

OUR MILITARY AFFAIRS

Annual Report of Inspector General J. C. Breckinridge.

Recommends Establishment of Military Colleges Throughout the United States, With Capable and Efficient Instructors.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The report of Gen. J. C. Breckinridge, inspector general of the army, earnestly recommends that the benefits of the law of March 3, 1899, providing for the retirement of officers of the navy under certain conditions, with the rank and pay of the next higher grade, be extended to include officers of the army. He touches upon the disadvantages imposed by inferior rank in the army, citing as an instance the Chinese campaign, when Gen. Chaffee, a junior among the international commanders, was advanced from a brigadier to a major general to give him the rank requisite to his status as commander-in-chief of the United States forces in China. Gen. Breckinridge also notes that the grade of brigadier general is abolished in most of the European armies.

In regard to the question of reorganizing the standing army, the general suggests a standard of two soldiers per every 1,000 of population, and submits statistics to show that in the proportion of soldiers to population and to the area of the country, and in the war budget in time of peace, the United States is far behind all of the great European nations.

Gen. Breckinridge claims for his department the credit of the discovery of the postal frauds in Cuba. He makes a recommendation for various military colleges throughout the country with capable and efficient military instructors.

MAY BE PROMOTED.

Opinion Rendered by the Attorney General That Is of General Interest to Naval Officers.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The attorney general has rendered an opinion in the case of Lieut. George Mallison, U. S. N., of great interest to naval officers. He says that there "is no reason why an officer, wounded in the service, should not be promoted as well as his fortunate brother, if there are duties in the higher grade which he can satisfactorily and sufficiently perform."

When an ensign, attached to the Olympia, in 1895, Mallison was struck by an anchor chain and lost a leg. He has since been unable to perform sea duty, but has rendered satisfactory service on detail duty ashore. Now he must be either promoted or retired. The attorney general says he may be promoted.

FREIGHT RATES.

A Reduction of About 40 Cents Will Be Made on Pig Iron From Pittsburgh to the Seaboard.

New York, Nov. 5.—A reduction of about 40 cents will be made January 1 in freight rates on pig iron and billets from Pittsburgh to the seaboard. It is likely that concessions will also be made in other manufacturing centers. The reduction has been expected ever since the price of steel rails was reduced to \$26 a ton. It is expected that freight rates on iron and steel goods for export will be made as low as possible by the railroads in order to facilitate the growth of the foreign trade in these articles.

TELEGRAPHY IN ALASKA.

About 200 Miles of Lines Constructed in the Vicinity of Southern Yukon and Nome.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Gen. Greely, chief signal officer, has been informed that 200 miles of telegraph land lines have been constructed in the vicinity of the Southern Yukon and Nome, Alaska. The cable between Nome and St. Michael, which recently was turned over to the signal corps by the contractors and salvers interested in its construction, is reported to be working satisfactorily.

Young Seaman Dies Suddenly.

Kingston, Jamaica, Dec. 5.—James Yoss, of Alabama, a young seaman of the United States gunboat Scorpion, died suddenly at Port Royal Monday night while enjoying himself with some English sailors. His remains were buried with naval honors Tuesday evening. The cause of his death is being investigated.

Eight Killed in a Wreck.

San Francisco, Dec. 5.—A wreck occurred on the Southern Pacific two miles above Suisun. A freight train collided with a work train. Eight laborers are reported killed and 22 injured.

Divorce Suit Filed.

Boston, Dec. 5.—Mrs. Mary H. Stoddard has filed a petition at the Middlesex county court for a divorce from her husband, John L. Stoddard, the well-known lecturer. She asks for alimony and the custody of their son, Theo. L. Stoddard, 17 years old.

Four Schooners Ashore.

Beverly, Mass., Dec. 4.—During the storm Tuesday night four schooners went ashore here. The crew of the E. & G. W. Hines, of Caleda, was taken off, but the others are still aboard.

IN A MEXICAN MINE.

Nine Cases of Dynamite Exploded, Resulting in the Death and Wounding of Many Miners.

Mexico City, Dec. 6.—An explosion of dynamite at the mines of San Andres de la Sierra killed or wounded many miners. At the latest advices 25 bodies have been recovered. Fifteen injured persons, some of whom will die, were taken from the wreckage, and the ruins are thought to contain other victims.

It is not known as yet how the explosion occurred, but nine cases of dynamite blew up at the powder house with an appalling roar, shaking the country for many miles around. When the panic had partially subsided the wives and children of the miners hurried to the scene, finding all the buildings wrecked and dead bodies, fearfully mangled, lying about.

ENVOYS' DEMANDS.

Those Chinese Primarily Responsible For the Boxer Outrages Should Be Punished.

Peking, Dec. 6.—At the recent meeting of the foreign envoys, when it was agreed to modify in a measure the former demands upon the subject of the punishment of the Chinese responsible for the outrages against foreigners, a demand was made that those primarily responsible should be punished. This was acceptable to the representatives of the powers, and it was also agreed that those officials within whose districts trouble occurred can not hold office again if it is proved that they did not take the necessary steps to prevent the attacks upon foreigners.

OVER A CARTOON.

Fatal Quarrel Between Rev. John Wohl and Attorney S. D. Stokes at Williamson, W. Va.

Williamson, W. Va., Dec. 6.—Rev. John Wohl, a Presbyterian minister, and Attorney S. D. Stokes, quarreled on Wednesday as a result of a cartoon illustrating the evil effects of the dance used by the minister in a sensational sermon preached last Sunday. Wednesday afternoon they met on the streets and a quarrel ensued. Calling Stokes a liar, Wohl advanced upon him with a drawn revolver. A shot was fired, seriously wounding Stokes, who as he fell drew his revolver and fired on Wohl, killing him instantly. Stokes surrendered.

IMPRISONED MINERS.

Thirty-Two Men Had a Desperate Battle For Life as a Result of a Cave-In at Danmore, Pa.

Seranton, Pa., Dec. 6.—Imprisoned 1,000 feet in a coal mine at Danmore, near here, 32 men had a desperate battle for life Wednesday as the result of a mine cave-in, and only succeeded in gaining their liberty by digging their way out. The cave-in was at the mine of the Nay-Aug Coal Co. Five acres of surface fell into the mine and completely blocked the exit. A rescuing party was formed, but the imprisoned men cut their way out through the wall in the main gangway before the rescuing party reached them. None of the men was injured.

Denies the Report.

Appleton, Wis., Dec. 6.—Miss Ione Woodward, of Evanston, Ill., who was a guest in the family of Minister Conger in Peking during the siege of the legations by the Boxers, is here visiting her aged mother, and emphatically denies the report of her engagement to Lieut. Frederick Bismarck, of the German army, a grandson of Prince Bismarck.

Ambassador to Italy.

Washington, Dec. 6.—It was quite generally expected that the nomination of George Von L. Meyer, of Massachusetts, to be ambassador to Italy would be sent to the senate Wednesday, but for some reason it did not go in, though it is still expected he will receive the nomination very soon.

Lord Roberts at Durban.

Durban, Dec. 6.—Lord Roberts, who has arrived here, was accorded a tumultuous reception. Members of the Irish association dragged his carriage to the town hall. The streets were profusely decorated and crowded to suffocation. Numerous addresses were presented to the field marshal.

Desperate Fight Between Miners. Saginaw, Mich., Dec. 6.—A desperate fight occurred Wednesday evening at the Standard coal mine near here between Poles and other miners. Silvesta Stanek, a Pole, struck Pearle Jenkins, aged 23 years, on the head with a club, crushing his skull and causing death shortly after. Stanek escaped.

The Demands Yielded To.

Berlin, Dec. 6.—A dispatch received here from Tangier says the demands of Baron von Mentzungen, the German minister to Morocco, for the payment of the three principal claims of injured Germans and the punishment of the offenders have been yielded to by the sultan.

The Czar Convalescent.

Livadia, Dec. 6.—The czar's physicians announced Wednesday that their patient is completely convalescent.

THE WAR REVENUE ACT

Ways and Means Committee Agree on the Articles to Be Reduced.

A Bill Introduced Proposing a Reduction Aggregating Over Forty Million Dollars.

Washington, Dec. 6.—Chairman Payne, of the ways and means committee, introduced the bill reducing the taxation under the war revenue act, after the republican members of the committee had agreed on the form of the measure and the articles to receive the reduction of tax. It is intended to have the full committee act on the bill Thursday and to put it through the house before Christmas. The bill provides an aggregating reduction estimated at \$40,000,348.

The estimated reductions in detail as given out by Mr. Payne are as follows:

Beer, \$9,832,712; cigars, \$3,189,764; special taxes (section 2), commercial brokers, \$138,281; custom house brokers, \$8,167; circuses, \$11,744; theaters, \$47,178; exhibitions not otherwise provided for, \$84,218; total special tax, \$287,589.

Schedule A—Bank checks, \$7,000,000; certificates of deposit, \$200,000; drafts, inland, \$500,000; promissory notes, \$3,500,000; postal orders, \$602,000; foreign bills of exchange, \$100,000; export bills of lading, \$100,000; express receipts, \$1,200,000; telephone messages, \$315,000; bonds of indemnity, \$250,000; certificates other than of profits, \$200,000; charter party, \$100,000; brokers' contracts, \$100,000; conveyances, \$3,000,000; telegraph dispatches, \$800,000; insurance, \$3,000,000; leases, \$200,000; mortgages, \$500,000; passage tickets, \$200,000; power of attorney, etc., \$100,000; protests, \$25,000; warehouse receipts, \$250,000; total schedule A, \$22,242,000.

Schedule B—Total, \$4,548,283; less values (\$600,000), \$3,948,283; 1 acres, charitable, etc., \$500,000; grand total, \$4,000,348.

The bill provides a discount of 20 per cent. in the tax of \$2 per barrel on beer in lieu of the present 7 1/2 per cent. reduction, making the new rate \$1.60 per barrel.

The section of the war revenue act taxing commercial brokers, custom house brokers, circuses, theaters, and other exhibitions are stricken out.

The rate on cigars is made \$3.00 instead of \$3.60 per 1,000, weighing more than three pounds per thousand.

Schedule A retains the stamp tax on corporate stock, bonds, etc., sales, etc., at exchanges or boards of trade, freight receipts, certificates of profits, entry of goods at custom houses and entry of withdrawal of goods from customs bonded warehouses. With these exceptions, the stamp taxes under schedule A are stricken out. Chairman Payne's statement gives in detail the stamp taxes omitted under schedule A.

Schedule B, which required stamps on proprietary medicines and preparations, perfumery and cosmetics, chewing gum, etc., is amended so that sparkling or other wines are the only products requiring stamps.

Section 29 of the war revenue act, relating to taxes on legacies, is amended by adding at the end of said section the following:

"Provided that nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to bequests or legacies for use for a religious, literary, charitable or educational character, including works of art."

Section 30 of the act is amended as to administrative features, and sections 10, 11, 18, 19 and 20 are repealed, as they relate to administrative features no longer necessary.

Section 35 of the act is amended to read as follows:

"Section 35. That for the purposes of this act, the words 'mixed flour' shall be taken and construed to mean the good product, resulting from the grinding or mixing together of wheat, or wheat flour, as the principal constituent, with any other grain, or the product of any other grain, or other material, except such material, not the product of any grain, as is commonly used for baking purposes: Provided, that when the product resulting from the grinding or mixing together of wheat or wheat flour with any other grain, or the product of any other grain, of which wheat or wheat flour is not the principal constituent, as specified in the foregoing definition, is intended for sale or is sold or offered for sale as wheat flour, such product shall be held to be mixed flour within the meaning of this act."

The bill provides for redeeming revenue stamps heretofore issued and not used. The concluding section provides that the act shall take effect 30 days after its passage.

Killed by Football.

New York, Dec. 6.—A table compiled here shows that during the past football season 11 deaths, 62 serious injuries and 150 minor injuries have resulted on the gridiron in this country. The number is in excess of last season.

No More Infantry For South Africa.

London, Dec. 6.—According to the Daily Express, no more infantry drafts will be sent to South Africa. The only troops to go to the front will be mounted men.

TOSSED BY THE STORM.

A Severe Gale Swept Over the New England Coast, Doing Much Damage to Shipping, With Loss of Life.

Boston, Dec. 6.—Another southern storm has swept over New England and gone the way of all such disturbances, straight off to the northeast and like hundreds of its energetic predecessors, left death and destruction in its wake. Tuesday's gale was Wednesday night thrashing the waters of Nova Scotia and New Foundland, preparatory to making a stirring descent upon the European steamers' track so that its destructive history is not yet fully complete. Just what it accomplished in this line in New England and particularly along the coast north of Boston can be summed up as follows:

Five Gloucester fishermen drowned; six coasting schooners completely wrecked; nine vessels sunk; eight schooners ashore and 11 others more or less injured through collision and loss of gear.

The usual amount of damage occurred on land, buildings blown down, telegraph wires prostrated and some delays on railroads in the northern portion through heavy snows.

While the storm was very severe along the entire New England coast, shipping north of this point seemed to have suffered more than that off the south shore and Cape Cod, in fact, no wrecks occurred on the latter's dreaded sands.

Salem harbor proved a bad trap for seven or eight sailing craft, while on the rugged Maine shore were dashed half a dozen other craft.

The fatality of the Mary A. Brown occurred on Hampton beach not far from the place where the wreck of the St. John schooner Advance came ashore without her crew; but not a man reached shore to tell of the vain battle against the ruthless elements.

It is generally believed that incoming vessels will add something more to the storm.

New York, Dec. 6.—The northeast wind storm caused considerable damage at Coney island Wednesday. The tide was the highest in years past, and the meadows were flooded. The only way of reaching the houses on this part of the island was by boat. The old shell road was four feet under water, and a man who attempted to reach his house by means of a horse and wagon came near drowning his horse. The ocean side of the island received a terrible pounding from the waves, which washed over the concourse between the Brighton Beach property and West Brighton. Much damage was done to several small pavilions along the shore, and the old iron pier was slightly damaged.

SENATOR TOWNE.

He Has Been Tendered and Accepts the Senatorship, to Succeed the Late Cushman K. Davis.

Duluth, Minn., Dec. 6.—Charles A. Towne Wednesday night confirmed the report that Gov. Lind had tendered him the United States senatorship to succeed the late Senator C. K. Davis, and said that he had decided to accept the appointment. He has telegraphed the governor to that effect. Mr. Towne refused to discuss the matter further, but said that he would leave for Washington via St. Paul Thursday morning.

There is great satisfaction in Duluth over the appointment, as, irrespective of party lines, the feeling is general that Mr. Towne is the most prominent member of Gov. Lind's party in the state, and that under the circumstances the honor of going to the senate should be his.

A TWO HOURS' FIGHT.

An American Force Attacked 300 Rebels—Latter Retreated After Having 16 Men Killed.

Manila, Dec. 6.—A dispatch has been received from Gen. Funston giving an account of a two hours' fight in the woods of Santo Domingo between an American force and 300 rebels in command of Sandico. The American force, consisting of 30 native scouts, commanded by Lieut. Jernigan, attacked the rebels, who retreated, leaving on the field 16 men killed, including the rebel leader, Aguilar, and an American Negro. It was at first thought the latter was a man named Fagan, a deserter from the 24th infantry, but this turned out to be a mistake. Not one of Jernigan's men was wounded.

Leading Merchant Shot and Killed. Clarksville, Tex., Dec. 6.—Sam Steinlein, a leading merchant and cotton buyer of this city, was shot and instantly killed by Gus Allen on Wednesday in the public square. Allen had been an employe of Steinlein, and, on account of a disagreement, was discharged Tuesday night. Allen was arrested.

Section 32 of the Porto Rican Act. San Juan, Porto Rico, Dec. 6.—The principal merchants at Ponce have asked the executive council to petition the United States congress to repeal section 32 of the Porto Rican act. This relates to creation of municipalities.

Blue Jackets Missing. London, Dec. 6.—The gale continues to sweep the channel. A boat with several blue jackets from a torpedo boat destroyer in Dover harbor is missing, and the authorities fear it has been capsized.

CONGRESS IN SESSION.

Debate Opened on the Ship Subsidy Bill in the Senate.

A Resolution to Appropriate \$250,000 and to Admit Exhibits Free of Duty to the West Indian Exposition Passed.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The programme of the senate leaders for a business session was taken up in earnest Tuesday and material progress was made. What is popularly known as the ship subsidy bill was made the unfinished business of the senate, instead of the Spooner Philippine measure, and the discussion of it was opened by Mr. Frye, (Me.) chairman of the committee on commerce, from which the measure was reported.

Bills on the calendar were passed as follows: To authorize the use of depositions before naval courts in certain cases, with an amendment restricting its operation to depositions taken at the instance of the accused; to authorize Captain N. M. Brooks, superintendent of foreign mails, to accept the decoration of the Red Eagle of the third class from the emperor of Germany; to authorize Hon. John D. Meiklejohn to accept a decoration of the first class from the government of Sweden and Norway; to encourage the holding of an interstate and West Indian exposition in Charleston, S. C., in 1901. The measure appropriates \$250,000 and admits exhibits free of duty.

The session of the house Tuesday was brief. The real work began on Wednesday, when the house took up the consideration of the army reorganization bill, which Mr. Hull, the chairman of the committee on military affairs, reported Tuesday.

Three bills were passed under the call of committees, the most important being one to provide for the detail of not to exceed 100 retired army officers and 300 noncommissioned officers as military instructors in the public schools of such cities as adopt a system of military instruction. The others were "to prevent the failure of military justice" and to legalize an issue of \$250,000 of bonds by Pima county, Arizona.

Washington, Dec. 6.—When the session of the senate opened Wednesday the credentials of Samuel D. McEnery and Murphy J. Foster, as senators from Louisiana, and George P. Wetmore, from Rhode Island, were received. Bills were passed permitting Capt. B. H. McCalla and Commander W. C. Wise, of the United States navy, to accept decorations from the emperor of Germany.

The resolution introduced Tuesday by Mr. Pettigrew, calling for information as to the postal frauds in Cuba, was referred to the committee on relations with Cuba.

Consideration of the ship subsidy bill was then resumed. Mr. Frye, of Maine, concluding his speech begun Tuesday, said the amount of subsidy should be no more than \$9,000,000 per year. That limit, he said, was fixed definitely in the bill.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The house devoted the day to the army reorganization bill, which was brought up under a special order adopted at the opening of the session, which limited general debate to two hours on a side. Lieut. Gen. Miles and a number of army officers were interested spectators throughout the day.

House bills and resolutions introduced Wednesday: By Mr. Littlefield, of Maine, to prohibit the sale of firearms, opium and intoxicants to aboriginal tribes and native races in the Pacific islands; by Mr. Wilson, of Arizona, to establish a supreme court for the territories of Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma; by Mr. Fitzgerald, of Massachusetts, providing for a government ship to bring Boers to the United States to take advantage of the homestead laws.

GEN. LEE IN OMAHA.

Is in Command of the Department of the Missouri—Received by Gen. Merriam at the Depot.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 5.—Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Mrs. Lee and their daughter Ann arrived here Tuesday afternoon from Chicago. At the station was Lieut. G. M. Lee, late of the 39th infantry at Manila, who has been sick at the Presidio since his return from the Philippines. Lieut. Lee had not seen his parents for more than a year.

The arrangements for the formal transfer of the department of the Missouri were declared off owing to the delay in the arrival of the new commander, Gen. Merriam, who has had the departments of Colorado and Missouri under his supervision, with his staff officers and others of the army headquarters here, was at the train to receive him, and Gen. Lee is now in command of this department.

Oklahoma Wants Statehood.

Washington, Dec. 5.—Senator Fairbanks, of Indiana, introduced a bill to admit Oklahoma as a state, with two representatives. The usual provisions for a constitutional convention and the grants of lands for state institutions are made.

Chief Clerk Dobson Dead.

Ft. Yates, N. D., Dec. 5.—William Dobson, chief clerk of the Indian agency, is dead of cirrhosis of the liver. He had been in the government service for 40 years.

OLDEST MAN IN AMERICA

Tells How He Escaped the Terrors of Many Winters by Using Peruna.



Mr. Isaac Brock, the Oldest Man in the United States.

Mr. Isaac Brock, of McLennan county, Tex., has attained the great age of 111 years, having been born in 1788. He is an ardent friend to Peruna and speaks of it in the following terms:

"During my long life I have known a great many remedies for coughs, colds, catarrh and diarrhoea. I had always supposed these affections to be different diseases, but I have learned from Dr. Hartman's books that these affections are the same and are properly called catarrh.

"As for Dr. Hartman's remedy, Peruna, I have found it to be the best, and the only reliable remedy for these affections. 'Peruna has been my stand-by for many years, and I attribute my good health and my extreme age to this remedy. It exactly meets all my requirements.'

"I have come to rely upon it almost entirely for the many little things for which I need medicine. I believe it to be especially valuable to old people." Isaac Brock.

Catarrh is the greatest enemy of old age. A person entirely free from catarrh is sure to live to a hale and hearty old age. A free book on catarrh sent by The Peruna Medicine Co., Columbus, O.

SOMETHING OF A TRAVELER.

A Busy City Man Who Still Finds a Little Time to Cover a Few Thousand Miles.

"I traveled 5,000 miles last year," said the mild clerk of the ribbon counter, "and had no idea we had so extensive a country." He looked around with conscious pride and a swelling bosom. A veteran in the shoe department took him up, says the New York Sun.

"Five thousand miles?" said he, with scorn. "Only 5,000 miles? Why, bless your innocent young heart, I traveled 18,720 miles last year, and will do it again this year, and all I know about the extent of our great and glorious country is gleaned from the map. How did I do it? Easy enough. Twenty-five years ago I married, and for the benefit of future generations I bought a little place 30 miles in the country. Twice a day for six days in a week I have been going up and down to that little place for 25 years, not counting side trips. That is to say I have traveled 300 miles a week, which, multiplied by 52, makes 468,000 miles. Nearly 20 times around the world, that is, and almost from here to the moon and back. Oh, my boy, you don't know what traveling is until you live in the suburbs and become a commuter. Five thousand miles? My soul and body, that's hardly a constitutional."

And the ribbon clerk shrunk into himself and wished he hadn't mentioned his journey.

HORSES NEED HAIR RENEWER

Uncle Reuben Thought There Wasn't Much to Brag About in the Show.

"City folks is easily pleased," remarked Uncle Reuben, who has a farm down in Egypt, relates the Chicago Chronicle. "I went in to see that horse show, and there wasn't a single critter there that had more than a stump of a tail. What they need is a hair renewer for those prize animals. A stiff young man that kept looking at nothing and holding his arms out as if he da'sn't let his coat sleeves touch his coat says to me when I asked him about those poor tailless, stuck-up looking animals that they were that way on purpose because of the fashion. Queer what will come in for style. I looked round and most of the big men they said was millionaires didn't have any hair on their heads. The bald spots was about as numerous as the hob-tailed horses. The young dudes that I see promoting about with big flowers in their buttonholes didn't one of them have a sign of mustache or even a prospect of any whiskers. It was queer—horses without hardly any tails, men without any hair on their heads, and boys without any mustaches. It do beat all!"

Comforting Poor Papa.

A well-known business man whose head is bare, yet who wears a luxuriant growth of whiskers, was being rallied recently for being bald by some of his intimate friends in the presence of his small daughter. Little Mabel didn't understand that it was all in jest, and, crawling upon her parent's lap put her arms about his neck and turned defiantly toward his tormentors: "My papa w'dn't rudder hav' his top hair on his chin, w'd'n't you, papa?"—Chicago Chronicle.

Preposterous.

He—Did you tell that other fellow you were engaged to that you loved me more? She—Yes, and the horrid thing! he wanted me to return the ring.—Detroit Free Press.

Art and Nature.

"Was the country lovely, Marie?" "Oh, just lovely; it looked for all the world like a landscape painted by somebody."—Indianapolis Journal.

The person who doesn't know much, but knows enough not to let others know that he doesn't know, knows more than some of the knowing ones know.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

It is said that an artist at work on a Biblical history undertook to make a sketch of "Rebecca at the well," but he couldn't draw the water.—Chicago Daily News.

Poet (to colleague)—"So you are going to have your beard shaved off?" Colleague—"Yes; it couldn't be reproduced in marble."—Fliegende Blaetter.

A Real Patriot—Friend—"Do you love your country?" Politician—"You bet I do. I've held a government job for 12 years."—Syracuse Herald.

"I always judge a man by the cigars he smokes." "I judge him by the cigars he gives others to smoke."—Philadelphia North America.