



TWO INTERESTING REPORTS.

WAR AND INTERIOR AFFAIRS

Reforms Accomplished and Recommendations for Further Improvements by Secretaries Elkins and Noble.

Secretary of War Elkins in his annual report urgently advises the reorganization of the regular army to conform with the advancement of military arts. The formation of three-battalion infantry regiments and the reorganization of the artillery arm of the service is especially desired.

On the subject of ordnance, the report says: "Additions and improvements have been made rapidly in all that pertains to our gunnery corps and to ordnance and in all matters relating to explosives and war machine operations. Perhaps the most important advance of the year has been in the adoption of a new fire arm for the service—a magazine arm that can be used as such, or as a single loader. It has been adopted for a 30-caliber infantry rifle and carbine, and steps are being taken for its manufacture. Provisions should be made for a full supply to the army and to the National Guard, and for a suitable stock to be held in reserve. A test of the different arms now in service throughout the world, as well as those of recent invention, has it is believed, enabled the department to fix upon an arm superior to any now in actual use."

The committee on organization of the signal service is noted. A course of instruction has been established, which combines practical and theoretical work in electricity, field signaling, telegraphy, telephony and signaling. Investigations of the possibilities of electric light arc in progress. The management of the military telegraphs has been satisfactory. A practical test of the field telegraph train has been made in the construction of a flying field telegraph line about 35 miles long in 2 hours' time.

The Secretary devotes a large portion of his report to the National Guard. He says:

"The National Guard is the reserve force of the army. Attention is invited to the necessary appropriations for arming and equipping this reserve force. Recent appropriations have been entirely inadequate, and the War Department is faced with the constant necessity of refusing supplies called for from the different States. An appropriation of at least \$1,000,000 for this purpose is recommended."

The annual report of Secretary Noble, of the Interior Department, shows that the volume of work accomplished during the present administration exceeds that of any previous administration or likely to come her after. The Secretary says:

"The General Land Office has worked off the vast accumulation of former years and is now on current business, greatly to the advantage of western settlers; the Indian Bureau has made great progress in elevating the various Indian tribes in the work of allotment of land to individuals. The Forest Office has issued an edict of an immense volume of work and has exceeded all former records in the number of final adjudications, both original and upon appeals, executing the benevolent laws for the soldiers of the Union."

Concerning the Mormon problem, the Secretary says: "The government of Utah expresses his belief in the good faith and honesty of purpose of the Mormon leaders and the people in their abandonment of polygamy and their obedience to the laws of Congress on this subject. An appeal has been made to the President for general amnesty for all Mormons who are under political disabilities by reason of violation of the law against polygamy. The petition pledges the people and the Church, in distinct terms, to loyal observance of the law, and declares the devotion and loyalty of the people to the country and to the Government. One suggestive evidence of the desire of the people upon National party lines in recent elections."

On the new Territory of Oklahoma the report says:

The population of Oklahoma is shown to be 135,100, not including the Indians, who still maintain their tribal relations. Eighty-five per cent of the population are whites, and only about 5 per cent foreign born. It is thought that a conservative estimate of the value of the property, real and personal, in Cheyenne and Arapaho counties is \$40,000; excluding these counties the assessor's returns show a valuation of \$11,485,162. In Oklahoma the question of admission to statehood is already being discussed, and it is announced that the people will soon ask for admission.

Alaska continues to be a source of concern to the department. The Secretary says: "Alaska is virtually without an organized government. It is difficult to prevent outrages, and smuggling, inest the coast and in the interior. Only a nucleus of a military organization exists, consisting on one company, and the congressional appropriation for Alaska is now being withheld so that even the operations of this small body of militia are restricted. Government hospitals and a board of charitable appeals to be among the greatest needs of that country. The sale of liquor to the natives is represented to be a great curse to the people."

The international complications arising from the killing of the seals, in the ocean and Bering sea, have greatly embarrassed the leases of the Seal Islands. In 1890 no less than 50,000 seals were taken in open sea and more than that number in 1891 during the last season only 7,500 seals were killed on the islands, and the diminished number upon the rookeries show a terrible waste of seal life by the destructive methods employed in pelagic sealing."

The Secretary presents a bill framed to give Alaska a better government, and is earnest in his recommendation that the condition of the Territory receive the attention of Congress.

IMMIGRATION STATISTICS.

A Suspension of the Influx Probable During the World's Fair.

The annual report of W. D. Owens, Superintendent of Immigration, shows that 579,063 immigrants arrived in this country during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1892. There were returned 2,801 who came in violation of law. Of this number 1,763 were contract laborers. The law adopted March 3, 1891, the report says, has exercised a wholesome and deterrent effect upon immigration, and especially upon the undesirable classes. The character of the immigrants arriving during the past year was greatly superior to that of many previous years.

Surgeon General Wyman, of the Marine Hospital Service, in his annual report to the Secretary of the Treasury, recommends that it is said as a measure of safety to the country during the progress of the World Columbian Exposition, that immigration be suspended for at least one year from January 1, next. This is based on the prediction of sanitary experts that cholera is almost certain to reappear in European countries next spring. It is regarded as almost certain that the Secretary of the Treasury will endorse the proposition as a part of his general plan for the establishment of a quarantine service.

POULTRY LAND.—"Raising Chickens" and make your Poultry earn dollars for you. The point is, that you must be able to detect trouble in the Poultry Land as soon as it appears, and know how to remedy it. This cost will teach you how to keep your chickens healthy and strong, and free for eggs and also for fattening; which Poultry is sure to do for breeding purposes; and everything, indeed, you should know on this subject to make it profitable. Send postpaid for twenty-five cents in 10, or 20 pamphlets.

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LATER NEWS WAIFS.

CAPITAL, LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL.

The bill declaring that eight hours shall constitute a day's work was defeated by a vote of 50 to 20 in the Kentucky Legislature.

All miners in the two mines at Farmington and the one at Luray, Ill., have struck out of sympathy with the strikers in the three mines at Dunfermline. Eleven other mines may also be tied up.

CRIMES AND PENALTIES.

At Taunton, Mass., Little Foden has been indicted by the grand jury on two counts, for the murder of her father and mother. She was notified, but the news had no effect on the stolid demeanor which has marked her up to this time.

WASHINGTON.

The treasury department has decided that a Chinese boy may enter the United States for the purpose of receiving an education, provided he has the permission of his own government to visit this country.

MISCELLANEOUS.

What is intended to be the largest window glass factory in the United States was located in Anderson, Ind., by the Union Glass Company of Indiana. The company is a consolidation of nearly all the largest glass manufacturers in the country.

DISASTERS, ACCIDENTS AND FATALITIES.

The owners of the steamer Greystoke have received notice that the vessel has been wrecked at the mouth of the Elbe and that the crew of 25 persons have been drowned.

FOREIGN.

Dowager Queen Marie, of Hanover, is dangerously ill at Gmunden. Ex-Queen Marie is a princess of Sachsen-Altenburg, widow of the late King of Hanover, and mother of the Duke of Cumberland. She was born April 14, 1819.

PERSONAL.

President-elect Cleveland ended his visit at the Broadwater club, Newark, N. J., and left Sunday night on the private car of Capt. Kenney of the Philadelphia, Wilmington & Baltimore railroad attached to the New York express, which arrived in Jersey City at 8 o'clock Monday morning.

General Benjamin W. Bruce, retired, died at his home in Washington, D. C., aged 85 years.

A GREAT GERMAN SCANDAL.

The Great Army of the Kaiser Provided With Worthless Loewe Rifles.

Germany has a sensational scandal concerning the equipment of its great army. It appears that the Loewe rifles, with which her 425,000 soldiers are armed, are worthless for actual service, and that some officers or officers high in rank have betrayed the secret. The emperor and his staff are agitated. There is likely to be an upheaval.

The whole thing came out in the trial Saturday of Rector Ahlwardt at Berlin, an anti-Semitic member of the Reichstag, who was arraigned in the Monbij criminal court on a charge of slandering Mr. Loewe. After having been taunted for the lack of veracity, Ahlwardt produced five official documents which proved to be reports made by colonels to their generals adverse to the Loewe guns. These must have been stolen, probably by an officer, who, if found out, is liable to 10 years penal servitude.

Ahlwardt had just expressed regret that army officers, on their oaths, should have been mistaken in saying no official reports adverse to the Loewe guns had been made. "Who are you?" thundered the judge. "Who dare talk thus of officers who have the truth to tell the truth?"

"Here are my proofs," replied Ahlwardt, taking the papers from his pocket and handing them up.

The public prosecutor suggested they should be read at once. Rector Ahlwardt, in a low, clear voice, said: "I have been accused of being unpatriotic without reason. The documents I hold, if read publicly, would be damaging to my country. I therefore ask that the court be cleared and the reading be private. If the president will glance over them I am confident he will agree with me."

Amid a dead silence the papers were handed to the president. As he read them his face became very serious. Finally he said: "The papers laid before me are very important to the State. They should not be read in open court." The room was then cleared.

The documents show that out of 900 Loewe guns used at Weisbaden were unusable. Twenty of the chambers burst and 11 broke entirely.

It must be remembered that there are 425,000 Loewe guns in the German army. This is terribly awkward for the government, which is bound by necessity to do everything to hush up the scandal. The Ahlwardt trial will raise doubts in the mind of a large section of the German nation, not particularly in regard to the Loewe guns, but about all guns manufactured for the army. Ahlwardt himself is almost nobody, but the enormous machinery of the law is brought to bear against him.

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THE LABOR WORLD.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

The labor question is quiet.

The Baldwin Locomotive Works at Philadelphia have now 450 men at work.

The Japanese laborers have now an aid association in Lucas valley, California.

One of the biggest gun foundries in the world is to be established at Buffalo, N. Y.

Fair River (Mass.) harbers have decided to close at 7 p. m. Mondays and all day Sundays.

There has been no resumption of work along the Monongahela Valley, in Pennsylvania, at the three and a half cent rate.

Thousands of building trades workers are out of employment in Vienna, Austria, where building has almost come to a standstill.

At the Ohio Iron Company's mills at Zanesville work was resumed after sixteen months' illness. The company pays the Amalgamated scale.

At managers and foremen of factories in the Vistula district of Russia found unable to speak the language will be expelled from the country on January 1.

STREET CAR CONDUCTORS receive only 62½ cents for a day's wages in Berlin, Germany. This day is eighteen hours long, with a half holiday once in two weeks.

KNIGHTS OF LABOR have sent to the President a vigorous protest against the lax enforcement of the laws prohibiting the importation of foreign labor under contract.

Owing to the general blacklisting of its members the Queensland Shearers' Union has permitted them to sign a non-socialist agreement not to belong to any labor organization.

TRADE BUILDING and the coopers in trade associations in England. Workmen are being discharged by the thousands, and wages reduced. This will probably stimulate emigration.

COLONIAL men were imported from Birmingham, Alab., to take the places of members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers, on strike at the Ohio Iron Company, Zanesville, Ohio.

At the London building trades, including carpenters, masons, bricklayers, plasterers, painters and builders, laborers, have won a substantial trades' union victory in getting a forty-eight-hour week with no reduction in wages.

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