

BAD NIGHT FOR EXPANSION.

A ONE-SIDED DISCUSSION AT THE REFORM CLUB'S DINNER.

Two of the speakers who were to have championed the retention of the Philippines...

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ARMY REORGANIZATION BILLS.

Gen. Sternberg Favors the Hull Bill—Questioned on the Conduct of the War.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The House Committee on Military Affairs heard Surgeon-General Sternberg's views on the bills for the reorganization of the army this morning.

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INCREASE OF THE ARMY.

Recruiting Stations to Be Opened as Soon as the Hull Bill is Passed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The passage by Congress of a bill increasing the regular army to 100,000 will be the signal for the opening of a large number of recruiting stations throughout the country.

CUBANS STILL HELD IN PRISONS.

Efforts to Secure the Release of Those Confined for Political Reasons.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Members of the Cuban Commission, accompanied by Gonzales Quesada, Chargé d'Affaires of the Cuban Legation, called on Secretary of State Bryan today and requested the aid of the American Government in procuring the liberation of a large number of Cuban prisoners who are confined for political reasons in Havana and Spain.

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ARMY TRANSPORT SERVICE.

It is to Be Organized as a Separate Branch of the Quartermaster's Department.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Regulations for the organization and administration of the Army Transport Service have been completed by the board of officers appointed for that purpose and approved by the Secretary of War.

ARMY ORDERS.

Changes in the Stations and Duties of Various Officers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—These army orders have been issued: Lieut. Col. William M. Black, Chief Engineer, from duty in the office of the Chief Engineer and ordered to Havana as engineer officer on the steamer Major Gen. William Ludlow.

NATIONAL MILITIA RESERVE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—A bill introduced by Representative S. W. Smith of Michigan provides for the formation of a national militia reserve to consist of one regiment, either of infantry, cavalry or artillery, for each Congress district in the United States, and one regiment for the District of Columbia.

PROSPERITY IN SANTIAGO.

CUSTOMS BUSINESS AT THE PRINCIPAL PORTS INCREASING.

Collected in Santiago City Amounted to \$200,045 in November and to \$271,388 since July 17.—Minerals the Chief Export.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Santiago province will soon enjoy as much prosperity as it did prior to the Cuban rebellion, according to a report received from Walter A. Donaldson, Collector of Customs at Santiago city.

At Guantánamo the collections were \$2,897, at Baliquiri \$498, and at Manzanillo \$7,413. The total collections throughout the province were \$90,027. In November of last year, under the much higher rate of Spanish taxation, the collections were only \$48,839.

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THE FOUNDATION OF CONTENTMENT.

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