

Annual Report of the Secretary of War.

The Annual Report of the Hon. O. M. Conrad, Secretary of War, occupies four columns of the National Intelligencer.

It is a well written document, but as many of the facts connected with the movements of the army, which it specifies, have heretofore been published, we must limit ourselves to furnishing an abstract of the more important recommendations and suggestions which it makes.

The Secretary sets out with a column and a half devoted to the subject which, he says, has most engaged the attention of the Department during the past year, viz: the defence of Texas, New Mexico, and the Mexican Territory adjacent to our own, against the incursions of the neighboring Indian tribes.

These Indians, it is remarked, unlike their race on this part of the continent, are actuated not so much by hostility to the whites as by motives of plunder. The Secretary goes on to detail the steps taken to bring these Indians to subjection, Congress having failed to authorize the raising of an additional mounted regiment, as recommended, the regiment of mounted riflemen on the Pacific was dispensed with there, in view of the supposed peaceable character of the California and Oregon Indians, and ordered to Texas.

Several outbreaks have, however, lately occurred among these Indians, but treaties have since been made with them. Chains of military posts were also established by the fifth Infantry from Arkansas westward into Texas, and in New Mexico the same thing is being done by Col. Sumner.

A post has also been established at the junction of the Gila and the Colorado, and examination is to be made by the Pacific commander, as to the practicability of another still higher up the Gila. This is all done looking as far as practicable alike to the defence of our own territory and that of Mexico, and the Secretary well remarks:

"The United States have thus endeavored to fulfil, to their fullest extent, the obligations imposed upon them by their late treaty with Mexico. It surely was never contemplated that the entire expense and responsibility of defending her territory against these incursions should devolve upon us. The language of the treaty admits of no such construction, and, if it did, it would require of us what it would be obviously impossible for us to perform. As the United States have no right to station their troops within the limits of Mexico, how is it possible for them, entirely, to protect her against tribes, most of whom occupy the vast desert lying between the two countries? All that we can do is to make common cause with her; to make her wrongs our own; to chastise, if possible, the tribes by whom they are committed; to compel them, whenever it is possible to do so, to make restitution of Mexican prisoners and property; and finally, in our treaties with them, to guard the interests of Mexican citizens as carefully as those of our own, and to punish any violation of the one as severely as we do that of the other. It is manifest, too, that whatever errors we may make for the protection of Mexico, will not only be fruitless, but absolutely prejudicial, unless they are aided by corresponding efforts on her part. The number of our military posts, the vigilance, activity, and courage of our troops, all tend to drive these marauders from our border towards that of Mexico, where they can carry on their depredations with almost certain impunity."

An idea too seems to have been abroad among the people of Mexico, that this Government was bound by its treaty with Mexico to indemnify citizens of that country who might sustain losses by depredations of the Indians; and the Secretary says that from information that has reached the Department, there can be no doubt that, in some instances, tales of depredations have been invented with a view of bringing fictitious claims for damages against the Government.

It appears that the entire force stationed on the Pacific amounts to only seven hundred and thirty-six men. This force is deemed entirely inadequate for protection, particularly in Oregon, and the General-in-chief of the army, therefore, considers not only an additional regiment of cavalry, but also an increase in the rank and file of the infantry and artillery as indispensably necessary.

The entire number of men borne on the rolls of the army, amounts to 10,533; which, according to the usual estimate, will furnish an effective force of not more than 3,500 men. When it is considered that this small force is scattered over a frontier of several thousands of miles in extent, its inefficiency will be apparent. The report then goes on to show the causes which have produced the enormous increase in the expenses of the army. These causes principally, are—that nearly one-half the army is stationed on our remote frontier; the military posts are removed far in the interior of the country, from navigable rivers, or on the Pacific, where they can only be reached by an overland journey of hundreds of miles or by a sea voyage of thousands—and the military posts, instead of being situated in a productive section of country, as formerly, are now, for the most part, where but few supplies can be obtained.

The Secretary, therefore, recommends measures to be taken to furnish, for a series of years, food and other necessities to such Indians as will abandon their predatory habits and cultivate the soil. Authentic information, recently received at the Department, leads to the belief that these tribes are far less numerous than they are supposed to be, and he has no doubt (laying aside considerations of humanity) that it would be far less expensive to feed than to fight them.

Attention is called to the adequate appropriation made to the Quartermaster's Department at the last session, which will have to be supplied at the present session.

The Secretary, to carry out the wishes of Congress, to reduce the expenses of the army, has cut down the number of enlisted men in the ordnance department to the original number of 250 from 587, the number in service during the Mexican war. Six of the eight Light Artillery companies existing during the war, have been discontinued. The original number was four. Two of those discontinued, however, will be remounted so soon as means are provided. The number of clerks and others from civil life, employed in various capacities, has been greatly reduced. The cultivation of farms, by troops, at the frontier posts if successful, will also considerably reduce the present expenses. Various other reductions too tedious to mention, have likewise been made; but the Secretary says it is not to be disguised that a great laxity of expenses and disregard of regulations exists in the army—to remedy which, the department, seconded by the superior officers, has exerted itself, and which has so far been successful that the Secretary has the satisfaction to announce that the estimates of the department for the next fiscal year are considerably below the expenditures of the present and preceding years.

The expenditures for the support of the army for the fiscal year ending 30th June last were \$9,000,263 58. The estimates for the next year are 7,989,775 53. Showing a reduction of \$1,161,492 75.

There are some other measures of economy which the department would have carried out, had the aid of legislation not been necessary to enable it to do so.

Authority is asked for the Executive to abolish useless arsenals; and the previous recommendation for power to enlist men specially as teamsters again renewed. The removal of obstructions in the Red River and the Rio Grande is also suggested, as a matter of economy.

But whatever reductions Congress may make, says the Secretary, the expenses must continue to be enormous so long as it is necessary that so large a portion of our troops should be stationed on the frontier. He therefore suggests that every facility and encouragement should be afforded to the formation of a local militia, in which our new possessions, like all the Mexican States, are very deficient.

On this subject, the Secretary remarks: "As the first step towards the accomplishment of this subject, I would recommend that the Executive be authorized to distribute arms among the inhabitants. I am fully persuaded that the advantages that would result from the adoption of this measure, in familiarizing the people with the use of arms, in inspiring them with confidence, and in encouraging the formation of militia companies, would more than compensate for the trifling expense that would attend it. The very fact that the inhabitants were known to be armed, would tend to intimidate the Indians. The distribution should, of course, be made with such precautions as would prevent their being sold or converted to an improper use."

The Secretary is of opinion that policy and humanity both require that we should employ some other means of putting a stop to these depredations than the terror of our arms. We should try the effect of conciliatory measures. There is no doubt that the Indians are frequently impelled to commit depredations by despair and hunger.

The Indians are often compelled by the whites to leave their habitations, and seek refuge in arid plains and mountains. This is particularly the case in Texas. The United States, as the owners of the public domain, have always acted on the principle that the aboriginal race had at least a right of occupancy in the soil, and when it was needed for settlement this right has been extinguished by voluntary sale. Texas, on the contrary, as the owner of all the vacant lands within her limits, acknowledges, it is said, no such right; and she has, from time to time, taken possession of the territory occupied by the Indians, laid it off into counties, and proceeded to survey and sell it. Nothing could be more calculated to alarm and exasperate the Indians, and to bring about collisions between them and the white settlers, than the adoption of this policy. That such has been and must continue to be its consequence, there can be no doubt. It would seem, therefore, to be to the advantage of both Texas herself and of the United States, that these Indians should be left in undisturbed possession of a small portion of her vast territory.

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to the several States, under the act of 1808, are based upon the number of their "effective militia," but, in consequence of the imperfect returns, the distribution is very unequal. It is therefore recommended that the number of free white male inhabitants in the several States, between certain ages, hereafter to be the basis of distribution.

Result in the State. Below we give a table of the vote for Governor, thus far received, which is as nearly correct as we can now make it.—It shows that Johnson's majority is 8,145—and thirty counties to his favor.

Table with columns for County, Johnson, and Sumners. Includes counties like Accomac, Albemarle, Alexandria, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Barbours, Bath, Bedford, Berkeley, Bertie, Brunswick, Buchanan, Campbell, Caroline, Charles City, Chesterfield, Chester, Clarke, Craig, Culpeper, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Elizabeth City, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Giles, Goochland, Greenbrier, Greensville, Halifax, Hanover, Hardy, Harrison, Henrico, Highland, James City, Jefferson, Kanawha, King George, King William, King and Queen, Lancaster, Loudoun, Loudoun, Louisa, Lunenburg, Madison, Marlboro, Marshall, Mecklenburg, Mercer, Monongalia, Monroe, Montgomery, Nansemond, Nelson, New Kent, Norfolk County, Northampton, Northumberland, Ohio, Orange, Patrick, Pauline, Pittsylvania, Pleasants, Powhatan, Preston, Prince Anne, Prince Edward, Prince George, Pulaski, Putnam, Randolph, Rappahannock, Richmond, Ritchie, Roanoke, Rockingham, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Southampton, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Sussex, Taylor, Tazewell, Wayne, Westmoreland, Wood, Wood, York, Williamsburg, Williamsburg.

In answer to the request, I submit to the senate the accompanying extracts from a communication addressed to the Department of State, by Mr. Joseph L. White, as counsel of the American and Atlantic and Pacific Canal Company, dated 2d inst. This communication is the source of the information received by the Executive in relation to the subject alluded to, and it is presumed to be essentially correct in its statements of the facts.—Upon receiving this communication, instructions, such as the occasion seemed to demand, were immediately despatched to the Minister of the United States in London. Sufficient time has not elapsed for the return of any answer to this dispatch from him, and, in my judgment, it would at the present moment be inconsistent with the public interest to communicate those instructions. A communication, however, of all the correspondence will be made to the Senate at the earliest moment at which a proper regard to the public interest will permit.

At the same time instructions were given to Commodore Parker, commanding the home squadron, a copy of which, so far as they relate to the case of the Prometheus, is herewith transmitted to the Senate. [Signed.] MILLARD FILLMORE. Washington, Dec. 15, 1851.

Sir: The President has learned that an English brig-of-war, the Express, lying in the harbor of San Juan de Nicaragua, has recently fired upon the American steamer Prometheus, while in the act of departure from that harbor, and compelled them to pay certain demands alleged to be port charges, and under the authority of the local Government. The particulars of the affair will be found in a letter of the agent of the Prometheus, already published in the newspapers of New York, a copy of which is herewith transmitted.

Whatever may be the merits of the question between the captain of the Prometheus and the authorities of Nicaragua, the United States acknowledge no rights in the Government, or a vessel of Great Britain to exercise any police or supervision over American merchant vessels in Nicaragua or elsewhere out of the British dominions.

On the contrary, the first articles of the convention between the United States and her British Majesty, relative to Nicaragua, signed April 19th, 1850, of which a copy is also enclosed, expressly exclude each of the contracting parties from assuming or exercising dominion over Nicaragua, Costa Rica, the Mosquito coast, or any part of Central America. You will, therefore, as soon as the Saranac shall be in all respects ready for sea, proceed in her to San Juan de Nicaragua, for the purpose of affording protection to American commerce and interests on that coast against any such interference for the future, and on your arrival there, you will notify the officer in command of her British Majesty's naval forces in that harbor, or on that coast, of the object of your visit; at the same time you will assure the local authorities of the port that the United States will not justify the non-payment of any lawful and proper duties on the part of their merchant vessels, and that they desire the most friendly relations with the Government of Central America, and will faithfully maintain on their part the stipulations of the treaty referred to.

I am, very respectfully, your ob't servant, WILL A. GRAHAM. To Commodore F. A. Parker, Commanding U. S. Home Squadron, Pensacola.

Lieutenant Watkins' Proposal to Explore Africa. This young gentleman, a native of Virginia, who has been for several years on the African coast, submitted some months ago to the honorable Secretary of the Navy, a proposition to explore the African river which enter the ocean within the republic of Liberia, in the hope of making discoveries of great interest to science, to commerce, and to humanity. Lieutenant Watkins is intimately acquainted with the settlements and people of Liberia, has become in some measure inured to the climate of Africa, has studied the dispositions and habits of the native tribes, visited different points along more, we believe, than two thousand miles of the coast, and in his self possession, cool, good judgment, winning manners, as well as in the ardor of his zeal in the great enterprise in which he desires to engage, we discern the best qualifications for success. We are gratified to know that his plan meets with interest and favor among the high officers of our Government.

Lieutenant Watkins, if authorized to proceed under the authority of our Government, will find many intelligent citizens of Liberia ready to accompany him, men thoroughly acclimated, who have already penetrated some two or three hundred miles into the interior, and are acquainted with many of the principal chiefs who govern territories bordering on that Republic. We trust that the views of Lieutenant Watkins will be promptly met by our government, that he will be aided by one or more small steamers, and enabled to go forth with such volunteer lovers of science, such supplies of all kinds, and such means and attendants, as may conduce to insure his success. An expedition of this character will bring to light information of great value, prove of essential benefit to Liberia and the colored race, and reflect high honor upon the American Government and people.

As a jewel of gold in a swine's mouth, so is a fair woman without discretion.

The Albany (New York) Knickerbocker—a Whig paper—makes the following just observations on the condition of farmers under the present tariff: "Greeley and Raymond.—From the nonsense which we find in the Times and Tribune, we should certainly think that Greeley and Raymond, very seldom went to market. To uphold their high tariff notions, they make use of some of the most preposterous arguments to be met with out of Bedlam. The Times of Tuesday insists that the free-trade iniquity of 1846 is gradually impoverishing agriculturalists, converting our farms into little patches, and our planters into paupers.—The checks with which their statements are made shows that brass is a metal that enters very largely into the composition of those who believe that 'Lowell is the centre of the world, and Massachusetts the rest of it.' The Times insists that the farmers are now being 'ruined.' Let us examine the market: The price of beef during the past season has been higher than it has been before for twenty years. During the tariff of 1842, pork was put up at Cincinnati for two and a half and three cents a pound—it is now worth four and a half and five cents. Oats, under the tariff of 1842, sold at twenty-eight cents a bushel—last winter they brought forty cents. Barley, which once sold in our market for fifty-four cents a bushel, is now selling in New York at seventy-eight and eighty cents. Poultry, twelve years ago, sold in Albany at six and eight cents a pound—it now sells for ten and twelve cents. Ham, which sold under the tariff of 1842 at prices varying from four to seven dollars a hundred, is now worth from nine to eleven dollars. With the exception of flour and wheat there is not one single article which our farmers sell that they do not get 'first rate prices' for; and when you take into consideration the fall which has taken place in the price of every article which the agriculturalist buys, it is at least questionable whether the raising of 'bread-stuffs' is not so profitable to-day as ever it was. As we said before, the man who thinks the farmer is being ruined should just hang a basket on his arm, and visit the market. An hour's experience is worth all the philosophy that was ever spun.

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A Lot of Very Superior CARDING MACHINES ARE NOW BEING MANUFACTURED AT THE GOOD INTENT MACHINE SHOP, by the proprietor, JOHN H. HART, Clarkburg, Dec. 17th, 1851.

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AN EMORANT FOR LIBERIA.—Efforts are being made to raise by subscription \$400 to purchase the freedom of Jerry Crossen, a slave at Portsmouth, Va., who is desired by accompanying his liberated parents to Liberia, in the first packet of the 31st instant. The sum of \$122 75 has already been collected in New York, and the slave's father expects to raise \$100 or more in Virginia.

NEW COUNTERFEIT.—A new and very dangerous counterfeit was put in circulation in Louville, Ky., on the 6th inst.—It was a new \$10 note on the Bank of Louisville, dated Dec. 1, 1851, and hard to detect, being like the genuine in every respect, excepting the words 'Bank of Louisville,' which occupy a shorter space than the genuine.

THE MARKETS. BALTIMORE, Dec. 20, 1851. BEEF CATTLE.—Number of Cattle offered at the scales on Monday, amounted to 1475 and of hogs, 590 head, which were sold to city butchers and packers, at prices ranging from 30 to 37 1/2 cts per lb on the hook—equal to 50 1/2 to 57 1/2 cts per lb on the hoof. 19 Cows, 650 lbs. The balance (780) were driven to Philadelphia.

THE EASTERN MAIL arrives at Clarkburg on Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays, at 5 o'clock. P. M. and leaves on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 5 o'clock. A. M.

ALL persons knowing themselves indebted to me either by note or account, are requested to come forward immediately and settle the same, as no further indulgence can, or will be given.—Such as may desire to be excused, may expect to find themselves waited on by the proper officers. BENJAMIN RUST. Dec. 24, 1851.—if

Notice to the People of Harrison. GENTLEMEN.—As one of your Delegates, I shall take great pleasure in attending, free of charge to any business you may wish to have attended to in any of the Public Offices in Richmond. THOMAS L. MOORE. December 12th, 1851.—3t.

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JOHN S. CARLILE, Attorney at Law, CLARKSBURG, HARRISON CO., VA. Office, the one heretofore occupied by Col. G. D. Campbell, on the corner of the Court House.

C. & C. S. LEWIS, Attorneys at Law, CLARKSBURG, VA. Hobnack's Worm Syrup.

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