

THE ARMY OF TODAY.

SOME GOOD FEATURES OF THE NEW REGULAR ESTABLISHMENT.

At Last the Army is a Recognized Necessity—Changes in the Artillery Arm—Increase in Mounted Troops. Influence of the Adjutant General.

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In wartime mere numbers do not constitute an army. This is a common-place declaration, but one which cannot be too often repeated in a country having need of soldiers to do the work of soldiers. In these days of wealth, splendor and leisure it is easy to fill crack regiments and fancy squadrons of amateur soldiers with five feet and odd inches of well fed humanity, but military men know, and they ceaselessly preach the truth, that it requires time and discipline and even hard lines to make fighting men for fighting emergencies.

Uncle Sam has learned a lot about troops and armies and all that within the last 40 years. The experience is now actively at work inspiring the leaders and directors of the military establishment. But for the war with Spain the nation might have drifted along on the old lines, with its 25,000 men moving in a rut and never improving beyond the personnel of its enlisted men. That one element is of the highest importance, and perhaps the country would be better served in a crisis with that 25,000 well drilled and disciplined army which had graduated from the plains than by 60,000 or even 100,000 got together under a popular craze for military service which should be simply another name for glory.

New blood is always a good thing to stir up an old body. The regular army of the United States had a most needed infusion of new blood in the way of officers at the close of the civil war. The military ideas born and circulated during that long contest spread from the executive mansion at Washington to the humblest barrack kitchen and from the halls of legislation to the company parade ground on the Arizona sand hills. No nation ever had more military spirit, well digested military knowledge and actual military potency contained in an army of 25,000 men than existed in the United States establishment of 1898. With that spirit and knowledge diffused among 500,000 judiciously selected recruits there would have been an army without parallel under one banner in all the history of nations.

Some of the spirit and knowledge of the regular army were diffused through the volunteer and provisional regiments called to the field in 1898 and 1899, but not much more than enough to show what it would mean to spread it over an increased establishment so organized as to retain the best things in its predecessor from the lowest rank upward.

Numerous plans had been suggested long before for the improvement of the service and the wider diffusion of military knowledge among the masses. Sherman advocated schools for officers. General Kautz outlined a scheme for drawing into the ranks a class of ambitious young men of capacity, putting them through a course of manual and scientific training and returning them to the people to be the leaders of militia organizations which should be more extensive and more liberally supported than any ever known in the land. Enlisted men were encouraged by new laws to hope for and prepare for promotion to commissioned rank in the expectation that in that way the army would be drawn nearer to the people and the class of recruits improved.

But it was not easy to remodel or reorganize that army of 25,000 men. Radical changes would have done injustice to worthy officers of long service and at the same time have destroyed the personal influence which they exerted in the spheres where they were fixed. It would have been easy to fall into the common error of jumping out of the frying pan into the fire, to destroy a magnificent army of 25,000 men and get a poor substitute, all to satisfy a craze for change. As it is, events have worked well for the army, for every part of it, for every element in it. Changes have been imperative, and they have been made, so to speak, under fire. The best that can be done is often the very best that might be done, and at any rate the forced shuffle is certain to bring all there is, in turn, to the top. With a settling of the elements comes the proof that the shake up was a good thing.

For a century the United States regular army led a precarious existence. Legislators were afraid of it; administrators dare not keep it up to even a respectable standard. After the Revolution it was reduced to one man, and that man George Washington. He was a general without troops, for the founders of the government would not tolerate an institution soavoring of monarchy as a standing army. Finally, in order to guard the few military stores, the force was increased to 85 soldiers. In 1787, when the Indian troubles on the frontier made troops a necessity, a regiment of 600 men was organized, and congress legislated for "the regiment of infantry in the service of the United States." During the first ten years of the nineteenth century the army varied in size from 2,000 to 3,000. The war of 1812 increased it to 25,000, but as soon as the news of Jackson's victory at New Orleans reached the north the army was

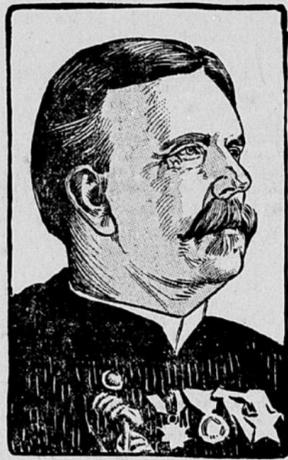
cut down to 10,000. In the Mexican war the experience of 1812-15 was repeated. The army was expanded to 25,000 to fight at Monterey, Buena Vista and the City of Mexico, then reduced to 10,000 again. In 1861 it was 10,000 and at the surrender of Lee, in 1865, numbered less than 40,000. The Spanish war again found it on a peace footing of 25,000.

The dangers of a large standing army have been cried up more zealously than the dangers of territorial expansion, a state of things which accounts for the halting and half hearted policy of supporting the regular army. Yet when war comes the public looks for a quick showing of brilliant leaders, crack troops and early victories. The establishment to be hereafter maintained should give a good account of itself within a few weeks after war is declared in order to justify the claims for standing armies. Prussia won in 1866 and again in 1870 because of the high efficiency of her standing army.

The new army bill establishes a regular army on a peace footing double the size heretofore maintained and on a war footing about four times as large as in the civil war and after. This should prevent the neglect and deterioration of the regulars in a prolonged war. As a nucleus for a fighting force of 1,000,000 a pitiful 25,000 becomes an absurdity. The regulars were reduced to a nullity in the sixties because they numbered only 1 in 40 of the troops in the field, the rest being volunteers, who cared little for army discipline except as it served the immediate purpose in hand.

One of the absurdities of the old army abolished in the reorganization is the artillery regiment. The system of regiments has been maintained on paper, but never carried into practice. In the civil war aggregations of batteries attached to army corps were called brigades. Batteries necessarily act independently. They are now organized into a corps under a chief of artillery, much the same as the active batteries of the civil war the last two years of campaigning. The army bill provides for 30 field batteries and 126 coast artillery companies, the batteries and companies to be designated by numbers.

Cavalry also receives due attention in the new army. Formerly there were 10 cavalry regiments to 25 of infantry. Now the mounted regiments number 15 and the foot regiments 30. This is a recognition of lessons of the war. Cavalry can fight as infantry, but in moving on horseback can be twice as serviceable at times. In fact, only



GENERAL H. C. CORBIN, ADJUTANT GENERAL, U. S. A.

[Veteran volunteer and regular.] about half the new army will be infantry. The existing conditions determine in part the composition of the army. Cavalry is needed on the plains to chase Indians, infantry to garrison frontier posts, artillery to man the numerous and increasing coast defenses.

West Point influences can have little to do with the reorganization scheme. Graduates of the Military academy are in a hopeless minority in the list of promotions to high grades. Miles is not a West Pointer, and the same of General Corbin, the adjutant general, who has made more of his office than any previous incumbent. For years the office of adjutant general of the army was simply a copying and forwarding bureau for army orders and a repository for military records and documents. Since the beginning of the Spanish war the adjutant general of the army has been only second in importance to the general in chief. Being near the president, the incumbent of that office, if he is the right kind of man, can wield an influence equal to a cabinet officer. Such power is needed.

The army is an institution and cannot safely be left to the whims, prejudices and rivalries of legislators. General Corbin has had no little to do with the management of the army, and he is a veteran of the civil war and of the plains. In the sixties he showed unusual capacity for enforcing high discipline and for keeping his troops up to a fine standard of efficiency. He was a born soldier in the sense of having a military mind. Beginning as a lieutenant of volunteers in his teens, he came out the commander of a regiment. Starting again as second lieutenant of regulars in 1866, he arose to the position he now holds by sheer force of character and military genius. How jealous he is of the welfare of the army was shown when the president appointed Funston a brigadier general. Said he, "Funston is an excellent scout, but the army needs generals who can teach." Recruits wish to be taught to be soldiers, and soldiers wish to be taught to be better ones. The ideal brigadier for a standing army is not a dashing madcap, but a head man, or sort of governor, teacher and ruler.

GEORGE L. KILMER.

THE CURATE AND THE MILLIONAIRE

BY BARRY PAIN.

"But does it never occur to you," asked the curate as he poured two teaspoonfuls of port into his glass and passed the decanter, "does it never occur to you to ask yourself what is the good of it all?"

"Never," said the millionaire, with decision.

"You never regret—you see, after all, money is not everything, is it?"

"That observation is frequently made," said the millionaire, thoughtfully, "and it is very misleading. Money is not everything, but it is much nearer to being everything than anything else is. There is quite a good deal of cant talked about money. It is comforting cant, of course. One gets the same kind of thing about birth. Personally, I always mistrust anything that comforts."

"But is it all cant? Take the question of health for instance. Money cannot give health, and it is better to be well than to be wealthy."

"I often wonder why people go on saying that money cannot give health when they must see every day that money does give health and that poverty causes illness. If work is injurious to me, I can afford to give it up. If I have to winter abroad, I can do it easily, without considering the question of expense. If an operation is required, I can pay the very best man to do it and under the very best conditions. The poor man can do none of these things. My ordinary way of life is much more healthy than his. The food that I eat is of the best quality and in perfect condition, while he eats adulterated rubbish and stale garbage. His house is ill warmed and insanitary, and mine is perfect in these respects. The poor man dies, and in nine cases out of ten it serves him right."

"Isn't that rather a terrible thing to say?" said the curate nervously, playing with his wineglass.

"In nine cases out of ten poverty is the result of stupidity. You blame a man for his moral defects, and I blame him for his mental defects. One is just as fair as the other. And both the mental and moral defects are about equally capable or incapable of remedy."

"Surely not," said the curate earnestly. "A sinner may be reclaimed, but you cannot give a man an intellect."

"You should use the same word in both cases. You may reclaim a man's intellect just as you may reclaim his morals. I have done it. I did it in my own case. I admit that mental reclamation, like moral reclamation, is rare."

"It all seems so dreary and fatalistic," said the curate.

"So it is," the millionaire agreed cordially. "As I told you, I don't like comforting cant. The best fable that ever was written was the fable of the fox and the sour grapes."

The curate seemed to reflect for a moment. "Tell me," he said darkly, "do you value the affection of your relatives and friends and those whom you have about you?"

"Of course," the millionaire owned. "Perhaps one values that most of all." "And do you mean to tell me," asked the curate, flushed with triumph, "that that kind of thing can be bought with money?"

The millionaire concentrated his attention on his cigar with the air of a man who can provide a platitude without troubling to think. "But of course," he said, "you can buy affection as easily as you can buy a pound of tea and on almost the same commercial principles."

The curate stuck to it. "Are you sure that it is genuine affection?" he said.

"There," said the millionaire, "I don't trouble myself. I get respect and subservience while I am there, and really I don't care what they say when I am not there. You see, I don't think about these people very much. It would annoy me if they showed hostility while I was with them. It would give one all the trouble of having to think of new things to say. But they are perfectly welcome to say what they like behind my back, because they haven't got any money worth mentioning or any position, and they don't matter. But, as a matter of fact, money can generally buy genuine affection, an affection that is just as real as that where there has been no value received."

"Really, this is too cynical," said the curate.

"Not at all," replied the millionaire. "In fact, I am, on the whole, less cynical than you. I still believe in gratitude, and it would appear that you don't. Generosity is an admirable and popular quality. You must admit that. And it is very easy for a rich man to be generous. He just plugs in a few presents, as a gardener puts in seeds, and afterward he gets the fruits—quite genuine fruits too. I sometimes wonder how anybody who is not a millionaire believes in genuine affection. It is certainly a luxury for the rich."

"Well," said the curate, with a sigh, "I must not let you off. We owe \$250 on the church restoration at St. Barnabas. Give me a subscription. I'll see if it makes me think more highly of you."

"I never subscribe. I either do a thing or I leave it alone. I'll tell you what I'll do—I'll wipe out this debt for you altogether if you preach the opinions you have heard from me from the pulpit."

The little curate got quite excited. "I'd sooner steal the money and then cut my throat!" he said. "If I could have all the money at the price of having your views of life as well, I would not do it." The millionaire smoked for a moment or two in silence. "You're not a bad sort of fool," he said at last.

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