

BY GEORGE BERGNER.

HARRISBURG, PA., THURSDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 5, 1861.

PRICE ONE CENT.

BY TELEGRAPH.

XXXVIIth Congress—First Session.

Mr. Wilson, (Mass.) called attention to a list of colored persons now confined in prison in Washington...

Mr. Wilson introduced a resolution for their release. The resolution was referred to the Committee for the District of Columbia.

Whereas, The people of the States of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee, are in revolt against the Constitutional Government of the United States...

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to enquire into the expediency and propriety of abolishing the present Supreme Court of the United States...

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. HOLMAN, (Ind.) introduced a preamble reiterating the sentiments contained in the Crittenden Resolutions adopted at last session...

Mr. DWIGHT offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to enquire into the practicability and expediency of procuring the rights and privileges of settlement and citizenship on any part of this Continent...

Mr. WATTS, Delegate from New Mexico, introduced a preamble, concluding with a resolution requesting the Secretary of War to report to the House what measures have been or ought to be taken to expose and punish Major...

Mr. LEROY introduced propositions on the slave question the consideration of which was postponed.

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Mr. HORTON asked leave to introduce a bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

WAR DEPARTMENT, December 1, 1861. Sir: I have the honor to submit the annual report of this Department.

Table with columns: STATES, Volunteers, 3mo'ths, The War, Agg'ate. Lists states from California to District of Columbia with corresponding volunteer numbers.

The several arms of the service are estimated as follows: Infantry 557,208, Cavalry 64,654, Artillery 20,880, Rifles & Sharpshooters 8,395, Engineers 107.

The appropriations asked for the service of the next fiscal year are computed for a force of 500,000 men. They have been reduced to the lowest possible amount consistent with the public interests...

The appropriations to cover deficiencies are rendered necessary by the excess of the force in the field over that upon which the estimates were founded, and by extraordinary expenditures connected with the employment and discharge of the Three Months' Contingent.

An item of very heavy expense is the large mounted force which has been organized, equipped, and made available since the called session of Congress, and which was not contemplated in the estimates.

It is said of Napoleon by Jomini that, in the campaign of 1815, that great general on the 1st of April had a regular army of 200,000 men. On the 1st of June he had increased this force to 414,000.

We have here an evidence of the wonderful strength of our institutions. Without conscription, levies, drafts, or other extraordinary expedients, we have raised a greater force than which gathered by Napoleon with the aid of all these appliances...

of two millions of dollars to purchase more. I am gratified to state that he has made arrangements for a large number of arms, part of which have already been delivered.

Combinations among manufacturers, importers and agents for the sale of arms, have, in many cases, caused an undue increase in prices. To prevent advantage being thus taken of the necessities of the Government, collectors of customs have been directed to deliver to the agents of the United States all arms and munitions that may be imported into this country.

The demand for arms has called into existence numerous establishments for their manufacture throughout the loyal portion of the country, and it has been the policy of this Department to encourage the development of the capital, enterprise, and skill of our people in this direction.

It gives me great satisfaction to refer to the creditable degree of discipline of our troops, most of whom were, but a short time since, engaged in the pursuits of peace.

The conspiracy against the Government extended over an area of 733,144 square miles, possessing a coast line of 8,623 miles, and a shore line of 25,414 miles, with an interior boundary line of 7,031 miles in length.

The history of this rebellion, in common with all others, for obvious causes, records the first successes in favor of the insurgents. The disaster of Bull Run was but the natural consequence of the premature advance of our brave but undisciplined troops...

At the date of my last report the States of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky and Missouri were threatened with rebellion. In Delaware, the good sense and patriotism of the people have triumphed over the unholy schemes of traitors.

This has it been made clearly apparent that in whatever direction the forces of the Union have extended their protection, the repressed loyalty of the people, irresistibly manifesting itself, is ready to restore and maintain the authority of the Government.

As stated in my last report, at the commencement of this rebellion the Government found itself deficient in arms and munitions of war, through bad faith of those entrusted with their control during the preceding administration.

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date. In my judgment, this practice has a tendency to repress the ardor and to limit the opportunity for distinction of volunteer officers, and a change should be made by which seniority of commission should confer the right of command.

I submit for reflection the question, whether the distinction between regulars and volunteers, which now exists, should be permitted to continue? The efficiency of the army, it appears to me, might be greatly increased by a consolidation of the two during the continuance of the war...

By the act approved August 5, 1861, the President is authorized to appoint as many aids to major generals of the regular army, acting in the field, as he may deem proper.

The first section of the act approved September 28, 1850, makes the discharge of minors obligatory upon this Department, upon proof that their enlistment was without the consent of their parent or guardians.

Corporations, like individuals, are liable to be governed by selfish motives in the absence of competition. An instance of this kind occurred in the management of the railroads between Baltimore and New York.

The railroad connection between Washington and Baltimore has been lately much improved by additional sidings, and by extensions in this city. In order, however, that abundant supplies may always be at the command of the Department, arrangements should be made for laying a double track between this city and Annapolis Junction...

Should the navigation of the Potomac river be interrupted by blockade, or the severities of winter, it would become absolutely necessary for the proper supply of the troops in the District of Columbia and vicinity, and of the inhabitants of this city, to provide additional railroad connection between Washington and Baltimore.

I recommend that the system of promotions which prevails in the regular service be applied to the volunteer forces in the respective States; restricting, however, the promotions to men actually in the field.

The course above recommended has been pursued by this Department, and it is my intention, so far as is in my power, to continue a similar effect upon the entire service.

of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad west of Harper's Ferry, which was so ruthlessly destroyed by the rebels, has not yet been restored. The great interests of trade require that this road should be reopened as speedily as possible...

For the purpose of facilitating the transportation of supplies to Alexandria, and to points beyond, it has been found necessary to rebuild portions of the Orange and Alexandria and the London and Hampshire railroads, and to lay a track from the railroad depot to a point on the Potomac river, in this city.

Under an appropriation granted for that purpose at the last session of Congress, a Telegraph Bureau was established, and has been found of the greatest service in our military operations.

On the first of the present month, Lieutenant General Winfield Scott voluntarily relinquished his high command as general-in-chief of the American Army. He had faithfully and gallantly served his country for upwards of half a century, and the glory of his achievements has given additional lustre to the brightest page of our national annals.

Extraordinary labor, energy and talent have been required of the various bureaus of this Department to provide for the wants of our immense army. While errors may occasionally have been committed by subordinates, and while extravagant prices have undoubtedly in some cases, controlled by haste and the pressure of rapid events, been paid for supplies...

While it is my intention to preserve the strictest economy and accountability, I think the best dollar should be expended and the last man should be armed to bring this unholy rebellion to a speedy and permanent close.

The geographical position of the metropolis of the nation, menaced by the rebels, and required to be defended by thousands of our troops, induces me to suggest for consideration the propriety and expediency of a reconstruction of the boundaries of the States of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia.

To make the protection of the Capital complete, in consideration of the large accession of territory which Maryland would receive under the arrangement proposed, it would be necessary that that State should consent to modify her Constitution as to limit the basis of her representation to her white population.

It is already a grave question, what shall be done with those slaves who are abandoned by their owners on the advance of our troops into Southern territory, as at Beaufort, South Carolina? The number left within our control at that point is very considerable, and similar cases will probably occur.