

# UNIFORMS

GENERAL MILES is reported to be contemplating important changes in the uniforms now worn by the soldiers of the United States regular army. At a recent reception at the White House the General appeared in a gorgeous new tunic of his own design, liberally adorned with gold and lace, and wearing a such of alternate yellow and gold stripes. The most remarkable point about the uniform, however, was not the splendor of the facings as the prominence of the oak leaf and acorn decorations;



THE BRITISH SOLDIER. 1775.

A curious fact, as these are supposed to be the distinctive military emblems of the British crown. General Miles, however, intimates that he is going to take the best features of every nation's dress regulations and incorporate them into his new system for the clothing of the American army.

In the stirring times of the Revolutionary period the dress of many of the patriot regiments was at once quaint and picturesque. Many of the troops, prominent among them the First Virginia regiment in 1775, were clothed at their own expense in leather hunting shirts, leggings and caps, trimmed with fur—a dress that Washington recommended to all those who were unable to obtain the regular uniform, saying that "the leather hunting shirt inspired terror in the heart of the British soldier, as the latter believed that its wearer must necessarily be a sharpshooter." On reflection, one can hardly blame the Britisher for his timidity in approaching the fearless backwoodsman. The Pennsylvania regiments, facetiously dubbed the "Quaker brigade," were remarkable for the excessive plainness of their uniforms, which were modestly made of buff-colored cloth, trimmed and faced with brown. What a contrast to the gay trappings of the troopers known as Moxley's dragoons, described as wearing "green short coats turned up with red; waistcoats of red cloth, buckskin breeches and a leather cap, trimmed with bearskin, a flowing mane of horsehair hanging from a curved brass crest at the top."

In 1802 the then commander-in-chief issued an order that the collars of all privates' coats should not be less than three inches high nor more than 3 1/2; ten years later the height was increased "to reach as far as the tip of the ear at the side and back, and in front as high as the chin would permit in turning the head." These preposterous collars were afterward replaced by the equally uncomfortable stocks but



MINUTE MAN. 1810.

a more rational measure brought into vogue the present low collar of soft cloth, supplemented in the case of officers by an ordinary civilian collar.

In this connection it is interesting to recall some of the curious uniforms which the brave defenders of our great republic have from time to time adopted, either through choice or necessity. Who would ever imagine that our soldiers once wore the tall silk hat of the modern society gentlemen? Yet in

1810 an order was issued directing that all the privates be supplied with the "chimney-pot hat" of to-day, and this extraordinary kind of military headgear continued until 1812, when it was replaced by a more ornate covering, described in the regulations as "a leather cap, bell-crowned, adorned in front with a yellow eagle made of brass-work, embossed with the regimental number; a white pompon in front and a black cockade at the side, made of leather." Certainly it was a more serviceable hat than its predecessor, and more suggestive of the martial spirit that inspired its wearers to their brilliant deeds of valor in the struggle of that year. But the day of the pot hat was not yet done; in 1821 the cadets at the Military Academy at West Point were requested to adopt the pattern which had been condemned as an unsoldierlike hat-covering but nine years before, and great was the wrath of these embryo Washingtons and Jacksons at the indignity which, they declared, had been put upon them. But their dislike soon gave way to a feeling of respect for the uniform, and perhaps to this fact is due the enormous popularity of the tall hat among American citizens.

President Monroe decided, toward the end of 1821, that the uniforms of the various regiments should all be dark blue in color, and that this was to be in future the national color; the West Point cadets to have gray coats and trousers, while the regimental musicians were to be distinguished by their red coats.

Some of the uniforms of the old Continental army days were undoubtedly very picturesque and imposing; for instance, let us take the Governor of Connecticut's regiment of foot guards, organized in 1771. There were two



1848. 1861.

companies, the first of which wore scarlet-colored coats, richly covered with gold lace and faced with black; buff cassimere waistcoats and buff cloth breeches, high bearskin hats or "bushes," and black leggings. The second company, however, outdid the first in magnificence by the adoption of white vests, breeches and stockings, ruffled shirts and silver buttons! In addition one must remember the long powdered eues and clean-shaven faces of the period, so as to form an adequate idea of the imposing appearance of these tall, well-built sons of Mars. But think of a soldier wearing white stockings and breeches!

Washington's own uniform as commander-in-chief of the army was very simple and unpretentious as compared with General Miles' latest "turnout." He prescribed for himself and his successors a long tunic coat with gilt buttons and epaulets, buff-colored facings, breeches and vest, and a plain, three-cornered hat. To prevent mistakes of identity which were constantly arising on account of the similarity of dress among the superior officers, the great leader wore a light-blue sash or ribbon between his coat and waistcoat; major and brigadier generals wore stillular distinguishing sashes of green, and aide-de-camp of pink silk.

### Vision of an Eagle.

The eagle is able to look at the sun without blinking by means of a thin, semitransparent veil, which the bird can draw instantaneously over its eye. It does not obstruct the sight.

### A Natural Question.

"That fellow called me an ass behind my back."

"Did you kick?"—Life.

When we are 50 years old, we do not propose to make ourselves ridiculous by telling around that we feel as young as we ever did.

We have our opinion of a man who writes us an item and marks it "confidential."

After a man has dropped a few thousand dollars in stocks it is useless to tell him there is no money in them.



A NEW name, that of Gomez, may be added to the list of brave Spanish-Americans who have liberated their country from the Spanish yoke. His name will be well worthy of a place beside those of Bolivar, O'Higgins, Sucre, Hidalgo and Tomssaint, who preceded him by nearly a century in the resistance of Spanish oppression and the freeing of Americans from the burlesome yoke. It is nearly ninety years since the beginning of the series of revolutions that, when Cuba and Porto Rico are freed, will have resulted in the abolition of Spanish rule in the western hemisphere. The brave Argentinians under San Martin began the conflict in 1809, and the Mexicans followed a few months later. Both were unsuccessful at the beginning, but suddenly all South America broke out in one blaze of revolution that was not to be finally extinguished until Spain had been driven from the continent.

The natives welcomed the chance to secure their freedom. When once the torch of liberty had been lighted so great a fire was kindled that it could not be extinguished. These revolutions were popular uprisings. The rich had no sympathy with them. The land-owning and governing class, the army and navy, the few who profited by the sufferings of the many, had no sympathy with the uprisings. The insurgents were an undisciplined rabble, whose volunteer leaders were forced to create an army from poor material and with no arms or equipments. At first they were organized in scattered bands that attacked the fortifications of the Spanish army. Little by little they were welded into a compact army by the genius of their leaders.

These leaders revealed great ability, and to the people of South America their names are as dear as is that of Washington to us of North America. Some of them distinguished themselves so greatly as to make their fame world-wide. Such was O'Higgins in Chili, Bolivar in Venezuela and Central America, Sucre in Bolivia and Peru, Hidalgo in Mexico and San Martin in Argentina. They sacrificed much for the cause. Several were men of large private fortunes who gave all that they possessed as a sacrifice on the altar of liberty. Born rich, O'Higgins, Bolivar and Sucre died poor. They risked their lives as well as their money, and thousands of other men, now forgotten, died that their country might be free. Their republics were just as ungrateful as all republics are traditionally. Hidalgo was killed by the Spanish. The other great men had a worse fate, being traduced and vilified by their compatriots who, at first profusely grateful, afterward yielded to the jealousy of rival leaders. It was not until after their death that their compatriots appreciated their greatness. Probably the same fate is in store for Gomez.

### INSECT FOES IN CUBA.

They Are Numerous and Many of Them Are Dangerous.

Soldiers in Cuba will have many pests to contend against. The mosquito is more frequent in Cuba than in New Jersey at the height of the season. It is also a more venomous insect. The nearer you go to the equator the more potent the mosquito becomes. The Cuban mosquito is to the New Jersey insect as a first-class fighting bull to a yearling calf. Those who have camped out in Texas will have a modified idea of what to expect in the Cuban mosquito.

The worst pest of all is the Cuban fly. This is a black insect, smaller than the common house fly and resembling the black fly of northern woods. It comes in myriads, buzzes about your

and there laying an enormous mass of eggs. The wounds made by this insect, if neglected, will produce a dangerous ulceration. As they attack by preference the big toe, they are apt to cause lameness. The scorpion is another Cuban product. This reptile has twelve feet and is from five to six inches long. It terminates in a long tail, which contains the sting. This causes a severe wound, possibly a fatal one to a man in ill-health. He who entertains a scorpion unawares will know what it is to have a thankless child. The centipede also plies his numerous plimble feet on Cuban soil. When he walks across your flesh you feel as if many red-hot needles had been thrust into you and he leaves a trail of venom behind. There is a sufficiency of snakes in Cuba—rattlers, moccasins and others. The commonest snake is called the maja, is

len and my desire to contribute to the general welfare, health and comfort of the men engaged in the military and naval service of the republic in the present war."

The executive committee of the as-



MRS. ASTOR AND MISS GOULD.

sociation includes a number of society leaders in New York, including Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Miss Helen Gould and Mrs. Daniel Lamont. Originally the plan was to outfit and man a hospital ship with nurses. On application to army and naval officials it was discovered that such a project was impracticable. Secretary Long, Surgeon General Sternberg of the army and Surgeon General Van Ruypen of the navy all advised that the relief association collect funds only, which the authorities would disburse for supplies and nurses as need demanded. General Wesley Merritt lent his influence to further the organization and the association promptly devoted itself to the collection of money. From time to time the surgeon generals will send a list of the objects for which the association's contributions are expended, so that the women may keep in actual touch with every dollar that goes to the relief of the wounded as well as if themselves applying it. Many auxiliaries are already formed.

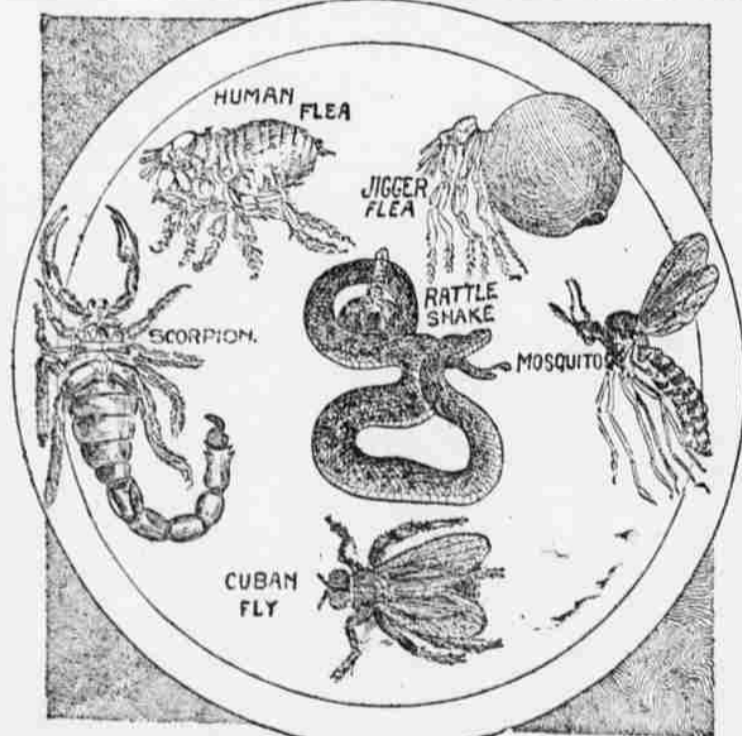
### The Head Claquer.

Jacob Schontag, for forty years head of the claques at the Vienna Opera House, is dead. He knew all the operas of the repertory by heart, knew the strong and weak points of all the artists, and held a rehearsal of his subordinates in the afternoon before the production of an opera, when he drilled them on the parts of a production where their work was to be put in. He watched them during the performance from a seat that commanded a view of the whole house, but never applauded himself, save in desperate cases.

### Births of Rich and Poor.

The birth rate among the very poor of Paris is three times greater than among the very rich, according to statistics compiled by Bertillon. As the social scale declines, there is a corresponding increase.

The ice cream season was invented for spoozy lovers.



SOME OF CUBA'S INSECT PESTS.

eyes and bites savagely. In the neighborhood of woods it is present in such terrible swarms that it is impossible to sleep without some preparation smeared on hands and face. There is also the jejene, or Cuban flea, which is extremely unpleasant and even dangerous, because it seeks to enter the eyes during sleep. Horses and cattle suffer terribly from the attacks of the jejene on their eyelids.

Cuba also harbors the chigoe, or jigger flea. The female of this insect has a habit of burrowing into human flesh

about ten feet long and venomous, but not ferocious.

### WOMEN'S AID IN THE WAR.

Relief Association Furnishing Money for Various Purposes.

It only costs 25 cents to become a member of the Woman's National War Relief Association. For the amount named any woman may secure the privilege of signing this pledge:

"I, the undersigned, hereby declare my allegiance to the United States of Amer-