

THE OBSERVER

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Entered in the Post Office at La Grande, Oregon, as second class matter.

Advertising rates on application. All copy for display advertising must reach the office the day before the ad appears.

Address all communications to THE OBSERVER, 1710 Sixth Street,

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Daily, single copy .5c; Daily, per week .15c; Daily, per month .65c; Daily, six months in advance \$3.50; Daily, per year in advance \$7.00; Daily, by mail per year, in advance \$4.00; Weekly Observer, per year in advance \$1.50

TIS WELL THAT IT'S MEXICO.

If, in the course of human events, the United States must go to war in 1914, it is well that our antagonist is illiterate and degenerate Mexico. Recently in discussing the probability of war, an eminent authority on army statistics, voiced the following, regarding the strength of the United States:

Military authorities are all agreed that the United States is in no position to go to war with a first class military and naval power, but in meeting the crisis that has arisen over the Mexican situation it is in vastly better shape than it was upon the declaration of war with Spain.

When war was declared against Spain the Spanish navy was considered almost the equal of the American fleet, and Spain had in Cuba alone more trained fighting men than ever were in the entire regular army of the United States. There were then in the army a considerable number of officers who had seen Civil War service and a large number who had seen service against the Indians, probably more than the number of soldiers who had not seen any kind of service.

The army was in a state of stagnation. Its limited numbers spread over 3 million miles of territory would have made an attempt at maneuver training a farce. It was only partly armed with the new Krag rifle and wholly untrained in its use. Its artillery was not modern and it had barely enough of it and no adequate supply of ammunition. It had no transports and very little train. In fact, the United States Army was nothing more than a national police force. As an army is looked upon abroad as a joke.

And that is the way that the army is looked upon today beyond our own borders, and yet in the sixteen years that have elapsed since war was declared against Spain the army has been vastly improved. Sixty thousand trained men—leaving out the Philippines, Hawaiian and Panama garrisons—can be started for Mexico or any other place. The army has its own troopships, it has ammunition and supply trains. It is well armed,

well equipped and well drilled. Thousands of the soldiers have seen actual war service and very few have not had field training in maneuvers. Its service corps have been improved right along. Greater than all, however, there is back of the regular army some two hundred thousand men, available as the second line of defense, who have had actual war service, either as volunteers or regulars, as long training either in the regular army or in the militia.

Before the Spanish War the country had no military policy nor had it any organization to formulate a policy. The militia was such a negligible quality that the war was over before most of the "volunteer" regiments had been licked into shape, and it had to arm these volunteers with obsolete, black powder rifles. In fact, most of the fighting done by the volunteers in the Philippines, a year after the Spanish War ended, was with the Springfield rifle.

But after the Spanish War, with the bitter experiences of the country in creating from next to nothing an army to uphold it, came some appreciation of Washington's maxim that a nation's duty to itself is to "in time of peace prepare for war."

The army was reorganized from top to bottom, modernly equipped, and made really what it should be—the first line of national defense. But Congress has failed to provide the second and third lines of defense.

So far as Mexico is concerned, the United States is well prepared for war, but simply because Mexico is a third rate military power. The army has its general staff to direct military operations, it has supplies and ammunition to keep the regular army in the field, and enough, with a bit of hustling, properly to maintain the few volunteers that are needed. There are plenty of trained men to fill in the gaps that may occur in the ranks, and it has had ample time to prepare for every contingency so far as the small regular force is concerned.

But if it shall be a first class power with which the United States became embroiled, there would be another story to tell. Suppose, for instance, it was Germany of Japan, each having standing armies much larger than our own, and natives equal almost or superior. Germany had what, on paper at least, is considered the best organized and the best equipped army the world has ever seen. Japan's army is smaller, but it has the big advantage of recent war training.

War with either of these powers would mean that the United States must put either on the Atlantic or Pacific coasts within two weeks an army of 1 million men. Inside of that time the whole regular army could be there. Behind the regulars would come one hundred thousand or so of the national guard. That would make a fairly trained force of from 150,000 to 175,000 men.

Then the trouble would begin. More than 325,000 men would be needed to back up the regular army and the national guard. At this moment the machinery for creating that

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army is crude, consisting of a jumble of laws, mixing up federal and state authority.

But that isn't all. An army must have big guns and powder and shells and they can't be made in a minute. We have enough for a few days for the regular artillery—pitifully inadequate for an army of 1 million men—but that's all. We would need more cavalry and we haven't the equipment. We would need ammunition trains and supply trains and we have barely enough equipment for the regulars and national guards. We would need infantry equipment and we barely could equip half a million men with guns, but most of them would have no ammunition to shoot. We have no tents for them and not enough camp equipment.

In fact, considering that other nations have advanced as much as we have, or more, in a military way in the last sixteen years, the United States is no better perhaps for a real war than it was in 1898. So, considering these things, we are fortunate in having chosen Mexico. What would happen if it was Germany or Japan would be a chapter in our history which no one would care to read until he has to.

Nothing So Good for a Cough or Cold. When you have a cold you want the best medicine obtainable so as to get rid of it with the least possible delay. There are many who consider Chamberlain's Cough Remedy unsurpassed. Mrs. J. Boroff, Elida, Ohio, says: "Ever since my daughter Ruth was cured of a severe cold and cough by

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy two years ago, I have felt kindly disposed toward the manufacturers of that preparation. I know of nothing so quick to relieve a cough or cure a cold." For sale by all dealers. Adv.

HAS UNIQUE DEMONSTRATION. James Snodgrass has a miniature road drag in his grocery store window and this ought to be proof enough that the whole scheme is the best that can be devised. "Jim" has demonstrated the fine points of the drag on a tea road and if the drag works on tea it certainly ought to work on Union county roads. It is one of those "before and after" demonstrations and is to the point.

One side shows a poor farmer in his one horse shay, mired several feet in tea, while the other pictures a man coming along in his five thousand dollar automobile. The tea looks like some of the black gumbo on the Hot Lake road and was well chosen. One way of boosting good roads!

The highway, on which the King drag is leveling the bumps, is flanked on one side by green pastures of lentils, on which browse cattle, sheep and horses. On the other side the plowed fields are represented by coffee grains. The barns, windmills and far-off grove of orange trees, make up the other details of the picture. Even the road fence is neat and taut.

SHOOTING IS EXPLAINED. Punctured Plate Glass in Foley Building Ends in Fines. John Hatfield and B. E. Rogers were fined \$5.00 each today for having fired revolvers within the city limits. This is the result of promiscuous shooting several days ago when plate glass in the new Foley building was punctured with holes. The night policemen were first accused of having done the work while shooting at some dogs, a few nights ago, but when one of the leaden messengers was found in the Mt. Emily Timber company offices later, the ownership of the gun to which the bullet fitted led to P. A. Foley and he in turn found some of his night employes had used his weapon to scare fighting dogs. The bullets ricocheted and the damage resulted.

Pension Finally Received. For some time past Attorney R. J. Green has been trying to adjust a

pension claim for A. Clark of this city through legal representatives at Washington but failed to get results. It then occurred to him to refer the matter to Representative Sinnott of this district. Mr. Sinnott got an immediate settlement that was very satisfactory to Mr. Clark. The congressman waded through the red tape in a few days and now Mr. Clark has a pension, which, in the opinion of his friends, he should have had long ago.

ADDITIONAL PERSONALS. Miss Fenstermacher, a trained nurse of this city, left today for Walla Walla, where she will visit for some time. E. B. Morelock came down to La Grande last night to meet his wife who returned from Portland. Both left this morning for their home in Elgin. Mr. Morelock states that his son A. Lee, is organizing a cavalry company in Elgin. Fifteen men subscribed their names on the first day. Geo. Fuller of Meriden, Kentucky, passed through the city this morning on his way to Wallowa where he intends to purchase land and make his home in the future. He states that many people from his native state are moving West, and that few of them ever come back. The influx of Kentucky people into this valley in the last 12 months has been notable.

La Grande National Bank. Organized in 1887. DESIGNATED DEPOSITORY OF UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. UNITED STATES POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY. Capital \$100,000.00; Surplus \$140,000.00; Total Resources \$1,000,000.00. For twenty years, in all kinds of financial weather, we have successfully catered to the monetary wants of the people of La Grande and the Grand Ronde Valley. We respectfully solicit your business. La Grande National Bank, La Grande, Oregon.

Whittemore's Shoe Polishes. FINEST QUALITY LARGEST VARIETY. Includes images of 'Celt Edge', 'Dandy', 'Elite', and 'Bully Shine' products. Text describes various shoe polishes and their uses.

\$10.00 Down \$1.00 A Week 6 MONTHS WITHOUT INTEREST. Several of the choicest building lots in La Grande are now thrown on the market under these never-before-heard-of terms. Call and let us explain how very easy it is to own a lot that will increase in value. Security Land & Savings Co. Phone Red 1251