

U. S. DEFENSELESS

Country Totally Unprepared For War, Dickinson Says.

"FORTS ARE INADEQUATE."

If a First Class Power Should Make an Attack They Would Have No Trouble in Landing on Pacific or Atlantic Coasts.

Washington, Dec. 15.—Secretary of War Dickinson has transmitted to congress his report on the house resolution calling for a detailed statement of the preparedness of the United States for war.

The report declares the United States is almost totally unprepared for war, the regular army being too small, the militia inadequate and the forts on both coasts unprepared to repel an enemy. In the report the secretary draws a dark picture of the disasters which would overtake American arms should war with any first class power occur.

The secretary asserts that an enemy would have no trouble in effecting landings on the Pacific or Atlantic coasts. Alaska and other exposed parts of the country are reported to be at the mercy of an attacking force.

Following the reception of the report Representative Hobson of Alabama introduced a bill providing for a council of national defense to include the secretary of war, who shall be president of the council.

The bill provides that the council shall determine a general policy of national defense and shall recommend to president and congress such measures relating to the national defense as it shall deem necessary and expedient.

Twenty thousand dollars is provided in the bill for expenses of the council, which shall meet at least once a year.

The effect of this bill will be to establish a definite and consecutive policy of national defense, determined by the deliberations of both the executive and legislative branches of the government, which will insure harmony not only in determining the policy, but in carrying it out.

22 DEAD IN MINE BLOWUP.

Twenty-six Others Are Entombed Behind Wall of Fire.

Bluefields, W. Va., Dec. 15.—Twenty-two men were killed and twenty-six entombed by an explosion in the Greens mine at Tacoma, Va., according to a report received here. The explosion shook the entire town. The Greens mine is owned by the Bend & Bruce Coal company and is a hundred miles from here. Relief parties with oxygen helmets and surgeons' supplies are on their way to the scene.

Superintendent James Browning, who entered the shaft just a few minutes before the explosion, is among the dead. Wives and children of the entombed men surround the entrance begging the rescuers to hurry.

The explosion is believed to have been caused by an accumulation of gas in the lower levels, ignited by an open lamp belonging to one of the miners.

Late reports declare fire has broken out in the mine, and frantic efforts are being made to get aid to the imprisoned men. It is declared the draft fans at the entrance were shattered by the explosion, so great was its force.

RICH BUT PENNILESS.

W. C. Rhinelander, With \$5,000 Income, Is Arrested For Vagrancy.

Saratoga, N. Y., Dec. 15.—William C. Rhinelander, whose father, the late William Rhinelander, of New York city disinherited him for marrying a waitress, but who later was given \$5,000 a year income from the Rhinelander estate, was arrested and arraigned on a charge of vagrancy. Rhinelander's wife recently brought suit for separation, and the suit is now pending.

In court Rhinelander said that he has received nothing from his father's estate since Oct. 30 and that he is now penniless and has no place to sleep. A night or two ago he was permitted to keep warm at police headquarters.

He was warned that if he does not find some way of supporting himself he will be sent to the county jail.

BEDOUINS KILLING MANY.

Railroad Stations Are Being Sacked and Soldiers Slaughtered.

Constantinople, Dec. 15.—The revolt of the Bedouins in the Karak district near the Dead sea is becoming worse. The Bedouins have sacked all the railroad stations to the north of Maan and as far as Djurfelderwich and have slaughtered every soldier and railway employee they could find.

The government is sending more troops to put down the revolt.

Kindly Fruits.

The expression in the prayer book "Kindly fruits of the earth" has for most persons no definite meaning on account of the difference in significance now attached to the word kindly from that used when the expression was first written. The word kindly in that connection meant as nearly as possible "of its kind," and the expression "kindly fruits of the earth" meant "the fruits of the earth each after its kind."

S. Claus:

A Biography.

Santa Claus, the most widely known and popular individual on earth, was born so long ago that it would not be ladylike for him to acknowledge it, so nobody knows his exact age. Neither is it known just where he was born, nor who his parents were, but they must have been eminently respectable people, for everybody nowadays claims kin with him. He is the only untitled person whom nobody calls "Mister," and he is a bachelor of excellent repute. Although he gives away more at Christmas than Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Rockefeller ever thought of giving, he is not classed with the millionaires. Still he shows a preference for that class and he puts more in their stockings than he puts in the stockings of the poor. Perhaps he has a taste for fine hostery. Some bachelors do. In any event, the fact remains that the rich get more out of him than the poor do. Maybe he is not altogether to blame for that. Anyway, he doesn't ride around in an automobile. This may be because he wants to save more to give away. At the same time he doesn't ride in the street cars. So there you are.



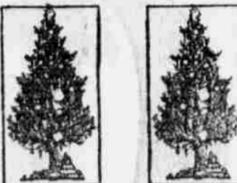
Santa Claus is the only truly religious person outside of the Salvation Army and the Public Charities association, for he never asks anybody what church he belongs to before taking up his stocking to fill it. Neither does he care a continental about politics, and he never votes or contributes to the campaign fund. He is especially fond of children, and the children are so dead stuck on him that they want him to come around every day in the year. Their parents, however, don't feel so much that way about it, and Santa Claus kindly considers their feelings in the matter. He knows enough not to be anxious to work a good thing to a frazzle.

Nobody knows where Santa Claus lives in the summer, also the spring and fall and most of the winter, but wherever it is it must be a healthy place, because he always shows up at Christmas looking so fat and jolly that really he ought to advertise the location and take in boarders. There is one thing certain, if he did there wouldn't be any "No-Children-Taken" signs around the establishment.

Santa Claus confines his attention almost exclusively to mankind, the lower animals, except the reindeer, having no pull with him whatever. This is a well-known fact in natural history, which may be proved by pictures of Santa Claus and his holiday turnout coming in over the snowy roofs.

When Santa Claus dies there will be the biggest funeral ever heard of, but there is not much likelihood of that event ever happening so long as there are any children alive. When they are all gone Santa Claus will go too, what's the use of his mockeying with grown-ups?

One-Toned Christmas Trees.



Even Christmas trees are to undergo changes in fashion. The latest notion is that they shall be trimmed in color schemes. No more variegated trees, over-burdened with baubles of every hue and color, but artistic one-tone decorations are "the thing" this season.

The red tree has the trunk covered with twigs of holly and the tip crowned by a starry poinsettia or two. The globes and chains are all in red, and little red hearts and tiny red-cheeked apples are hung from the upper branches. The candles, of course, are only red, and so is the big bow of ribbon that ties the trunk.

The other tree is the "Jack Frost tree." It is covered with cotton batting and sprinkled with artificial snow. Silver globes, silver chains and silver tinsel are used, because they look like the glitter of snow.

But the crowning effect that gives the real wintry, out-of-door touch is found in the hundreds of glass icicles of all sizes that weigh down the boughs. White candles in silver holders are used exclusively. The top is crowned with a silver star, and at the base lies an Esquimaux village in a snowy, cotton land of ice.—New York Tribune.

JAPS, LIKE MANY OTHER NATIONS, DESERTING LAND.

Growing Population Streaming Into Cities of Mikado's Kingdom.

Japan, waving the flag of protection for its infant industries, has aligned itself with the manufacturing countries of the world.

"The government seems less jealous of Japan's classic reputation as the 'land of luxuriant rice crops,'" writes an Englishman. "The people want and are getting a 'black country' to boast of. They want a Lancashire of their own. They threaten to become prouder of a forest of chimney stacks than of a forest of trees—to delight more in furnaces than in flowers."

The fact is that Japan is experiencing just now that streaming of the country population into her towns and cities. That thing which recently has been worrying Uncle Jim Hill and the rest of the United States in urban environment is promising a crisis for Japan in far shorter time. Japan's "increased cost of living," through desertion of the rice paddies and orchards for the lights and glambours of her cities, is promising record time in arriving. These simple people of the agricultural sections, swarming to the cities, will encourage for a time the Japanese manufacturers because of the greater demand for those things which urban life demands.

"But who will feed them?" the Japanese government is asking seriously.

The population of Japan is 52,000,000, and 60 per cent of it still is in the rural districts. But the sign of land desertions is looming large. The new tariff is for protection of manufactures distinctly. Raw materials are passed in duty free, partly manufactured goods have a light imposition of duty at her ports. But on completed manufactures there is the flat 40 per cent duty in which one reads the intent of the framers of the tariff.

This ambition and progress of Japan in manufacturing may be seen in her cotton mills and their output. There are 100 of these mills in operation, costing \$30,000,000 in the aggregate. The output annually is 393,000,000 pounds of cotton yarns. In round figures these mills employ 16,000 males and 59,000 females, the average wage of the men standing at 21 cents a day, while the women folk average about 12 cents.

An additional feature in the rapid growth of the Japanese cities is the fact their birth rates are so little smaller than the birth rate in the rural districts. And yet the young man and young woman of the agricultural sections are chased away to the cities in alarming numbers. Sixty per cent of her people are on the farms today as against 45 per cent in Great Britain.

LO, THE RICH INDIAN NOW.

Per Capita Wealth \$2,130 Against \$1,300 For White Americans.

The per capita wealth of the Indian is approximately \$2,130; that for other Americans is only a little more than \$1,300. The lands owned by the Indians are rich in oil, timber and other natural resources of all kinds. Some of the best timberland in the United States is owned by Indians.

The value of their agricultural lands runs up in the millions. The ranges which they possess support about 500,000 sheep and cattle, owned by lessees, bringing in a revenue of more than \$272,000 to the various tribes, besides providing feed for more than 1,500,000 head of horses, cattle and sheep and goats belonging to the Indians themselves. Practically the only asphalt deposits in the United States are on Indian lands.

TWO HENS WORTH \$22,000.

Eggs of Either Mother or Daughter Bring \$25 Apiece.

Winner over all others of her breed, Lady Washington, a raven black Orpington hen, worth \$12,000, has only one of her kind as a rival, her own daughter. Her offspring is worth \$10,000. Whenever either chooses to do the commonplace thing of laying an egg that egg is worth \$25.

Both chickens were on exhibition recently at a poultry show. Lady Washington arrived from her home at Factoryville, Pa., accompanied by two attendants, and occupied a specially constructed coop in a specially reserved compartment.

PUPILS ARE TOO NUMEROUS.

New York Has 2,424 In Two Blocks of School District.

The census taken by the New York department of education of children of school age in Manhattan shows that in the two blocks bounded by Madison, Cherry, Scammel and Jackson streets there are enough children to fill a school. The department found there 2,424 children of school age.

In the block bounded by Madison, Monroe, Jackson and Scammel were 1,236 children and in the block to the east 1,188. These two blocks are the most congested not only in the city, but probably in the world.

Famous Models Being Collected.

The United States patent office is assembling the models of the first ideas along several lines of invention, such as the first telephone, first sewing machine and first phonograph.

Machines Sell Newspapers.

A coin in the slot machine that a New Yorker has invented to sell newspapers is arranged to accommodate various sized papers and to accept various prices.

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