

## U. S. Impregnable Except To Surprise According To War Department Record

Washington, Dec. 9. — (United Press)—The United States is practically impregnable to any attack by any combination of foreign powers, short of a surprise attack, according to a report prepared by Secretary of War Dwight Davis, when he was Assistant Secretary of War and made public today.

"The resources of men and material which are available or which can be made available in case of emergency by the proper system of reserves and prompt strategic and diplomatic action on the occurrence of the emergency," said Davis, "are so preponderant in comparison to those available to any combination of enemy powers that it is certain that no successful attack can be made against the continental United States unless it can be carried out with such rapidity that time is not available for our industrial and military mobilization."

"The tremendous importance of accelerating our mobilization by means of adequate reserves is obvious."

The actual annual cost of the U. S. Army is materially in excess of the present annual appropriation due to the rapid rate of depletion of equipment and supplies left over from the World War, according to Davis.

"Sooner or later this condition will have to be corrected either by means of greater appropriations or by the reduction of War Department activities," Davis said. "Bad as the situation is, the depletion of our War reserves has even a more serious aspect."

Davis pointed out the extensive procurement program of the War Department now being developed as well as plans for the control of transportation in time of war. He declared that it is essential that during any major emergency the railroads of the country be operated under unified control for the greatest efficiency.

## Opens Season On Muskrats

As a staple in the American fur market the muskrat is generally considered the most important fur animal. Since it is also used for meat, it has a claim for preservation as a natural resource. Although injurious in some lo-

calities, for the most part it inhabits places unsuited to agriculture. Muskrats increase much more rapidly than do other fur bearers, and because of their general habits and life in and near water, they are better fitted than most fur animals to maintain their numbers under the little protection now given them.

Open seasons for muskrats last more than three months in 23 States, and in 10 States this animal is still entirely unprotected. In only 11 States is the season three months or less. In two States the muskrat is protected throughout the year. In the opinion of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, muskrats in the United States should not be taken before December 1, and although the fur is still prime when the breeding season is in progress in the latter part of March, continued trapping would greatly affect the number of young animals produced for the next year. The open season recommended by Government biologists is limited to three months, December 1, to March 1, or, in the more northern states, December 15 to March 15.

## Europe's Air Routes Meet In Switzerland

London, Dec. 9. — (United Press)—Switzerland is rapidly becoming the Grand Central Station of Europe for international aerial travel.

No less than ten of the principal European lines, operating under English, French, Belgian, German, Swiss and Austrian management now make Switzerland one of the principal intermediary stops in the various aerial routes.

As a matter of fact all European aerial routes between the aerodromes of Paris, Strasbourg, Brussels, Rotterdam, Mannheim, Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Munich, Vienna and Innsbruck now pass by way of Switzerland.

To take care of the passengers and merchandise that are carried by these lines, the Swiss Government is obliged to maintain four different aerodromes equipped with customs house and customs officers.

Muncie — Students in the high school here don't relish being sent to see Superintendent Frank Allen. Allen has a new police dog which resents the visits very much.

## Natives Of Alaska Little Better Off Since Advent Of Whites

Washington, Dec. 9. — (United Press)—Sanitary conditions in some of the native villages in the Yukon drainage basin of Alaska are deplorable, according to the annual report of the Governor of Alaska, made public by the Interior Department today.

"It is estimated that there are about 4,000 natives and 2,000 white people in the region, exclusive of the Fairbanks district," the report stated.

"In the vast region facilities for medical aid and hospital treatment are inadequate or entirely lacking. Any of these people, so far as sanitation and hygiene are concerned, are not much better off than before the advent of the white man."

The report recommended provision of funds for a house boat to be equipped as a travelling hospital to be used on the river.

A general resumption of gold mining, both placer and lode, was noted in all districts, but exploration of numerous oil areas has failed to produce oil in commercial quantities, the report stated.

Values of fisheries increased about

four percent over the previous year. The chief expansion was in the herring industry. The salmon catch in the central district was 161 percent greater than in 1923, but the catches in the western and southwestern districts showed decreases of 32 and 18 percent. A census of the seal herds showed a substantial gain during the year, the report noted.

Recommendations were made in the report for legislation to permit leasing of public domains for fox farming.

## TYPESETTERS IN BAD HUMOR

Typesetters in Honolulu are reported to be in a bad humor. Following the receipt of news that the Assistant Secretary of Labor had found Lelussuzessze Wilhiminizeiziteizzi, of Folsom, Calif., to be an undesirable alien, there came the news of the birth of a Hawaiian baby in one of the districts of Honolulu, whose parents saw fit to name Ruth Kepihaleokenhuonali Mika Hopeni Hoomanawanui.

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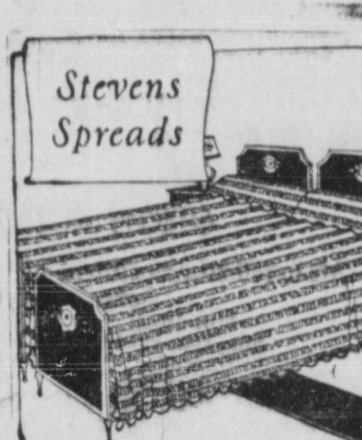
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