

The Santiam News

Politically Independent

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

ARMIES AND NAVIES are moved, generally, for a purpose. In times of peace, the purpose is usually disclosed before the movement; but in war, the reverse is true—the purpose is developed by the movement. Practice marches and maneuvers by our army and cruises and maneuvers by our navy, are of annual recurrence. Such is a very essential part of the training of the soldier and sailor. Even mimic war is inaugurated to give this training the best possible trend and the equipping of both army and navy is just the same, excepting that ball cartridges are not used, as if actual war existed.

Last week our country was electrified by an order from Washington to mobilize an army of 20,000 men on the border line of Mexico and for a number of vessels of war to be concentrated within a few hours sail of the east and west ports of Mexico. Both army and navy have been equipped as if going into actual war; in that ball cartridges have been used instead of the blanks used during the ordinary summer maneuvers. If actual war existed between the United States and Mexico our army and navy would not be equipped differently. What does the movement mean?

If, during our civil war, England had mobilized her army on the southern border of Canada and her navy within a few hours sail of our Atlantic and Pacific coasts, we would have regarded such action as being most unfriendly. Indeed, we would have regarded it as a menace and would have rushed preparation to meet, what we would have considered, hostile action. Is not Mexico warranted in entertaining this same view?

Quite a good many citizens of the United States reside, temporarily, in Mexico and they have large property interests in that country. If the lives or property of those citizens were jeopardized, our government might feel in duty bound to extend the arm of protection. But if Associate Press reports are true, the warring factions down there, both federal and insurrecto, have been careful to not molest either life or property of the United States citizen, providing he maintained a neutral position. Of course, if he aided or abetted either faction, he placed himself subject to reprisal by the opposing faction. Therefore, so far as protecting the lives and property of American citizens residing in Mexico is concerned, there is no call for this extremely warlike movement on the part of our government.

But there is a secret purpose behind the movement. No other interpretation is tenable. New York capitalists have large interests in Mexican railway properties. The war in that unhappy country, interferes greatly with railway traffic. This interruption interferes with railway earnings and, consequently, with the payment of dividends. This does not suit the Wall Street railway magnate a little bit. They want the little unpleasantness

brought to an end as quickly as possible and the flow of dividends to be resumed. They care nothing for the Mexican government, providing they are permitted to operate their properties unmolested. May we not here locate the cause of the extraordinary militant movement of last week?

When American citizens invested capital in Mexican properties, they knew the insurrectionary character of the people of that country. They assumed the risk and, of course, all profit arising from the investment is theirs. They knew that a revolution was due every few months and, evidently, considered this hazard when they invested. They are, therefore, entitled, only to such protection as the Mexican government can give them.

If President Taft has inaugurated this military movement at the behest of Wall Street, he has assumed a responsibility which ought to bury his name in a disgraceful oblivion. If our army and navy are to be subject to orders from Wall Street, then our country is on a rush down grade. However, congress will meet in three weeks and the people will be heard from later on. A small effort will start a blaze which a Hercules can hardly subdue.

TO PRESERVE EARLY LINN COUNTY HISTORY

OVER AT ALBANY an association has been formed to collate the early history of Linn county. The News believes the matter has been undertaken about twenty-five years too late; but, on the principle of "better late than never" the work has been undertaken.

It is desired that all old settlers, their wives, sons or daughters, write up all of their remembrance of early Linn county events, the vicissitudes of the first settlers, etc. This should cover a period of from, say 1855 reaching back to the very earliest settlers.

It is known that the first school districts were organized in the forks of the Santiam and, it is fair to presume that the settlers of this section of the county were among the first.

At all events, the NEWS will be glad to publish any reminiscences, which any of our early settlers may desire published. This is a matter of history which will be interesting and instructive to everyone. It is something which will be treasured by the descendants of all of the first families, as well as others.

We will gladly devote one or more columns every week to this laudable purpose. We want to know what you remember about the country, the people and everything pertaining to the first settling of the country. Do not hesitate to write. If your manuscript needs correcting, we will gladly correct it. We, who came later, want to know about these early events.

Every article written about these early times, will be preserved and, later on, published in book form.

Governor West seems to be a man who has a mind of his own and is not afraid to express it. Nor can he be intimidated through ridicule. He may, and doubtless will, make mistakes occasionally; but so long as the people feel that his heart is with them when acting officially, he need have no fear of the future. The people do not forget an official who is true to their interests.

A church dedicated to the memory of Jason Lee, a pioneer missionary, teacher and preacher of the Willamette Valley, is to be built in Salem the scene of his strenuous labors in a past era. The building will be a suitable monument to the devotion of a man who proved his worth by his endeavor.—Oregonian.

Our friends who, as committeemen, have the North Santiam wagon bridge project in hand, should get busy with the courts at the April session. We want the bridge and want it very earnestly and insistently this year.

D. S. Smith is now serving his fourth term as sheriff of Linn county, three of which terms have been in succession. This is a compliment paid a public official, never extended before in Linn county.

Every citizen of Scio should read, carefully, the proposed new charter which will be placed in their hands next week. You cannot vote intelligently upon the matter, unless you do.

When congress meets, next month, we may expect to ascertain what was the purpose of mobilizing an army on the Texas frontier and outfitted as if upon a mission of actual war.

ABSTRACTS OF TITLE

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