THE ARMY.

What the Secretary of War Has to Say in His Annual Report.

The Growing Importance and Efficiency of the Signal Service.

An Increase of Engineers Necessary to Operate Our Torpedo Defenses.

The Militia and the Arsenals---Larger Appropriations Needed.

Urgent Recommendations as to the Seacoast Defenses.

Various Other Matters to Which the Attention of Congress Is Called.

THE ARMY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6.—The following comprises all the important features in the report of the Secretary of War on the operations of the Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875:

NOV. 22, 1875.—*Mr. President:* I am gratified to be able to state that, since my last annual report, a marked improvement has taken place in the morale of the service. The army is now reduced to 21,000 men. Recruiting was resumed in November, 1874, for the purpose of keeping up the standard number, and, under a careful system in the selection of the men, the class of recruits since enlisted is of a superior quality. The number of desertions is a less largely relative, being about 2,100 less than during the previous year, while the number of re-enlistments has increased nearly threefold. The state of contentment thus shown is due, in a great measure, to the excellent system of pay established, which is now graduated by lapse of service, and accords the soldier a fair opportunity to deposit his savings with the Government, and receive interest for the same until the end of his term.

THE SIGNAL SERVICE.

During the past year, 104 signal-stations have been maintained, to all the system of stations of observation from which reports are necessary to enable warning to be given of the approach and force of storms and of other meteoric changes, for the benefit of agricultural and commercial interests. A series of daily telegraphic reports from stations in the West Indies, extending from Cuba, by Jamaica, to Barbadoes and the Windward Islands, has been arranged for.

The issue of the usual publications from the office of the Signal-Officer, from the reports there received, has continued during the year. A minute examination of these deductions, and a comparison with the meteoric changes afterward occurring within the districts to which each has had reference, have given the average percentage of 77 to 83 in favor. A comparison of this percentage with average percentages of preceding years exhibits an improvement in accuracy with each succeeding year.

The display of cautionary day and night signals upon the Lakes, and at the great ports of the United States upon the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, has been made systematically on occasions of approaching storm danger. Of the total number of cautionary signals thus displayed, 76 per cent has been afterwards reported as justified.

In pursuance of the acts of Congress as proved respectively June 3, 1874, June 23, 1874, and March 3, 1875, authorizing the construction and operation of telegraphic lines in the interior and upon the frontier, connecting military posts, and for the protection of the populations from Indian and other depredations, officers and enlisted men of the Signal Service have been detailed for the construction and operation of the lines, and have entered upon their duties. The work of construction has been in great part done under the general direction of officers of the Signal Service by additional details furnished by Department-Commanders. The lines in Arizona from the Texas border, and in the Indian Territory, already partly constructed, are approaching completion. Permanent benefit will result from the connection of military posts by telegraph, and will greatly increase the protection of frontier villages upon the lines and the country through which they pass.

The question of the useful pre-announcement of approaching meteoric changes may be considered as determined by now five years' successful service. With each year of labor the paths for improvement open more plainly. What was conjecture becomes certainty. The co-operation of all active men is assured, both at home and abroad. The success of the past is a sure index of the results of the future.

The Chief Signal-Officer makes an elaborate statement, accompanied by a strong recommendation that the Signal Corps be established to form one of the Bureaus of the War Department. I shall, during this present session, present to Congress a plan for the establishment of a bureau of this character, which, in my judgment, the results of the past five years have rendered necessary, and which I am sure the people of the country will readily sanction.

NATIONAL CEMETERIES.

The total number of interments in National Cemeteries on June 30, 1875, was 366,063. The total number of head-stones finished to this date is 63,112. This work is being vigorously prosecuted.

RELIEF OF GRASSHOPPER SUFFERERS.

Under the authority conferred by the act of Congress approved Feb. 12, 1875, for the relief of persons from the ravages of grasshoppers, the appropriation was placed under the charge of the Commissary-General of the Subsistence Department, with instructions for the purchase and issue of food to the sufferers within the respective military departments. During the period when destitution from the cause referred to was greatest, 1,767,-168 rations were issued to 61,093 adults, and 41,942 children under 12 years of age, residing in the States of Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas, and the Territories of Dakota and Colorado. Of the sum of $150,000 appropriated by Congress, $132,877.00 was disbursed for the purpose contemplated by the act, and $17,123.1 was returned to the Treasury.

THE WORKS FOR THE DEFENSE OF OUR SEABOARD, under the Engineer Department, have progressed satisfactorily and as rapidly as the means provided would admit. The class of works adopted in 1869 are heavy earth-batteries, thoroughly protected, and arranged for guns and mortars suitable to resist the attack of the most powerful ironclads. Already some of the positions selected, particularly in the larger commercial ports, have a large proportion of their gun-positions prepared. The estimates are for continuing these works, some of them to completion.

THE BATTALION OF ENGINEERS,

under the law of June 16, 1874, reducing the army, has been limited to 200 enlisted men. The number, in the opinion of the Chief of Engineers, is too small for the efficient performance of the duties required in time of war. If war should occur with a maritime power, the want of trained soldiers to plant and operate our torpedo-defenses would be seriously felt; and it is submitted whether the needs of this branch of the service may not justify a minimum organization of the battalion of not less than 500 enlisted men. For the torpedo service alone, that number is requisite. The duty requires an intelligence and training which cannot be supplied in emergency.

The trials with torpedoes have continued, and have confirmed the previous views expressed of the importance of this auxiliary in the defense of our harbors, as well as the certainty that their use in time of war will prevent an enemy's vessels from running past our batteries, and will enable us to hold them under the fire of our artillery.

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

The 4th section of the last River and Harbor act authorizes James B. Eads, with such others as may be associated with him, under certain conditions, to construct such permanent jetties and such auxiliary works as may be necessary to secure and maintain a wide, deep, and permanent channel between the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, through the South Pass of the river.

All the provisions of the section preliminary to the execution of the work have been carried out. The report of the survey directed by the act to be made by the Coast Survey have been received from the Superintendent of that service, and were supplied to Mr. Eads. An officer of engineers, Maj. C. B. Comstock, has been detailed, whose duty it is, under the law, "to report the depth of water and width of channel secured and maintained from time to time in said channel, together with such other information" respecting the progress of the improvement, materials used, and chances for and permanence of the works, as may be necessary to keep Congress fully informed and advised. To enable this officer to make the required surveys and inspections, an annual appropriation is necessary, the estimates for which may be found in the report of the Chief of Engineers, which also contains further information in regard to the work. The amount required for these surveys and examinations during the present fiscal year is $10,000; and, as no means for them have as yet been provided, the appropriation of that sum is recommended to be made at the earliest day practicable after the meeting of Congress.

By letter of the 20th of June, Mr. Eads informed me that he commenced on June 14 the construction of works at the bar of the South Pass, and that the provisional works for the construction of the east jetty had already been extended 1,020 feet.

In the improvement of the Mississippi River, the want of a detailed and accurate survey has long been felt. The need of such a survey is becoming more and more urgent from year to year, as engineering improvements in aid of commerce become necessary. The partial surveys of detached portions of the river, which have from time to time been made for special improvements, are not sufficient for the discussion of plans for protecting the river against floods,—a question which is now of such importance,—or for other general engineer improvements, which should be based on detailed maps, exhibiting not only the configuration of the river at the time of the survey, but giving the means of discovering future changes. The organization and instruments of the Lake-Survey furnish the means of making the survey of the river accurately and economically, and I recommend that the work be placed in its hands.

EXPLORATIONS AND SURVEYS.

The preparation of the report of the geological exploration of the 40th parallel has been somewhat retarded by the delay in completing the necessary paleontological studies; but the engraving of the geological atlas has been commenced, and the topographical atlas will be completed before the end of the current year, as well as the text of this important work.

The geographical explorations and surveys west of the 100th meridian, under the War Department, have been in progress since my last report. At the beginning of the fiscal year, the main divisions of the survey were about leaving Pueblo, Col., for fields of operations in Southern and Southwestern Colorado, Northern and Northwestern New Mexico, and Northeastern Arizona, where connections were made with the work of former years. At the termination in November and December, 1874, of the season's work in these localities, the parties were disbanded at Pueblo, and a portion of the assistants were engaged in this city in preparing the maps and other results of the survey for publication. The field-work of the present season was divided into two main sections, with the intention of surveying tracts in Colorado and California; and an officer with a special party was detailed to make a preliminary instrumental survey, with a view to a complete examination as to the feasibility of diverting the waters of the Blue River to Colorado for the purposes of irrigation; and it is hoped that a report, accompanied by estimates of the cost, will be received from the officer in charge of the party in time to be transmitted to Congress at the coming session. Two of the six quarto volumes of the reports of the survey which were authorized by Congress are in the hands of the printer, and the others are in an advanced state of preparation. The publication of the topographical and geological atlas-sheets is progressing satisfactorily. The main objects of this survey are the preparation and dissemination of reliable detailed topographical maps of the interior of the country, and reports as to the resources of the regions surveyed. For the latter purpose, competent scientists in the specialties of geology, mineralogy, paleontology, zoology, and botany, accompany the surveying parties, with little increase of expense in connection with the amount of information gained by them. The topographical maps, which form an important result of this survey, furnish information useful to the military service and to other branches of the Government, and especially to the immigrants who are rapidly settling the great valleys west of the Mississippi; and the appropriation asked for its continuance is recommended.

THE ESTIMATES OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS are submitted separately, as presented by that officer, viz.:

Fortifications and other works of defense	$ 2,014,000
Public buildings and grounds and Washington Aqueduct	714,474
Surveys	150,000
Engineer depot at Willet's Point, N. Y.	15,000
Office expenses	31,800
Improvement of rivers and harbors	14,291,100
Total	$17,226,374

For several years past I have called attention to the necessity of an increase in the annual appropriation for

ARMING AND EQUIPPING THE MILITIA.

The annual appropriation of $ 400,000 was made in 1808, when the population was about 8,000,000. At the present time, with a population of over 40,000,000, the amount appropriated is still the same; and it is impossible for this Department to meet all the demands made upon it by the States and Territories. If it be the intention and desire of Congress, as expressed in the act of 1808, to provide arms and military equipments for the whole body of the militia of the United States," then the necessary means ought to be supplied by largely increasing the annual appropriation. The last official report gives the aggregate strength of the militia of the United States: Organized, 84,121; unorganized, 3,101,-977; and there is little doubt that, were "arms and military equipments" more freely supplied, the organized force would be largely augmented. The hope is entertained that this may receive the attention of the proper committee of Congress, and that further legislation may be had at its next session.

Congress, at its last session, in "An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, and for other purposes," provided for an examination into the condition of the United States

ARSENALS EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER,

with a view of ascertaining how many could be sold without interfering with the necessities of the military service, together with an estimate of the amount that would be realized from their sale should it be directed by Congress.

The Board appointed under this law recommends the immediate sale of Pikesville Arsenal, Maryland, as being badly located, and of insufficient capacity for storage to justify the expenditures necessary to keep it in repair. The Detroit Arsenal having been turned over to the Interior Department for sale, and the Columbus Arsenal transferred to the general recruiting service for depot purposes, the retention of all the remaining arsenals east of the Mississippi River is recommended as essential for the necessities and proper service of the Ordnance Department, unless the plan of concentration proposed by the Board on Arsenals in 1874 be carried out. The plan consists in the establishment of a Grand Arsenal of Construction in the vicinity of New York City, retaining the Springfield Armory and the Frankford Arsenal as adjuncts for manufacturing purposes; retaining also the Watervliet Arsenal, Indiana; Kennebec Arsenal, Maine; Fort Monroe Arsenal, Virginia; and Augusta Arsenal, Georgia, as places for storage and repair; and selling the Allegheny, Watervliet, Watertown, and Washington Arsenals as rapidly as circumstances will permit,—the proceeds of such sales to go toward the purchase of a site, and the erection of shops, storehouses, and quarters for the Grand Arsenal. The amount that can probably be realized from the sales will be over $3,000,000.

THE ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL,

in its present uncompleted state, now supplies all the militia of most of the States and Territories drained by the great river and its tributaries, many of the fortresses that guard the coast-line of the Gulf of Mexico, and more than one-half of such arms as are scattered from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains and beyond. When completed and fully equipped as a manufacturing arsenal, its capacity will equal the supplying of all the armies that may be organized in the Mississippi Valley in any war of the greatest magnitude. A visit to this arsenal in October last gave me an opportunity, to some extent, to satisfy myself as to the manner in which the appropriation made therefor had been expended, and as to the progress of the various buildings connected with the establishment. The location of the arsenal is admirable, and as rapid progress as possible has been made toward the completion of a large number of the most necessary buildings. I was very much impressed with the satisfactory manner in which the improvements had been conducted; and am certain that with the intelligence and ability given to the work which has been shown by the former and present commanding officers of that station, the result will be of great benefit to the country, and that the magnitude of the undertaking will be fully equaled by the importance of the results to be accomplished.

For the safe custody of the records of the office of the Subsistence Department, with instructions for the purchase and issue of food to the sufferers within the respective military departments. During the period when destitution from the cause referred to was greatest, 1,767,-168 rations were issued to 61,093 adults, and 41,942 children under 12 years of age, residing in the States of Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, and Kansas, and the Territories of Dakota and Colorado. Of the sum of $150,000 appropriated by Congress, $132,877.00 was disbursed for the purpose contemplated by the act, and $17,123.1 was returned to the Treasury.

MAGAZINE FOR THE STORAGE OF GUNPOWDER.

The only powder-depot for the use of the Department is located at the St. Louis Arsenal, Missouri, on the large Government reservation a few miles south of the latter; but it is too remote from the Atlantic seaboard to be of use to our wants in the Eastern section of the country. Another depot is absolutely indispensable, to be located at some convenient point far away from our large cities and closely-populated neighborhoods, but at a convenient distance from water-transportation on the Atlantic coast.

The entire army has been supplied with

NEW RIFLES AND CARBINES,

caliber .45, and we have now in store a reserve supply of these arms of 26,000. At the end of the present fiscal year our reserve supply may reach a total of 40,000 arms of the new model and calibre,—about enough, in case of war, to arm one Army-corps. Our soldiers should be armed with the best weapon that ingenuity and workmanship can produce; and in our country, where armies are to be improvised, made up on the instant by recruits from the anvil and the plow, the want of military discipline and training should be as much as possible compensated for by the quality of the weapon the soldier is to use. Our arsenals should, therefore, be well stocked at all times with a large reserve supply of the best rifles and carbines.

During the past year the

ARMAMENT OF OUR SEACOAST DEFENSE

has engaged the attention of the Department, and a Board of distinguished ordnance officers has been in session, endeavoring to obtain all the data possible with the very meagre resources at its command. Its report of Dec. 14, 1874, was sent to Congress by the President in a special message, urging "the absolute necessity for immediate provision by Congress for the procurement of heavy cannon"; adding that "The constant appeals for legislation on the armament of fortifications ought no longer be disregarded, and Congress desires in peace to prepare the important material without which future wars must inevitably lead to disaster." An appropriation of $75,000 was all that was obtained from Congress; and the attention of that body to this important subject is urgently recommended, and an appropriation of the money estimated for is strongly pressed upon its consideration.

THE REPORT OF THE GENERAL OF THE ARMY

refers to the recent incursions of the reservation of Sioux into Northern Nebraska, mostly to steal cattle and horses from farms along the Pacific Railroad and north of it; to the severe and arduous winter-campaign against the Kiowa, Cheyenne, and Comanche Indians, on the border of the Staked Plains, which resulted in their disarmament and subjection to authority; and to the thieving incursions of Indians and Mexicans upon the exposed border of Texas, on the Lower Rio Grande, for the campaign against the predatory Indians last referred to is now being vigorously prosecuted. It is believed that the particular bands against whom military operations are being conducted come from Mexico, and, following their usual custom, have, after depredating on the settlements of Northwestern Texas, returned to the edge of and into the Staked Plains. No decisive result has yet been obtained from these operations.

The report of the Commanding General of the

DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS

contains detailed information concerning the difficulties which have existed such excitement on the Lower Rio Grande, where some of the most prominent officers and wealthy merchants of that part of Mexico appear to be regularly engaged in fitting out parties to plunder the stock-ranches on this side of the river. The order of interior duty on good daylight of several influential citizens, including United States officials and soldiers, and other dastardly outrages on the part of those vagrant Mexicans, were made by the Division-Commander, who invites attention to the grave character of the invasions, and the importance of prompt and decisive measures on the part of the Government for their suppression. Many of the reports from that locality are probably sensational in character, and are believed to have been instigated by parties whose personal interests would be subserved by the presence of more troops on the borders of Texas; but many others are of undoubted reliability, and measures have been instituted by the Department-Commander, under orders from superior authority, to preserve the integrity of, and enforce a proper regard for, the territory of the United States.

The Commanding General of the

DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI

reports the successful termination of the campaign against the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Kiowas, Comanches, and other bands of Indians in the Southwest. The Cheyennes, under their principal Chief, Stone Calf, surrendered themselves as prisoners of war, restoring the captive children whose parents had been murdered by them. A remnant of this band, comprising the worst criminals, refused to recognize the authority of their principal Chief, and attempted to reach the Sioux country, but were later opted, and, after a stubborn resistance, were secured.

With the exception of the Ute, who have been peaceful for the last few years, all the Indians in the Department of the Missouri are now on their reservations.

Gen. Pope recommends the abandonment of the small posts in his department, which are not necessary for the defense, and whose duty required of troops, which greatly increase the expense of the military establishment, and often result in positive injury to the discipline and efficiency of the troops stationed there. The abandonment of some of these is in contemplation, and will be effected as soon as accommodations at the larger posts can be secured, and the public interests committed to their charge will permit.

The report of the Commanding General of the

DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE

foreshadows trouble between the miners and the Indians in the region of country known as the "Black Hills," unless something is done to obtain possession of that section for the white miners, who have been strongly attracted there by reports of rich deposits of the precious metals. Until this obtains from the Department, the utmost vigilance has been exercised to keep all unauthorized persons from encroaching upon the reservation embracing within its boundaries the Black Hills, with only partial success, though, in some instances, very stringent measures were resorted to. During the past year, earnest efforts have been made to induce the Sioux to relinquish their treaty rights to the territory in question, but without success. While this question remains unsettled, the Department will use every exertion to prevent collision between white intruders upon the reservation and the Indians occupying it.

The report of the Commanding General of the

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

treats mainly of Indian affairs, which the recent hostilities in that section, and the requisitions of the Indian Department for troops to aid in carrying into effect the orders and policy of its agents, have brought into more prominence in that Territory than in other parts of the country. He speaks with commendation of the good results that have been obtained from the working of the Arizona telegraph-line, which is being extended from Camps Verde and Lowell to Camps Grant, San Carlos, and Apache, and thence into New Mexico. He reports that the increased security to the inhabitants of Arizona resulting from the recent military operations against the Indians has encouraged immigration, and the population of the Territory has largely increased in the past year. The settlers have felt safe to bring in stock, which has been materially augmented during the summer. Miners have felt secure in their pursuits, and consequently many valuable mines, particularly of silver, have been discovered and are now being developed. He thinks that, with a few years of peace and with increased facilities of transportation, the Territory will develop into one of the most productive of those yielding the precious metals.

DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA.

Owing to the determination of miners to the headwaters of the Salmon River, attracted by the discovery of gold in that portion of the country, and to prevent the occurrence of difficulties between them and the Indians, who annually resort there, Fort Wrangle was established as a military post, Aug. 1, and garrisoned by a company.

The Commanding the Department of the Columbia renews his recommendations that the attention of Congress be invited to the present anomalous condition of the Territory of Alaska, which, under recent decisions, is nearly without the jurisdiction of the courts of law. The Government—a military officer acting as Indian Agent—has neither laws nor rights, or citizens of other Territories. Peace can be preserved between Indians and whites by the army, but that authority itself is called in question by the United States District Court. If the army is to govern the Territory, Congress should clearly establish that fact by appropriate legislation. The Commanding General renews a former recommendation that Alaska be attached to Washington Territory as a county, and brought under its civil government; and that facilities for judging of the necessities of that action are such as to give great weight to the suggestion.

The report of the Commanding General of the

DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC

calls attention to the steps that have been taken to carry out the provisions of the act of March 30, 1875, relative to the establishment of a National Park on the Island of Mackinac, Michigan. It is probable that, owing to this legislation, the capacity of the fort for troops will have to be increased, and another company of infantry stationed there.

EXPENDITURES AND ESTIMATES.

The actual expenditures of the War Department for the year ending June 30, 1875, including river and harbor improvements, were.....$43,226,314.71

The same for the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1875, were.....41,277,375.28

Showing a reduction of.....$ 1,948,939.43

The estimates for the military establishment for the ensuing fiscal year, ending June 30, 1877, are.....$33,452,696.50

Those for the current year, ending June 30, 1876, were.....32,488,939.50

Being an increase of.....$ 963,457.00

The appropriations for that purpose for the current fiscal year were.....28,727,407.99

The excess of the amount of the estimates for the ensuing fiscal year over the appropriation for the current fiscal year arises from the fact that, as experience has shown, the appropriations were not sufficient to meet the demands of the service. When the carefully-prepared estimates of the Department—based upon calculations that have been reduced, by a knowledge of the fluctuations of the strength of the army, to an almost mathematical certainty—are materially cut down by Congress, grave embarrassments, such as have recently resulted from the large reduction of the appropriations asked for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, inevitably occur. For the last month of that fiscal year, the unexpended balance of appropriation for pay of the Army was only sufficient to give each officer and soldier about one-half of what they were entitled to for June, 1875, so that there remains due upon contract with the Government the amount necessary to give them the remaining one-half month's pay. The Paymaster-General has been instructed to submit a deficiency-estimate to meet this want. Had the estimates submitted not been cut down several millions by Congress, the appropriations would have sufficed to meet all legal demands upon them, and would have left just little, if any, surplus to be turned into the Treasury as unexpended balances.

Good progress has been made during the year in the preparation of the

OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE WAR OF THE REBELLION,

both in the Federal and Confederate branches.

In order to facilitate the compilation and historical arrangement of the reports and correspondence, it was found necessary to copy and print a few proof-sheets of each document, so that the services of more than one person could be made available on this part of the work; and also in order that, when authentic copies had been printed, the danger of loss by accident or fire, etc., might be avoided.

A large mass of material has been collected, copied, and a great portion of it printed, and, as far as practicable, the printing has been done from original documents, when the nature of the records admitted, without recourse to copying by hand. This matter has not yet received its final arrangement and classification, owing to the difficulty of selecting at the same time papers relating to contemporary subjects. The estimate for the continuation of the work for the next fiscal year is $90,000.

By virtue of an appropriation of $25,000, made by Congress at its last session for the purchase of what is known as the

BRADY COLLECTION OF WAR-VIEWS,

the Department has come into possession of a very large number of negative plates illustrating battle-fields, fortifications, camp-scenes, military positions, the topography of sections of country over which many of our most important military operations were conducted, and photographs of most of the Union and many of the Confederate officers of prominence during the late War. For purposes of illustration, these, of course, are far more accurate than any map could be made, taken as they were upon the ground, very often immediately before, or subsequent to, the engagements the scene of which they picture. As this valuable pictorial history of the War is recorded on glass plates, liable to be utterly destroyed or defaced by accident, the Department has taken measures for securing permanent benefit to the Government from the purchase, and the money appropriated by Congress, by having a few proofs struck off from each plate of importance, and in that way producing a sufficient number of copies of these pictures to secure these views from destruction by any ordinary accident. The attention of Congress is invited to the consideration of the question whether it would not be sufficiently proper to provide for the purchase, at the same time, of such other war-pictures in the collection as may be deemed desirable, and which could only be procured at a subsequent period, when the preparation of which is now in progress in this Department.

Information has been received from different sources that many private individuals have in their possession

IMPORTANT OFFICIAL RECORDS,

principally of the late Confederate Government, which they are willing to dispose of for a consideration, but for the purchase of which there are no funds available at the disposal of this Department. Of course these records are properly the property of the Government; but it seems impossible to obtain the information necessary to their recovery through the Courts, or otherwise than by purchase. No doubt is entertained but that many of these papers contain data that would enable the Government to detect many fraudulent claims, which could only be proven to be such by the special study of these papers; and it is recommended that Congress, by proper legislation, place this Department in a position to recover such as properly belong to its files. As it now is, these Confederate records are so incomplete that the result of the compilation will necessarily be very unsatisfactory to all concerned.

The estimates of the Superintendent of the

MILITARY ACADEMY,

which will be submitted to Congress, have been carefully revised by myself in the interest of economy, and make no demand for appropriation as beyond those necessary for the maintenance of the military establishment as it now stands, save what is found to be necessary for the interests of the service.

My annual visit to the Military Academy confirmed previous impressions as to the efficacy of the new academic regulations and the steady improvement in discipline of the Corps of Cadets. It was gratifying to hear the almost universal commendation bestowed upon the first class for its proficiency in scholarship as well as in all those subjects necessary to the education of a soldier.

I renew the recommendations made in my last annual report for the establishment of a Professorship of Historic and English Literature. The experience of every year but serves to confirm the expediency of this measure, and to show that sooner or later such a Chair will become of absolute necessity.

During the past year, strenuous efforts have been made to bring the corps up to its maximum strength; but the large number of candidates failing to pass the examination has rendered this action of the Department nugatory. It is generally conceded by those conversant with the subject that the standard of examination is not too high, it seems evident, from the large number of failures each year, that some defect exists in the elementary instruction of those appointed.

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK.

On the 24th of February, 1871, the Secretary of War communicated to the Senate of the United States a report made by Lieut. Gustavus C. Doane, Second Regiment of Cavalry, upon the so-called Yellowstone expedition of 1870. I call attention to this expedition and report of Lieut. Doane at this time, for the reason that, during the past summer, in company with a large number of other officers of the Army, I traveled over a large portion of the region which he has described in this report, which region is entered in by way of the Union Pacific Railroad and the Northern Pacific Railroad. On the 1st of March, 1872, all that part of Lieut. Doane had been lately in was purchased by Congress and set apart, and will hereafter be known as the Yellowstone National Park. It is to be a public park or pleasure ground for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, a large tract of land in the Territories of Montana and Wyoming, lying along the headwaters of the Yellowstone. The boundaries and limits are described in the act of Congress setting apart the park, and embraces that portion of the country situated to about whose attractive localities and wonderful objects were first discovered by Lieut. Doane and the party which accompanied him in 1870.

Under the above-named act of Congress, this Park is under the exclusive control of the secretary of the Interior; but it may not be out of place for me to state in this report that it is the wish and desire of this Department to unite with the secretary of the Interior in doing what is possible to do now with the limited appropriation at hand for opening and surveying this region, so appropriately called "Wonder-land." At present it cannot be reached except by long and tiresome travel, off from the usual routes; but when railroads are built in that direction, and when that region is opened to more prompt communication, it will doubtless be the resort each year of thousands of those who tire of city life.

I satisfied myself while there that, with the expenditure of a moderate amount of money, roads could be located so that travel through the Park might be easy and unimpeded. Should an appropriation be made by Congress looking toward the surveying of interior roads, in order that the inaccessible localities of the Park be opened to the public, the War Department could, through its Engineer Corps, with economy and at moderate expense, do much toward accomplishing what is desired, and the roads so made would be important for military uses.

The curiosities in the Park are rapidly being destroyed. How they can be preserved is a problem, but they should be saved; and, if authority were given to the War Department to make a survey of the routes alluded to, and to station one or two companies of troops in or near the Park for the purpose of preventing spoliation, which will otherwise frequently occur, I have no doubt that the result would be satisfactory.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The officer designated, in pursuance of the President's order of Jan. 23, 1874, to take charge of the contribution to be made by the War Department at the International Exhibition of 1876, has labored to organize the means within the Department of making a display of our war-materials equal in extent and variety to any similar contribution to like exhibition in this or foreign countries. Co-operation on the part of the several contributing bureaus has been secured through the medium of officers selected by their respective chiefs. Upon those duties has been superadded that of collecting, arranging, and disposing of the articles and materials designed to be displayed, under the direction of the officer referred to. The total expense of making a full and satisfactory exhibit of our war-materials has heretofore been estimated at $200,000. An estimate for the last session, appropriated only $133,000 of this amount, and burdened the appropriation with a pro-rata share of the expense of any building that might be erected for the accommodation of the entire Government exhibit. Experience has shown that the amount thus left for the practical exhibit of the War Department is inadequate; and I recommend that Congress supplement the appropriation already made with a further one granting sufficient to make up the sum of $200,000 for the practical exhibit of the Department.

WM. W. BELKNAP,
Secretary of War.

KU-KLUX IN OHIO.

Tar and Feathers, and a Little Pistol-Practice.

Correspondence Cincinnati Gazette.

URBANA, O., Dec. 1.—Two months ago mob law was inaugurated in Logan County by the hanging of James Schell at Bellefontaine, and now the first step toward the terrorism of the Ku-Klux has been taken in West Liberty. For many years there has lived there a man by the name of James Owen. He has raised a large family of children, and the whole of them, from father down, have been a reproach to the neighborhood. John Owen, a son, has served a term in the Ohio Penitentiary, and his brother George is now a fugitive from justice. Petty thieving of every description is laid at the doors of the members of the family; hence it is no wonder they do not hold places in the affection of their neighbors. The father is now in the neighborhood of 60 years of age. For a long time he has been in the habit of sallying forth from his home after nightfall and making himself obnoxious by his general "cussedness." A favorite pastime with him was following ladies on the streets, and frightening them by his peculiar behavior. He has been detected several times sneaking about the back windows of residences and peering in for the purpose of seeing ladies preparing for bed. One morning last week he was discovered sneaking about a house in his customary manner, and was confronted by several gentlemen, to whom he denied evil purposes. He was not believed, however, and the story of his detection becoming generally known, there was aroused an intense feeling of indignation against him, which finally grew to a storm, and there was a general expression of the feeling that he deserved swift and heroic punishment. To this feeling then may be attributed the assembling together of about forty men at a late hour Saturday night, who masked themselves and proceeded to Owen's house and called him out, then seized and bound him, and took him to the common some distance away, and after stripping him of his clothing gave him a complete suit of tar, which they ornamented profusely with feathers. The old man begged piteously for mercy, and prayed earnestly and zealously to his Maker, but his torturers would not desist, and threatened to hang him unless he should tell what he knew of numerous robberies that have been committed in the neighborhood. The old man pleaded his innocence, and declared he had no knowledge or the robberies. Then he was released, and the mob returned to his house to look for his son John, with a view to treating him to a new suit like his father's. But John is a wary bird, and, smelling the battle from afar, he quietly stole away "like a thief in the night."

But these brave "Regulators" had their blood up, and must have more sport ere they dispersed. So they cast around for another victim. The lot fell this time to an innocent, law-abiding gentleman, by the name of Jacob Dolby, who came was renting a room for a saloon. Going to his house, the mob called him out, and producing a paper (the contents of which were a peremptory order to the saloon-tenant to vacate the room within five days), they commanded him to sign it. Not comprehending the right of a mob to regulate his business, Mr. Dolby drew a revolver and fired into the crowd, but with no further effect than to draw to himself the fire from a dozen revolvers in the hands of the mobbers. One shot took effect in his thigh, and brought him to the ground, but fortunately the wound was not a serious one. This incident seemed to cool off the mobbing party, and they dispersed without committing further outrages.

How a New Zealander Announces the Death of His Wife.

From Te Wananga, Oct. 2.

FRIEND: Salutations to you. I herewith send you information for your paper. Do not think lightly of it, but give it place in the *Wananga*, so that the relations of this woman, whose death is record, may see it. My wife, Betty Hairmona, died on the 5th of November, 1874. Great is my sorrow at here departing from me, and her relatives who were living near us. She was a woman of rank, of the Ngatiahu tribe. I did not know and had dot any warning of the day when she would depart. But she did on previous day give me certain instructions. She was not a sickly person, though she had been afflicted for the last six years, but God lengthened out her days. Suffice for that; this is my song for her:

Descend, oh son, to thy cave,
While here I weep my tears,
Like streams from mine eyes.

Also another song:

Sing, oh sing the song
To the beloved. Oh where
Is the flint that I may cut myself?

Friend, do not be weary of my words, but give them a place in your paper, and I will send more news in the days to come.

HAIMONA TUANGA.

HOKITIKA, September, 1875.

CITY REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE—A GEM OF A RESIDENCE ON NORTH Clark-st., to be rented to a family; 8 rooms, a perfect home; small cash payment required; also some choice vacant lots; remarkable cheap terms. Call at 55 Dearborn-st.

FOR SALE—GREAT SACRIFICE—COTTAGE, LOT 24x125, Burling-st., near Lincoln-ave.; small cash payment; easy terms. Apply to JACKSON & HOLBROOK, 140 Dearborn.

FOR SALE 3 ELEGANT DREXEL-BOULEVARD, new brick house, large lots, very cheap, would exchange for vacant property in Chicago, if desired. JOHN MULLER, 2 Bryan Block.

FOR SALE—RESIDENCE AND BUSINESS PROPERTY in all parts of the city. R. S. & W. G. McCORMICK, Rooms 1 and 2 Reaper Block.

FOR SALE—FIRST-CLASS COTTAGE AND TWO lots, northeast corner Van Buren-st. and Winchester-av.; call at house; will sell vacant lot, house and lot, or entire property, cheap. Inquire at house.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—TWO GOOD BRICK houses with dwellings in rear, on Twenty-ninth and Dearborn-sts.; will exchange for vacant property. MASON HILL, 36 Washington-st.

FOR SALE—INDIANA-AV., NEAR TWENTIETH-st., 100 feet, a bargain; will sell all or part, and take other property for half the purchase money. MASON HILL, 36 Washington-st.

SUBURBAN REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE—$100 WILL BUY A BEAUTIFUL LOT on Park Ridge; $10 down and $5 a month until paid; one hour from city by railroad. Take the last train out any day for less than fare. Property shown free. IRA BROWN, 152 Lasalle-st., Room 4.

FOR SALE—ON EASY TERMS, OR TO RENT very low, neat and substantial dwellings in Ravenswood and Summerdale; take Lincoln-park-av. horse-cars and frequent trains. R. GREEN, 224 Madison-st.

FOR SALE—22 LOTS NEAR STATION AT SOUTH Englewood, which I will sell at a great sacrifice. THOS. A. HILL, 125 Dearborn-st.

COUNTRY REAL ESTATE.

FOR SALE—TO CLOSE AN ESTATE—80 ACRES OF land and timber in Jackson County, Mich., with stream through center; 7 miles from Jackson, and 2 miles from St. L. S. & R. R. and the lake. Apply to A. W. SPEAR, 49 William-st., New York City.

REAL ESTATE WANTED.

WANTED—FOR CASH, 5 TO 15 LOTS IN RUSSELL'S subdivision of the E. ½ of the S. E. ¼ of Sec. 13, 37, 13. Address A 66, Tribune office.

TO RENT—HOUSES.

TO RENT—OR FOR SALE—NO. 40 CARROLL-AV., new octagon marble front, 14 rooms, modern improvements, fine interior, barn, large lot, etc.; also new brick house, 10 rooms, bath, etc., on Ashland-av., Throop and Adams-sts., and every thing now to good tenant or sold on reasonable terms. This is a first-class neighborhood, near Union Park. S. S. HAYES, 7 Metropolitan Block.

TO RENT—FURNISHED HOUSE, CORNER OF Michigan-av. and Thirteenth-st.; basement and basement, marble front, 14 rooms. To rent to May 1, 1876, if desired. Apply at premises. Apply immediately to WM. H. SAMPSON & CO., 181 Lasalle-st.

TO RENT—HOUSES IN ALL PARTS OF THE CITY, $ story and basems, $20 to $75 per month; 8 story and basements, $25 to $100 per month. E. S. & W. G. McCORMICK, Rooms 1 and 2 Reaper Block.

TO RENT—HOUSES—BRICK—GOOD LOCATIONS; gas, bath, etc.; $16, $18, $22.50, $25, $30, $35, $40, $45, $50, $55, $60. W. L. DAVIS, 153 Randolph-st.

TO RENT—ROOMS.

TO RENT—FIRST FLOOR OF HOUSE, PARTLY furnished, consisting of parlor, dining-room, kitchen, pantry, bed-room, and bath-room, and gas, on Indiana-av., not far from Twenty-second-st.; only small family and without children need apply. Address F 42, Tribune office.

TO RENT—WELL-FURNISHED WARMED ROOMS, $3 per week; breakfast if desired. Knight's Philosophical Publishing House, 121 Fourth-av., between Monroe and Adams-sts.

TO RENT—5 ROOMS, WATER IN KITCHEN, $10; 4 roomed cottage, $10; 3 roomed cottage, $10; at 152 West Harrison-st.

TO RENT—120 AND 122 RANDOLPH-ST., NEAR Clark, nicely furnished rooms cheap, warm building.

TO RENT—HANDSOMELY FURNISHED FRONT parlor, with board, in private family; terms and everything included for $25 a month. 78 South Clinton-st., Room 16.

TO RENT—FURNISHED ROOM AT REASONABLE rates to respectable parties. Inquire of P. F. RYAN, 296 West Madison-st.

TO RENTS—SUITES OF ROOMS FOR HOUSE-keeping in Mendel Block. Terms low. Inquire of janitor, Madison st., Room 1.

TO RENT—NICELY FURNISHED ROOMS, WITH or without board, Kingsbury Block, Randolph-st., near Clark. Apply at Room 56.

TO RENT—STORES