

UNCLE SAM'S RESERVE CORPS OF TRAINED WAR LEADERS

BY JOHN S. HARWOOD

In the West Point and Naval Academy graduates of fighting age who are in civil life, Uncle Sam probably has the world's finest reserve corps of fighting leaders—What this corps is capable of doing was shown to a limited extent in the war with Spain.

Some of the more or less prominent members of this remarkable corps, whose members are well placed in civil life, are Francis T. Bowles, Lewis Nixon, U. S. Senator Frank O. Briggs, Cyrus Townsend Brady, Richmond P. Hobson, Winston Churchill and Francis V. Greene.



LEWIS NIXON



MAC DONOUGH CRAVEN



SENATOR FRANK O. BRIGGS, OF NEW YORK



GEORGE GIBBS

PARADOXICAL as the statement may seem, it is nevertheless a fact that no other nation—not even the most warlike of Europe's quarrelsome family—possesses a finer reserve corps of highly trained fighting leaders both for land and sea battling, than peace-loving America. And in these days of much talk about a proper reserve force of fighting men for the country, it is not inappropriate to call the country's attention to the existence of this body of men, of whom the vast majority are now occupying positions of more than usual responsibility in civil life.

This important corps, which proved its value to the Nation during the Spanish-American War, though the opportunity to do so was not sufficiently large to attract close attention from the people generally—is made up of quite a few hundred of former Army and Navy officers—graduates of West Point and Annapolis—who voluntarily went back to civil life after serving with their commissions for a limited time, who are still of the fighting age, and who—because it has become a sort of second nature with them—keep up to date in military and naval tactics, and are ready, as far as efficiency goes, to take the field at a moment's notice in defense of their country.

It is a reserve that bears on its unofficial roster the names of many men who are leaders in their respective vocations—men with large city, state, National and international fame; and not infrequently there appears a name to emphasize the fact that an appreciable quota of this unique reserve is made up of descendants of some of the doughty fighters who helped to shape the country's early history.

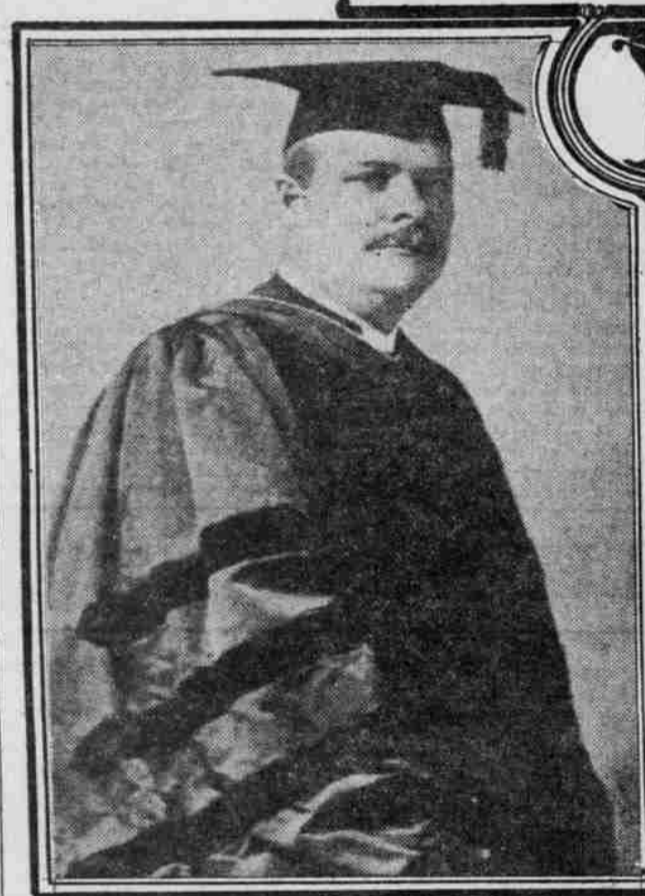
Frank O. Briggs, United States Senator from New Jersey, is a member of the reserve corps by way of West Point. Francis T. Bowles and Lewis Nixon, two of the country's most noted shipbuilders, and Cyrus Townsend Brady and Winston Churchill, two of the country's best-known novel-builders, rank high in the list of graduates of the Naval Academy. By the same road came Congressman Richmond P. Hobson, the much-kissed hero of Santiago, and John W. Weeks, of Massachusetts, whose knowledge of naval matters is so thorough that he was talked of as Uncle Sam at the court of the Persian Shah, was on duty at various naval posts, and was even given his commission to take up law. Three prominent civil-life alumni of West Point who consider themselves members in good standing of the reserve corps are Theodore Bingham and Francis Vinton Greene, present and former head of New York City's revenue service; Charles A. Totten, who gained considerable attention some years ago by his pronouncement of the theory that the American Indians are descendants of the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel; and Oscar T. Crosby, the well-known electric pioneer and Asiatic and African explorer, McDonough Craven, descendant of the hero of the battle of Lake Champlain, is an ex-Navy man.

second auxiliary division. For the important services he rendered the country at the capture of Manila Francis Vinton Greene, who had gone to the front as a volunteer, was promoted to the rank of Major-General of volunteers. Mortimer E. Cooley, dean of the department of engineering of the University of Michigan, left the chair of mechanical engineering at the same institution to serve his country aboard the Vesuvius. William Dixon Weaver, known in the electrical world as the editor of its leading periodical, was volunteer chief engineer of the Glacier all through the war. Dr. George T. Stout, one of Philadelphia's most famous specialists, jumped back into service again at his country's call as a Naval Lieutenant; William Ledyard Cathart, who graduated from Annapolis with distinction, and was a past assistant engineer when he retired to civil life, went back to the Navy as a chief engineer, accomplishing valuable results while on special duty, and Francis T. Bowles, in charge of the construction and repair departments of the New York Navy Yard, performed invaluable work by fitting out scores of vessels for the conflict. The services he rendered during this trying period helped materially to win for him in 1901 the position of chief constructor of the Navy, with rank of Rear-Admiral, making him the youngest bearer of that lofty title then in that branch of the service.

Bowles and Nixon, Shipbuilders. Admiral Bowles is also distinguished in the service in several other ways. Though he is only 50 years of age, he is looked upon as one of the fathers of the new Navy, and whose names were on the building from the very inception of the work in the early 80s until his resignation five years ago. He and a Naval Academy classmate were the first Americans ever sent by the Government to study at the School of Architecture of the Royal Naval College in England, and it was the expert knowledge gained by him during the three years that he was on duty there that made for him a place on the Naval Advisory Board immediately on his return to this country in 1882.

This board it was that had control of the designing of the first ships of the new Navy, and though he was then only three years past his majority, one view of young Bowles not infrequently won out over those put forth by older heads. Thus it was Bowles' advocacy of twin screws that led to their adoption in the Chicago, and when the board decided against sheathing the new war dogs with wood, another view was scored in his favor, except in the presence of friends, did big things for the country as a member of its naval forces. Then, with a suddenness that took by surprise even his intimates, he sent in his resignation to his superiors, having decided only a short time previously to take this action. But his ability has not been lost to the country, for as the head of one of its greatest shipbuilding plants he is engaged year in and year out in adding up-to-date fighting boats to the new Navy, which has gone down in history as one of the bodies of naval officers largely responsible for the creation and proper maintenance of the basis of our present sea fighting equipment.

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CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY



FRANCIS T. BOWLES, WHILE STILL IN THE NAVY

ancestry. The Newark, the Charleston and the Yorktown, all famous vessels of the new Navy, and whose names were on the lips of every American 20 years ago, were designed with the material aid of Admiral Bowles, at that time a member of the Walker board, which has gone down in history as one of the bodies of naval officers largely responsible for the creation and proper maintenance of the basis of our present sea fighting equipment.

It was through the failure of John Roach, who built the first vessels of the new Navy, that young Nixon got his opportunity to prove his full value to Uncle Sam. Detailed to the Roach shipyard after the Government had taken charge of it, he learned the practical side of shipbuilding, and later, as a Government inspector at another shipyard and at the new Brooklyn Navy-yard, he gained still further experience, all of which was one day put to a sudden and most severe test when General B. F. Tracy, then Secretary of the Navy, asked the chief constructor of the Navy to detail the best men to draw plans for three new battleships—the Oregon, the Indiana and the Massachusetts.

There was little time to do the work, and the man to whom it was to be assigned, the Secretary specified, must be both rapid and accurate in his work. Nixon was selected for the task, and 80 days later he delivered the plans complete, a record for speedy battleship design that stands today. How well the vessels were designed the wonderful voyage of the Oregon around South America to the scene of fighting off Cuba during the Spanish-American War, told better than any pen could do. Until the Atlantic fleet went around the world, this voyage of the Oregon was the most sensational voyage venture of a warship in the history of the American Navy.

It was this 30-day task that turned the current of Nixon's career from official to civil life. Not very long after he had handed in his designs for the trio of battleships the contracts for building two of them was awarded to that shipbuilding firm of Philadelphia which was then supposed to take this action. But his ability has not been lost to the country, for as the head of one of its greatest shipbuilding plants he is engaged year in and year out in adding up-to-date fighting boats to the new Navy, which has gone down in history as one of the bodies of naval officers largely responsible for the creation and proper maintenance of the basis of our present sea fighting equipment.

Thus becoming a Jerseyman, Lieutenant Briggs naturally took to politics, after the manner of every true son of Jersey, whether native or adopted. But not until 22 years after his retirement from the Infantry branch of Uncle Sam's fighting force did he come prominently before his fellow Jerseymen. Then, the year after the close of the war with Spain, he became the Republican Mayor of the state's capital city, and from that day to this he has been a political figure to be reckoned with from one end of the Jersey to the other. Also, since he became Trenton's Chief Executive he has held office continually, either by election or gubernatorial appointment. He has been a United States Senator for something more than two years now, succeeding to the seat of John F. Dryden; and to fortify himself for his Senatorial duties it is his custom to take a horse-back ride every morning for an hour or two before partaking of the day's first meal at 8 o'clock. From then on until dark at night he sticks to his official tasks, a habit which has earned for him the reputation of being one of the most diligent workers in the upper body.

Another well-known West Point member of the corps is Oscar Terry Crosby, who resigned from the Army 22 years ago, became a pioneer in the field of electric transportation, within a comparatively short space of time provided himself with a comfortable fortune, and entered Harvard as soon as he was through preparatory school. But no sooner had Congressman Stevens put the idea in the 17-year-old youngster's head than it got a firm hold there, the ambition to receive a degree from Harvard was cast aside, and the Army claimed this son of New Hampshire as its own for the next nine years, or until he resigned from the Army and associated himself with the celebrated bridge building firm of Roebling, of which he remains today the assistant treasurer.

Like most of the more prominent graduate Army and Navy officers in civil life today, John B. Jackson, this country's Minister to the Persian court, declares that his training for war has been of material help to him in private life. Minister Jackson is our most prominent trained fighter in the diplomatic service, the taste for which he cultivated when he was serving his country in European waters, and his graduation from the Naval Academy in the early '90s. You will probably recall that his name was on the list of the Persian and Queen Dranga, of Serbia, Minister Jackson's name was frequently in the news, as at that time he was our Minister to that country, which insisted that the new King, in order to gain this country's recognition, should formally disavow the awful act of the conspirators.

begged his masters to remain where they were while he went in search of help. The explorers hardly expected to behold the faithful old fellow alive again, but several days later—by which time the provisions had given out and Crosby was vainly endeavoring to kill some game with his pistol—he and the Frenchman heard a gun shot in answer apparently to his pistol shot; and not long thereafter the Afghan returned in triumph and in the nick of time with ample relief, men, horses and provisions.

Beginning with Mayor Strong's administration, New York City has had in its employ rather regularly in some high position at least one graduate of West Point. Under Mayor Strong, Avery de Lano Andrews, who resigned from the Army in 1882, was the city's Police Commissioner from 1885 to 1888, and in May of that year he became a volunteer Lieutenant-Colonel for the period of the war with Spain. Under Mayor Boeth Low, General Francis V. Greene, whose experiences in the Russo-Turkish war as an United States military observer, were replete with adventure and led to his decoration by the Czar, headed New York's "Inest," and today this same body of men is under the discipline of Theodore A. Bingham, who got in the habit of invoking the nine gods of war during the 15 years that he drew a salary from Uncle Sam following his graduation from West Point in 1878.

About two and a half years ago McDonough Craven, descendant of the fighting family of that name, and of that Commodore McDonough who won the battle of Lake Champlain, became head of the street cleaning department of the metropolitan government, and prior to that event he had been connected with the department for upwards of a decade. As an engineer he was called into consultation with the city's engineers, architect and the great Croton Dam, built by New York City to impound for its use billions of gallons of water. Craven was taken into the street cleaning department as its sanitary engineer by another graduate of the Army, the late Colonel Waring, and he planned and carried out many of the improvements which chief put into operation in this important department of the city government.

A Diplomat From the Navy. Like most of the more prominent graduate Army and Navy officers in civil life today, John B. Jackson, this country's Minister to the Persian court, declares that his training for war has been of material help to him in private life. Minister Jackson is our most prominent trained fighter in the diplomatic service, the taste for which he cultivated when he was serving his country in European waters, and his graduation from the Naval Academy in the early '90s. You will probably recall that his name was on the list of the Persian and Queen Dranga, of Serbia, Minister Jackson's name was frequently in the news, as at that time he was our Minister to that country, which insisted that the new King, in order to gain this country's recognition, should formally disavow the awful act of the conspirators.

Minister Jackson is one of the world's best-posted men on affairs in the Balkans and in the countries lying to the south of them. In Europe, he has served as our Minister at the court of every one of these countries except Turkey, and because of his ability in handling ticklish situations in this ticklish part of the world he was given a promotion to the Tehran post a little less than two years ago. But though he is presently far removed from "God's country" at the present time, there is no doubting the fact that if war were to break out between America and some foreign power tomorrow he—like practically every member of this highly-trained reserve corps of war leaders—would at once offer his services to the Government and make preparations to head them accordingly. Because of their willingness to go to the aid of the Government which trained them for life's duties—and also because of the more than ordinary prominence of the vast majority of the members of this reserve corps—every patriotic American should be proud of these trained war leaders—as Uncle Sam undoubtedly is.

The Egoliat. Detroit Free Press. He rushed headlong into his fate, at the moment of his death he said: "But still I do not bear him hate. He is the one to pay the price. I understand he's doing well. And now enjoys a needed rest. But I thought I could help you. My way of doing things was best. I told him just the things to do. But he's thick-headed as can be. He gave him when he came to me. But he, in spite of all I said, spurned my advice and forged ahead. Although I'm sure my way was best. It puzzles me at times to see the way he does things. When they could get advice from me. They much prefer to work by guess. And what if they've succeeded now? And reached the mountain's golden crest? My way of doing things was best."

WILL ENTERTAIN ROOSEVELT IN AFRICA.

W. N. McMillan. NEW YORK, April 3.—(Special.)—W. N. McMillan is the wealthy St. Louisan who will entertain Mr. Roosevelt at Nairobi, just after he lands in Africa. Mr. McMillan has a very fine estate near Nairobi. His house is large and handsomely furnished, and he has a great many hundred acres of ground and hundreds of negroes working for him. In his youth Mr. McMillan was thought to be threatened with consumption, and his father sent him into the dry regions of the South-west to regain his health. He came out of Arizona in good health, but with a distaste for the complete life of the continent. He has a mansion in London, and the choice of homes in St. Louis, California and New England belongs to his mother, he chooses to remain in Africa most of the time. He is officially chairman of the entertainment committee to receive Mr. Roosevelt.

NEW SECRETARY OF TREASURY GIVES UP ALL HIS BUSINESS CONNECTIONS.

LATEST PHOTOGRAPH OF FRANKLIN MACVEAGH. WASHINGTON, D. C., April 3.—(Special.)—Franklin MacVeagh, the new Secretary of the Treasury, qualified himself for his office by a long apprenticeship in the business world. He was one of the most successful of Chicago's wholesale merchants. Mr. MacVeagh was obliged to give up all his business connections before entering the Treasury. He was more fortunate than A. T. Stewart, who was named by Grant for Secretary of the Treasury and confirmed by the Senate before it was discovered that he was ineligible. It was then too late for Mr. Stewart to dispose of his business interests, though he would have gladly done so for the privilege of serving in the Cabinet. Mr. MacVeagh has shown himself possessed of tact and good nature—two very necessary qualifications for success in holding public office.