

TAFT WILL URGE BOTH NAVAL AND MILITARY REFORM

President Will Soon Send to Congress a Special Message Advocating Some Important Remedies.

MORE EFFICIENCY IS NEEDED IN SERVICES

President Would Revise the Retirement Rules and Would Station Troops Among the Larger Cities.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 31.—President Taft will send a special message to Congress in the next few days advocating measures for bringing about greater efficiency in the land and naval forces of the United States.

These measures have been considered with the utmost care by experts of the two services, and, if enacted into law, they promise to provide the nation with more effective means of defense than it now possesses.

There has been a crying need for some years for a reform of the personnel of the army and navy. In the army, according to the president, there is imperative necessity for a bill providing a method by which the merits of officers shall have some effect upon their promotions and by which the advancement of all may be accelerated by the effective elimination of a definite proportion of the least efficient. This plan has been in operation in the navy since 1899 and it has worked with distinct advantage to the service and the country.

Would Eliminate Incompetents. There are in every army—and, according to the president, certainly in ours—a number of officers who do not violate their duty in such a way as to give a reason for court martial or dismissal, but who do not show such aptitude and skill and character for high command as to justify their remaining in the active service to be promoted.

The president proposes that officers of the army compulsorily retired shall receive a certain proportion of their pay, increasing with their length of service at the time of retirement.

If the plan Mr. Taft will recommend is enacted by Congress, officers will reach the grade of captain at 34 years of age, of major at 44 instead of 51 or more, as at present; of lieutenant colonel at 50 instead of 57, and of colonel at 54 instead of 59.

Revision of Organization.

It is also the purpose of the president to recommend a revision of the laws regulating the organization of our armed forces in the event of war, so as to produce a force which will be more consistently apportioned throughout its numerous branches. This will mean an increase in the number of officers—an increase which is needed for the best interests of the service.

The war department also is anxious for authority to distribute the army throughout the country. It believes the forces should be so located as to permit of their being maintained and administered in the most economical fashion; that they should be stationed in positions from which they can be moved most expeditiously and economically to points of concentration against foreign or domestic enemies, and that they should be so distributed as to be of the greatest value in educating and training the militia and carrying out plans for raising volunteers in case of necessity.

In this connection Secretary of War Dickinson made the following observations in his recent annual report:

"Under the first of the considerations referred to above the natural conclusion would be that the troops should be stationed near great centers of production and supply. Under the second, they should be stationed at great centers of transportation, and under the third they should be distributed in the several states in proportion to their population and organized militia."

Cities as Natural Centers.

"Each state has one or more centers of supply at which troops could be economically maintained. These centers of supply, are as a rule, centers

EARL OF MINTO WILL PUT BRIDLE ON PRESS



SALOONISTS PAID PENANCE IN PEWS

Indianapolis Violators Hear Sermons and Can Now Open Up Places.

TOLD "GO, SIN NO MORE."

NOVEL PUNISHMENT DEALT OUT BY MAYOR SHANK TO MEN IN CAPITAL CITY WHO SOLD BOOZE ON SUNDAYS.

Indianapolis, Jan. 31.—The saloonkeepers who were sentenced by Mayor Shank on Thursday to attend church yesterday, because they had violated the law Sunday a week ago by keeping their saloons open, paid the full penalties of their wrong, and today they reopened their bars and did business at the old stands.

Marion Cummins, however, had to first bring a letter to the mayor and it was written by the minister whose sermon he heard. It stated that the guilty saloon keeper was at the service. This the saloon man was prepared to do, as he made arrangements yesterday with a minister in order that he might be identified in the congregation, and thus run no risk of not getting the letter.

Find It Is Day of Rest.

Jerry Stenfcl, Joseph Klemenc and Joseph Kreher, who were placed in charge of Rev. John Smolley of Holy Trinity church, learned when Sunday comes and that the day is a day of rest. The minister explained to them very carefully that they must obey the mayor and that their saloons must not be opened until Monday morning and that it would be well for them to keep themselves in touch with some one who could testify to their good behavior. The three men readily submitted themselves to the minister's guidance, and they were seated in the church when the services began and remained till they were concluded. To make sure that they would avoid even the appearance of evil they remained away from the proximity of their saloons and spent the afternoon at the home of a church member designated by the minister.

Marion Cummins, who admitted to the mayor that he had not attended church since he entered the saloon business, created a sensation when he entered the Columbia Avenue Methodist church with his wife by his side. Mrs. Cummins is a regular attendant, and the audience smiled as her husband appeared with her.

"Go and Sin No More."

The pastor, Rev. James Hixson, raised his eyes and then dropped his gaze from the chair. He knew Cummins was coming, and this afternoon Cummins called at his house and received the coveted letter to the mayor. The service was short, the minister delivering a short sermon from the text, "Go and sin no more." It had been selected earlier in the week, and the minister did not see any reason to change his text because the saloon man was present under such peculiar circumstances.

PRESIDENT TAFT THINKS WELL OF A POLAR SEARCH

(Continued From Page One.)

This seems to have been the farthest south Wilkes reached.

The Shackleton expedition penetrated as far south as latitude 88 degrees 23 seconds, which the English lieutenant estimated was within nine miles of the pole.

Wilkes, of course, was not trying to discover the pole, but merely seeking to make a survey of the antarctic ocean.

Bitter Quarrel Is Started.

Upon his return to the United States, Wilkes prepared a chart showing the character of land he had discovered. He gave a copy of the chart to Capt. Ross, the great British navigator, who expressed surprise that an officer of the American navy should have chosen to follow the route he had selected, knowing that an expedition was being prepared under his command to make a southward exploration. Ross also declared he had sailed on a clear sea, where the Wilkes chart laid down mountainous land.

With reference to his entrance into the same region that Ross afterwards penetrated, Wilkes asserted he had received his orders eight months before Ross was given his instructions, and that the American congress had passed a law authorizing his expedition prior to the time of the meeting of a British scientific commission, whose deliberations led to the organization of the Ross venture. With regard to Ross' criticism of his chart, Wilkes charged that the Englishman deliberately had falsified it.

Since the time of Wilkes no American expedition has been south of the Antarctic circle. It is deemed important now for the United States to take part in the work of clearing up the mystery surrounding the unknown features of the globe and to remove all doubt as to the results of the first American discoveries in the ice clad region surrounding the southern pole.

Mixed.

Edith, aged six, had just been informed that twin boys had been added to the family.

"That's funny," she mused. "Ethel and I both prayed for a baby brother, but we thought it was the same one."

—Everybody's.

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