burgh Gazette,

RIDDLE & CO.,

MORNING—DEC. 12, 1863.

Report of the Secretary of War is a most terse and ably written document which it has been our fortune to meet with for many a day. What a field he had for this rapid yet comprehensive review; what a magnificent picture of the movements of mighty hosts; what a magnitude, what a vastness everywhere, in the operations achieved or attempted. The Secretary has given a resume of the history of the war during the past year, as will deeply interest only the statesman, who would estimate results attained, but the general reader who will be fired to enthusiasm by the fine procession of events in the narrative and on the whole, points unmistakably to early and glorious issue in this struggle for a nation's life and regeneration. There are many significant expressions and passages in the Report, in reference to matters which have been, and still continue to be productive of controversy, embittered by nearly all the differences and prejudices of opinion that can exist in human nature sectional, professional, social, civil, military, etc., etc. Such expressions and passages will be easily noted by the intelligent reader without the help of any index-pointing on our part.

The Delegate Meetings.

The Union electors of this city are called upon to meet at their respective ward precincts this (Saturday) afternoon, between the hours of four and seven o'clock, and vote for five persons as delegates to the City Convention, which will meet, at the Court House, on Monday of next week, to place in nomination a candidate for Mayor of this city for the next two years, also candidates for city Controller and city Treasurer, to serve for the same period. The candidates, if fairly nominated by a majority of the Union voters, through the action of their delegates, will undoubtedly be elected. The immense preponderance of the Union majority, not only in the city at large, but in at least nine of the eleven precincts into which it is divided, precludes the most remote probability of a contrary result.

It becomes the duty of every Union voter, therefore, to attend these primary meetings, and aid in the election of delegates who will vote for the candidate of his choice. Let our staid and conservative citizens—those who are in the habit of allowing a few ward politicians to make nominations for them—attend the polls, and contribute their own voice and vote in the nomination. By this means the popular will can be expressed, and the best nominations secured.

If, by neglect of this important duty, our citizens should permit men to be selected as delegates who would, in turn, place in nomination candidates who, although the choice of the delegates, should not be the choice of the people, we run the risk of allowing some third party to be run into office, by a minority vote; besides this, we distract and disorganize the Union vote, which all good men desire to see cast solid for our nominees. Let us avoid "Smoothbores," "Independents," and other distracting causes, by the nomination of the best men.

We have no advice to give to our fellow-citizens in regard to whom they should nominate. There are three candidates prominently named in connection with the Mayoralty, all of whom are all well known to most of the people. Hon. B. C. Lowrie, Jr., is a candidate for nomination. James Lowrie, Esq., of the Sixth Ward, is also a candidate for the same office; he is a gentleman of unsullied character, strict integrity, active and energetic, and, from a long residence amongst us, well acquainted with the wants and their interests. Hon. C. McCarthy, Esq., member of Select Council from the Seventh Ward, is the third candidate; he is an earnest, active man, who maintains strong convictions of right and wrong, and the willingness what he may consider wrong, and maintain what he believes right, on occasion as any man.

These are the only candidates prominently named for the Mayoralty; and one of them will, in all probability, be our next chief magistrate.

In reference to the Comptrollership and Treasurership we need only say that the present faithful and efficient incumbents, Messrs. John McCandless and Wm. Eichbaum, are the only persons named in that connection, so far as our knowledge extends. We have heard no desire expressed for a change in either of these important offices.

As nominations have reached us their efforts will be made, in two or three of the precincts, to admit "all sorts" of voters, we deem it proper to direct the special attention of the Election Boards to the following explicit instructions, given by the City Executive Committee:

"Resolved, That the officers of the primary meetings be instructed to refuse all votes offered by any other than those who voted the Union ticket in October last.

Pittsburgh.—On Tuesday next, the eighth day of the session, the Kentucky Legislature will proceed to the election of a United States Senator. The persons spoken of for the place are Garrit Davis, Bell, Dr. R. J. Breckinridge, Crittenden, Holt and Bramlette. A bill is to be introduced to remove the State Capital from Frankfort to Louisville.

The Richmond journals give up the expectation of the resumption of the exchange of prisoners. One of them says that Gen. Hitchcock's instructions are to demand the exchange of negroes just as white men, which, of course, was rejected. Thus ends for the present, if not forever, all hope of an exchange.

Ben Wood and Bagdad.—A Washington letter says: "When the New York members were taking the oath of office in the House it was noticed that Ben. Wood and James Brooks neglected to raise their right hands with the rest of their colleagues. They stood looking to Mr. Colfax as he read the oath, as if they gave no assent. The oath, it must be remembered, is a new one, and is exceedingly stringent, against everything looking like treason.

A New York correspondent of the Catholic Telegraph, of Cincinnati, says, of "Miles O'Reilly": "He is a myth; but the author of the story is not, but was well known in newspaper world before the war, and when the war commenced, is attached to the staff of Gen. Meagher. He is an Irishman, and has a volume of poems a few years ago, under the title 'Poems by the letter H.'"

Hundred and fifty negroes drew prizes in the Louisiana lottery, being twenty-five per cent. of the number of able-bodied men in the State.

Mr. Vallandigham comes out in a letter addressed to the President of the Chillicothe Convention, in which he supported Long.

Report of the Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, Dec. 5, 1863.

MR. PRESIDENT—A general summary of the military operations of the past year is furnished by the report of the General-in-Chief, herewith submitted. A list of the detailed official reports that have been returned to this department by the generals commanding also accompanies this report:

OUR VICTORIES—VALOR OF THE TROOPS.

The influence of these operations in suppressing the rebellion and restoring the authority of the general government cannot be overestimated. The victories of Stone river and of Gettysburg, the operations before Vicksburg and Port Hudson, the occupation of East Tennessee, the battle of Chickamauga, and the recent splendid successes before Chattanooga, and other engagement of less note, are events that evince skill, courage and loyal patriotism, and a brilliancy of military achievment by the forces of the United States unsurpassed in any age, while the less fortunate battles of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville manifested the spirit and fortitude of our troops in a degree worthy of the highest admiration.

OPENING OF THE MISSISSIPPI.

By the reduction of Vicksburg and Port Hudson the navigation of the Mississippi river has been opened, and the national commerce is rapidly and securely returning to that great highway of the continent. The rebel territory has been cut in twain. The States west of the Mississippi no longer furnish their ample supplies to the rebels, while the people of those States are showing such signs of returning loyalty that a speedy restoration of civil government may confidently be anticipated. In this view, the reduction of the strongholds, the capture of prisoners by thousands, and the acquisition of immense stores of munitions of war are not more important than the political consequences of these great military achievements.

EAST TENNESSEE—CHARLESTON.

The occupation of East Tennessee by the forces under General Burnside, and the operations resulting in the occupation of Chattanooga and defeat of Bragg's army by the forces under General Grant, not only shed lustre upon our arms, but by affording protection to a loyal population, they cannot fail greatly to weaken the rebel strength and operate strongly in restoring the authority of the federal government.

Combined operations against Charleston have not accomplished all that was expected from them. But the seizure and occupation of Morris Island by the forces under command of Gen. Gillmore, the reduction of Forts Wagner and Sumter are exploits in which the skill and gallantry of the officers and the valor of our troops have been exhibited in a degree of which the country is justly proud.

TEXAS—THE EAST.

In the State of Texas the flag of the Union has, during the whole war, been upheld by a small force at Franklin. So the rebels have never succeeded in wholly excluding Federal authority from that State. The large force under General Banks now operating in Texas will afford protection to the loyal population, who have long been anxiously looking for sufficient military power to enable them to re-establish civil government. That period appears now at hand. By the occupation of that State the chief avenue of the rebels for foreign commerce and foreign aid is cut off.

In the East the position of military affairs has not undergone any material change. In June the long cherished design of the rebel leaders to transfer the seat of war from their own territory to the loyal States was undertaken by their favorite commander and their principal army; but the defeat of General Lee by the forces under the command of General Meade, at Gettysburg, destroyed their expectations, and drove back the enemy to his accustomed shelter in the mountains of Virginia. The armies of Gen Meade and Gen. Lee now occupy relatively nearly the same position as at the date of my last annual report. The numerous combats and engagements between detachments of our armies have been attended with perhaps equal loss on both sides, and without any material damage to either.

Western Virginia is reported by the commander of that department to be now clear of any rebel force, and the people of that newly organized State are enjoying, in comparative peace, the blessing of a civil government.

The military operations in the Northwest Department have routed, and, in a great measure, destroyed the hostile Indians and afforded protection to the people in that region from Indian barbarities.

In the Department of Missouri the rebel forces have been driven beyond the Arkansas line.

No military operations have taken place of any magnitude in the Departments of Virginia and North Caroline. A threat ened siege of Norfolk and Suffolk by the rebel General Longstreet was thwarted by the gallant energy of General Dix, and a siege of Washington in North Carolina by the rebel General Bull proved abortive.

EVERY REBEL STATE UNDER "THE FLAG."

The federal flag is now firmly planted in every rebel State, and there is reason to hope that under its protection the loyal people of those States will soon cast off the yoke of their leaders, and seek within the Union that peace and security for life, liberty and property which in blind madness they recklessly thrown away.

REDUCTION OF THE ESTIMATES.

The success of our arms during the last year has enabled the department to make a reduction of over two hundred millions of dollars in the war estimates for the ensuing fiscal year.

THE CARTEL—THE PRISONERS IN REBEL HANDS.

In the operations that have been alluded to prisoners of war to the number of about thirteen thousand have fallen into the hands of the enemy, and are now held by them. From the commencement of the rebellion until the War Department came into my charge there was no cartel or formal exchange of prisoners; but at an early period afterwards a just and reasonable cartel was made between Major General Dix and the rebel General Hill; which, until recently, was faithfully acted upon by both parties. Exchanges under that cartel are now stopped, many for the following reasons:

FIRST—At Vicksburg over thirty thousand rebel prisoners fell into our hands, and over five thousand more at Port Hudson. These prisoners were paroled and suffered to return to their homes until exchanged, pursuant to the terms of the cartel. But the rebel agent, in violation of the cartel, declared the Vicksburg prisoners exchanged, and without being exchanged. The Port Hudson prisoners he, without just cause and in open violation of the cartel, declared released from their parole. These prisoners, were returned to their ranks, and a portion of them were found fighting at Chattanooga, and again captured. For this breach of faith—unexampled in civilized warfare—the only apology or excuse was that an equal number of prisoners had been captured by the enemy; but, on calling for specifications in regard to these alleged prisoners, it was found that a considerable number represented as prisoners were not soldiers, but were non-combatants, citizens of towns and villages, farmers, travelers and others in civil life, not captured in battle, but taken at their homes, on their farms or on the highway, by John Morgan and other rebel raiders, who put them under a sham parole. To balance these men against rebel soldiers, taken on the field would be realizing the enemy from the pressure of war and enable him to protract the contest to indefinite duration.

SECOND—When the Government commenced organizing colored troops, the rebel leader, Davis, by solemn and official proclamation, announced that colored troops and their white officers, if captured, would not be recognized as prisoners of war, but would be given up for punishment to the State authorities. These proceedings of the rebel authorities were met by the earnest remonstrance and protest of this Government, but without effect.

The offers by our Commissioner to exchange man for man and officer for officer, or to receive and provide for our own soldiers under the solemn guarantee that they should not go into the field until duly exchanged, were rejected. In the meantime, well authenticated statements show that our troops held as prisoners of war were deprived of shelter, clothing and food, and some have perished from exposure and famine. This savage barbarity could only have been practised in the hope that this Government would be compelled by sympathy for the suffering endured by our troops to yield to the proposition of exchanging all the prisoners of war on both sides, paroling the excess not actually exchanged, the effect of which operation would be to enable the rebels to put into the field a new army forty thousand strong, forcing the paroled prisoners into the ranks without exchange, as was done with those paroled at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, and also to leave in the hands of the rebels the colored soldiers and officers, who are not regarded by them as prisoners of war, and therefore not entitled to the benefit of the proposed exchange. The facts and correspondence relating to this subject are detailed in the accompanying report of Major General Hitchcock, Commissioner of Exchanges. As the matter now stands, we have over forty thousand prisoners of war ready at any moment to be exchanged, man for man and officer for officer, to the number held by the rebels. This number is about thirteen thousand, and they are supplied with food and raiment by this Government, and by our benevolent and charitable institutions and individuals.

Two prisoners, Captains Sawyer and Flynn, held by the rebels, are sentenced to death by way of pretended retaliation for two prisoners tried and shot as spies by command of Major General Burnside. Two rebel officers have been designated and are held as hostages for them.

The rebel prisoners of war in our possession have heretofore been treated with the utmost humanity and tenderness consistent with security. They have had good quarters, full rations, clothing when needed, and the same hospital treatment received by our own soldiers. Indulgence of friendly visits and supplies was formerly permitted, but they have been cut off since the barbarity practised against our prisoners became known to the Government.

If it should become necessary for the protection of our men, strict retaliation will be resorted to; but while the rebel authorities suffer this government to feed and clothe our troops held as prisoners, we shall be content to continue to their prisoners in our hands the humane treatment they have uniformly enjoyed.

THE DRAFT.

The operation of the act of Congress for enrolling and calling out the national forces is exhibited in the accompanying report of the Provost Marshal General. At the time that law was enacted it was known to be very imperfect, many intelligent persons considering its execution wholly impracticable, while few dared to hope for important benefit. The law has been enforced in twelve States. It has brought from these States 50,000 soldiers, and has raised a fund of over $10,000,000 for procuring substitutes. With all its imperfections, it is demonstrated the act can be made an efficient means for recruiting the armies and calling out the national forces. The principal imperfections and the required amendments will be submitted to Congress through the appropriate committees. The most important to be considered is what is called the three hundred dollar commutation. This feature of the bill has been much discussed, and the opposing opinions are nearly balanced as to the operation and effect of this provision. While some claim that it is oppressive upon poor men and favors the rich, others contend that it places the rich and poor on an equal footing, and enables the poor man to obtain exemption from military duty for a sum within the reach of every one. Without undertaking to reconcile or decide between these conflicting opinions, it is certain that this clause of exemption, as it stands, occasions delay in calling out the military force. The drafted man is exempted, at the end of a long proceeding, by the payment of three hundred dollars; and if that sum to be adequate for procuring a substitute, considerable time must unavoidably elapse before competent substitutes can be procured. The question whether this clause shall remain or be stricken out requires the early attention of Congress.

SUBSTITUTES—THE BOUNTIES.

The fund of $10,000,000, raised by the act commutation money, is deposited with the United States Assistant Treasurer, and is being applied to procuring substitutes. By the payment of bounties and premiums, volunteerings going on in some States with much spirit. The prime importance of filling up the old regiments, and the superiority of such force over new regiments, is a point on which all military experience and opinions agree. The bounties and afforded protection to the people in that region from Indian barbarities.

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The offers by our Commissioner to exchange man for man and officer for officer, or to receive and provide for our own soldiers under the solemn guarantee that they should not go into the field until duly exchanged, were rejected. In the meantime, and fifty picked men of the First and Third Texas cavalry. The First Mississippi behaved nobly, neither lacking courage nor steadiness, firing with coolness and decision. The engagement lasted half an hour, the Texans being totally routed and demoralized. We captured twenty-eight stand of arms and seven prisoners."

THEIR PAY TO BE RAISED.

The colored troops have been allowed no bounty; and under the construction given by the Department they can only, by the existing law, receive the pay of ten dollars per month, while other soldiers are being paid thirteen dollars per month, with clothing and daily rations. There seems to be inequality and injustice in this distinction, and an amendment authorising the same pay and bounty as white troops receive is recommended. As soldiers of the Union, fighting under its banner, exposing their lives to uphold the government, colored troops are entitled to enjoy its justice and beneficence.

THE COLORED WOMEN AND CHILDREN.

The fortunes of war have brought within our lines a large number of colored women, children, and some aged and infirm persons. Their care, support and protection rest a solemn trust upon the government. Their necessities have to some extent been supplied by the orders of this department; but a general and permanent system for their protection and support should be speedily adopted by Congress. Even if they are to be regarded in some degree as a burthen upon the government, they are a greater loss to the enemy. Every woman and child from nine years to sixty has to the rebel planter a high market value. Their labor in the cotton field is a source of profit to him. Is it not better that we should feed them than that they should support a rebel master who is in arms against us.

THE BUREAU REPORTS—THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.

The reports of the Chiefs of Bureaus in this department exhibit fully their respective operations during the last year.

The Adjutant General reports that the business of his office has greatly increased during the past year by the creation of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau and the Bureau for the Organization of Colored Troops.

He recommends, first, that the term of enlistment in the regular service be fixed at three years, in accordance with the act of July 29, 1861, which expired by limitation on the 1st of January, 1863. Second, that the law regulating the payment of chaplains be amended so as to allow half pay and rations during absence on leave, occasioned by other cause than wounds or sickness, and full pay without rations, when absent for those causes.

A serious evil, arising from the absence of officers from duty, has, in the past year been in great part remedied. Two boards in session—one at Annapolis and the other at Cincinnati—before one of which all officers who have left their commands in consequence of ill health are ordered to appear as soon as they are able to travel. They undergo an examination by the board, and are recommended according to their condition for light duty, for further leave of absence or for medical treatment in a general hospital of the city, where the board is in session. But if found fit for duty the president of the board orders them forthwith to their regiments. The reports of the board are a guide to the Adjutant General in making details for mustering, recruiting or other light duty, and in recommendations for leave of absence or discharge, where the nature of the disability requires. The reports of the boards taken in connection with regimental reports of absent officers, and the surgeons' certificates from such officers, form a complete system of accountability for absence from duty.

THE ORDNANCE DEPARTMENT.

The specific duty of the Ordnance Department is to supply arms and munitions of war for sea coast and frontier fortifications, and for the forces in the field.

The expenditures for these purposes during the fiscal year amount to $42,313,630.

The cannon, small arms, accoutrements and equipments for men and horses and ammunition which have during the last fiscal year by purchase and manufacture were as follows:

1,677 field, siege and seacoast cannon, with carriages, caissons and other implements.

1,862,811 muskets and rifles for foot field rs.

282,389 carbines and pistols for mounted troops.

1,295,000 cannon balls and shells.

48,719,862 pounds of lead and lead bullets.

1,485,046 cartridges for artillery.

229,022,216 cartridges for small arms.

347,276,400 percussion caps

3,925,369 friction primers.

5,764,708 pounds of gunpowder

919,076 sets of accoutrements for men.

94,679 sets of accoutrements for cavalry horses

3,281 sets of artillery harness, each set for two horses.

An immense amount of material has been prepared for the different arsenals and work in wood and leather in large quantities is advanced towards completion for the manufacture and repairs of all the various machines and implements of war in use in the service. The quantities of the principal articles of ordnance materials in the control of the department at the beginning of the war, the quantities of those articles that have since been procured, and the quantities of those articles on hand on June 30, 1863, are shown in the following tables, viz:

ARTICLES.	On hand at the beginning of the war.	Procured since the war began.
Siege and seacoast artillery	1,652	1,064
Field artillery	1,025	791
Firearms for infantry	437,422	1,250,144
Firearms for cavalry	31,298	338,128
Sabres	53,456	327,525
Cannon balls and shells	573,691	2,562,714
Lead and lead bullets, in lbs	1,291,776	71,716,774
Cartridges for artillery	28,318	2,238,241
Cartridges for small arms	8,892,300	225,304,816
Percussion caps	94,425	7,004,700
Gunpowder in lbs	1,110,544	13,424,503
Saltpetre in lbs	2,793,344	5,221,731
Accoutrements for infantry	10,920	1,831,300
Accoutrements for cavalry	4,239	194,456
Equipments for cavalry horses	574	210,028
Artillery harnesses (double)	586	18,656

ARTICLES.	Issued since the War began.	On hand for use June 30 1863.
Siege and seacoast artillery	2,068	927
Field artillery	2,641	484
Firearms for infantry	1,550,076	836,291
Firearms for cavalry	227,170	42,226
Sabres	271,817	82,971
Cannon balls and shells	1,745,586	1,160,749
Lead and lead bullets, in lbs	50,935,015	22,024,025
Cartridges for artillery	2,214,450	472,591
Cartridges for small arms	278,584,104	191,013,012
Percussion caps	718,938,470	14,210,520
Friction primers	6,982,503	1,005,022
Gunpowder in lbs	13,071,075	1,453,874
Saltpetre in lbs	5024	2,165,070
Accoutrements for infantry	1,680,220	162,010
Accoutrements for cavalry	196,256	2,428
Equipments for cavalry horses	211,010	2,562
Artillery harnesses (double)	17,485	1,767

RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY DEVELOPED BY THE WAR.

The resources of the country for the production of arms and munitions of war have only commenced their development, yet their extent may be inferred from the enormous quantity of supplies shown by the foregoing tabular abstract to have been furnished during the last two years. At the beginning of the war we were compelled to rely upon foreign countries for the supply of nearly all our arms and munitions. Now all these things are manufactured at home, and we are independent of foreign countries; not only for the manufacture, but also for the materials of which they are composed. The excellence of the arms and munitions of war of American manufacture which have been shipped by the Ordnance Department to the army has been so obvious that our soldiers are no longer willing to use those which have been imported from other countries. The efforts made during the war to extend and improve the manufacture of arms and munitions have resulted in discoveries of great importance to the country, in peace as well as war. Among the arts thus improved is the manufacture of wrought iron, now rivaling the qualities of iron of Sweeden, Norway and England. This country, until the present year, has relied upon these countries for material to make gun barrels, bridle bits, car wheel tires, and other articles requiring iron of fine quality. Iron of our own production is now superior to that obtained abroad.

THE MILITIA—CAMP DEFENCES.

The law of 1808 made a provision for the annual expenditure of $200,000 for arming the militia of the States. That sum is annually appropriated for that purpose, until all States are supplied in proportion to the population with the same number of arms that have been distributed in some of the States, to meet the exigencies of war.

From the report of the Chief Engineers, it appears that the grants made by Congress for fortifications, at the last session, amounted to $5,250,000 for permanent works, and $700,000 for temporary works. These liberal provisions allowed very material progress being made upon important fortifications now under construction, and of essential modifications being effected in old works and existing batteries to obtain largely increased efficiency by preparing them to receive ordnance of greatly increased calibre, and to store great bulks of ammunition, with additional safety therefor. These important objects have been very generally realized. Difficulties existing last year in the procurement and transportation of materials, and in obtaining the requisite amount of skilled and ordinary labor, have increased; but these difficulties have been surmounted to such a degree that the general result is very favorable, and our seaboard and border fortifications are now in condition to afford a formidable defence decidedly stronger than last year.

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY.

The report of the Annual Board of Visitors to the Military Academy is submitted. There being no representation from the rebel States in the academy since the war commenced, there existed accommodation for a considerable number of cadets beyond those furnished from the loyal States. There seemed to be no good reason why the advantages of the academy should not be employed to their fullest capacity, and accordingly the vacancies were filled up by appointments from the loyal States, generals commanding armies being invited to furnish names of deserving young men, and in this way the number of cadets allowed by law have been admitted to the advantages of a military education in the academy at West Point. A general statement, showing the condition in life of the cadets for a number of years past, and a list of the present officers and cadets of the academy, accompany the report of the Chief Engineer.

THE NORTHERN FRONTIER.

The operations connected with the survey of the Northern and Northwestern lakes have been actively continued, and during the last season have consisted in the survey of Portage entry on Lake Superior, and in resuming the survey of Green Bay and its entrance from Lake Michigan; also in periodical examinations of the channels of the St. Clair Flats and of Lake George, on St. Mary's river. Observations for the determination of geographical positions, of the fluctuations and elevations of the surface of lakes, of meteorological phenomena, are embraced in the operations of the survey. The number of lake charts distributed to navigators up to October 1, 1863, exceeds twenty-four thousand, of which four thousand were distributed during the past year.

An experienced officer has been detailed to examine and report a plan for a board, and are required to guard the lake shores from rebel piratical raids. The department charged with the disbursement of funds for surveys for military defences has, in addition to its current duties, prepared for military purposes an aggregate of eight thousand eight hundred and forty-one maps, of which six thousand nine hundred and twenty seven were engraved and lithographed, and one thousand nine hundred and fourteen photographed.

THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL.

The clothing and equipment of troops, their shelter and transportation, the purchase of horses, wagons and mules, the supply of forage, the construction, repair and working of military roads, and the supply of boats for transportation by water, constitute the important duties of the Quartermaster General's Department. The details of these operations, so far as is proper for public information, are contained in the Acting Quartermaster General's report, and need not here be recapitulated.

The adequate supply of mules and horses and their subsistence are among the most arduous duties of the service. To systematize this branch of the service, and to place it under the care with adequate supervision and proper economy, so far as practicable, a cavalry bureau was established a few months ago and is now in operation at Giesboro. (?) It is believed that by this means much improvement may be made with proper diligence and fidelity on the part of the officers entrusted with this important duty. The Quartermaster General has for some time been making a careful inspection of his branch of the service in the different military departments, but his report has not yet been received.

THE COMMISSARY GENERAL.

The report of the Commissary General of Subsistence shows that subsistence for the army, with the exception of fresh beef and flour, has, in great part, been procured by advertising for bids and selecting the lowest for suitable articles in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Louisville and St. Louis. Flour has, when possible, been procured in the same manner, at points nearer to our armies. Fresh beef has been obtained in general by contract, sometimes on the hoof and at other times from the block. On the coasts of the Carolinas and the gulf, and for a large portion of the year at New Orleans, beef is forwarded on the hoof from New York. It is believed that at every point the troops have been supplied with abundance of good wholesome food, and that if, in the movement of the armies, temporary want has been felt, it has not been due to any cases of which the officers of the department had control. In addition to the troops, subsistence has been furnished to all prisoners, whether political or war, to large numbers of contrabands, and to suffering Union families found by our armies in rebel States.

Great improvements have taken place in the rendering of the accounts of officers, although cases of neglect still exist.

THE PAYMASTER GENERAL.

The Paymaster General reports that, except when payments have been postponed by commanding generals on account of the pending operations, the various armies in the field are substantially paid to October 31, 1863, the latest period allowed by law and the regulations, and funds have been provided and placed in proper hands for full payment of troops in the service up to the date mentioned.

THE SURGEON GENERAL.

By report of the acting Surgeon General the Department is informed that the latest reports received give 182 general hospitals, with a capacity of 84,472 beds. The number of patients remaining in the general hospitals June 30, 1863, was 9.1 per cent, and in the field 4.4 per cent of the entire strength of the army, of whom eleven per cent are sick, and 2.5 per cent wounded.

The corps of medical inspectors, by the system of inspection established, has added materially to the efficiency of the medical and hospital service and marked improvements in all matters of sanitary precaution and police is exhibited.

Companies of the second battalion, Invalid corps, have in many instances been advantageously substituted for contract nurses, attendants and cooks in general hospitals.

Appropriations are asked for the payment of washing in these hospitals, and on transports where a sufficient number of matrons cannot be employed. For the collection and preservation of pathological specimens in the army a medical museum has been established, and for preparation and examination of drugs in connection with purveying depots.

The health of the troops has been good, and the mortality less than the preceding year.

THE SIGNAL CORPS.

The Signal Corps was organized under the act of the last Congress. The average number of officers on duty is reported at one hundred and ninety-eight. The full capacity of this branch of the service has not yet been developed, and different opinions as to its value seem to be entertained by the commanding officers. In combined land and naval operations it has been considered useful, and commanding officers of the Western armies have commended it with favor. The continuance of the corps is recommended by the department, with proper restrictions upon number of officers, and limiting them to their proper scope of duties.

TELEGRAPHIC OPERATIONS.

From the Superintendent's report it appears that the military telegraph lines required by the government have been constructed over an extensive and scattered territory, embracing the District of Columbia, parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Kansas and the Indian Territories.

Under the immediate direction of Major Eckert, Assistant Superintendent of the Department of the Potomac, three hundred miles have been constructed during the year. Under the direction of Capt. Smith, Assistant Superintendent of the District of Missouri, five hundred and forty-eight miles have been constructed during the year, one mile of which was submarine.

Under the direction of Captain Brush, Assistant Superintendent of the Department of the Ohio, Cumberland and the Mississippi, five hundred and ten miles have been constructed during the year.

Under the direction of Captain David, Assistant Superintendent of the Department of West Virginia, ninety seven miles have been constructed during the same period.

Under the direction of Captain Bulkley, Assistant Superintendent of the Gulf, three hundred miles have been built, one mile of which was submarine.

On the 1st day of July, 1862, there were three thousand five hundred and seventy one miles of land and submarine lines in working order.

During the fiscal year 1,755 miles of land and submarine line were constructed, making the total number of miles of land and submarine military telegraph lines in operation during the year five thousand three hundred and twenty-six—being a length of line sufficient to girdle more than one fifth of the circumference of the globe. By close estimate it appears that at least 1,200,000 telegrams have been sent and received over the military lines in operation during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1863—being at the rate of about 3,800 per diem. These messages varied in length from ten to one thousand words and upwards, and generally were of an urgent or important character.

BACK PAY.

Pursuant to the acts of Congress passed February 16, 1863, and July 12, 1862, three commissioners were appointed to examine and report upon all claims arising under the act of March 25, 1862, entitled "An act to secure to officers and men actually employed in the Western Department, or Department of Missouri, their pay, bounty and pensions." The sum of $100,000, or so much as should be necessary, was appropriated by the act passed May 14, 1862, to pay the claims awarded. The commissioners reported in favor of claims amounting to $800,112. No power of appointment being vested in the Department, further legislation or a larger appropriation will be required to carry these into effect.

CLAIMS.

Many claims are presented to the Department for the use of land occupied by the government as forts, camping grounds and other public works, for forage and other property used or injured by troops. Some of these claims are just, others doubtful, and many exhorbitant and fraudulent. The Department has no mode of investigating them, and no appropriation to pay them with. It is submitted that provision should be made by act of Congress for their speedy adjustment and payment.

FRAUDULENT OFFICERS—JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL.

Diligent effort has been made for the enforcement of decipline, the detection of frauds, the prevention and punishment by summary dismissal and by conviction and sentence of the guilty parties by court martial or military commission. In this respect much has been accomplished by the Judge Advocate General and his assistants. From his report it appears that since the commencement of the rebellion, vast as has been the increase of the duties and labors of his office, there has been no legislative provision enlarging the instrumentalities for their performance. The machinery of the office remains as when the army consisted of but 13,000 men. This condition of things is more striking when it is remembered that in every other branch of the military service legislation has kept pace with the wants created by the emergency of the war. It is essential that the force of this office should be increased to meet the emergencies of the service.

The following is a summary of the business despatched at the Judge Advocate General's office, from September 1, 1862 to November 1, 1863, a period of fourteen months:

Number of records of trials by general courts martial and military commissions received	17,537
Number of reports made as to irregularity of proceedings in applications for restoration to service and pardon of offenders, and remission or commutation of sentences	2,218
Miscellaneous report on other questions referred to office	172

While many of these reports are brief, many are long and elaborate, involving all examination of complicated masses of fact and of difficult legal questions as recorded. They occupy about 2,000 quarto pages.

It gives me pleasure to bear witness to the general diligence, ability and fidelity manifested by the chiefs of the several bureaus of this department. Whatever success may have attended its administration is in a great measure due to them and their subordinates.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to express the hope that the next annual report from this department may announce the complete overthrow of the rebellion, and the restoration of peace and the establishment of the Union on a sure foundation in all the bounds of the United States.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

FOR SALE CHEAP—Lot No. 13, Range 5, Section M, in Mount Union Cemetery. Apply to B. McLAIN & CO., 102 Fourth st.

WANTED—Four good laboring hands to work on the Lawrenceville & Sharpsburg Plank Road. Good wages will be given. Apply to Col. SMALL, at the Gate, or to B. McLAIN, Sequestrator. de12:2t

A LARGE AND SUPERIOR ASSORTMENT of Ladies', Misses and Children's BOOTS, SHOES, GAITERS, RUSSIAS, SLIPPERS, &c., selling cheap to close out stock, at McCLELLAND'S AUCTION HOUSE, 65 Fifth street.

FOR SALE—A first-class Bread Cart; one that is suitable for a peddler of Notions, Medicines or Confectionery. Enquire at the BOSTON CRACKER BAKERY, No. 64 Fourth street. de11:w S. S. MARVIN.

OIL CITY.—To any one in Oil City that has old condemned OIL or WHISKEY BARRELS, and wants to sell them, can call at E. C. LOCKE'S COOPER SHOP, de11:2w Back of H. McClintock's Warehouse.

WANTED—Bonds and Mortgages to amount of $25,000, on city or county property, in sums ranging from 1 to $5,000. Also, Bankers or Accommodation paper, to amount of $20,000, having from 3 to 6 months to run, in sums to suit. Apply to B. McLAIN & CO.

300 BBLS GOFF'S MILLS FAMILY FLOUR; 500 tierces prime LEAF LARD; In store and for sale by D. WALLACE, de12 233 Liberty street.

SPECIAL ATTENTION is called to our large stock of BOOTS AND SHOES, Which for cheapness and durability cannot be surpassed in the city. Call and secure a useful present for little money, at JOS. H. BORLAND'S, 98 Market st., second door from Fifth street. de12

JUST RECEIVED. Men's and Women's Felt Overshoes, The best article for keeping the feet warm and dry, to be had. Call and see them, at BORLAND'S, 98 Market street, de12 second door from Fifth.

CHRISTMAS PIANOS—From the celebrated Factories of KNABE & CO. The finest stock ever received in this city, among which is one superb CONCERT GRAND PIANO. They are warranted for eight years, and are acknowledged to be the best in the world. Old Pianos taken in exchange. New Pianos from $250 upwards. de12 CHARLOTTE BLUME, 81 Fifth street.

CALICOS, at de11 McCLELLAND'S AUCTION.

GUM SHOES, at de11 McCLELLAND'S AUCTION.

WHITE SHIRTS, de11 McCLELLAND'S AUCTION.

PUBLIC NOTICES.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ALLEGHENY.—The Board of Directors have this day called on an assessment of Fifty Per Cent. of the Capital Stock of "The First National Bank of Allegheny," payable on the 17th inst., at the office of the Mechanics' Savings' Bank, Allegheny. T. H. NEVIN, President. de10:7t

OFFICE OF THE CITIZENS INSURANCE CO., Pittsburgh, Dec. 10th, 1863. AN ELECTION FOR THIRTEEN DIRECTORS OF THIS COMPANY, to serve during the ensuing year, will be held at this office on MONDAY, the 21st inst., between the hours of 11 a. m. and 1 p. m. de10:td SAMUEL BEA, Secretary.

BATTERY H, INDEPENDENT PENNA. ARTILLERY, (the old Nevin's Battery.) Bounties $402 and $302. Recruits w