

FORTS ON AMERICAN COAST UNEQUALED

Defenses, However, Are Short More Than 20,000 Men to Man Fortifications.

MORE BIG GUNS ADVISED

Regular Army Numbers 165,992; Vacancies 1786—Nearly 130,000 in Militia, Which Needs 31,571 More in Organization.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—War Department bureau reports made public tonight disclose the following facts about the Army of the United States and its coast defenses.

The system of coast defenses is "the most formidable in the world," but is short of 20,000 men to man the forts and 31,571 more in organization.

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On October 1 the full strength of the organized militia was 8799 officers and 329,932 men, just 25,571 below required strength.

There were 32,813 students enrolled in 36 schools having military courses and 1000 graduates from 100 schools since 1911 numbered 23,430.

Half 10-inch shells. The coast artillery established scores of 50 per cent hits with 10-inch guns, and 35 per cent hits with 15-inch guns.

The army death rate was 4.66, compared with 3.15 the year before. Typhoid fever was only seven cases of typhoid fever out of a total mean strength of personnel of 38,845.

WORK ON RIVER ADVISED

War Department Ignores Engineer's Report on Mississippi.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Continuation of the 15-year project for a permanent six-foot channel in the Missouri River from its mouth to Kansas City, despite an adverse report of the district engineer, was recommended to Congress today by the War Department.

The board of engineers overruled the district engineer's report, and decided that the project be modified to provide only for removal of snags, on the ground that commerce did not warrant a permanent channel.

AGREEMENT IS REPUDIATED

Commissioner Says Colville Reserve Will Not Open July 1.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Wash., Dec. 17.—Indian Commissioner Seila today daily repudiated the agreement recently made between Secretary Lane and Senator Flanders and other members of the Washington delegation, with reference to opening the Colville reservation to entry July 1, 1916.

"ROUGH HOUSE" BOYS GO

Twelve Suspended From Lawrence College at Appleton, Wis.

APPLETON, Wis., Dec. 17.—Twelve Lawrence College students have been suspended by the faculty meeting of the board of trustees and 14 more were placed on probation as the result of what was almost a riot in Brook Hall, the boys' dormitory.

Klamath Falls Club Elects.

KLAMATH FALLS, Or., Dec. 17.—(Special.)—The faculty meeting of the Commercial Club directors H. Roland Glazier was elected to head the agriculture department of the club.

Only One "BROOD QUINER"

To get the goods, call for full name. L.A.K.A.T.V. BROODING, 1000 1/2 Ave. 1st, S.E., Astoria, Ore.

WOUNDED FRENCH SOLDIERS IN PARIS HOSPITAL ARE RESCUED AS FIRE DESTROYS BUILDING.



SCENE BEFORE BURNING FRENCH AUXILIARY HOSPITAL. What appeared to be a disastrous fire broke out in an annex of the Bon Marche, Paris, and spread rapidly to a part of the building which was being utilized as an auxiliary hospital for wounded soldiers. Fortunately the 90 wounded soldiers who were in the building were rescued, though with the greatest difficulty.

TITANIC OFFER MADE

White Star Agrees to Settle All Claims for \$664,000.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The White Star Line has agreed to pay \$664,000 in settlement of all claims arising from the sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912, when more than 1500 persons were drowned, attorneys for the line announced here today.

44 OF 60 SUING LIKE PLAN

Attorneys Signify Willingness to Accept Settlement of Claims That Total \$2,500,000 as Result of Sinking of Liner.

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NATION PROFITS PERMANENTLY BY WAR ORDER IMPETUS.

Capital Accumulating and Productive Equipment Enlarged as Never Before, Says Mr. Roberts.

CONGRESS TAKES RECESS

(Continued From First Page.)

for re-election last year. He said the present prosperity in the steel business was due to the war and immense purchases by belligerent governments.

PROBE OF BRYAN SUGGESTED

Gardner Would Inquire Into Peace Propaganda Profits.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Speeches for and against extensive military preparedness programs were made in the House today by two Republicans, Gardner of Massachusetts and Mondell of Wyoming.

5 DIE IN COLLISION

Wreck on Baltimore & Ohio Attributed to Fog.

CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 17.—Five persons were killed and 11 injured, one probably fatally, in a rear-end collision between an accommodation train bound from Wilmington to Chester and a train of empty express cars on the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad tonight at Felton, two miles south of this city.

REPLY TO GO PROMPTLY

(Continued From First Page.)

It was explained that the reply suggested further communication on the subject and more specific information in support of the charges made by the United States.

THREE CARS TELESCOPED

Wooden Coaches Reduced Almost to Kindling Wood and Engine Hurled Down Embankment. One of Injured Gravely Hurt.

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NOTE IS DECLARED "UNCOUTH"

Vienna Organ Praises Moderation of Baron Burian.

VIENNA, Dec. 16, via London, Dec. 17.—(Delayed in transmission.)—The editorial comment on the Austro-Hungarian government's reply to the American government's note concerning the sinking of the Italian liner Ancona is characterized by moderation. The reply was published today in the Neue Freie Presse probably is the most cautious of any of the newspapers.

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From Saturday and Until Christmas

OUR STORE Will Open at 9 A. M. Robert's Bros. THIRD & MORRISON OUR STORE Will Close at 6 P. M.

Only 6 Shopping Days Till Xmas

Come Direct to This Store and Profit to the Fullest Extent by the Temptingly Low-Priced Offerings in All Sorts of Desirable Gift Articles

Just at This Opportune Time Comes This Gigantic

Christmas Neckwear Sale



A fortunate trade event brings to you the most extraordinary savings in up-to-the-minute Neckwear. Practically an unlimited variety of the latest and best new styles to select from in Imported and Domestic Laces and Embroideries, Collars, Sets, Vestees, Guimpes, Jabots, Bows, etc. Truly a wonderful assortment and one from which every taste and desire may be satisfied.

- Lot 1—Choice at 25c. Collars, Vestees, Sets, in laces or embroideries. Jabots in crepe de chine, fur-trimmed bows. Regular values to 50c.
Lot 2—Choice at 29c. Exquisite and dainty effects in Laces and Embroideries in both sets and collars. Regular 75c values to 50c.
Lot 3—Choice from Sets, Collars, Vestees, Guimpes. In values to \$1.00.
Lot 4—Choice from Lace and Embroidery Sets and Collars. In values at \$1.75.
Lot 5—Choice from Sets, Collars, Vestees, etc. In values to \$2.00.
Lot 6—Choice from Chiffon and Maline Ruffs. In values to 75c.
Lot 7—Choice from Ostrich Ruffs. All colors. In values to \$1.75.
Lot 8—Choice from Ostrich Ruffs. All colors. In values to \$2.50.
Lot 9—Choice from Ostrich Ruffs. In colors. In values to \$3.75.

of the Austrian Embassy, called at Secretary Lansing's office today and started a specious speculation by leaving what appeared to be a communication. Later it was learned that the Prince had left several dispatches in cipher, which he desired to transmit to his government.

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Northwest Appointments Confirmed.

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Walla Walla Land Office; Jacob W. Oren, Receiver at Seattle; George A. Rochester, Register at Seattle; Ben F. Gray, Register at Halley, Idaho. Pending nominations of postmasters in Oregon, Washington and Idaho also were confirmed.

LAW GOVERNS SECRETARY

Court Holds Cabinet Officer Cannot Nullify Statutes.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17.—That the Secretary of Labor has no authority to make rules and restrictions further than provided by the immigration laws already enacted by Congress was the decision of Judge Dooling today in the United States District Court.

Ford Peace Ship Resumes Voyage.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The Oscar II, bearing the British authorities, was released from Kirkwall for Christiania today.

BELL-ANS

Absolutely Removes Indigestion. One package proves it. 25c at all druggists.

POWERS' SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIALS

50c Trains on Track 29c On Sale After 4 Saturday



79c Decorated Doll Sets, 23 Pieces, 49c On Sale After 4 Saturday

Pretty decorated doll sets for the kiddies' Christmas. These little sets are packed in separate cartons, are nicely decorated and will appeal to the little ones on Christmas morning. Only a limited number at this price.



USE YOUR CREDIT THIRD & YAMHILL QUALITY FIRST

BERLIN, via London, Dec. 17.—Charles L. Perissin, naval expert of the Tagblatt, on the Austrian note: "Washington plainly forgot when it sent its note that its case rested on statements of exiled passengers, as against sworn statements of Austrian naval officers. The American note shows little diplomatic aptness."