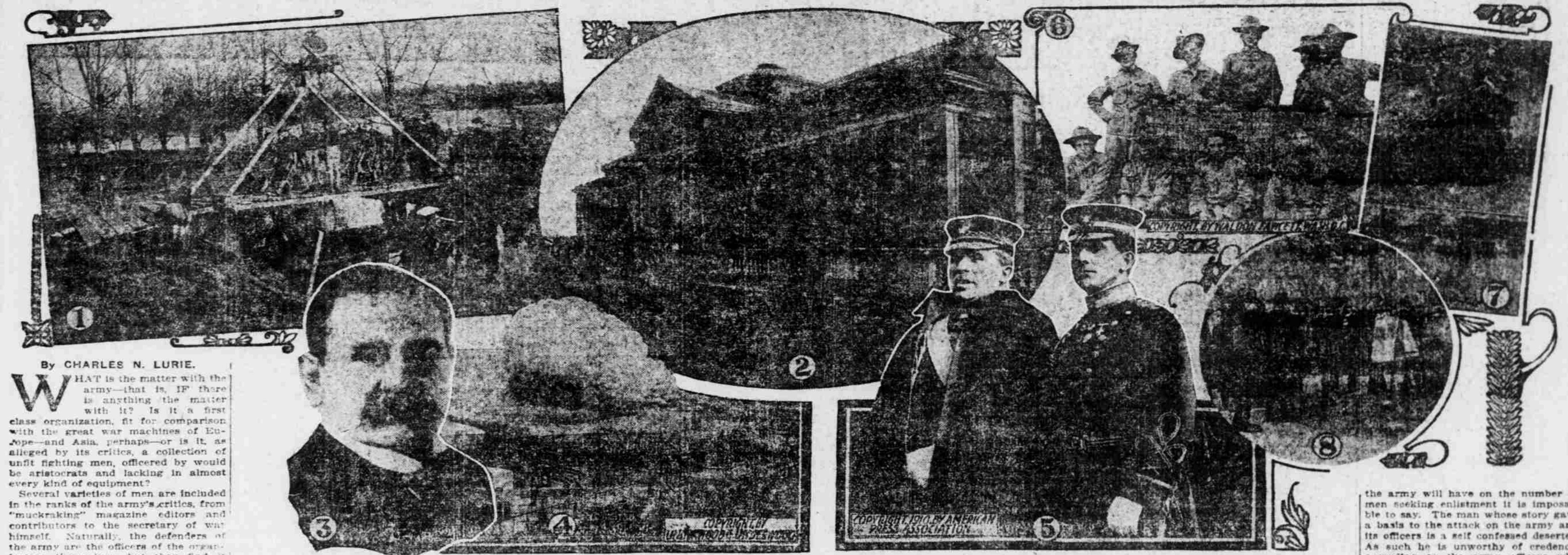


# WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE ARMY?



By CHARLES N. LURIE.

**W**HAT is the matter with the army—that is, if there is anything the matter with it? Is it a first class organization, fit for comparison with the great war machines of Europe—and Asia, perhaps—or is it, as alleged by its critics, a collection of unfit fighting men, offered by would be aristocrats and lacking in almost every kind of equipment?

Several varieties of men are included in the ranks of the army's critics, from "muckrakers" magazine editors and contributors to the secretary of war himself. Naturally, the defenders of the army are the officers of the organization themselves, but they find it difficult to hold their position, attacked as they are in front by the civilian head of the service and certain high officers and in the flank and rear by deserters and by writers whose business is the exposure of so called evil conditions. When the secretary of war declares that the regular army is deficient in numbers in all arms, poorly equipped, ill organized and much too widely scattered, when a colonel asserts that the army is not prepared for a fight even with a tenth rate power and that a first class nation could "eat us alive," when the war department starts training a corps of surgeons as experts on mental diseases in order to prevent a "dangerous increase of insanity" in the army, what is the country to believe about the army, especially in view of the fact that congress is called upon to appropriate \$139,674,278 for the military establishment for the current fiscal year?

Is There "Something Rotten" in the Army?

Two recent incidents have done much to create in the public mind the suspicion that there is "something rotten" in the state of the army. The first was the rejection by the house of representatives of a "confidential" report by Secretary of War Dickinson. The second was the publication in a widely circulated magazine of an interview with a man said to be a two

time deserter from the army, in which it was alleged that his desertion was due to such ill treatment by the officers that submission to it was impossible. The Dickinson report was replaced by another, toned down to make it fit for widespread publication. The magazine interview was made the basis of an investigation by army officers, whose report condemned the assertions of the deserter as totally unfounded. But the unfavorable public impression remained.

Secretary Dickinson's report said: "In my opinion this country cannot so far as its land forces are concerned, be considered in a state of readiness for defense or to repel invasion if attempted on our coasts by any first class power having the shipping to transport and the navy to protect the transit of her armed forces over the sea."

"An enemy operating on the offensive against our Atlantic and Gulf or our Pacific coasts would have a wide choice of objectives and points of landing; he would manifestly keep us ignorant as to the point of attack selected and would attempt to make his lodgment on the coast by attacking the coast defenses from the front, by

landing out of range of the coast defense guns and attacking the fortifications from the rear or by a combination of both methods.

**Faults of the Army Pointed Out.**

"A conservative estimate of the forces which could be transported in a single expedition over the Atlantic to our coast by a first class power would be 100,000 men. . . . To meet this requirement we would probably have available in all parts of the United States a total force of 114,500 mobile troops (32,500 regulars and 82,000 organized militia). This force has not the proper proportion of infantry, cavalry, field artillery, engineers, signal corps and sanitary troops; it is not fully equipped for field service; it, with the exception of parts of the militia, entirely lacking in organization into the higher tactical units, brigades and divisions; is lacking in many essentials of supply for operations in the field; it could not be assembled in proper positions ready for field operations in a less period than thirty days, and there being no reserves of trained men, either in the regular army or the militia, it could not be augmented excepting by the slow process of voluntary enlistments or conscription."

In other words, Secretary Dickinson means that our army is worthless for the purposes of national defense. We are attempting the process described so graphically by Kipling, speaking in like strain about Great Britain, as "muddling through," and depending, as our British kinsmen are said to depend in like case, upon the branch of the national defense which has its existence and its sphere of action upon the water.

It is reassuring to note that President Taft does not consider the situation alarming. He sees nothing in our international relationships to warrant any fear of war with any foreign power. The movement for international peace is moving apace, and Americans are standing in the forefront of the crusade. But it is not soothing to American pride to be told that this country, which ranks among the foremost in so many respects, is classed with Serbia or Roumania or Greece as a military power. To make up an army proportionate to the size of our nation and its 101,000,000 population we need about 800,000 more soldiers, said the secretary, and we need guns and ammunition and provisions and equipment for them. As a corollary,

of course, we must raise the money to buy these arms and this equipment and to pay these men.

**We Have Always Been Nonmilitary.**

It is a safe guess that congress will not provide the money for any such increase in the army, even if the sentiment of the country would sustain its representatives in any such action. Throughout our history as a nation we have lagged behind—happily, according to most persons—in the international race for armament that has given Germany a standing army of 620,000 men, France 600,000 soldiers, Russia a standing force of 1,200,000 men and Great Britain the comparatively small force of 257,000, which is still immense compared to our 80,000 men.

In naval power, however, the United States ranks second to Great Britain and ahead of Germany. When Germany's present naval plans are carried to completion she will be second to her rival across the North sea, while we shall have fallen to third place. Granting the advisability of increasing the size of our army, its heads are puzzled by the question of obtaining the needed men. The physical and

mental tests prescribed by the army regulations for admission to the ranks are rigorous, so much so, in fact, that in the past fiscal year the recruiting officers rejected 51,878 of the 100,998 men who presented themselves for enlistment. More than 99 per cent of the intending soldiers were thus rejected as lacking in mental, moral or physical qualifications. Accurate statistics as to other countries are lacking in regard to this matter, but it is probably safe to assume that the American standard is higher than that of any other country in which voluntary enlistment is relied upon to fill the ranks of the army depleted by expired enlistment, desertion, discharge for disability, etc. It should be noted, however, that of the 51,878 rejections "12,429, or about 12 per cent, were caused by lack of prior military service which, from March 1, 1910, until after the end of the fiscal year, was prescribed as a necessary qualification for enlistment. In order to bring about the reduction ordered by the president in the enlisted strength of the army to not exceeding 80,000."

**Army Men Deny Deserter's Story.**

Just how much effect the recent "revelations" of alleged conditions in

the army will have on the number of men seeking enlistment it is impossible to say. The man whose story gave a basis to the attack on the army and its officers is a self confessed deserter. As such he is unworthy of credence, according to the army officers who have investigated his story and have declared it without any foundation in fact. He spoke of intolerably outrageous conditions in the army, asserting that the enlisted men were treated without consideration by the officers, received food unfit for human consumption, were compelled to do dirty, menial work and, in short, were shamefully mistreated. These conditions are declared, by inference to exist throughout the service and furnish sufficient grounds for the reluctance of self respecting young Americans to enter the service. There have been letters in the newspapers from enlisted men and noncommissioned officers denying the charges, and it is declared by many unprejudiced observers that our men are better housed, fed and clothed than any other soldiers.

The magazine editor who wrote and stood sponsor for the story of the deserter asserts that the army officials who looked into his charges and declared them a libel on the army do not like his assertion that there were 50,000 desertions from the army in the past twelve years. But the secretary of the army reports that "it is gratifying to be able to report that the number of desertions in the past fiscal year was 30.6 per cent less than for the preceding year and that the 3,464 desertions give a percentage of 3.66 for 1910 against 4.97 for 1909."

## THE NEWER TAILORED FROCKS

Materials of Early Spring—Afternoon Costumes—Suit Trimmings.

New York, Jan. 31.

The coming three months are a trying time for the woman who has essayed over conscientiously to get through the winter with too meagre an outfit. The situation is worse if the attempt has been made to struggle along without any really new gowns at all, depending upon numberless costumes of a previous vintage which have been fixed over at endless expenditure of time, labor, and even money. For the beginning of the winter all may have gone well, but suddenly, with the beginning of February, comes an unpleasant realization of the fact that either some new frocks must be purchased or retirement from all festivities will be necessary. Just what is best to buy at this time of year is also a difficult question. Naturally, one desires to purchase with an idea toward the spring outfit, for in this age of rapid changes of fashion it is never possible to lay away in camphor any garment, no matter how good, and to be sure that it will be possible to ever don that garment again.

There are several articles of dress that can be bought to excellent advantage at this time of year and the

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first of these is a medium-weight cloth suit. Ordered in this between-season, when the tailor establishments have their most quiet time of the year, special prices are made and it is possible to procure now at a reasonable cost a costume which can be donned

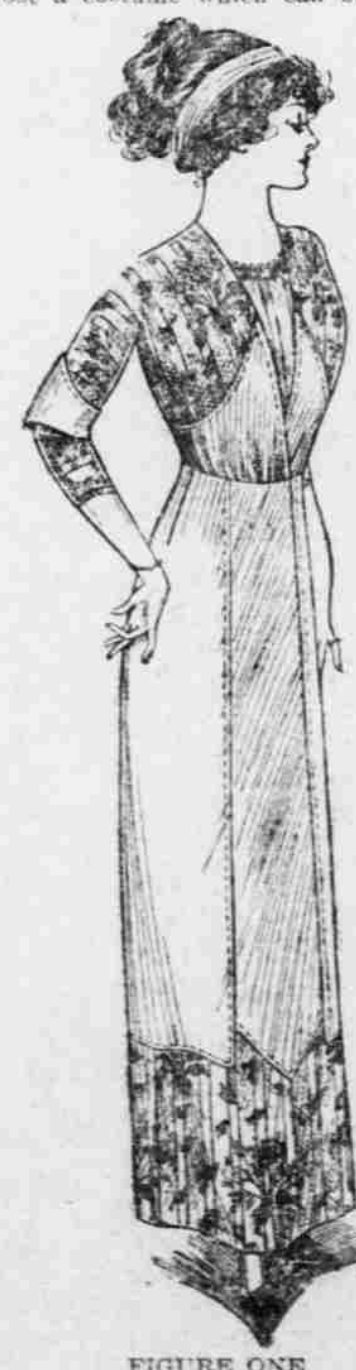


FIGURE ONE.

ment when it makes its appearance on Easter Sunday refurbished with fresh collar and cuffs of moire or white flannel. Neither should it be of an eccentric model that will attract attention at each wearing.

**STRIPED WOOLENS.**

Black with a hairline of white is very smart in the early spring suits. So is blue with the same narrow stripe, while purple of an especially beautiful tone is to be the favorite of all colors. Green is ever an attractive tone for the first days of spring and dark green is among the most popular of the midwinter shades, so that a costume of dark green serge or tweed will be smart for the two seasons for which it was actually bought. Younger women are to appear again in exquisite shades of rose, robin's egg, blue and light wood color, but the matron always looks smartest in the quieter tones.

While there are innumerable models of most elaborate and intricate design among the newest importations of tailored gowns from France, still some of the smartest are extremely simple, and it is these plainer designs which the women with limited purse should imitate. It is especially advisable, when purchasing at this time of year, to keep to the simplest models which will remain smart no matter how many varied fashions the realm of dress may undergo. If the outfit has suddenly given out and there is not one gown which can be relied upon to carry the wearer successfully through until spring, altogether the best purchase will be a cloth tailored costume made with medium length coat and a skirt that hangs straight but is in no way exaggeratedly scant. Braiding is once again much in evidence, and just a small amount of half-inch silk braiding will greatly enhance the fleet of the costume. Black braid is used almost altogether, save on the light materials, which, instead of being braided, are generally trimmed in some other way.

### Want Pink Cheeks—Red Lips?

Some unfortunate men and women are prone to wonder why some of their friends are blessed with an abundance of color—pink cheeks and red lips—while theirs are always colorless. The reason for this last named condition is, there is not enough red blood corpuscles in the blood—under a microscope the blood is thin and watery. The blood is flabby, too. Well known physicians assert that the regular administration for several months of three-grain hypo-nitric tablets will greatly improve the color, add to the weight, make the cheeks pink and the lips red, and in general be very beneficial. For self-administration, obtain from any of the best apothecary shops.

For insomnia, headache, neuralgia and rheumatic pain take Blackburn's Pain-Away-Plila.

White moire collar, revers and cuffs covered with one thickness of black chiffon are delightfully smart on a coat of smooth finished cloth.

**AFTERNOON COSTUMES.**

But the coat suit question is not the only disturbing one—there are other



FIGURE TWO.

garments in the wardrobe which require attention. At this time of the year, when semi-formal affairs are to be attended, afternoon frocks are a necessity. In the first illustration is shown a little frock in which two materials are attractively combined. The upper part of the peasant blouse was fashioned from a white satin striped marquisette with sprays of roses. The pointed tabs were of white peau de soie and the silk was also used for the pointed turned back cuffs. The charming little skirt had a pointed panel which the side gores overlapped. The

perfectly straight flounce was of the marquisette over silk.

The second figure presents a very striking Princess gown. Rose broadcloth was used for this frock. The odd shaped yoke—which was cut in one of the sleeves—was of heavy ecru lace, and a band of this lace trimmed the waistline. A shaped band of the lace outlining the top of the flounce was the only trimming on the skirt.

Ratine will be as smart this spring as has been the case all winter, and so much in fashion's favor is this new cloth that it bids fair to outlive the favorite serge. Although scarcely appropriate for an elaborate costume this fabric is nevertheless sufficiently smart for most purposes for which a tailor costume can be worn, and just now is so new that it is more generally worn in the afternoon than it is apt to be the case with a texture of rough finish. For a somewhat smarter style of dress the newest thing is one of the satin finished cloths. So exquisite in texture is this material that even on close inspection it is often difficult to tell it from the real satin, and in purchasing a gown at this time of the year, when it is desired to have a costume that will look smart at the early spring festivities, this satin faced cloth is not to be surpassed. The bodice for the gown may be of the same material or, if lighter weight is desired, of real satin, in one of the soft, supple, qualities that are in their perfection this year.

On many of the newest tailor gowns a two or three-inch silk fringe of the exact color of the cloth is the only trimming. The jacket is bordered all around with this fringe laid over the hem. The new tailor skirts just escape the ground by from one to two inches, while the majority of house gowns just touch the floor, with an extra inch or so in back for grace. Jackets reach about to the hips or a trifle longer if abbreviated length is

unbecoming. All coat sleeves are long and are fairly sure to remain so for the present regardless of the length of the sleeves of the bodice worn underneath.

In selecting an outfit for a southern

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