# THE DAILY EVENING TELEGRAPH-PHILADELPHIA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1876.

# THE ARMY.

Belknap's Report.

Our Contracted War Department-Present Status of the Army-**Its Operations During** the Past Year.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Nov. 30, 1870.—Mr. Presi-dent:—In order that the expenditures of the War Department for military purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1870, may be clearly understood, and the extent of the demands made on the de-partment may be realized, a statement of the mili-tary force of the nation is necessary in the com-mencement of this repert. The latest returns sub-milited in the report of the General of the Army show the regular army to be composed of 2488 officers and 34,870 enlisted men. 31,175 of whom ompose the ten regiments of cavaly, the five regi-ments of artillery, and the twenty-five regiments of infantry, the remaining 3692 being engineer troops, recruiting detachments, and others not enumerated among troops of the line. These men are stationed in forty-two States and Territories, at 203 organized military posts.

military posts. The establishment of new posts as settlements ad-vance is constantly rendered necessary, and the ex-pense of providing temporary shelter in inclement regions of the country is unavoidably great.

#### EXPENSES.

EXPENSES. There was appropriated for the military service for the fiscal tear ending June 30, 1870, \$37,538,852; and for the same purpose for the year ending June 30, 1871, \$30,949,148 97. The deficiency will be \$1,658,-090; total, \$32,902,348 97. a reduction below the ex-penditures for the years 1869-70 of \$4,658,503 11; \$1,400,000 of the deficiency above indicated is occa-sioned by the fact that in the estimate made by this debt for the year ending June 30, 1871, no amounts debt for the year ending June 30, 1871, no amounts were included for certain purposes because of balances of old appropriation, believed to be appli-cable to the payment of expenses for the current year, which balances were rendered unavailable by

year, which balances were rendered unavailable by the act of July 12, 1870. The total estimate of military appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1872, is \$29,383,998—a re-duction below the expenditures of the previous year of \$3,518,350 97, and below the last appropriation of \$366,159 97. Of this estimate for the next fascal year the sum of \$1,062,755 is also necessitated by the pro-hibition of the use of unexpended balances of former rears. These fources therefore, present clearly and rears. These figures, therefore, present clearly and plainly the amounts demanded for the proper finanplanity the amounts demanded for the proper finan-cial administration of the department. The estimates of heads of bareaus have been carefully sorntinized, and notwithstanding the prohibition of the use of unexpanded balances of former appropriations has deprived the department of any fund to be used, as in former years, when in cases of emergency the amounts ap-propriated were insufficient for its purposes, still these estimates have been reduced, on close calculathese estimates have been reduced, on close calcula-tion, to the lowest sum required by the wants of the service, and a failure to appropriate the amount asked would result in great embarrassment to the

public interests. The estimates of the Chief Engineer for fortifica-tions, improvement of rivers and harbors, public buildings and grounds, and Washington Aqueduct, are submitted separately as presented by that offi-

Fortifications and other works of defense. \$3,699,200 River and harbor improvements. Public buildings and grounds and Wash-8,842,450

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Total	
Of these amounts no provision has been made by	

me, but they are submitted for the consideration of Congress and for such action as may be deemed ad-visable. With an army scattered over so large an extent of country, stationed in localities remote from a dense population, needing quarters whose erection is retarded by the want of those facilities of food in the more thickly settled portions of the country, and actually demanding very heavy expen-ditures for transportation and the other incidents of the service, it is difficult to rapidly enforce a reduction.

Since the date of the last report it has been my endeavor to use every proper means to return from the loose customs and expenditures, which crept into the service during the emergencies of our late war, to the more economical and thrifty system of mer years.

Indians on the reservations on the Missouri river and in the Indian Territory. The expenses thereby incurred, amounting to \$1,690,000, are to be re-funded, and bills therefor are being prepared for presentation to the Indian Department. PAYING THE ARMY.

During the past year the army has been paid with regularity and promptness. The present number of paymasters is fifty-six. The number authorized by the law of July 28, 1866, is sixty, but no vacancies can be filled.

can be filled. A necessity for the employment of a number seemingly out of proportion to the force to be paid is created by the existence of so many military posts, and the distribution of regiments over so great an extent of country; while the reduction of the army diminishes the humber of men to be paid, the number of stations continually increases and demands the constant service of those fit for duty to keep up the payments, and in this connection it may be remarked that this distri-bution of posts over vost breadths of country ac counts for that preponderance of the staff corps in our army which is observed in comparison with the armise of foreign powers. Under the act of July 15, 1870, the officers of the army are paid by salaries in-stend of by allowances of various kinds. The sys-tem has been in operation but a few months, but that short experience shows the change to have been a wise one.

been a wise one. The complications and calculations of the old ara-The complications and calculations of the old sys-tem are avoided, and the payments rendered simple, more prompt, and far more satisfactory. It is be-lieved that the monthly payment of troops, instead of six months as at present, will be beneficial, and if found practicable steps will be taken to secure this end. Constructions upon the permanent de-fenses during the past fiscal year have been restricted to their reneir and preservation to their repair and preservation

#### ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT. The Engineer Department has been actively en-gaged upon plans for the modification of the de-fenses to meet the requirements of the latest im-provements in modern warfare. Many of the plans for the defense of our most important barbors have been approved by me, and the estimates submitted by the Chief of Engineers for carrying them out are presented for the conside-ration of Congress. ration of Congress.

ration of Congress. Such appropriations as were made at the last ses-sion of Congress for the partial execution of similar plans for the harbors of Portland, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and San Francisco are being applied to these defenses. Upon the recommenda-tion of the Chief of Engineers, three able and expe-rienced officers of engineers were sent to Europe to examine into the manner and extent of the employ-ment of iron in seacoast defenses. They have been examine into the manner and extent of the employ-ment of iron in seacoast defenses. They have been received with great courtesy by all foreign officers, and every facility has been afforded them for making their examination, and the surveys and reconnoisances required in con-nection with the permanent seacoast defenses for other military purposes, and for the movement of troops in the territory occupied or frequented by Indian tribes, have received due attention. The geological survey on the contral route of Indian tribes, have received due attention. The geological survey on the central route of communication with the Pacific coast has progressed in the most satisfactory manner, and the publication of its results will form a highly valuable contribution to science, to the varied wants of the Government, and the people. These surveys and reconnoissances are progressing ac-tively in the field and office, and are essential to the operations of the Government. Provision should be made for them by annual appropriation.

#### ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT.

In the Ordnance Department the estimates are far in advance of any submitted since the close of the war, for the reason that no appropriation for ordhance or ordnance stores was made or requested for the present year. The unexpended balances were placed beyond the reach of the Ordnance Bureau, and much embarrassment was caused in procuring supplies for filling requisitions and in taking care of stores on hand. At Springfield Armory a few thousand arms are

being manu.actured for competitive trial in the field, under the recommendation of the chief of ord-nance in connection with the report of the board later conversed at St Louis lately convened at St. Louis.

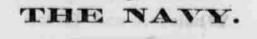
#### THE ARSENALS.

There are many arsenals throughout the country There are many arsenais throughout the country which, in my opinion, should be sold, and the pro-ceeds used, if necessary, for the erection of the principal arsenal for the Atlantic coast. Not only economy, but many interests connected with the subject, make it advisable to dispose of those which can now be spared with advantage, the proceeds to be used as above indicated. Rock Island Arsenal, ultipole has been established as the prime and Arsenal be used as above indicated. Rock Island Arsenal, lilinois, has been established as the principal arsenal for the valley of the Mississippi. A personal inspec-tion, minutely made, of the improvements at that point in September last, gave me great satisfaction, as they are of an extensive and substantial kind, and such as are demanded by the growing power of the country and of the West.

An arsenal of like character in the East could be erected from the proceeds of sales of useless arsenals, without any appropriation of funds from the public treasury. When the new form of breech-loading arm is decided upon and placed in the hands of the troops, then should be called in from all the States arms of the old style which have heretofore been issued, and a new issue made to them of those of the improved pattern.

the Secretary of War was required to appoint a competent person to arrange and prepare for publi-cation the official documents relating to the Re-bellion and the operations of the army during the war, and to submit a plan of said publication and estimates of cost to Congress at its then next ses-sion. The person so appointed to receive a com-pensation of \$1500 per annum for two years. In accordance therewith an appointment for the purpose was made by Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War, but no acceptance was filed and no further action taken. The promise that payment should cease in two years after the passage of the act ren-ders an appointment under that legislation imprac-ticable.

ticable. It is carnestly asked that Congress at its next session will revive the legislation and authorize the Secretary of War to make the appointment. It is very desirable that action of this kind be taken without delay. The reasons suggesting the great value of this national work need not be stated, for without argument they commend themselves to the consideration of every clizen. WILLIAM W. BELKNAP, Secretary of War.



Robeson's Report. The Maritime Force of the United

# States-Naval Operations of the Past Year-State of the Service.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, Dec. 1, 1873.—Sir :—I respectfully submit the following report of the Navy Department and the caval service for the last year:... At the date of my last report the navy of the United States connisted of 188 shipe, of all classes, calculated to carry, when in commission, 132 guns, exclusive of how-itzers Since that time four small gunboats, the "Somi-nole" and the "Clinton" (tog) at home, and the "Maumee" and the "Unadilla," in the Fast, have been condemned as unseaworthy and sold; the tog "Rescue" was also sold, under an set of Congress, to the government of Liberia, through the agency of the president of that Ropublic, who is configure the haw. — The 2d of January last the tug "Maria" was run into and suck on Long Island Sound, with a loss of four men, and suck on Long Island Sound, with a loss of four men, and suck on Long Island Sound, with a loss of four men, and suck on Long Island Sound, with a loss of four men, and suck on Long Island Sound, with a loss of four men, and suck on Long Island Sound, with a loss of four men, and suck on Long Island Sound, with a loss of four men, and on the mixin of the Stath of the same mouth the steam ender "Distant", cuit down by the English passenger steam-er "Bombay," suck in the Bay of Yeddo, with the loss of most of her officers and crew.

most of her officers and crew.

#### SIZE OF THE NAVY.

Init up in ordinary, or as unfit for service or repair. THE NAYY ABBOAD. During the period which has passed away since my last report the United States of America have been at peace new here those of active hostility. But the stitude of this branch of the public service must always be in some degree warlike, since it represents abroad the military, power of the government, and displaying everywhere that representa from the attacks of barbari ignor-ting of the country, is expected to probe the rights value that represents from the attacks of barbari igno-ting percenting peculiarity the civilized power. The people, peaceful, prosperous, and secure at home and pence, are slow to realize the trials to which their secutered throughout the world, are so often subjected and the sudden and sometimes appalling dangers which there are no flucture who are charged with the duty of interains of far as may be, such dangers and the duty of interains and secure and some charged with the duty of interains of requestly their personal sitely and our ma-thread and sometimes appalling dangers which there are no frequently their personal sitely and our ma-thread and sometimes appalling dangers which there are no frequently their personal sitely and our ma-thread and sometimes appalling dangers which there are no frequently their personal sitely and our ma-tional honor. But those who are charged with the duty of and the sudden and sometimes appalling dangers which and the sudden and sometimes appalling dangers which the danger bar of the subjected appresent and the subjected appresent and the subjected appresent appresent appresent appresent appresent appendent the subjected appresent appresent appresent appresent appendent appresent appendent ing against them, are ever oppressed by their presence and by the want of adequate power at command for protection

by the want of adequate power at command for protection or redress. Almost every foreign mail during the past year has brought, through the appropriate channels, to the Navy Department, from our citizens and representatives in every quarter of the globe, requests, which are sometimes appeals, for that assurance of safety and protection abread which is only afforded by the presence of an armed vessel of the government. Wherever civilization 'is backward, commerce and Christmanity are only safe under the guardianship of power; wherever governments are unsettled or arbitrary, the property and the persons of strangers of every class are in continual danger; and, all o er the world, wher-ever y ar inflames the pasions of civilized man, the au-thority of law is lossend, the securities of government unsettled, and the inflaence of civilized man of their governments constant and careful protection. On our own continent war in the West Indies and com-plications on the ishing-banks have called simultaneously invertions on the ishing banks have called simultaneously

McDousal, consists of five ships, mounting in all 40 guns its, the "lamestown," the "haiped," the "Remark, "the "Onward" and the "Mohien," The whole fleet thus con-late of twelve ships, mounting in all 128 guns, and is under who relieved Kear-Admiral Tuncher on the 9th day of Seb-ender and command of Rear Admiral John A. Winstow, who relieved Kear-Admiral Tuncher on the 9th day of Seb-ender of repaired aimeet the date of my fast roport. Our const line on this station, including that of Alasks, whiles of this fleet are of great variety and importance, fillies of this fleet are of great variety and importance, of our measures, representatives, citizers and traders rice and the isfimus, and among the islands of the Pa-ties of the fleet are of our commercial relation with the islands, and with the East. In these interests of our first of missionaries, representatives, do resort and the islands, and with the East. In these interests in our first of missionaries the date of the Alasks of the par-ties of missionaries, representatives, do resort and the islands, and with the East. In these interests in our first of missionaries the date of the Republic must be and the islands and at a statication of the stations with the islands and dredged, points of difficulty and of danger interiment and our people in the what in mid occas must be islands of the exercise of the ships on this station. The reports of the operations of the others freets with the conditional dredged, points of difficulty and of danger induction of the botther in the stations and in a stations, which the kink is between soft he ships on this station, when detailed in brief in the stationer is annexed entitled the constance, will be found both interesting and mathematication is and the islands of the constant of the ships on the station is the constant of the constant of the ships on the station is the constant with those as the other freets, will be the constant of the station of the ships of the factures the constant of the stating to the constant

The KEAPARTRO" among the islands of the Pacific. THE KURDEAN STATION. Embracing all the waters of the Atlantic, and its commu-nicating scas north of the Equator, and including the whole European coast and that of North Africa. Is always a station of great consequence, in view of the intimacy of our relations with the peoples and governments of West-ern Europe, and the number and suportance of our per-sonal and commercial relations in that quarter of the world.

or all purpose, and the infinite relations in that quarter of the world. In the present condition of Europe the foelings and pride of our receipt, as well as their interests and safety, demand that we shall be represented there by all the force available, in view of the requirements of other stations. Our encoded and the department has andeavored to increase the fleet in that quarter as far as was possible, in view of the requirements of other stations. Our European fleet is now under the command of Rear Admiral Gleson, who elieved Rear Admiral Radford on the 10th of August last. It consists of the "Franklin" the "Science," and the "Guerriere," 8 ships, mounting in all 122 grass. Of these, seven are now on the station, and the eighth, the "Guerriere," is under saling orders to join the fleet. Of this fleet all but the "Franklin," the "Richmond," and the "Juniata" have been refitted and repaired doring the past year.

#### THE ASIATIC STATION.

Diffusion in the been reinfeed and reparted during the part year.
DIFFERENTIAL STATION
The ASLATO STATION
Solution is now under command of Asia and of Eastern and Northeestern Africa, and the islands of the Eastern Ocean strict Station extending from the west. The Beet on this station is now under command of Kear-Admiral John work, who relieved Rear-Admiral Rowan on the 20th work of Asia have the "Golorado" that the 'Islands. It consists of the 'Golorado' that the 'Island' storeship, the 'Benicia, 'the 'Alaska,' the 'Ashielot,' the 'West esselves in all, mounting 85 guns. Of this fleet all the the been propared for sea, and have sailed the the form the United States since the date of my last report.
The 'Pales,' a mail steamer of 30% tons, titted and the for culsing in the rivers of China, was send to join the for culsing in the rivers of China, was send to join the for culsing in the rivers of China, was send to join the for culsing in the rivers of China, was send to join the for culsing in the rivers of China, was send to join the for culsing in the rivers of China, was send to join the for culsing in the rivers of China, was send to join the for culsing in the appendix, will be found of much in the station can increase of our force there oppresses the department is the station can increase of our force there oppresses the department, the uncertain the state or a send the superstitions which the state, the state of the sendent in the state of the state state of a sendent in the state of the sendent is the force. The fore there oppresses the department, the uncertain the state or a sendent is the sendent in the state of the sendent is the date. The sendent is the force of the sendent

#### MIDWAY ISLANDS,

Astatic respect. MIDWAY ISLANDS. The act making appropriations for the naval service, approved March I. 1999, appropriated \$50,000 for deepening the entrance of the harbor of Midway Islands, in the Pa-cifie Ocean, to afford a safe rendezvoits and port of refuge and resort for the naval and increhent vessels of the United States. In pursuance of the provisions of this act, a contract was entered into with Mr. George V. Town-send, of Boston, September 20, 1969, to execute the work, and one of the vessels of the Pacific fleet, the "Saginaw," under Lieutenant-Commander Steard, was detailed to aid the contractor by making the necessary surveys, and to allord such other facilities as were reasonable and best calculated to forward the enterprise. The commanding officer of this ship was charged with the immediato su-pervision of the work, and with the inspection of it as contemplated by the act. — The "Saginaw" reached the Midway Islands March 24, the as soon as possible thereafter the doepening of the channel was commenced, and has been continued with delity. More difficulty has been experienced and greater obstacles encountered than were anticipated, but at the date of the latest report from the officer in charge, he was allo fue in a tolerably fair estimate of the innead cost of the cost, about \$214,000 – which sum he conside s to be the least that can be allowed. It is acceed in the contract that the United States report from the officer in charge, he was allo form a tolerably fair estimate of the innead cost of the cast, report 19, the date of the sommagement, sho of the cost, about \$214,000 – which sum he conside s to be the least that can be allowed. It is agreed in the contract that the United States shall have the option of termina-ting the work whenever the appropriation special made for it by Congress shall be insufficient for its further con-

that the United States shall have the option of termina-ting the work whenever the appropriation specially made for it by Congress shall be insufficient for its further con-tinuance, and as the department has given positive in-structions that the appropriation be not exceeded, there will be no means for processing the work longer than thil October, at which time the party proposes returning to San Francisco. Identerant Commander Sizerd gives in his report full and interesting details of the manner in which the work has been exceeded, its progress from time to time, and the prospects of its auccessful termination. THE INTEROCEANIC OANAL.

## THE SURMARINE TORPEDO.

THE SUMMARINE TORPEDO. The importance of the submarine torpedo as a weapon of naval warfare is every day more apparent. As our ex-periments and improvements progress, the teorible power of this ergine and the certainty and ease with which it is an explicit are more clearly domonstrated, and it promises to be the most edicient, as well as the least er-perimeters and it is an explicit of the service. Recent events events in Europe have shown its value as an important part of the system of coast defense. We are progressing in this direction as fast as the appropri-sion will vermit, and if the suggestions of the officers in charge of this branch are carried out, we shall, I think, be as well armed in this respect as any other power in the world.

the world. The reports of the several bureaus of the department and that of the Admiral upon the condition of the service will be found in the appendix to this report. They contain much that is instructive and valuable. I shall not passe to repeat them in detail, but recommending them for the study of all who from duty or inclination are interested in the service shall refer specially to a few things which impress me as of the most urgent importance. THE HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE.

Impress me as of the most ingent importance. THE HYDROGRAPHIC OFFICE. The requisity of an American hydrographic establish-ment, furnishing its own charts, books, and sailing dutside world, and performing its portion of the work of singhtly acquainted with the wants of commerce and the duties of a commercial mation. Under all European powermments of any note such establishments have long to no persition, iurnishing their quota for the general situance of science and the greater security of naviga-tion. In this the hydrographic office of Korland takes the lead, and, furnishing their quota for the general situance of science and the greater security of naviga-tion. In this the hydrographic office of Korland takes the lead, and, furnishing the commercial world, exacts a tribu-tion of the science and the greater security of naviga-tion. In this the hydrographic office of Korland takes the lead, and, furnishing the commercial world, exacts a tribu-tion of the science and the greater security of any ga-metric of the commercial world, exacts a tribu-tion of the science of the commercial world, exacts a tribu-tion of the science of the commercial world, exacts a tribu-tion of the science of the commercial world, exacts a tribu-tion of the science of the commercial world, exacts a tribu-tion of the science of the science. The country, with perhaps greater advantages, has done world in doing but little in comparison. Although a hydro-furement of Asrigasion, no steps have taken towards its ad-tion of the science of our relations with Great inter counter and gradual ingreas, and it is at present searcely more than a depot of charts, the greater part of hydrogra- and indicated parts interactions, bet is at is at present world at mercine of a rupture of our relations with Great inter event of a rupture of our relations with Great the event of a rupture of our relations with decards inter ourself we only on private firm on hydrogra-ter is not in this country a private firm o

To place our effice on a proper basis, and make a gra To place our effice on a proper basis, and make a gra-dual advancement from year to year, a fair appropriation is required to proceure and arrange a proper building for the prosecution and extens on of the work; and a yearly allowance to enable the office to increase g adually its en-graved chart-plates, etc., until such a time as, oy the sale of their work, with an increase of commerce, the office would pay for itself. A small yearly appropriation should also be made for prosecuting surveys abroad in should not un surveyed fields as most require it, and which may most immediately benefit our own commerce.

MAGAZINE AT NOBFOLK. MAGAZINE AT NOIFFOLK. I beg leave, also, to call your attention to the unsafe condition of the magazine at Morfolt, Va., and to ask that a sufficient appropriation be made for the purchase of a new site in a safer position, and for the erorian of the neccesary buildings. A subling furnace has been erected, and is in full operation within 200 feet of the pre-sent site of the magazine buildings, some of which are of wood, and the town is fast extending to direct contact with their walls. NITHE DEPOT.

#### NITRE DEPOT.

NITHE DEFOT. The subject of a nitre depot for the storage of nitre at some inland point, near railroad or can a communication with the seaceast, also presses for action. This subject was fully presented by the chief of the Bureau of Ord-nance, in a note to the estimates for the Bureau for 1857 70. This is believed to be very important, and it is hoped that Congress will see the propriety of acting in the matter. ORDNANCE.

ORDNANCE. Is ordnance there is no reason to believe we are yot behind other nations, but large sums are now being ex-pended by them in experiments with cannon and geus of all calibres; and as the inventive genius of our coun-try is much engaged in the improvement of arms, and new suggestions, some of much apparent merit, are constantly offered, it is hoped that a suitable sum may be allowed for testing them, particularly as most of the inventors are without the means for doing this themselves. How SUPPAULING.

The estimates for the general extension of the service for the fiscal year ending June 20, 1573, amount to \$34, 555,100 as necessary and to these is added the sum of \$955,100 as necessary and settions. In conclusion, I would express my renewed obli-tions to the chiefs and officers of the several burg, "as for their skill and attention, and to the ne-complia,"ed chief cierk of the department, who has discharges, his onerous duties with great industry and ability. Becretary of the Navy. The President.

In a supplement to his report, Secretary Robeson given the following statement of the strength of foreign

	Vessela.					
Constries, Great Britain, German Union, France, Netherlands, Portagal Bpais Italy Austria, Turkey Russia, Sweden & Norr Donmark		Sail, 97 100 84 148 164 81 94 37 250	Total, (530 141 452 121 70 192 96 217 195 274 999	Grins, 7988 1639 4634 1943 396 1009 948 2376 2900 1222	Hores Paser 105,056 91,200 91,200	
+Forty eight s	seam gu	inboate		199	\$,890	

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## RECRUITING.

Recruiting for every arm of the service has been carried on throughout the year. Many of the rendezyous were closed in February, 1870, owing to the searly exhausted state of the recruiting fund. Congress, however, having made a special appropriation of however, having made a special appropriation of \$60,000 to defray the expenses until the end of the discal year, recruiting was resumed under instruc-tions issued on April 30. By the lat of Jaly, 1871, the army will be brought down to the legal standard of 30,000 enlisted men, the number prescribed by the act of July 15, 1870, and in the meantime recruiting will be continued only on a scale rendered necessary by casualties.

## THE OFFICERS.

On July 1, 1869, the number of officers in service was 2147, increased by the appointment during the year of six post chaplains and 55 gradnates of West Point, making in all 2810. The number of onlicers in service on November 16, 1870, was 2481, a reduc-tion of 329. On November 30 the number of supernumerary officers, or of those in excess of the stan-

dard prescribed by law, was 211. By the act of July 15, 1870, providing for the re-duction of the army, the extent of the retired list was increased. Authority was given to the Presiwas increased. Authority was given to the Fresh-deni to discharge at his discretion, with one year's pay, officers who might apply therefor, and to trans-fer officers of the line to the list of supernumeraries. The Secretary of War was directed to constitute a board for examination of cases of officers reported by department commanders as unfit for the proper by department commanders as unit for the proper discharge of their duties, and it was also enacted that all supernumerary officers remaining after the 1st of January, 1871, should be honorably mustered out of the service with one year's pay acd allow-

ances. Preparations for carrying out the provisions of that act are being made as rapidly as possible. The board referred to is now in session, having under consideration the cases which have been reported for its action; and reports have been received from the retiring boards organized under the act. It will be the endeavor of the department to exercise dis-cretion and judgment in the recommendations it may make as to the discharge of supernumeraries and by the exercise of due regard for the military record and personal fitness of those recommended for transfer and retention to avoid any injustice, and

for transfer and retention to avoid any injustice, and by a fair examination of each case to aid in a just and impartial enforcement of the law. As many of the officers who will of necessity be mustered out by operation of law have done faithful service in the field, some of them in the war of the Rebellion, and some in the war with Mexico, f sub-mit whether it would not be a wise as well as genemit whether it would not be a wise as well as gene-rous act in Congress, by legislation early in the coming session, to extend until July 1, 1871, the time in which the President may at his discretion discharge, with one year's pay and allowances, officers who may apply therefor, and also to direct that vacancies occurring prior to that date in the regiments of cavalry, artillery, and in-fantry, might be filled by such supernumerary offi-eers, with due regard to rank and fitness, those re-maining supernumerary after July 1,1871, to be mus-tared out with one year's pay.

maining supernumerary after July 1,1871, to be mus-tered out with one year's pay. I recommend the adoption of this course. It will go far towards preventing the injustice which it is so difficult to avoid, and will, to a great extent, dis-pense with the necessity for forcing from the ser-vice, with seeming ingratitude, many gallant men.

#### DEBTS OF RAILWAY COMPANIES.

But little progress has been made by the railway But little progress has been made by the failway companies in settling the debts contracted by them at the close of the war by the purchase of the mate-rial of the military railroads. The total debt remain-ing due and unpaid on the 30th of June, 1870, was \$6,912,106.97, principally owing from Southwestern companies; and their payments during the year amounted to the sum of \$360,849.45. But owing to the second of interest the entire reduction was the amount of interest the entire reduction was only \$58,128't4. Action by Congress in their relief has been sought by some of the roads, while suits have in some cases been instituted against those defaulting.

#### THE NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

THE NATIONAL CEMPTERIES. The recor is of the department show the burial, in the National and other cemeteries, of \$23,000 per-sona. In addition to those buried in the seventy-three national cemeteries, there are very many sol-diers interred is private cemeteries near hospitals in which they died. Measures are in rapid progress for carrying out the law which requires the ceme-teries to be properly enclosed. - Under the act of Congress close and useful inspec-tions have been thoroughly made by a field officer of the army, and many timely suggestions as to changes and improvements carried out. They are being decorated, in accorroance with a law of the last Congress, with trees and shrubs, and instead of being left unattended, are cared for which the con-sideration which the memory of the naMon's dead cemands.

## INDIAN SUPPLIES.

During the years 1869 '70, large quantities of sup-lies were turpished fo the Indian Department for

#### THE STORM REPORTS.

The duties imposed upon the War Department by

The duties imposed upon the War Department by the enactment of Congress) providing for the ob-servation and report of storms by telegraph and signal, have been discharged under the manage-ment of the chief signal officer. A number of observers carefully chosen have been ebisted, instructed in their duties, examined as to their qualifications, provided with instruments, and sent to the stations which have, on consultation with the best authorities, been selected. Arrange-ments have been made with the Western Union, the International, and the Northwestern Telegraph companies for the transmission of reports, and an organization of telegraph lines effected by which it organization of telegraph lines effected by which it s hoped unusual system and rapidity will be attained.

tained. The transmission of reports on this plan com-menced November 1, 1870, and the widest publicity is given them through the press by bulletins, and as time permits the necessary arrangements will be extended by maps and other methods. This work is without precedent in this country, and it is ne-cessary that each step should be well studied and devised before excention.

cessary that each step should be well studied and devised before execution. Assistance from scientific men and institutions here and in Europe has been generously accorded, and chambers of commerce, boards of trade, and commercial associations throughout the United States have given encouraging co-operation. Mili-tary organization and control secure a promptness and thoroughness in the execution of this work per-haps not otherwise attainable. It is asked that pro-per provision be made by Congress for a service in-volving such extended responsibilities.

per provision be made by Congress for a service in-volving such extended responsibilities. The experience of the coming year will afford some practical tests of the benefits which are ex-pected to result from this important undertaking. Its execution thus far has been very satisfactory, and it is confidently believed that the systematic means adopted to carry out this wise legislation of Congress will result in benefits to commerce which will amply justify an appropriation adequate to its accomplishment. accomplishment.

#### THE MILITARY COMMANDS.

THE MILITARY COMMANDS. Since my last report no changes have been made in commanders of the military divisions, excepting in that of the Pacific, caused by the death of Major-General George H. Thomas, which occurred in my last. In this decease the army has sustained a severe loss. He was a soldier of solid attainments, of honorable actions, of few words, but of many heroic deeds. His life is a part of the history of the army. The Military Division of the Pacific is now commanded by Major-General John M. Schoffeld.

#### THE WORK OF THE ARMY.

The operations of the army during the year have been chiefly confined to the assistance of the civil suthorities in carrying out the laws, and in the sup-pression of Indian depredations. I would again ask consideration to the mattor of incursions of Indians from the south side of the Rio Grande, which seems to constitute a systematic busi-ness, only to be broken up by co-opera-tion on the part of the Mexican authorities. Pur-suit by our stops troops at the border, while our citi-zens can pass into Mexico and witness the sale of their animals recently stolen. A system of general regulations for the administration of the affairs of the army, as prescribed by section 20 of the act of July 10, 1876, is being prepared, and will be presented to Congress at its coming session. It is work which requires such labor and studious care that it is hoped it may be submitted in time for full consideration by Congress. The operations of the army during the year have by Congress.

#### THE BUREAUS.

THE EVENTS The different bureaus of the War Department, statused in many localities in Washington a's statuse from each other, should be concentrated in one ballding. At the last session of Congress mea-statused in the second of the second of the second the last of the records of any one of these bureaus be loss of the records of any one of these bureaus the loss of the records of any one of these bureaus is an and great inconvenience to those interests while cause which separates these bureaus the loss of the record of the separates of these bureaus the loss of the second the separates these bureaus the loss of the second the second the separates of the separates the loss of the second the second the second the second the second the loss of the second the second the second the second the second the loss of the second t

cated elsewhere.

# OFFICIAL HISTORY OF THE REBELLION.

By joint resolution of Congress of July 27, 1866,

On our own continent war in the West Indies and com plications on the fishing banks have called simultaneous for the presence of our cruisters at both extremities of the North Atlantic Station. From the isolated groups of the

plications on the lashing-banks have called simultaneously for the presence of our crisions at both extremities of the North Atlantic Station. From the isolated groups of the Pacific and from every struggling government of the South we are called upon to protect the persons and pro-perty of our chizens. Everywhere on the shores of civi-lized Europe, from the Batile to the Boshorus, the se-curity of American interests and rights of American citi-zenship demand at this juncture the presence of our flag; and in the half-civilized East our commerce is constantly startled by outbreaks which defy the power of even triend? A more there and the school houses, were boing re-furned on board a man-of-war; and on any day we may have that some representative of our Government, more than the non-presentative of our capital, has found his on; wafety under cover of our navai gun. "In the navy is at this time prosecuting, under the an-thority of Congress, two surveys across the isthmuss which connects the northern and solution provides of our const-ingeness of the gaps and resort, on our capital and in mid-occan; we are also about to contribute, under the surver as far as possible, the requirements imposed by these conditions, is the appropriate daty of our mary, by these conditions, is the appropriate daty of our mary, by the clubinent of this duty push, of coorse, depend provement of charbors of reage and resort, on our capital and in mid-occan; we are also about to contribute; under special legislative direction, a vessel and its appliances to are entitle expectition toward the North Pole." "To answer, as far as possible, the requirements imposed by the conditions, is the appropriate daty of our mary, by the conditions, is the appropriate daty of our mary, which e fulfilment of this duty push, of coorse, depend prote the character and frequency of the circumstances calli partment been able to increase, to any great extent. the force assigned to each of them.

# THE NORTH ATLANTIC STATION,

ritment been able to increase, to any great extent, the force assigned to each of them. THE NORTH ATLANTIO STATION. Astending northward from the mouth of the Amazon and westward from the forty-third degree of longitude west of Greenwich, embraces more than 3,000 miles of our own events and the forth, and the constance of the constance of the Atlantic and the Griff, and includes west of Mexico. The Isthmus, and the norther constructions in the forth, and the constance of the Atlantic and the forth, and includes the other of the Atlantic and the norther construction of Mexico. The Isthmus, and the norther construction is under command of Hear Admiral S. P. Lee, who relieved Rear Admiral C. H. Poor on the 16th of August last. It consists of the "Neuror," the "Congress," the "Imageners," the "Swatara," the "Nantasket," the "Yantic," the "Kannas, "swatara," the "Nantasket," the "Yantic," and the fron-clade "Dictator," "Terror," "Alax," and "Saugna," and the "Pawnee" as a hespisal ship, making in all fouries endings in a state of the "Baugus", have been relitted repaired during the "Saugus", have been relitted repaired during the the four monitors, with the host paired of this fleet is the most convenient station, mutiling six hours' shift the four endities the four monitors with the host is reading of the dear of the fleet of the fleet of this fleet her four monitors, with the host is a station of the dear more only to point when a dispised to prevent the stanged of the term when ending the past year the protection under the stanged of this fleet have been largely ensayed to create the four monitors with the host is and in direct conmand the deal statics, and the former, whose incert station, while the adout the static of this fleet have been hardely statics of this fleet have a static or the family of the dear manner of the fleet ship with the static is a static on the four monitors with the host reading the past year the manner of the fleet and the constate prevent the four statics on the station of this flee

THE SOUTH ATLANTIC STATION, Stretching from the Amazou across to Saint Paul de Lo-nado, and southward between the shores and beyond the capes of either continent, cover's an area of vast extent and importance. The fleet assigned to this station con-sists at present of but four tessels, three of which are on the station, and the fourth about to join it. These under the command of Roar Admiral Lauman, are the "Lau-caster" (flagship), the "Fortsmouth," the "Wase," and the "Narraganest" numbering in all discuss. Of this fleet the "Narraganest" has been completely resitted dur-ing the past year. THE FACIFIC STATION. THE SOUTH ATLANTIC STATION.

# The fact respectively the North and South Pacific Squad-rons.

#### OBE. THE NORTH PACIFIC BQUADEON.

Under the immediate command of Commodore William it. Taylor, consists at this time of seven ships, mounting in all 85 gunz, six of which are on the station, and the seventh under orders to join the squadron, siz., the "Pen-sacola." the "Saranac," the "St. Mary's." the "California" about to sail.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC SQUADEON.

Now under the immediate command of Commodore David

THE EXTEROCIANT OVANL. THE EXTEROCIANT OVANL. In excention of the plan stated in my last annual report for serveying the 1sthmus of Darien, with a view to ascertain by what route, if any, a ship canal might be con-structed between the two oceans, three small vossels, the "Nipric," "Guard" and "Nyack," were, in January, 1874, placed under the command of Commander Thomas O. Sel-tions of the province of Darien as might be supposed estita-ble for the location and construction of such a canal. Es-side the efficers and erews of these vessels, the exploring party consisted of a guard of maries, nucler command of Canad' and "Nyack," users, the exploring party consisted of a guard of maries, nucler command of care themes, and 12 civilians, employed astern in the "Mipafe" two of the vessels (the "Guard" and "Nipsie") were ordered to reudezvous in Catedoni v Biy. The "Supafe" two days later, by the way of Aspinwall, where she toched to recure laborers and guides. The Presi-dent of Panama exhibited a friendly interest, and asnet an official representative to Join the exploring party. The "Nyafe" which was attached to the Pacific floet, was or-dered to San Iniques Bay, but, not reaching her destina-ination until the 14th of April, her officers and crew took to part in the explorations on shore, but were advan-tation were the officer and construction of such a such and a partice officer and construction of the source and as on-transformer of the second to the Pacific floet, was or-dered to San Iniques Bay, but, not reaching her destina-tion in the explorations on shore, but were advan-tered were been in and constructions on shore, but were advan-tered were breach and construction of shore and constructions and y the states on the marker and construction of the shore y took the observed to San Iniques Her officer and constructions on shore, but were advan-

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these duties. It is true that, with all the department has been able to

The enduties. The true that, with all the department has been able to materially our cruising force on foreign stations. But this materially our cruising force on foreign stations. But this prove is, I think, in a state of much greater educinesy than force is, I think, in a state of much greater educinesy than the cruit of the mean all to strengthen our squadrons as soon as crew, which can sall to strengthen our squadrons as soon as crew, which can sall to strengthen our squadrons as soon as crew, such the end with the material the provided of the the services, and the few shows a marked improvement in the character and the conduct of the mean emissing in the services, and the senser. Many regulations have been made and orders used during the last year looking to their comfort and order established. This has already produced a no-tion effect for good, and it needs only to be pursued and a system of rewards and promotions for good order established. This has already produced a no-tion effect for good, and it needs only to be pursued interspect to make the mary stimutive to the best saliors in the country. The officers in charge of an outfit of alowances of a similar character made in the acrows and the separtment concurs in this reconnections to refore the manness of alowances of a similar character in debt to the forerry and the separtment concurs in this reconnections to refer to and prove the works of a linear character in debt to the forerry meet ion. They, also, in this connect to discontent and are any of the wallable force or in debt to the forerry meet to the weight of improving the character of any states of the main relations to refer to and report open the while to improving the character of any states of the weight of improving the character of any as a part of the wallable force of the states of alowances of alowances of the more any sadid in the states of alowance of a similar character and the second while the service in debt to the foreer meet ion. They, also,

tion as a part of the available force of the country. OUR NAVY VARID. The condition of our may yards in various parts of the country demands attention. Very little has been done towards their improvement at any time since the com-periated for that purpose, except a small amount for the Mare Island yard. The attention of Congress to the condition to whice our building and repairing yards were condition to whice and the attention of Congress to the condition to whice and the attention of Congress to the condition to whice and the attention of congress to the condition to whice and the attention of congress to the condition to whice and the attention of the subject. Each year that they policy and in my last report I felt called upon to apaak at some langth on the subject. Each year that they are perspond, the necessity for improvements grows more imperative, and the cost of making them larger, while the want of them is each year more and more

IRON SHIP-BUILDING.

IRON SHIP-DUILDING. Aftiong the many enterprises on foot for restoring our commerce and affording greater far-littes to the usy in time of war, which ask for Governmental assistance, those which present themselves most favorably to the de-bartment are such as propose to erect building yards for which in a fargest class of steamors for mercantile and war purposes, and offer to the Government proference for their work in time of peace and abselute courted in time of war. We have not at this time the requisite docks tron versels, and the establishment and control of these groat tron versels, and the establishment and control of such works as these would of course be of great advantage to the Covernment. ITHE NATAL ACADEMY

### THE NAVAL ACADEMY

THE NAVAL ACADEMY at Annapolis, continues to be a subject of great interess and satisfaction to all who are interested in the service the mental and physical development produced under the system there pursued is of great valce, and its bene-fits are felt in every department of the service. The Board of Visitors, whose report is annexed (in the appen-dir), have made recommendations, in which the department concurs, in regard to the Academy, and between two portions of the Government property, and the establishment of a swimming school. It about not be forgotten by those interested in this in-intation that it is intended as a school of discipline for and improvement. In this view, the enforcement of regulations, which to the uninformed may seem strict, becomes necessary to maintain the standard of the achool, and accomplish the ends for which it was esta-bished. THE DEATH OF ADMIRAL FAREAGUT.

#### THE DEATH OF ADMIRAL FARBAGUT.

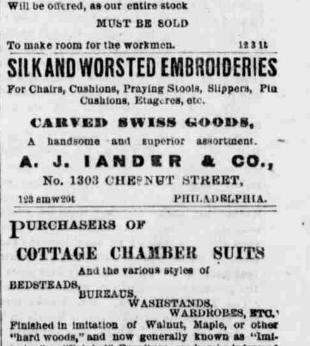
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# NAVAL PENSION FUND.

The pension roll on the lat of November, 1810, was as 

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tation" or "Painted" Furniture, are hereby informed that every article of our manufacture is

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