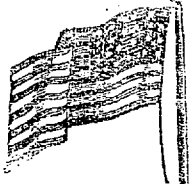


Daily Telegraph.



OUR PLATFORM.

THE UNION—THE CONSTITUTION—AND THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAW.

HARRISBURG PA.

Monday Afternoon, July 8, 1861.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The language of this message, while it assures the American people of the stability of the government under which they live, carries with it a firmness and inculcates a determination to test the powers of the government for self-preservation, that cannot fail to have the happiest effect alike on the minds of our own people, and the sentiment abroad which has more or less influence on the crisis in which we are involved.

JUDICIOUS LEGISLATION.

The proposition of Hon. Thaddeus Stevens in the House of Representatives, to abolish all the ports of entry in the seceded states, will strike a most effective blow at the rebellion. The proposition in the Senate, to disfranchise all the rebel leaders, is another wise and judicious plan for the speedy suppression of the revolt, which the sword or the bayonet could scarcely as speedily achieve.

THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

We lay before the readers of the TELEGRAPH this afternoon, the report of the Secretary of War, which, after the message of the President, is the most important document that has been submitted to Congress at its present extra session. According to the report, the force now at the command of the government is 310,000 men, and after the discharge of the three months' volunteers, there will be a force of 230,000 officers and men.

THE CONCENTRATION OF TROOPS AT CAMP CURTIN.

It is the intention of Gen. McCall to concentrate a large force hereafter at Camp Curtin, and also to take charge of such force and the camp, so as to promote the efficiency of the organization by the enforcement of the most rigid discipline in every particular among the officers and men.

MOVEMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA TROOPS.

In compliance with an order received from Gen. Scott, the two Pennsylvania regiments commanded respectively by Cols. Simmons and Biddle, at Camp Mason and Dixon, marched into Maryland yesterday, and are now in possession of Cumberland. The march was in all respects important as well as tedious, and was effected in a manner highly creditable to the rank and file of both regiments.

THE REVENUE LAWS.

The Governor has appointed the following gentlemen as commissioners to revise the revenue laws of the state: Gideon J. Ball, Erie county; Francis Jordan, Bedford county; Charles Gilpin, Philadelphia.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT, Washington, July 1, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this Department. The accompanying statements of the Adjutant General will show the number, description, and distribution of the troops which are now in service.

It forms no part of the duty of this Department to enter upon a discussion of the preliminary circumstances which have contributed to the present condition of public affairs.

The secession ordinance of South Carolina was passed on the 20th of December last, and from that period until the majesty of the Government was made manifest, immediately after you had assumed the Chief Magistracy, the conspirators against its Constitution and laws have left nothing undone to perpetrate the memory of their iniquity.

Revenue steamers have been deliberately betrayed by their commanders, or, where treason could not be brought to consummate the detection, have been overpowered by the rebel troops at the command of disloyal Governors.

The Government arsenals at Little Rock, Baton Rouge, Mount Vernon, Apalachicola, Augusta, and Fort Mifflin, and the ordnance depot at San Antonio, and all the other Government works in Texas, which served as the depots of immense stores of arms and ammunition, have been surrendered by the commanders or seized by disloyal hands.

Fort Jackson, Caswell, Johnson, Clinch, Pulaski, Jackson, Marion, Barrancas, McKee, Morgan, Gaines, Pike, Macomb, St. Philip, Livingston, Smith, and three at Charleston; Ogleshorpe Barracks, Barrancas Barracks, New Orleans Barracks, Fort Jackson, the battery at Beauveuu, Dupree, and the works at this island, have been successively stolen from the Government or betrayed by their commanding officers.

years, there are now 168 in active service; and the remaining 55 are mostly ready, and all of them will be in the field within the next twenty days.

The total force now in the field may be computed as follows: Regulars and volunteers for three months and for the war, 235,000; Add to this 55 regiments of volunteers for the war, accepted and not yet in service, 50,000; And new regiments of regular army, 25,000.

Total force now at command of government, 310,000. Deduct the three months' volunteers, 80,000; Force for service after the withdrawal of the three months' men, 230,000. It will thus be perceived that after the discharge of the three months' troops there will still be an available force of volunteers amounting to 188,000, which, added to the regular army, will constitute a total force of 230,000 officers and men.

The extraordinary exigencies which have called this great army into being have rendered necessary, also, a very considerable augmentation of the regular army of the service. The demoralization of the regular army, caused by the treasonable conduct of many of its commanding officers, the distant posts at which the greater part of the troops were stationed, and the unexampled rapidity of the spread of the rebellion, convinced those high in command in the service, as well as this department, that an increase of the regular army was indispensable.

The increase consists of one regiment of cavalry of twelve companies, numbering in the maximum aggregate, 1189 officers and men; one regiment of artillery of twelve batteries, of six pieces each, numbering, in the maximum aggregate, 1909 officers and men; nine regiments of infantry, each regiment containing three battalions of eight companies each, numbering, in the maximum aggregate, 2452 officers and men, making a maximum increase of infantry of 22,068 officers and men.

In the enlistment of men to fill the additional regiments of the regular army, I would recommend that the term of enlistment be made three years, to correspond with the call of May 4th for volunteers; and that to all who shall receive an honorable discharge at the close of their term of service, a bounty of one hundred dollars shall be given.

The mounted troops of the old army consist of five regiments, with a maximum aggregate of 4480 men. Not more than one fourth of these troops are available for service at the seat of war.

At least two regiments of artillery are unavailable, being stationed on the western coast and in the Florida forts. The increase of infantry is comparatively large, but this arm of the service is that which the General-in-Chief recommended as being most efficient.

patriot army is fully equal to the finest regular troops of the Old World. A more intelligent body of men, or ones actuated by purer motives, was never before marshaled in the field.

The calling forth of this large and admirable force in vindication of the Constitution and the laws is in strict accordance with a wise prudence and economy, and at the same time in perfect harmony with the uniform practice of the Government. But three years ago, when the authority of the nation was contemptuously defied by the Mormons in Utah, the only safe policy consistent with the dignity of the Government was the prompt employment of such an overwhelming force for the suppression of the rebellion as removed all possibility of failure.

It will hardly be credited, however, that the following language in relation to that period was penned by John B. Floyd, then Secretary of War, and now actively engaged in leading the rebel forces, who have even less to justify their action than the Mormons: "When a small force was first sent to Utah, the Mormons attacked and destroyed their trains, and made ready for a general attack upon the column. When a sufficient power was put on foot to put across beyond all doubt their bluster and bravado sank into whisps of terror and confusion upon that Territory was demanded by the moral sentiment of the country, and was essential to vindicate the power of the Federal Government to chastise insubordination and quell rebellion, however formidable from numbers or position it might seem to be. Adequate preparation and a prompt advance of the army was an act of mercy and humanity to those deluded people, for it prevented the effusion of blood."

The reports of the chiefs of the different bureaus of this department, which are herewith submitted, present the estimates of the probable amount of appropriations required, in addition to those already made for the year ending June 30, 1860, for the force now in the field, or which has been accepted and will be in service within the next twenty days, as follows: Quartermaster's Department, \$70,289,200 21; Subsistence Department, 27,278,781 50; Ordnance Department, 7,468,172 50; Pay Department, 68,402,590 00; Adjutant General's Department, 408,000 00; Engineer Department, 685,000 00; Topographical Engineer Department, 50,000 00; Surgeon General's Department, 1,271,841 00; Incidental and contingent expenses of War Department, 82,300 00; Due States which have made advance for troops, 10,000,000 00.

Total, 185,935,884 79. The resistance to the passage of troops through the city of Baltimore, hastening to the relief of the Federal capital, and the destruction of bridges of the Wilmington and Baltimore, and the Northern Central railroads, together with the refusal of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company to transport the Government forces and supplies, involved the necessity, at an early stage of the present troubles, on the part of this Department, to take possession of so much of the railway lines as was required to form a connection with the States from which troops and supplies were executed. A military route was accordingly opened from Perryville, on the Chesapeake, by steamers, to Annapolis, and thence by railroad to Washington. In view of the necessities of the crisis, Congress, it is not doubted, will justify the steps taken.

As the movements of the United States forces are continued, the supervision of railroad and telegraph lines will remain a necessity to be met by the department. I would, therefore, recommend the propriety of an appropriation, to be made by Congress, to be applied, when the public exigencies demand, to the reconstruction of the Long Bridge across the Potomac, which is now a military necessity.

The maintenance of enforcing the strictest discipline, where active army operations are carried on in the rebellious States, cannot be too strongly urged. Public confidence is for the time being destroyed, and the nice moral distinctions which obtain among men in well-ordered communities are apt to be lost sight of. The Federal courts being suspended, grave offenses may be committed over which our military courts are now organized, have no authorized jurisdiction. It would seem only consistent with a just regard to the interests of the Government and the people that some properly organized military tribunal should be empowered to take cognizance of criminal offenses, and to punish the offenders when found guilty. Such a tribunal should not have any jurisdiction when the functions of the Federal courts are unimpeded. I therefore recommend that the subject be referred to the consideration of Congress.

The subsistence of the troops now in the service is a matter of the highest importance. Rations, proper in quantity and quality, are quite as essential to the efficiency of an army as valor or discipline. It is desirable, therefore, that the quantity of rations distributed to the troops should, as far as possible, be adopted to their previous dietary habits. While it cannot be expected that the luxuries to which many have been accustomed should be provided by the commissariat, a just regard to comfort and health imposes upon the Government the duty of furnishing sound, healthful and palatable food. A larger proportion of vegetables and of fresh meats, when they can be procured, than can now be furnished under the army regulations, would undoubtedly diminish the danger of epidemics among the troops, and therefore, submit the question whether it would not be expedient for Congress to enlarge the powers of the commissariat, so as to enable it the better to carry into practice the views here suggested.

As all requisitions for camp equipage, for the means of its transportation, and for supplies, are made upon the Quartermaster General's Department, it is highly essential that every facility should be afforded its chief for meeting all such requisitions with promptness. At present the power of that bureau is limited. For instance, it seems very desirable that the troops in the field should be supplied with water-proof caps and blankets to serve as a protection against the effects of the climate. As the army regulations do not recognize such an item of clothing, and as no discretion has been lodged with the department tract in the matter, many of the troops, for the lack of this essential outfit, have suffered much inconvenience. Some of the States of New England have sent their quotas forward equipped most admirably in this respect. I would recommend that this subject be commended to Congress for its favorable consideration.

surance that they will bring to bear upon the subjects of their investigation the ripest teachings of sanitary science in its application to the details of military life. The organization of military hospitals, and the method of obtaining and regulating whatever appertains to the cure, relief, or care of the disabled, also the regulations and routine through which the services of patriotic women are rendered available as nurses, was, at an early period of the present struggle, entrusted to the charge of Miss D. L. Dix, who volunteered her services, and is now, without remuneration, devoting her whole time to this important subject.

The arms and ordnance supplied from our national arsenals, under the able superintendence of the Ordnance Bureau, compare most favorably with the very best manufactured for foreign Governments. The celebrated Enfield rifles, so called, is a simple copy of the regular arm manufactured for many years at the Springfield armory.

Previous to the early part of last year, the Government had a supply of arms and munitions of war sufficient for any emergency; but, through the bad faith of those entrusted with their guardianship, they were taken from their proper depositories, and distributed through portions of the country expected to take part in the contemplated rebellion. In consequence of the serious loss sustained, there was no available, at the commencement of the outbreak, a much less supply than usual of all kinds. But through the zeal and activity of the Ordnance Bureau, the embarrassments thus created has been in a great measure overcome. As the capacity of the Government arsenals was not equal to the supply needed, even after having doubled the force at the Springfield Armory, the department found it absolutely necessary to procure arms to some extent from private manufacturers. It is believed that from these sources they can be obtained equal in quality and not much higher in cost than those made in the national workshops. It would, therefore, appear a wise policy on the part of the Government to encourage domestic industry, by supplying our troops in part from private factories of our own country, instead of making purchases from abroad.

As rifled cannon are, in point of effectiveness, far superior to smooth-bored, arrangements have been made to rifle a large portion of the guns on hand, and the work is still in progress. Some patriotic American citizens resident in Europe, fearing that the country might not have a sufficient supply, purchased for their own responsibility, through co-operation with the State Secretaries, ministers to England and France, a number of improved cannon and muskets; and, at your instance, this department accepted this department accepted the drafts drawn to Jeffrey the outfit thus assumed. A perfect battery of six Whitworth 12 pounder rifled cannon, with three thousand rounds of ammunition the munificent donation of sympathizing friends in Europe, has also been received from England.

It will be necessary for Congress, either at its approaching session or at its next annual session to adopt measures for the reorganization, upon a uniform basis, of the militia of the country. I know of no better source of information on this subject than the able report of General Henry Knox, the first Secretary of War, who, by his wise forecast and eminent appreciation of the future wants of the country, showed the entire safety of an implicit reliance upon the popular will for the support of the Government in the most trying emergency, abundant confirmation of which fact is found in the present great rally of the people to the defence of the Constitution and laws. I have already adverted to the superior manner in which some of the New England regiments, now in service, are equipped. This is to be attributed to the efficient home organization of the militia in some of those States. Their example is an excellent one, and cannot fail to have a beneficial effect upon such States as have not already adopted a like desirable organization.

I think it important, also, to recommend a further distribution of improved arms among the militia of the States and Territories. As the returns of the militia are frequently inaccurate, this distribution should be made proportionate to the latest census returns of free white male inhabitants capable of bearing arms. The large dissatisfaction, at the present crisis, of United States army officers, has excited the most profound astonishment, and naturally provokes inquiry as to its cause. But for this startling defection, the rebellion never could have assumed formidable proportions. The mere accident of birth in a particular section, or the influence of a belief in particular political theories, furnish no satisfactory explanation of this remarkable fact. The majority of these officers solicited and obtained a military education at the hands of the Government, and of special favor, conferred by the laws of Congress to only one in seventy thousands inhabitants. At the National Military Academy they were received and treated as the adopted children of the Republic. By the peculiar relations thus established, they virtually became bound, by more than ordinary obligations of honor, to remain faithful to their flag. The question may be asked, in view of the extra ordinary breach displayed, whether its promoting cause may not be traced to a radical defect in the system of education itself?

As a step preliminary to the consideration of this question, I would draw attention to the report, herewith submitted, of the Board of Visitors to the West Point Military Academy. The supplementary report makes a special reference to the system of discipline, which, it appears from facts obtained upon an investigation, ignores, practically, the essential distinction between acts wrong in themselves, and acts wrong because prohibited by special regulations. The report states that no difference is made in the penalties affixed as punishments for either class of offences. It is argued with reason that such a system is directly calculated to confound in the mind of the pupil the distinctions between right and wrong, and to substitute, in the decision of extraordinary questions, habit for conscience. I earnestly trust that Congress will carry itself to a thorough examination of the system of education and discipline adopted in this important school, and if defects are found to exist that it will provide a remedy with the least possible delay.

The present exigencies of the public service have necessarily imposed upon this department a vast increase of responsibility and labor. To facilitate its proper administration, I would recommend the passage of a law by Congress authorizing the appointment of an Assistant Secretary of War, and the requisite additional appropriation for the employment of an increased clerical force.

In concluding this report, I deem it proper to express my deep indebtedness to the veteran General-in-Chief of the army, for the constant and self-sacrificing devotion to the public service exhibited by him in this great crisis; and also to the chiefs of the different bureaus of this department, for the able and efficient manner in which they have at all times aided me in the discharge of my official duties. I have the honor to be, with high regard, your obedient servant, SMOX CAMERON, Secretary of War.

To the President of the United States. The following striking anecdote appears in an exchange paper, and places General Scott in a light still more to commend him to the honor and good will of all his countrymen. "The Rev. Dr. Bellows lately ventured to express to General Scott the hope and belief that under his direction the war would be conducted according to the principles of generous humanity. 'Humanity' exclaimed the veteran, 'Christianity, Christianity, CHRISTIANITY,' repeating the word three times in the most emphatic manner, as he bent forward in his chair."