

ARMY INEFFICIENCY DUE TO CONGRESS

Ammunition Needed to Teach Men Behind the Guns to Shoot.

APPROPRIATION INADEQUATE

Corps Unable to Secure Necessary Practice in the Use of Heavy Guns—War Department to Put Responsibility Upon Congress.

War Department officials blame Congress for the unpreparedness of the coast fortifications. Some officers do not hesitate to say that they propose putting the matter in such shape that the entire responsibility of this condition will rest upon Congress unless proper provision is made for the firing of the big defense guns.

It is admitted that owing to the lack of training the artillery knows practically nothing about the operation of the guns under service conditions. Artillery officers say that it is no fault of the artillery corps that the men lack this training, and that it is not proposed that they shall take the blame for the situation when it is entirely due to the failure of Congress to appropriate money for the firing of the guns.

The men have been drilled at the guns by the different officers in command of the artillery posts, but this does not give the necessary training in the firing of the guns, which can be obtained only by firing with full service charges.

The Situation in Brief.

"How can anything be expected from the artillery when Congress provided for only ten rounds of firing from each caliber at each fort. This is the annual allowance, and at a place like Fort Wright it means that in one year only five rounds can be fired from each of the big twelve-inch guns, and as there is but one ten-inch gun only ten shots can be fired in the same period.

"How much can a man learn by firing five shots from a gun in one year's time? Of course extra provision has been made for sub-caliber practice, but that does not simulate war, nor does it give the gun itself the movement that it would have with full service charge."

Gen. Wallace Randolph has been fully acquainted with the condition of the fortifications, and has used every effort to bring the artillery up to the highest standard of efficiency, but, owing to the action of Congress, he has been unable to carry out all his recommendations.

A little over a year ago there was practically nothing to the artillery of the army. The ordnance and engineer corps had constructed many defense works and built and installed more guns than there were men to care for them. The artillery had no recognized head, and the guns themselves, according to an inspection report by General Crozier, were being ruined from lack of care.

It was been just a year since Congress reorganized the artillery, doubled it in size, and provided for a corps organization. General Randolph being placed at its head. This done, Congress failed to take into account that the large increase in the number of men in the artillery would necessitate an increase in the allowances for ammunition, and that several thousand green men would need to know how a gun was fired.

General Randolph's Report.

General Randolph perfected the corps organization and in a report to Lieutenant General Miles declared:

"The large increase in the commission and enlisted strength of the artillery corps transforms each post into a center of instruction, and, in order that the officers and enlisted men may become thoroughly acquainted with their new duties, it is essential that they should have the proper equipment to work with."

He recommended that the target practice, instead of being annual, be quarterly, and that a certain amount of ammunition for target practice in the navy, which is practically double that allowed the artillery.

With the increase of the artillery force there was a corresponding increase in the number of officers. A recent statement made at the War Department shows that 110 first lieutenants, exclusive of the 20 graduates from the Military Academy, and 160 second lieutenants, exclusive of the 28 Academy graduates, have been appointed to the artillery during the past year without any experience whatever.

To give these men proper training the artillery school has been reorganized and at Fort Monroe a complete system of fire control, embracing vertical and horizontal range finders, is being installed.

The officials of the War Department have believed for some time that the weakness of the coast defenses lay in the ignorance of the men with the guns. Knowledge of this character can only be acquired by service work, and for this reason General Randolph first recommended artillery maneuvers. It was intended to have these maneuvers apart from the navy, but at the suggestion of the Chief of Artillery the navy was asked to participate.

The Corps Inefficient.

While there was a strong belief on the part of some officers that a thorough inspection of the artillery post would demonstrate the inefficiency of the men, it was not until the gun carriage board visited a number of the forts and fired the big guns that this belief was fully confirmed.

At each place where tests were conducted, it was found that the officers had given the men all the training possible under the existing conditions. All they needed was a sufficient allowance of ammunition to make the men familiar with the guns.

The ordnance officers are gratified with the results of the gun tests, because they say it shows that the majority of the guns were in excellent working order. Of eight guns fired only one was disabled by reason of any trouble with the gun itself, and of nine guns fired only two developed trouble with the gun carriage. It is pointed out that these accidents all took place at Fort Wright, a newly established post, while at Fort Monroe and Fort In Front, at Fort Wadsworth and Sandy Hook, the guns withstood all the strain put upon them by continuous firing, and at Sandy Hook all records for time firing were

LOCAL BUTCHERS TO ARRANGE A BARBECUE

Old Fashioned Roast Followed by Tournament and Ball at Benning Race Track.

FATHER TAKES SONS INTO PARTNERSHIP

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NOT TO GO TO PANAMA.

Commissioner Sargent Issues Orders Regarding Admission of Porto Ricans and Filipinos.

TO BE TREATED AS ALIENS.

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TO REMAIN INDEPENDENT.

President Williams Defines Position of the Seaboard.

LEIUT. GOV. WILLARD AIDS "STREET CAR FUND"

Contributes to Associated Charities Outing Plan.

WAR OFFICIALS NOT IN LEAST SURPRISED

Knew Friars Would Be Removed From Philippines.

LAD NARROWLY ESCAPES DEATH BY POISONING

Curious Circumstances Attending Accident.

ARDEN STOCK COMPANY TAKES ITS LEAVE

Brilliant Audience Witnesses Final Performance.

PLAYERS HAVE BECOME STRONG FAVORITES

During Their Stay in Washington—To Return Next Spring.

Secretary Charles F. Weller, of the Associated Charities of this city, having charge of the "street car ticket fund," to give the poor of this city free rides on the street cars during the hot days and nights, has acknowledged receipt of several contributions since the latest publication of the donations.

Well informed officials of the War Department are not in the least surprised at the statement cabled from Rome to the effect that the Vatican intends that the friars of the Augustinian, Dominican, Franciscan and Recollecte orders now in Manila, shall leave there gradually.

Private information received by the War Department some time ago indicated that the Vatican would take such action after a short period of time.

Best Interests of Church.

It is not expected at the department that any serious obstacles will be raised to the consummation of this plan by the friars themselves. The religious authorities here and in Rome admit it will be for the best interest of the church to send the friars now in Manila out of the Philippines and have them relieved as far as possible by American Augustinians.

Before Governor Taft left Rome the Administration was aware that the negotiations would ultimately terminate to the complete satisfaction of the Government.

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The Commissioner General of Immigration has instructed officers of the service at the several ports that citizens of Porto Rico and the Philippines are to be treated precisely in the same way as foreigners when presenting themselves for entry into the United States.

They are subject to payment of head tax and to examination to determine whether they should be admitted or should be excluded from this country.

The circular of instruction recites that this action is taken under authority of the acts of April 12, 1900, and July 1, 1902.

NOT TO GO TO PANAMA.

The orders to the gunboat Marietta to go to Colon on the perturbed isthmus of Panama, where American interests are important, have been rescinded, and under new orders she left Port of Spain, Trinidad, yesterday for the Onnoco River, which has been declared blockaded by the Venezuelan government.

There is now no American warship on the Atlantic coast of the isthmus.

The Marietta's orders have been rescinded three times lately. With revolutionary disturbances going on in four Latin-American countries, the Marietta and the Machias have had a pretty busy time seeing that American citizens and their property have not suffered in the districts where political disorders have occurred.

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