

DEFENSE OF PACIFIC

Conference is Called by Secretary of War Department.

ADJUTANT GENERALS WILL GO

Planning of Coast Fortifications by State Reserves to Be Subject of Council at Capital.

Portland, Jan. 2.—Adjutant generals of the three Pacific states—Oregon, Washington and California—have been invited by the War department to go to Washington, D. C., for a conference at the earliest possible date on the subject of coast defense. Adjutant General W. E. Finzer, of Oregon, and General J. B. Lauck, of California, are leaving for the capital tomorrow, while General Otis Hamilton, of Washington, will start East Saturday.

The request from the War department for this conference is regarded as highly significant, indicating the government's determination to prepare for emergencies that may arise in the West. The principal topic of consideration at the conference will be the subject of training volunteer coast artillery reserves to man Oregon, Washington and California fortifications. The subject of perfecting the infantry regiments of the three states in coast defense operations will likewise be taken up. It is assured that the meeting will result in assignment of National Guards to coast artillery work. The adjutant generals will very likely leave with the task ahead of recruiting new coast companies for this service.

Several months General Oliver has been in communication with General Finzer, Lauck and Hamilton on the subject of coast defense. Only a few days ago he submitted memoranda to the chief of artillery recommending assignment of the Oregon troops to defense maneuvers in May, as is the permanent setting aside of all infantry companies for heavy artillery training.

This plan was not regarded by the coast adjutant generals as feasible. There appeared to be a distinction among infantry commanders to partition their companies for artillery work. Concerted objection was also made to the month of May for maneuvers as it is difficult for the average man to leave his business or to quit his busy time of the spring.

It is known, however, that the War department will find it necessary to carry out of such a plan will be based by more or less expense. That states should foot the bills does not seem just. It is believed that the government will be asked flatly what aid will be given in the organization of reserves or the assignment of infantry companies.

VICTIMS OF JAP MOB.

Five Men Badly Injured at Vancouver, B. C.

Vancouver, B. C., Jan. 2.—Allan Brown, fireman, is dying and two young men, also members of the fire department, are badly wounded in the hospital as the result of a fight they had early this morning in Japanese quarter with an overbearing number of the subjects of the empire. The fight was the worst in Vancouver since the September riots, and it was the Japanese are at all ready for trouble and eager to show their long knives that have been known as razors.

Anderson, accompanied by J. Frost and McDonald, was passing a Japanese store, when Frost stumbled and fell against the plate-glass window. The glass smashed and the fragments were still rolling on the sidewalk when a score of Japanese appeared from inside and rushed at the trio of Americans. The firemen were in uniform, brass buttons and official caps, but the Japanese knifed them furiously.

Steal Chest of Nickels.

Chester, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Two men were arrested today for stealing a chest containing \$2,859 from a store standing in front of the Main East car barns at 6:25 o'clock this morning and got safely away with it in a automobile. The stolen money represented the earnings of the Rochester trolley company yesterday on what is known as the Eastern division. It was transferred according to custom from the Federal street car barns to the street office to be counted when robbery occurred. Officers are in pursuit.

More Stolen Mail Found.

San Antonio, Tex., Jan. 2.—Another large quantity of mail has been found west of here where the first batch was left in a pouch looter's Christmas night. Estimated that checks, money orders and drafts left lying in the gulch where the pouches were opened will aggregate \$50,000. Special government agents are working on the case. Some three thousand letters from various parts of the United States were in the pouches.

Torpedo Boats in Paris.

Paris, Brazil, Jan. 2.—The torpedo boat fleet which is preceding the battleship fleet to the Pacific, arrived here from Port of Spain, Trinidad, yesterday, which had a rough voyage, entering head seas, was delayed by the run by bad weather.

EXPRESS CHARGES HIGH.

Wells-Fargo Accused of Discrimination Against Merchants.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 31.—Interstate Commerce Commissioner Franklin K. Lane, today held a hearing of the complaint of the California Commercial association, composed of 29 mercantile firms in this city, charging the Wells-Fargo Express company with concealing from the public tariff schedules that had been filed with the Interstate Commerce commission in Washington and with making unjust and discriminatory rates. The actual question involved, however, was whether or not the quantity rate of 8 cents a pound from New York to San Francisco for shipments of 10,000 to 20,000 pounds applied to bulk or assembled shipments, gathered and forwarded by a forwarding agency to one concern or association organized for the purpose of getting the lower rate, the shipment ultimately intended for numerous consignees who were designated by numbers of the labels to the one consignee.

The charges of discrimination are based upon the refusal of the express company to transport a shipment of 16,000 pounds consisting of 443 packages, from New York to the California Commercial association in San Francisco last August, at the bulk or quantity rate of \$8 per hundred pounds, the company charging the regular package rate. It is also alleged that the express company charged a higher rate than that published and filed with the Interstate Commerce commission, the latter being wilfully concealed and hidden from the public. This complaint avers that it is a distinct violation of the interstate commerce act.

EXPATRIATES IN CHINA.

Judge Willey Wants Congress to Make Laws for Them.

San Francisco, Cal., Dec. 31.—Judge L. R. Willey, of the United States court at Shanghai, against whom charges of improper conduct of his court have been preferred at Washington, arrived in San Francisco this morning on the Pacific Mail liner Manchuria from the Orient, and after a stay of two days in this city will proceed to the national capital. On board the Manchuria with Judge Willey was F. M. Brooks, a lawyer, who has filed an action for \$50,000 damages at Honolulu, charging the head of the court in the Far East, together with his clerk, L. R. Hickel, with conspiracy in stopping the practice of Brooks in Shanghai. Judge Willey denied that he was going to Washington to meet the charges preferred against him.

"I am going to Washington," he said, "to aid in drawing an act that will extend to Americans in China a more complete body of laws than they now have. The laws now in force comprise little more than is embodied in the common law and are so indefinite as to be absolutely useless. It will be suggested to congress that the California code of laws be made to extend to China, wherein such laws are applicable.

"In addition to this matter, I am journeying East that congress may be asked for an appropriation for a proper Federal building at Shanghai, where the American consulate and courts may be under one roof."

Jail Wrecking Glass' Health.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Affidavits have been served on District Attorney Langdon by T. C. Coogan, Louis Glass' attorney, in his attempt to get his client out of jail. The district attorney will file counter affidavits. Dr. Roland E. Hartley and Dr. J. M. Williamson state in their affidavits that they visited Louis Glass at the county jail and that he showed 'marked general physical deterioration and general derangement.' They say they found him in a nervous condition which will permanently injure his health.

Raises Rent of Hot Springs.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Hot Springs, Ark., says: Announcement was made yesterday that the United States would double the price for its heating hot waters after the first of the year, and that all bathroom leases also would be doubled. A protest will be sent at once to Washington. The hot water now is dispensed by the government at \$30 per annum for each tub supplied. The bathroom owners state they are unable to meet the rise.

Headquarters Are Secured.

Denver, Dec. 31.—The headquarters of the Democratic national convention will be at the Brown Palace hotel, which has registered a request from Chairman Tom Taggart, of the committee, through Secretary Mills, of the Convention league of Denver, to reserve 50 additional rooms, besides those already reserved. As soon as these reservations are made the other hotels of the city will begin to make reservations.

Garnets in New York Bedrock.

New York, Dec. 31.—That New York City rests on a vast mass of garnets is the discovery of Ralph E. Morgan, an English mineralogist, now visiting here. In a mass of rock thrown up from a subway excavation, he discovered a large garnet. On the dumping ground at Sheepshead bay he found a number of excellent garnets.

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

FUND FOR EX-PRESIDENTS.

Senator Allison Favors Some Such Action by Congress

Washington, Jan. 1.—Senator William B. Allison, of Iowa, chairman of the committee on appropriations, favors action by congress looking to the care and support of ex-presidents of the United States. In an interview tonight he referred to the recent utterances of ex-President Grover Cleveland on the subject, and agreed with him that some provision should be made in this direction. The matter deserved consideration at the hands of congress, he said, and undoubtedly would receive it. In times of Thomas Jefferson, who died poor, Mr. Allison said, the government would have done well to pay his debts. At present Mrs. Garfield is receiving an allowance from the government, and he said that to make provision for ex-presidents would cause no considerable drain on the treasury, as rarely have there been two of them alive at the same time.

MARINE CORPS NOW COMPLETE

Full Complement of 8,700 Men is Enlisted.

Washington, Jan. 1.—General Elliott, commandant of marines, reported to Secretary Metcalf yesterday that for the first time in many months the marine corps was now up to its full complement of 8,700 enlisted men. General Elliott reports that not only has he secured all the men he wants, but has withdrawn from the newspapers advertisements calling for recruits, and he is now in a position to pick his men when there is need for further recruiting.

The reasons assigned for this state of affairs represent the depressed condition of industries, resulting in forcing men to obtain employment outside of the factories, mills and mines, and to such of these as are not able to perform sailor's duties, yet would make good soldiers and desire to see the world, the marine corps offers a tempting refuge.

Uncle Sam Going Behind.

Washington, Jan. 3.—The forthcoming reports of the government's receipts and expenditures for the month ending Dec. 31 will show a decrease in the receipts as compared with December last year of \$8,529,152 and an increase in expenditures of \$9,381,414, making the net loss for the year \$17,910,566. The decrease in receipts from customs is \$6,895,959; from internal revenue, \$2,768,645. Miscellaneous receipts increase \$1,135,452. Increases of expenditures are: Civil and miscellaneous, \$3,000,000; war, \$1,500,000; navy, \$4,000,000; pensions, \$2,400,000; public works, increase from \$4,843,711 to \$8,899,000.

Immense Traffic Across Ocean.

New York, Jan. 2.—Trans-Atlantic passenger traffic during 1907 was increased by nearly a million passengers over the traffic in 1906. The total passengers carried both east and west has reached the enormous number of 2,957,328, according to figures given out by the North German Lloyd company. The movement has been greater than in 1906 by 972,640 and 1,451,151 greater than in 1904. The passengers from Europe to the United States number 699,340, which is 200,000 in excess of the entire east and west traffic in 1904.

Engineers to Tour Coast.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Colonels Leach and Lockwood of the board of United States engineers, will leave for the Pacific coast on January 9, beginning with California, and will hold public hearings on a number of projects, including Oregon undertakings. People will have the opportunity to present the local needs of their communities. Both the officers are loyal supporters of coast developments. It is suggested that Portland prepare to present necessary works for its section.

Steamship Company Embarrassed.

New York, Jan. 2.—Announcement was made tonight on behalf of the Consolidated Steamship lines by D. H. Campbell, the treasurer, that the company would default on the interest on its \$6,000,000 collateral trust bonds, due tomorrow. The official statement explains that "Owing to the prevailing financial conditions it had been compelled to devote its earnings to payment for new ships and hence is unable to meet the coupons maturing."

No Action in Bristol Case.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Members of the Oregon delegation in congress met and informally discussed the Bristol case but no action whatsoever was taken. The matter may come up for more formal discussion later but no announcement of plans has been made.

Cruisers at Pichilique.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Admiral Seabee's squadron, consisting of the cruisers Tennessee and Washington, have arrived at Pichilique, off the southern coast of Lower California. Their next stop is expected to be at Magdalena bay.

Viscount Aoki Says Farewell.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Viscount Aoki, the Japanese ambassador who was recently recalled by his home government, bade farewell to Washington Monday. He will sail from San Francisco for Japan on January 7.

Oregon Postmasters Appointed.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Oregon postmasters appointed: London, James E. Baton vice J. N. Hogue, resigned; Mill City, Mabel McRae vice E. J. Bryans, resigned.

TWO COMPANIES ON GUARD.

General Funston Advises Consolidation for Sake of Economy.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The War department has been in correspondence by telegraph with General Funston in San Francisco, relative to the disposition of the troops at Goldfield in conformity with the president's intentions to maintain the force there, pending the meeting of the legislature of Nevada.

General Funston intended a reduction in the number of troops at the mining camp, but the War department has decided to retain there all of the present force, numbering 283 men. In the interest, however, of simplicity, and to avoid the maintenance of a considerable number of officers who were not needed, it has instructed General Funston to consolidate the companies into two.

Bank Condition is Good.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Senator Ankeny has had several conferences recently with officials of the Treasury department concerning the interests of the national banks in the state of Washington. During the recent financial flurry some difficulty was experienced in the far West by reason of the inability of the banks to obtain the actual money from its reserve cities or even from the subtreasuries. Mr. Ankeny feels confident, after his talks with officials of the treasury, that the situation has been greatly relieved within the last few weeks, and that from now on the same difficulty will not be experienced.

Oil Burners to Be Tried.

Washington, Jan. 3.—Possibly the fact that California produces great quantities of petroleum inclines Secretary Metcalf to favor the use of that fuel in the navy, where it can be done beneficially. Therefore plans for the new torpedo destroyers about to be prepared will probably include a requirement that they be designed for burning oil. The fact that the newest British boats of this class, which have attained the extraordinary speed of 40 miles an hour, are oil burners, has influenced our Navy department in favor of the adoption of liquid fuel.

Sailors Meet Defeat.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The Seamen's union met temporary defeat today in their fight against the employment of Chinese seamen on Pacific coast vessels. Representatives called upon Attorney General Bonaparte today and expressed an opinion that the employment of Chinese on the vessels was a violation of the exclusion act. Bonaparte informed the committee that he could only furnish the president and the heads of the departments affected with their opinion for optional action. The union will petition the president.

Figures Are Astounding.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The engineers on the Panama canal are dealing in vast figures and the canal record conveys in a graphic manner an idea of the magnitude of the work to be done upon the locks. It is stated that the amount of concrete to be used in building these locks would suffice to construct eight-roomy city houses of the generous size of 30x30 feet with two stories and basement and with concrete floors and roof to the number of 22,842.

Jumpers May Get a Chance.

Washington, Jan. 1.—The Bartlett mining assessment bill did not pass. The Teller bill, which is similar, passed the senate before the holidays, but it is understood, will not pass the house. Failure to pass such legislation means that all mining claims upon which the required amount of assessment work was not done during the calendar year 1907 can be legally jumped after January 1.

Urge Brownson to Talk.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Line officers in the navy are urging Admiral Brownson to publish correspondence relative to his resignation, holding that Rixey's statement was really inspired at the White House. It has developed that the acceptance of his resignation was announced 15 minutes after it had been given to Secretary Metcalf to take to President Roosevelt.

Around the World in 10 Seconds.

Washington, Jan. 2.—In accordance with a custom begun several years ago the naval observatory last night at 12 o'clock sent a New Year greeting around the world. This is done by prearrangement with the telegraph and cable companies, and the message completed the telegraphic circuit of the world in about 10 seconds' time.

Hawley in Society.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Representative and Mrs. Hawley made their first bow to official society in Washington Monday evening as dinner guests of Vice President Fairbanks. On Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. Hawley will be guests of Mrs. Roosevelt at a musical to be given at the White House.

Taft to Talk Politics.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Secretary Taft will make his first political pronouncement since his return from abroad at Boston, December 30, in a speech before the Merchants' association.

Congressman Calderhead Ill.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Representative William A. Calderhead, of Kansas, is critically ill with double pneumonia at his apartment in this city.

LEADING PART IN A NIGHT.

Prima Donna Tells of First Experience Under the Spot Light.

It was awful. Honest, it was. No one will ever know what I suffered. I had never dreamed that I would have an opportunity for years yet to appear in the title role of a Broadway musical comedy, says Bertha Mills in the New York Globe. One year ago I was singing in the choir of a church in St. Joseph, Mo. To-day—ah, me, I am the Hurdy Gurdy Girl and carry, so Mr. Carle tells me, the chief vocal responsibilities of the performance.

I imagine no one can understand how I felt on the Monday morning before we opened at Wallace's, when Mr. Marks, the manager, told me that the newspaper announcements were correct, that he and Richard Carle had decided to let me sing the title part. I am told that I said "All right" and "Thank you" without the slightest show of agitation. If that report is true I don't know how I masked my feelings so cleverly. I was running hot and cold from the top of my head to the soles of my feet, and from the moment the manager told me until the time came for my first entrance I was scared green.

For a moment I thought of running to my dressing room and locking myself in while I had a good cry. I also thought of refusing to go on and of a lot of other things which would prevent my making a little fool of myself on the stage. Really, I believe my only reason for suddenly plucking up courage and taking the bit in my teeth was the possible feeling of pride and pleasure which my friends out in dear old St. Jo might have if I succeeded.

When Mr. Lawrence, the stage manager, finally rushed up, tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Now, Bertha, it's up to you," I nearly fainted. I knew that only a few seconds separated me from the awfulest of awful things, a New York first-night audience, and I wished I was home with mother when I started out on the stage behind Mr. Angiola, who plays both the organ and the padrone. The footlights blinded me and I was the most heartless girl on all Broadway until I heard the sweetest noise in the whole world of noises. A pair of Italian street musicians dragging a hand organ must have struck the people on the other side of the orchestra as a pretty and novel picture, for a great round of applause went up the moment we appeared.

That applause was the most felicitous sound that ever came to my ears. Without it I am absolutely certain that I would have fainted right then and there. Somehow, I managed to get through the first verse of the "Hope On" number without suffocating, and then I noticed that the wings were crowded with the chorus and other members of the company. They were waving their hands to me and whispering words of encouragement.

We finished the first chorus of the song and got a real, honest Injun encore. Figuratively speaking, I grabbed that applause as if I were drowning, and it was a straw. When the noise started it was almost hysterical, but as it kept up I felt myself growing nervous, and by the time we started to sing another verse I had recovered my voice and was as composed as I ever was in the church choir. I made up my mind that Bertha Mills would show a houseful of first nighters that St. Jo wasn't so very far behind New York.

I sang the chorus six times the opening night, and when I finally got into the wings the stage hands, my girl compatriot, Mr. Marks and Mr. Edward Jack, the business manager, said all sorts of nice things. It was natural, I suppose, that I should go through the rest of the performance as if I were on air. After the first song I wasn't a bit afraid.

Maybe I was tickled next day to find that the critics had not noticed my nervousness. If they had I am sure I would have been just as bad every succeeding evening. Now the opening is two weeks gone, so I feel all right again, but I am telling the gospel truth when I say that for four days after the opening I didn't eat anything except some dry toast, some tea and two club sandwiches. And as for sleep—well, I don't think I slept a wink.

If I never am applauded again by a New York audience the knowledge that I pleased a little bit on that first night will always seem a fair reward for the four years I spent in study.

Consonance All Around.

In the Norman period wealthy persons who wished to do the handsome thing by their town and townspeople, says Dr. J. J. Raven, in "The Bells of England," often gave a bell to the church instead of endowing a chair in an institution of learning. Then, as now, donors were moved by a variety of motives, but that, of course, did not interfere in the least with the sweet tenor or bass of the bell.

There was the Angle thane, Lyolf, who, rich in goats and sheep, was much disturbed by nocturnal thieves. Tired out with these troubles, according to Doctor Raven, the author of "The Bells of England," Lyolf sold many of his animals and bought a bell, which he gave to the abbey.

When he first heard its sound his joy broke forth into jocularity. "Eya," he said, "how sweetly my goats bleat and my sheep baa!"

Lyolf's wife presented another bell, and Doctor Raven notes that the "two rang out in pleasur' accord"—a sequence unexpectedly sweet, apparently.

Excuses are like weeds: Lots of them, but no good.

EPIDEMIC OF GRIPPE

Spreads Through the East Like Prairie Fire.

VICTIMS BY TENS OF THOUSANDS

Fearful That Epidemic May Surpass That of 1889-90—Street Car Service is Crippled.

Chicago, Dec. 31.—Deadly grippe, which has already fastened itself upon nearly every city east of the Mississippi river, is spreading westward with appalling rapidity. Not since the terrible epidemic of 1889-90 have there been such ravages by the fearful malady as at the present time, according to special dispatches gathered from many sources. Mild, open weather, highly unreasonable, is held responsible by health authorities.

Pittsburg is the chief complainant. So many people there are ill that the streetcar service is crippled and office buildings are practically empty. Besides Pittsburg, New York, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Boston, Milwaukee and other Eastern and Western cities were reported to be wrestling with the disease, a number of deaths in each city occurring daily.

"La grippe, as the French call it," said Dr. Herman Spalding, of the Chicago Health department, "travels with the speed of a prairie fire. It travels along the lines of transportation, as it is carried by travelers from one city to another. It is decidedly contagious and there is no effective way of checking its spread. If other cities become badly affected, Chicago is sure to be hit, because of the thousands of travelers who arrive daily in Chicago from every point of the compass."

From New York word comes that the grippe has begun a devastating crusade in that city and that among its victims have been opera singers and many actors and actresses. There were 63 deaths in the metropolis last week. Besides this there were many deaths from pneumonia, influenced by the grippe bacillus.

Physicians in Boston say there are at least 60,000 cases now in that city. Cincinnati has 2,000 cases and physicians say that new cases are developing by the score every hour.

ON SECOND STAGE.

Battleship Fleet Leaves Trinidad for Rio Janeiro.

Port of Spain, Dec. 31.—The American battleship fleet weighed anchor at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon and steamed for Rio Janeiro. Accompanying the fleet were the supply ships Culgoa and Glaeier. Early in the morning the signal went up from Rear Admiral Evans' flagship Connecticut to prepare for departure at 8 a. m., but owing to a delay in the coaling of the battleship Maine from the collier Fortuna, it was necessary to change the time of sailing.

Long before the hour set a myriad of small craft, chiefly launches and steam yachts, moved up and down along the lines of anchored battleships, the merry parties aboard shouting farewells to the departing visitors. Thousands of residents climbed the surrounding hills to view the great ships as they moved outward on their journey of 3,000 miles and more, while boatloads of excursionists went to the small islands in the gulf and others to the floating dock to catch the last glimpse of the ships.

The fleet presented a magnificent appearance as it steamed out in four columns with the supply ships trailing, a distance of 400 yards separating one division from another. With the Connecticut in the lead the battleships headed for the Bocas and steamed majestically through the grand Boca and thence along the northern coast of Trinidad. An average of from 10 to 11 knots an hour will carry the fleet to the end of the second lap of the 14,000-mile journey in about 12 days, and it was announced by Admiral Evans before his departure that he expects to reach Rio Janeiro on Friday evening January 10.

Natives Facing a Famine.

Hillsdale, Mich., Dec. 31.—Secretary H. S. Myers, of the general conference of Free Baptists, said today: "According to advices just received by me from our missions in Bengal and Orissa, India, four months of rain is the usual allowance in Lucknow, India, in a year, but during the year 1907 it has rained only four days. The result is famine everywhere. Thousands of the population are suffering and before relief comes next August hundreds of thousands must die unless relief comes from Christian lands."

Fatal Row Over 5 Cents.

San Francisco, Dec. 31.—Arthur Sassen, a conductor of the United Railroads, was shot and killed today at the intersection of Twelfth and Folsom streets by Bonaventura Arcieri, a passenger. Previously Arcieri had tendered a transfer which Sassen had refused to honor. He then paid a cash fare and began to argue the matter. Sassen slapped Arcieri in the face and the latter drew a revolver and shot Sassen.

Earthquake Breaks Company.

Hamburg, Dec. 31.—The Trans-Atlantic Fire Insurance company has voted to liquidate on account of the fact that more than half of its capital was lost by the San Francisco fire and earthquake.