STRONG AIR FORCE

General Warns Country of Weak Defense.

ARMY HELD TOO SMALL

Regular Strength of 150,000 Men and 13,000 Officers Advised Minimum for Safety.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9 .-America must be prepared to "take the immediate defensive" in the air the immediate defensive" in the air in case of war, and to so expand its air strength that it eventually can assume its offensive. General Pershing declared today in his annual report as chief of staff of the army. "This is the basis of our present defense policies with all our arms and should be considered a minimum" the separat of the armisme." mum," the general of the armies continued. "A very important part in such a defensive would be the operations of an effective air serv-

fee."
General Pershing said he desired to call attention to the condition of the air service today and the fact that there existed a "present shortage of facilities and personnel for a completely balanced and adequate service of this vital component of defense."

Air Influence Growing.

"No man can estimate with present certainty the value which can be ascribed in a few years to the possession of an adequate resource-fulness in the air," he said. "It is certain, however, that the influence of air power will become increasingly great and that the nation cannot afford to neglect this aim.

"The air service which we develop should be capable of offensive application. This does not mean that we must immediately build an air service that could take the offensive against any great power or group of powers. It does mean, however, that we should have a force that can take the immediate defensive, and that can, during a reasonable period of operations, expand to the strength required for an offensive."

The report said the reserve of airplanes for such a policy and even facilities for personnel training were lacking, and that "industries and the air ways of our country are not prepared for an emergency.

Enrly Action Asked. "I carnestly hope, therefore,"
General Pershing added, "that early steps will be taken to bring about the effective co-operation of states with the agencies of the national government to the end that this vital need can be effectually filled."

Discussing the development of the stress and next was recognizations.

army and post war reorganizations, the general said he had "witnessed with approbation the accomplishments of the present administration in attaining efficiency and economy of operation, and it has been a source of distinct pride to observe the resumms of our military nersource of distinct price to observe the response of our military per-sonnel." He pointed out, however, that he regarded the army at its present strength of 12,000 officers and 125,000 men as 'below the mini-mum required for effective perform-ance of our various missions."

Army Cut Deplored.

Army Cut Deplored.
"It is my conviction," he said,
"that our regular force is cut too
much for safety and that a strength
of at least 150,000 enlisted men and
13,000 officers should be permanently fixed as the minimum."
Outlining the plans of the department for future mobilizations, General Pershing said:

eral rershing said:
"In our general plan for emergency mobilization, it is contemplated that in a major eventuality our regular army would expand from its limited peace strength form inhe infantry divisions; our national guard, also kept at a very low peace feoting, would form it infantry divisions, and the organized reserves, always a mere skele-

ton in time of peace, would form 27 infantry divisions, each to fur-nish a proportional strength in corps, army and general headquar-

East War Lesson.

"For the organized reserves this contemplates a total of 33 infantry and cavalry divisions and nine groups of non-divisional units. These are allocated to geographical areas on the basis of density of population.

"As one looks back upon our experience at the beginning of the past year, it is easy to appreciate what a tremendous advantage this would give us were our forces again

what a fremendous advantage this would give us were our forces again required to mobilize. A glance at the estimates involved in the fulfillment of this plan will also give assurance of the relatively insignificant cost of the project, as compared to the money wasted during the former mobilization.

"Finally, the resulting mobiliza-tion would be of a character that might well dismay the most stub-born adversary and hence would in advance be of great weight in the maintenance of peaceful relations."

MAN FORGETS TROUSERS

Absent-Minded New Yorker Is Taken to Police Station.

(By Chicago Tribune Leased Wire.) NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Patrolman oodyear Thursday night glanced into a doorway and saw a man in the hall who was fully dressed except for one article of attire—his trousers.

Goodyear gave the man his rain coat and took him to the station house. There he said he was James allen

His daughter, Mrs. Mary McGuire, after told the police her father is very absent-minded and strayed out without knowing he was only partly

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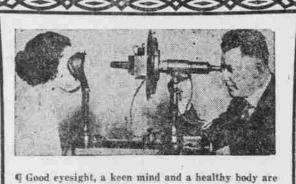
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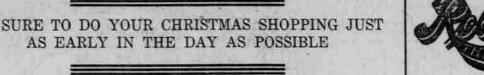
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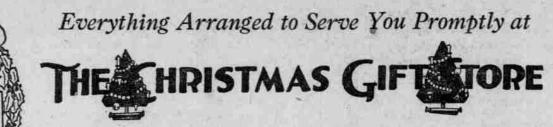
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