

REFORM IN THE ARMY

SECRETARY ROOT HAS A PLAN WHICH HE HOPES CONGRESS WILL ADOPT

THE POWER OF SELECTION

Method Which Has Many Advantages, but at the Same Time Might Lead to Serious Abuse—Instruction in Handling Large Bodies of Men One of the Things Which Is Most Needed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—Secretary of War C. E. Smith is anxious to have congress pass legislation at this session beneficial to the United States army. An expert has undertaken to point out to Secretary Root and the people just what advantages can be secured at the hands of the legislative branch of the government. The following is an outline of this gentleman's views: An adequate process of selection according to merit and effectiveness among the officers of the army, so that the men of superior ability and power may be known and placed in positions involving responsibility and authority.

The exercise and training of the officers and men of the army in the movements of large bodies of troops by brigade, division and corps, under conditions approaching as nearly as possible those to be anticipated in executing the plans devised for their action in war.

It is much easier to lay down the first of these propositions than it is to carry it out in a way to produce the best results, yet the power of selection according to merit and effectiveness should be reserved by law in the authoritative responsibility for the care and efficiency of the army. This power of selection should run through the whole military establishment, from the top to the bottom, and should include in its scope the commanding general as well as the youngest lieutenant. It now exists in an unlimited extent as to the non-commissioned or warrant officers, and to a limited extent as to commissioned officers.

What is needed, therefore, is not a new power of selection, in the case of commissioned officers, but an extension and regulation of a power already existing in a minor degree. Commissioned officers are now required to pass an examination for promotion from one grade to another. If a candidate for promotion fails to pass his examination he is not promoted, but remains in the lower grade until another opportunity for promotion occurs, when he will be again examined.

POWER OF SELECTION. If full power of selection were conferred upon the proper authorities in time of peace, and if it were exercised with intelligence and without favoritism, it would, as the secretary says, "afford an incentive to action and a reward for professional attainments and effective service, while stimulating the development of the capable officer and bringing to the front the men best adapted to the duties of the position, and the difficult duties to be confronted in actual hostilities." This is the bright side of the shield.

But if this power of selection is to be used in practice to social and political influence, its existence would be a calamity to the army and disastrous to the country. This is the dark side of the shield. That the power of selection is not imaginary is amply demonstrated by the unfortunate experience of the past. When heretofore the power of selection for appointments to positions of honor and responsibility has been exercised in an unlimited degree, its exercise almost always has been controlled by social or political influences, and not more than a few have been able to prevent the practice. Congress can do nothing to minimize these influences, and so it is that the power of selection is in the hands of the party in power, and it is the party in power that suffers in the first instance from the favoritism that is the result of the power of selection.

GEN. "JOE" WHEELER'S NIECE. Miss Etta Thomas Sues for Breach of Promise. CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—Miss Etta Thomas, a niece of Gen. "Joe" Wheeler, began a lawsuit today against her fiancé, William H. Fahmy, asking \$100,000 damages for alleged breach of promise to marry. It is alleged that Fahmy, who is treasurer of a large patent medicine manufacturing company, is a wealthy man, and has engaged to marry Miss Thomas for over four years, but that recently he broke off the engagement on the grounds that his parents desired him to marry another woman.

REGULAR ARMY. The regular army is small, and always will be small, as compared with the necessity of the country. To make it what it should be, a model military establishment, presents no insuperable difficulties for either the legislative or the executive branch of the government. The executive branch brings to the aid of the legislature the larger honesty of purpose, and both patriotism. The form of intelligence that is required is that which is capable of superior to everybody else and know it all, because, by the help of France, we won our independence from Great Britain, and maintained it against her at a tremendous cost.

Wausau—Typhoid fever has become an epidemic in the village of Monies, thirteen miles from here. One death has occurred in the last dozen cases that have been reported.

Whitehall—E. N. Trowbridge, aged sixty-two, was assistant cashier in the local bank, an old soldier and well connected here. His ailment was pneumonia, and he died last night.

Kankana—Albert Pennings, employed in constructing an addition to the paper mill, fell from a scaffold fifteen feet to the ground. His shoulder was broken, one hip dislocated, and it is thought he was internally injured.

Janesville—Twenty girls employed in the Isabell Manufacturing company's factory have been discharged because they talked too much. The girls are indignant and claim that the management never notified them of the discharge.

Fond du Lac—Ex-Mayor S. F. Bowers, after two weeks' suffering from paralysis, succumbed to the malady. He was sixty years of age.

MARIANI

Mariani Wins—World Famous Tonic

Many thousands of physicians and millions of persons during the past thirty-five years have thoroughly tested Vin Mariani and invariably experienced beneficial effects. Thousands of men and women from almost every walk of life have praised Vin Mariani in their own words, in letters, manuscripts and paintings. Try Vin Mariani on its merits. Sold by all druggists. Refuse substitutes.

ALL AGAINST CLARK

TESTIMONY BROUGHT OUT IN THE EFFORT TO UNSEAT THE MONTANA SENATOR

ALLEGED USE OF MONEY

Witnesses Assert Positively That They Were Approached and Offered Big Sums to Work for the Election of Mr. Clark to the United States Senate—Mr. Wellcome Said to Have Been Active.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Mr. Henry C. Stiff, speaker of the Montana house of representatives, was the first witness in the Clark case before the senate committee on privileges and elections today. Representative Campbell, of Montana, questioned Mr. Stiff, and his questions were directed toward showing that the embarrassed financial condition of State Representative McLaughlin had been taken advantage of by the Clark campaign.

NOVEL PROCEEDING

Right of War Department to Control Retired Officers Involved.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Under orders issued by Gen. Merritt, commanding the department of the East, a general court-martial on the 27th inst. at Fort Myer, Va., to try a retired officer, Capt. Robert W. Shufeldt, U. S. A., for alleged dereliction of duty in the war department. The case is a peculiar one, in that it involves the right of the military authorities to compel a retired officer to accept a court-martial. The jurisdiction of a state for the satisfaction of a private obligation. The courts of Maryland granted the petition of the war department for the return of the body of Capt. Shufeldt to a certain amount. It is represented that in order to evade this judgment, Capt. Shufeldt changed his residence to the District of Columbia, where he was subsequently judicially declared bankrupt. His wife appealed to the war department to assist her in collecting the alimony awarded by the Maryland court, with the result that the adjutant general, by direction of the secretary of war, ordered Capt. Shufeldt to place himself within the jurisdiction of the Maryland court.

BADLY MIXED

Methods Providing for Rewarding Heroes of the Navy.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—Secretary Long has addressed the following letter to the chairman of the committee on naval affairs of the senate and house, embodying the department's latest view as to the best means of rewarding the naval officers who participated in the extraction of Cervantes' fleet off Santiago: "Sir: The department has the honor to suggest that the present system of rewarding officers of the navy for meritorious conduct in battle and extraordinary heroism, under the provisions respectively of sections 1509 and 1515, of the Revised Statutes, has been found to be unsatisfactory, since the present system, in operation, it operates unjustly, and in some instances defeats the purpose for which it was devised. At the present time some officers who rendered distinguished services during the war with Spain, have in recognition thereof been advanced on the list; others remain without reward of any kind, while others still, by the curiously operation of the law, have received more than they occupied before the war of 1898, while others have received less. An illustration of the objectionable operation of the present method of rewarding officers of the navy is afforded by the cases of Capt. Charles E. Clark, U. S. N., who commanded the Oregon during the memorable run of the ship to Manila, and of Capt. James H. Dyer, for their eminent and conspicuous conduct in the battle of Manila bay, and of Capt. James H. Dyer, for their eminent and conspicuous conduct in the battle of Manila bay, and of Capt. James H. Dyer, for their eminent and conspicuous conduct in the battle of Manila bay.

CORBETT HELD

Must Stand Trial for Alleged Attack Upon Cheney.

RACINE, Wis., Jan. 6.—Henry F. Corbett, the picture taker, was held today by a grand jury for the charge of slandering the Rev. David B. Cheney and wife on Dec. 8 has just ended, will be held for trial. Corbett's bond was placed at \$2,000. In announcing the verdict, Judge Belder stated that no other evidence had been given against Corbett to warrant holding him for trial. When the decision was rendered, Corbett grew very much excited, and asked for an opportunity to speak, which was denied. The time of Corbett's trial will be fixed by the circuit court.

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Kenosha—John M. Kehlor, will be secretary of the National Dairy and Poultry company, that is being organized to take the place of Company C that was mustered out for incompetency.

Hastings Citizen Gone.

HASTINGS, Minn., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—William Tucker died at his home in the city of Hastings, Minn., on Saturday, Jan. 6, at the age of seventy-seven years. He was an old resident of this city, and his death is regretted by a large circle of friends.

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KILLED AT KENYON.

John H. O'Brien, of Winifred Street, Cut in Two.

KENYON, Minn., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—John H. O'Brien, a freight conductor on the Chicago and Western, living on East Winifred street, St. Paul, was instantly killed in an accident here this evening. He fell from the top of a car being pushed under a moving train, and died of instantaneous death. The deceased has been in the employ of the road for several years and has a wife and family. His remains were prepared for burial and will be shipped to St. Paul. His wife was notified of his death through the railroad office in St. Paul.

LAKE CITY'S NEW BUILDING Dedicated to the Public Use With Fitting Ceremonies.

LAKE CITY, Minn., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—The new city hall has reached its completion and was dedicated yesterday. The young ladies of the Public Library association took charge of the ceremonies. In the afternoon refreshments were served, and the building opened for public inspection. In the evening a dance was participated in by the public, at which time refreshments were again served and the hall opened to the public. Plans for the occasion were furnished by the Lake City band.

Bears Near Mora.

MORA, Minn., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—Rev. J. H. Holmes, pastor of the M. E. church at this place, was married, Thursday evening at the M. E. church to Miss Alice E. MoArthur, of Oulala, Canada. Dr. Forbes, of Duluth, officiating. The members of the church gave Mr. and Mrs. Holmes a grand reception.

Shipwrecked—A mammoth black bear was killed at Rocky Run, about five miles opened for rocky yesterday morning by lumbermen. The animal weighed 600 pounds. Bears are reported numerous north of this village.

Slipped on Sidewalk.

CHIPPewa FALLS, Wis., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—While out walking, Mrs. Edward Proutick slipped and fell on a stone sidewalk. Her injuries are very serious and may prove fatal.

Looking Over Newspaper Field.

LA CROSSE, Wis., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—Parties from Chicago have been in La Crosse today looking over the field with

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