

ARTILLERY SERVICE

Now Short of Men, Which Proposed Ruling Would Remedy.

SALARIES ARE INADEQUATE

Growing Scarcity of Enlistments and Increasing Number of Desertions Cause Government to Provide Relief.

WASHINGTON, D. C. Jan. 24.—The Coast Artillery bill which now is being considered by the Senate provides for an increase during the next five years of 296 officers of all grades and an increase of 858 field artillerymen. The number of electrician sergeants is increased from 100 to 148. These one hundred electrician sergeants now draw \$34 per month each with allowance. The one hundred and forty-eight provided for in the bill are divided into two classes; seventy four of them will draw \$35 per month, and seventy four will draw \$45 per month each, allowances being made for both classes. The total increase in cost for these special services will be \$30,340. An additional master electrician is provided at a cost of \$300. Sixty engineers are provided at \$780 each per annum, a total of \$46,800. Forty two master gunners at \$409 each, are provided for, the total cost being \$17,136, also sixty firemen at \$360 per annum a total of \$21,600. Slight increases of pay are given as follows: 44 casemakers electricians, \$108 per annum; 44 chief planters \$84 per annum, 44 chief loaders, \$84 per annum; 170 observers, second class, \$84 per annum; 378 gun points, \$34 per annum, all in addition to their present pay, which is that of a Sergeant or Corporal, or \$18 and \$15 per month, respectively, with certain allowances for length of service. In this connection it is worth noting that a gun commander in the coast artillery receives \$34 per month while a turret Captain in the navy gets \$50 to \$70 per month. Gunners in the coast artillery stationed at guns of 8 inches or larger caliber, receive \$2 per month extra for the first class, and \$1 per month for the second class. For guns of four to seven inches in the navy the gun pointers receive \$8 per month for the first class and \$6 per month for the second class, and for three inch or smaller caliber, first class gunners for the coast artillery for all calibers of guns receive only \$2 per month extra for first class gunners and \$1 per month for second class. These figures show that the most poorly paid naval gun pointers receives the same additional compensation as that given to the most highly paid coast artillery gunner.

"Of the forces authorized by law," said Senator Warren, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, "The Artillery Corps is short from thirty to forty per cent because of the inability of the recruiting department of the army to keep the artillery supplied with recruits. This is due to the fact that these men are called on to do so much in consequence of a shortage of men, and get such little compensation for their labor that they will not re-enlist. Many of them desert before their time expires and the officers are becoming somewhat dis-

couraged. Congress has been adding to the defenses from time to time and turning over to the artillery new fortifications and new works, new accessories, new power plants, new electrical installations and new searchlights until it is about to give way under the burden. It can not properly meet the responsibilities it is accumulating about it."

The War Department has ruled that the expense of procuring or preparing abstracts and title papers to lands to be purchased for target ranges and shooting galleries, the cost of necessary services and any other legitimate expenses entailed in securing the con-

sent of owners to sell are proper charges against the amount allowed the State for rifle practice, provided the purchase of the land involved is accomplished. Any buildings essential for storage purposes or for housing caretakers on a State rifle range would be a legitimate charge against the rifle practice appropriation, but the erection of barracks for the accommodation of the State Militia is a matter for the State to take care of.

The War Department has recommended to the House Committee on Military Affairs legislation providing for the equipment of the militia with the type of rifle used by the regular army whenever such type is changed. At the present time the regular army is equipped with what is known as the New Springfield, while the militia is using the old Krag. The War Department is issuing new Springfields to the militia but is charging the cost against the appropriation for the militia in the several States. It is desired to exchange the new guns for the Krags as was done when the Krag replaced the old Springfield, and also to provide that the War Department can do this in future without additional legislation. It is pointed out by the Department that in time of war it is absolutely necessary that the volunteer army and the regular army should be equipped with the same rifle and that is very advisable in time of peace as otherwise two kinds of cartridges must be manufactured. It is impossible to remodel the Krag into a Springfield.

The confirmation of George Bruce Cortelyou as Secretary of the Treasury to succeed Secretary Shaw, on the latter's retirement was a graceful and eminently proper action on the part of the United States Senate. Mr. Cortelyou is not a banker, and in the opinion of many, instead of that being a handicap it is a strong point in his favor. The impression is gaining

ground that the United States Treasury, particularly the banking feature, should be operated for the benefit of the whole country. The Bankers have acted as though the Treasury should be conducted primarily to assist them in their business, calling in deposits, buying or selling bonds, and making loans whenever they thought it necessary. Mr. Cortelyou's past record is sufficient to justify the presumption he will 'make good' as Secretary of the Treasury. A man who started as a stenographer and who has filled the positions of Secretary to the President, Secretary of Commerce and Labor, and Postmaster General, to say nothing of being Chairman of the Republican National Committee, and coming out of the campaign with a surplus, is not likely to fall as Secretary of the Treasury. Through all Mr. Cortelyou has retained the respect of his associates and the affection of his friends, which speaks volumes for him.

The reported determination of Chill, Argentina, and probably several other South American countries, to raise their Ministers here to the rank of ambassadors has caused much comment among the diplomatic corps. The Ambassadors from Germany, England, France and other great countries do not relish the idea that South American diplomats from small countries shall enjoy all the rights and privileges attaching to their positions. It has only been a few years since the United States first had any ambassadors whatever. Not it seems as though we would have a plethora of them.

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Mrs. Pinkham's Invitation to Women
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