"An effective army must be built up on the principle of complete unity of control. This can never be attained by developing forty-eight different bodies under officers appointed by forty-eight different governors and up to the time of war under the direction of forty-eight different commanders in chief.

"This characteristic of the National Guard cannot be changed except by amending the Constitution of the United States, which, if practicable, would require many years, and if that were done the result would simply be not to develop an army upon the National Guard but to destroy the National Guard and to develop an army on an entirely different basis.

"It seems perfectly clear to me that any effort in the direction of developing the National Guard into the required national army of defence will be worse than thrown away, because it will result in the miscarriage of the whole effort.

"Let me add another practical observation: The proposal to create an adequate national army of defence involves a good deal of what to many Americans who do not fully appreciate the reasons for the great enlargement of our military forces. Many of them are afraid of military men; they are incredulous as to the necessity; they are disinclined to incur the expense.

**Persistence Urged.**  
"The progress of the cause in which you are enlisted requires a good deal of education, and many, I fear, also need to have the true spirit of American patriotism reawakened in them. Now, do not postpone your practical progress toward the creation of an adequate army until the end of this campaign of education. Make all the progress you can in the right direction as soon as you can.

"There are good things in Secretary Garrison's plans. The doing of them would be progress in the right direction. Don't lose these good things even though you may find that you can't at this time get something more in the same direction. Get those good things into law and as much more as possible as

soon as you can and then show the people of the country what further steps ought to be taken and can be taken.

"The same view is true as to the navy: Building up the military and naval establishments to the point where they ought to be will be slow work and we ought to begin without further delay. The people of the country will deal with their representatives for all inadequacies and shortcomings in this vital matter.

"But in the meantime let us take the first steps on any programme that is directed toward the goal we ought to attain—a trained and always available national citizen soldiery under the instruction and administration and formative leadership of an adequate though small regular army."

**Mr. Stimson's Approval.**  
The same approval of Secretary Garrison's programme was expressed by ex-Secretary Stimson, who said:

"Secretary Garrison's recommendations in respect to the regular army are for sufficient new organizations to bring the skeleton army up to its proper basis. In other words, to give us three complete divisions of infantry instead of skeleton divisions and to make good the further gaps that have been created by the organizations which have recently been sent out of the country.

"It is a sound plan and an intelligent plan. It is based on the elementary military axiom that a military force should be a balanced team and not a lot of heterogeneous units, and it is also an attempt to carry out consistently a previous sound military policy of the Department based upon the record of the General Staff in 1912 on the organization of our land forces.

"On the side therefore of our problem which deals with our regular army it seems to me that it is the duty of this league to support earnestly the recommendations of the War Department which have been made along the foregoing lines and to do all it can to get them enacted into law. If Congress can be persuaded further, well and good; but so far as I can see the recommendations involve a step which, taken, may in the future have to be retraced."

Gen. John F. O'Ryan of New York addressed the congress on the subject of coast defence. In the course of his remarks, he said, it is essential "that the first line, represented by the navy, be supplemented by fortifications so placed as to deny the enemy access to important harbors and to preserve them as havens for our fleets in the event of disaster or lack of power immediately to assume the offensive."

He pleaded for an adequate supply of air craft, mines, torpedoes and other auxiliaries.

**Resolutions Adopted.**  
These are the resolutions adopted by the league:

"Be it resolved by the National Security League that the defence of the United States depends upon an adequate navy and a national army founded upon a system of universal obligatory military training and service. This system must be wholly under the discipline and control of the national authorities. We deprecate all steps which tend to obstruct or postpone the adoption of such a universal system.

"Be it further resolved that the National Security League indorses the efforts of Secretary Garrison to obtain an increase in the regular army, the correction of our faulty enlistment law, the establishment of an adequate army reserve and the accumulation of an adequate supply of ammunition, artillery and material; but we believe that in addition to the proposed quota of coast artillery and auxiliary troops the mobile regular army within the United States should comprise at least four complete infantry divisions as recommended by the War College report of 1915.

"Be it further resolved by the National Security League that it recommends the authorization by Congress of a council of national defence as set forth in House Resolution No. 133 of the first session, Sixty-third Congress, commonly known as the Hobson bill, for the purpose of securing more harmonious cooperation between the Executive and legislative branches of the Government with respect to the national defenses.

"Be it further resolved that the National Security League recommends the establishment of a navy adequate to command the national interest in conformity with the following recommendations: That the personnel of the navy be increased in conformity with the requirements of the fleet as interpreted by the General Board of the navy; That there be established for the navy a general staff similar to that of the General Staff of the army, as is customary in all other navies of the world; That the National Security League indorses the programme of July 20, 1915, of the General Board of the navy and urges its immediate adoption by Congress."

**COUNTS ON DEFENCE PLAN.**  
Bennet Says Patriotic Republicans Will Oppose Peace Democrats.

Congressman William S. Bennet said yesterday that in his opinion the efforts of certain elements in the Democratic party to kill any measure resulting in greater preparedness will fail. He said he believed that before the close of the session Republicans who put their Americanism above their party will work with Democrats who are supporting the President.

The Congressman thinks that three pre-thoughts a year, one or more battle cruisers and a large number of submarines and aeroplanes will be provided. In his opinion the idea of a continental army will be given up and instead an effort will be made to increase the militia.

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Traveling Bags, Dressing Cases, Hat Boxes, etc.

## Advance Styles in Women's Coats and Wraps

for the rapidly approaching Spring season are shown on the Third Floor. Every late development of fashion finds tasteful expression in the smart Outergarments assembled, among which are Coats for sports and general practical wear, made of checked wool velour, cashmere suede, gabardine and other favored fabrics; and Travel and Motor Coats featuring all the most desired and desirable materials.

## 1,200 Pairs of Women's High-cut Lace Boots

in black gunmetal or tan calfskin, will be placed on sale to-morrow

at \$4.75 per pair

this being a decided concession from the usual selling price.

(Women's Shoe Department, Second Floor)

## Another Remarkable Sale of Choice Dress Satin

to commence to-morrow (Monday) will comprise

40-inch Suede-finish Satin

at \$1.65 per yard

Included are twenty fashionable shades, as well as white, ivory and black.

(This Sale offers an exceptional purchasing opportunity)

## The Spring Importations of Marvex Gloves

just received from abroad, may be accepted as indicative of the correct glove styles for the ensuing season.

Marvex Gloves (made by Trefousse et Cie., Chaumont, France) are essentially gloves of quality, for the well-dressed man and woman.

## New Tailored Suits for Women's Spring Wear

are now ready. The selections include a number of chic models which are exclusively reserved to B. Altman & Co.

The prices are moderate.

Ready-to-wear Department, Third Floor.

## Fashionable Mourning for Spring

Advance models are now displayed in a carefully-chosen selection which includes everything that is new and smart in mourning styles and materials.

Hats, Neckwear, Gloves, etc. Mourning Stationery.

All purchases will be shipped Prepaid to any point in the United States, or to Foreign Possessions. The methods of shipment are optional with B. Altman & Co. and no discounts are allowed.

## An Extraordinary Sale of Philippine Hand-embroidered Lingerie

which has been arranged for to-morrow and Tuesday and will be held in the imported Lingerie Department, on the Second Floor, will present very unusual values in

Nightrobes	\$1.95, 2.75, 3.75, 4.25
Chemises	1.75, 2.35, 2.75, 3.25
Envelope Chemises	1.85, 2.85, 4.25
Drawers	1.95, 2.75
Petticoats	2.25, 2.95, 3.75

## French Hand-embroidered Lingerie

will, at the same time, be offered at these special prices:

Nightrobes	\$1.75, 2.75, 3.75
Chemises	1.35, 1.75, 2.35
Envelope Chemises	1.85
Drawers	1.25, 1.55, 1.95
Corset Covers	1.10, 1.45
Combinations	2.95, 3.25
Petticoats	2.25, 2.50, 3.50

## An Important One-month Sale of Oriental Rugs

is in progress. Universal price advantages are being offered in PERSIAN, TURKISH AND CHINESE RUGS

embracing a very great variety of weaves and sizes. The remarkably low prices at which these Rugs are now quoted will remain in force throughout the month of January.

A Special Offering in the Oriental Rug Department for to-morrow (Monday) will consist of

Oriental Saddle-bag Pillows specially priced at \$5.75

New additions are constantly being made to the assortments of

## Household and Decorative Linens, Blankets, Comfortables, Etc.,

on Special Sale during the current month.

THIS WEEK THERE WILL BE OFFERED

### IN THE LINEN DEPARTMENT

Linen Damask Table Cloths each \$2.75, 3.50, 4.25 to 6.50

Linen Damask Napkins per dozen \$2.75, 3.75, 4.25 to 6.75

Turkish Bath Towels, hemmed, per dozen \$3.00, 3.60, 4.80 & 5.40

Madeira Luncheon Sets, hand-scalloped and hand-embroidered; consisting of 13 pieces (24-inch centerpiece, six 6-inch and six 10-inch doilies) per set \$4.25, 4.75, 7.75

### Muslin Sheets and Pillow Cases

Sheets, with plain hems, each 45c., 55c., 60c. to \$1.10

### IN THE BLANKET DEPARTMENT

White Blankets per pair \$4.50, 5.50 to 9.50

Satin-finish Bedspreads, with scalloped edges: Single size each \$3.00 & 3.75 Double size each 3.75 & 4.75

Crochet Bedspreads, each \$1.25

Comfortables Cotton-filled each \$1.65

Cotton-filled, with figured mull top and plain border each \$2.50

A limited number of Wool-filled Comfortables, sateen-covered, at the very special price of \$3.75

## A Special Monday Offering of Novelty Metal Laces

will consist of this season's importations, in solid effects of gold, silver or steel, and in combinations of metals with colors. These Laces, which are much in demand for the adornment of dance and evening gowns, will be marked at the greatly reduced prices of

85c., \$1.35, 1.90 to 5.50 per yard

An Important Special Sale of Cotton Dress Fabrics for to-morrow will consist of

## 20,000 Yards of Imported Printed Cotton Voile

presenting a great variety of attractive designs (simple and elaborate) on white, tinted, and darker-colored grounds, which will be offered at the abnormally low price of

24c. per yard

This Sale is made possible only by an unforeseen opportunity to effect an especially advantageous purchase.

## Spring Modes for Misses

are already being displayed in the Department on the Second Floor. Among them are Tailor-made Suits of distinction; Afternoon and Evening Dresses which sound the latest note in chic appareling; and many simple washable Frocks that are the embodiment of springtime charm.

## Dainty Frocks and Smart Suits for the Girls & Boys

OF THE GRADUATING CLASSES

Frocks of the sheer white fabric that are at once so appropriate and so becoming, with and without accentuations of embroidery and lace.

Suits of blue serge that will immediately appeal to the boy who likes to feel that he is well dressed.

(Misses', Girls' and Boys' Department, Second Floor)

Special Salespeople will, if desired, be detailed to accompany patrons to the store's various departments or goods will be assembled for inspection in a private showroom.