

REGULARS MAY GUARD THE PASSES

It Is Practically Decided to Send Troops Up to Alaska.

CIRCLE CITY IS TO BE THE SITE FOR THE POST.

Captain Ray, Selected to Command, Says It Would Be Humane to Turn People Back Who Are Rushing Over Chilcoot Pass.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 27.—The President and his Cabinet had under consideration at this morning's session and again to-night the proposition to send troops to the Klondike region and establish a military post near Circle City.

authority of Congress and in the absence of any request from the Governor of Illinois. It is understood, however, that the President and Secretary Alger are supported by Attorney-General McKenna, who holds that the President has the right to make such disposition of troops as he sees fit in an emergency.

It is held that the executive branch of the Government certainly has the right to order its troops here and there in emergency without having to await the sanction of Congress. They say that this should be obvious to any reasonable mind.



SISTERS IN ALASKA.

Two prominent Catholic sisters arrived in this City from Massachusetts yesterday on their way to Alaska, where they will establish a convent of the order of Saint Anne, an extensive Canadian order founded by Bishop Bourget in 1848.

The distinguished sisters who have thus left their Massachusetts homes and offered their services in the far North are known as Sister Mary of the Cross and Sister Mary Magdalen of the Sacred Heart. The latter was the leader in an interview with THE CALL yesterday at the home of the Sisters of the Family of Holy Names.

"We do not expect to find any gold nuggets there, but we hope to win some souls to Christian life and do some good to our fellow beings. I wrote to the mother provincial that we were glad to come into the country and be of whatever service we could to the cause.

"We have made ample provision in advance for the clothing and other supplies we will need temporarily in the new field of work. As our people have had many years' experience up that way we were fully informed of our needs as anybody.

settled the next question to arise was the matter of cost of transporting the soldiers and providing for them for a period of six months or longer.

sixty picked men, and it is not impossible that the War Department may avail itself of the services of some of these to make up its quota of fifty.

The steamer sails from Seattle on August 5 for St. Michaels, where the expedition will take a river steamer. The Cabinet was in session three-quarters of an hour to-night. At its close a member said to THE CALL correspondent:

"The question of cost was the principal question discussed to-night. The President will give his decision to-morrow."

From other sources it is learned that the expedition has already been decided on and Secretary Alger has telegraphed to the quartermaster and commissary headquarters at San Francisco to make the arrangements. Orders for a special kind of cold-weather tents have also been sent to Philadelphia.

ORDERED TO GO NORTH.

Captain Ray Says It Would Be Well for the Government to Turn Back Rushing Miners.

CHEYENNE, Wyo., July 27.—Captain Patrick Henry Ray, Eighth United States Infantry, received telegraph orders to-day directing him to go to Alaska and establish a military post. Captain Ray said:

"I will have in my command one company of infantry, consisting of sixty-two enlisted men, two lieutenants and two sergeants. To-day all my company and about 100 other privates in the regiment asked me to take them. I will be prepared to leave Seattle by August.

"We proceed by sea to Michaelofski and thence probably march overland. There is a good trail over an easy country formerly used by Russians, and forty-eight miles of marching saves 400 miles by sea and river. I will probably establish quarters near old Fort Yukon before the winter season.

"The present rush of prospectors and miners over the Chilcoot Pass route is extremely ill-advised. Thousands will perish from hunger and exposure. The Government would act humanely if it would place troops on the pass to turn people back. The gold region can be reached without hardship by the overland route through British possessions, skirting the eastern slope of the Rockies. Cattle could even be driven by this route."

TRANSPORTING TROOPS.

It May Crowd Out Many Who Intended to Go North on the Cleveland.

SEATTLE, Wash., July 27.—Captain W. W. Robinson, assistant quartermaster, United States army, who is stationed here in charge of the work on the proposed new army posts and fortifications on Puget Sound, received to-day from Washington, D. C., two telegrams, of which the following are copies:

To Captain Robinson: Captain Ray with five officers and fifty men will leave Seattle for Circle City, Alaska, by the North American Trading and Transportation Company's steamer on August 5. Passage is engaged, fare \$150, freight \$80.

WEEKS, Quartermaster.

To Captain Robinson: Twelve improved medical tents will be shipped you by express from Philadelphia to-day. San Francisco is

Continued on Second Page.

A HUNDRED MORE HAVE CAST AWAY

Another Big Liner Turns North With Crowded Decks.

TO-DAY THE EXCELSIOR SAILS FOR ST. MICHAEL.

Hundreds More Are Eagerly Awaiting Passage and Will Follow in a Few Days. Telegraph Possibilities Being Considered.

Yesterday saw the departure of a hundred more Yukon-bound adventurers on the State of California. Several times that number would have gone on the steamer if passage had been available, but the miners who went and the larger number of excursionists pre-empted every bunk three or four days ago.

It is afternoon the Alaska Commercial Company's steamer Excelsior will leave with about a hundred passengers and all the freight that can be carried. The Excelsior goes to St. Michaels, passing Juneau far to oceanward and making but one brief stop at Unalaska before reaching St. Michaels at the mouth of the Yukon, 2850 miles from San Francisco.

Among the passengers on the Excelsior will be the leader of THE CALL's special correspondents, S. W. Wail, who will meet at St. Michaels a large party of outcoming miners who will come to San Francisco on the return trip of the Excelsior.

Some hundreds more will leave San Francisco for the Yukon within the next ten days, the largest party going on the special trip of the collier Williamette, which the Pacific Coast Steamship Company will start north as quickly as possible.

Among the new enterprises which are flocking to the front is the plan of a local company incorporated yesterday to build a telegraph line from Juneau to the Yukon country.

READY FOR ALASKA.

Men and Material Prepared to Go to the Proposed Army Post.

The determination of the Secretary of War to establish a military post at Circle City, Alaska, without delay has caused a deal of hurrying and comment at the Presidio. There was much speculation at the garrison yesterday regarding the detail for service in the far north.

Following is a copy of the telegram which the War Department transmitted to General Shafter:

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 26, 1897. Commanding General, Department of California, San Francisco, Cal.: A post is to be established this season at Circle City, Alaska, to be commanded by a field officer of infantry, who has been selected. Can you select a company of the First Infantry with officers and men well adapted to this duty? Officers and men could be transferred to meet requirements. Telegraph at once. By order of the Secretary of War.

SAMUEL BRECK, Acting Adjutant-General.

Yesterday the military authorities here and in Washington were busy in arranging the details of the expedition. General Shafter wired the Secretary of War that a company of the First Infantry, with officers and men well adapted to the duty, could be selected here. There is still a question whether the troops will be sent from this department, but much activity was manifested yesterday in getting together medical supplies and commissary stores.

Captain Guy L. Edie, assistant surgeon, has been selected as chief medical officer of the expedition. He was directed yesterday by Colonel Middleton, deputy surgeon-general and chief surgeon of this department, to take along with him medical supplies for eighteen months. Dr. Edie will leave the Presidio next Monday and sail from Seattle for Circle City on August 5.

Dr. Knedler, an army surgeon stationed at San Diego, wired to General Shafter yesterday tendering his services for the expedition, but before his dispatch was received Dr. Kulp, assistant surgeon at Vancouver barracks, had been detailed for the duty.

The chief of the commissary department yesterday arranged for sending to Circle City supplies sufficient to subsist fifty-six men for eighteen months.

Colonel James M. Moore, chief quartermaster of the department, received tenders for transportation, but the offers were not given in response to official inquiry. It seemed to be understood that

the Northwestern Transportation Company would take the troops and supplies up the Yukon River. The figure mentioned for transportation was \$150 per man and \$80 per ton for freight. It is a well established fact that the Government can get transportation by paying a large sum. Should there be any particular obstacle in the water route troops could be sent over the Chilkat pass. Soldiers can go wherever others can travel and permission could be obtained from the Canadian authorities for United States troops to pass over the territory of Canada.

Should a company be desired from this department General Shafter will order the detail of one from the First Infantry. All the companies of the regiment are in good form and any one of the organizations could perform the service required. The plan of picking out sixty men from the regiment will not be adopted. Some men may be transferred from, and others transferred to, the company ordered to Circle City, but the transfers would not be numerous. It is quite well understood that General Shafter has in mind the officers who should go with the company, and if they happen to be in the list of volunteers well and good, but if they are not their services may be required all the same.

Captain P. Henry Ray, Eighth Infantry, U. S. A., who may command the new post near Circle City, Alaska, has an excellent record as a soldier and also as an explorer of the frozen regions of the Arctic. He was born in Wisconsin May 8, 1842, and in May, 1861, enlisted in the Second Wisconsin Infantry (volunteers). He participated in many of the noted battles of the civil war and was honorably mustered out in 1865 with the rank of captain. He entered the regular army in 1867 as second lieutenant of the Thirty-third Infantry and served in the South for several years. In 1872 his regiment, then the Eighth Infantry, was transferred to Dakota and Lieutenant Ray participated with General Stanley's first expedition to the Yellowstone in the summer of that year. He also accompanied Stanley's second expedition to the Yellowstone. In 1874 he was in the campaign against the Sioux Indians, serving under General John E. Smith. In December, 1875, he was promoted first lieutenant and served for several years in Arizona.

Lieutenant Ray was acting signal officer from May, 1881, till June, 1883. He was assigned to the command of the international polar expedition to Point Barrow, Alaska, June, 1881; sailed from this City and landed at Plover Bay, Siberia, August 21, 1881, and at Point Barrow, Alaska, September 8, 1881. He established and commanded the meteorological station at Ugleamie, Alaska, to August 23, 1883, when the station was abandoned. During 1882 and 1883 he made two expeditions into the interior, traveling over 1000 miles in a previously unexplored region with dogs and sledges.

Lieutenant Ray discovered and partly surveyed Meade River, picked up Lieutenant Schwatka and party at Redoubt Michaelofsky September 13, 1873, and landed in San Francisco October, 1883. Of all the expeditions sent out by the United States Government officially his was the only one that passed two years in the Arctic without losing a single life or that did not come to grief. In July, 1882, he personally piloted through the moving pack and safely brought to land the crew of the whaler North Star (fifty-two officers and men) when that vessel was crushed in the ice.

He was promoted captain May 27, 1889, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in June, 1884. He was complimented in 1871 for saving the lives of two men at the peril of his own life.

Captain William Ralph Abercrombie, United States army, who telegraphed on the 26th inst. from Fort Harrison, Montana, to Secretary of War Alger tendering

SOME FACTS FOR YOU.

The Truth About Health and the Way to Preserve It.

Every one likes to feel well and those who are sick want to be cured. If you are well and wish to remain so, see that your blood is kept pure. If you are suffering with any form of impure blood you may be well by taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, which makes and keeps the blood pure. Thousands of cures have been accomplished by this medicine after all others have failed. Dyspepsia, rheumatism, catarrh, scrofula, salt rheum and all eruptions are promptly cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla. A faithful trial will convince any one of its superior merit. The people praise it everywhere.

Hood's Pills cure all Liver Ills. 25 cents.



Two Noted Company Commanders Who May Be Sent in Charge of Troops at the Proposed New Post at Circle City, Alaska, and the Accompanying Surgeon.

Secretary Alger opened up communication with General William R. Shafter, in command of the Department of California. It was proposed to send a company of infantry and the suggestion was made that one from the First Regiment be ordered there.

General Shafter concurred in this suggestion. It was further proposed to send an officer to command this company who has had experience in Alaska. It was then decided by Secretary Alger to order Captain P. H. Ray to command the expedition. He is now stationed at Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming. Captain Ray has commanded several expeditions. He established the United States relief expedition at Point Barrow, in the extreme northern part of Alaska. It is said that Captain Abercrombie may also be ordered to accompany the expedition. He has wired the department that he has

One of the embarrassments likely to follow an expedition of troops to Alaska would be the desertion of those who have the gold fever. It is feared that there would be many desertions of the soldiers who would rush to the gold fields after the Government had paid for their transportation to Circle City. Besides this, many of the enlisted men's terms expire soon, and they would be free to join the miners. For these reasons it is deemed wise to make a careful selection of the troops.

All of these questions were discussed at the Cabinet meeting again to-night, but the principal topic of discussion was that of cost. It is understood that the North American Transportation and Trading Company has offered to transport the troops for \$150 per head from Seattle to their destination and will charge \$80 per ton for provisions.