

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26.

Each army report, as it comes in, thrums on the string to increase the standing army. Every American admits that our army in case of war is too small, but he will not admit that it is necessary to maintain a standing army on a war footing in time of peace. It is not true that England or France could land 250,000 men in St. Louis before we could hinder. If those nations had the men all ready to embark and had steam up, a lodgment might be effected in America, but while preparations are making to send that number of men here, we need not be idle. It may be proper to get a good gun plant inaugurated and even fill our armories with small arms, but it is not worth while to get frightened before congress meets.

The political battle in New York waxes warm. The democrats, though, are on the defensive and are halting in the middle of the creek to swap horses. Strauss, first nominated for mayor either willingly or unwillingly, has been puffed off the ticket and Grant substituted. This was expected to cause other changes. There are some independent tickets that are giving the machine men no little trouble.

McKinley's visit to the South may result in one good, that of establishing the habit of sending North for speakers who will impart some information to the southern voter other than the trash rehearsed by local demagogues.

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