

SERVICE SUPPLY STATIONS TO BE LOCATED BY U. S.

A Series of Bases for Military and Naval Supplies to Be Erected Along Coasts of the Country.

EVEN DIXIELAND TO HAVE ITS STATIONS

Although No Military Supplies Have Been Kept in the South for Years Because of Poor Harbors.

BY SIDNEY ESPEY.

Washington, July 23.—A series of naval bases and military magazines for the storage of supplies for the army from Maine, around the gulf states and up the Pacific coast to Puget Sound, is one of the few plans that will be worked out in the future by the war and navy departments. Up to the present time military stores of all kinds have been kept in arsenals located throughout the states north of the Mason-Dixon line, while naval bases following the coasts are generally situated in what has become known as the North.

Since the Civil war, military stores of all kinds have never been located in southern territory, nor is there a naval base from Newport News, Va., to Galveston, Tex., with the exception of coaling stations at Pensacola and Key West, Fla. Through a general reorganization scheme, however, which as yet has not even reached tentative plans, a system of naval bases and arsenals will eventually wind themselves from the northern-most port of the United States in Maine, on the Atlantic side to Galveston, Texas, and from Puget Sound to Los Angeles, Calif., on the Pacific.

Southern Ports Poor.

Naval officers in discussing the new propaganda of the departments to not believe that sectional feeling has in any way entered into a prohibition of locating bases in the South. It is pointed out that very few Southern cities offer facilities of sufficient depth to permit of easy access to the big battleships now being used by the navy, or the procurement of skilled laborers. Charleston, Pensacola, Mobile, New Orleans and Galveston, are each cited as examples of cities whose harbors are not of the required depth to permit of ship evolution.

Since the interests, however, of the United States in both Central and South America have attained such importance, the advisability of establishing a modern naval base in some of the southern states has been deemed necessary. Pensacola, which has the best harbor in the Gulf, it is said, will be one of the first cities to have a naval station. A coaling station is located there now. As American commercial interests spread in the southern countries, other naval bases will be established. The army too will follow suit and as naval bases are established, it is the intention to locate an arsenal at the same place capable of holding enough munitions of war to supply troops quickly who happen to be called out of the country.

New Coaling Stations.

At present the navy department has obtained through purchase and by courtesy, the privileges of coaling stations and naval bases in some of the Central and South American seaboard countries. In Cuba, the navy has a base at Guantanamo equipped with docking facilities and a repair shop and in other points coaling stations have been located. The difficulty there, however, is the same that has been generally experienced in the South—the lack of skilled laborers. It follows, however, according to Secretary of the Navy Meyer, that if a naval base is located in the South, plenty of skilled laborers as well as unskilled laborers will be easily obtainable.

The building of the Panama Canal, while it will be fortified by the army, needs the aid of the navy, it is said, and a further argument is advanced

by naval officers that some nearby fully equipped base is imperative.

The point is brought out by certain officers that if it is imperative to add to the protection of the Canal zone, the strength of the navy, why not make a naval base on each side of the Canal and do away with the number of naval bases suggested in Southern states where they could only be established through the expenditure of large sums of money for harbor improvements? The advocates of the other plan advance the reason that the nearer home a permanent base is located, the better.

A Combined Board.

Just what disposition of the subject will be made is of course uncertain at this time. It will in all probability be worked out by a combined board composed of army and navy experts.

During the present difficulties with Nicaragua, naval expeditions which have been sent there have generally been fitted out at Philadelphia thus extending the trip to Central America by at least three days. Later vessels used Panama as a coaling base. Some vessels have had to make the trip to Guantanamo where they have been repaired temporarily under much difficulty, owing to the limited capabilities of the station. It is pointed out, that at New Orleans or Galveston, a day and a half sail further from San Juan, Nicaragua, than Santiago, a vessel could be placed in commission much faster and much more satisfactorily.

At all events, the navy department will endeavor to have some action looking to the establishment of naval bases in the South taken at the next session of congress, but it is said, it will not ask that any appropriation be made for extensive work until after a complete board of army and naval experts pass upon the advisability of the scheme.

On the Pacific, the question it is said has resolved itself into the establishment of at least one more yard, there being naval bases now at Puget Sound and San Francisco. The third base is needed as an auxiliary base in the event that other yards are too crowded.

Couple of "Lemons." The navy department has a couple of "lemons" on its hands, not the yellow kind with the acid taste, but several big lime-like propositions that have caused Paymaster General Thos. Jefferson Cowie a few uneasy days. Unfortunately for him, his source of trouble was a heritage from Paymaster General E. B. Rodgers, retired, who

was formerly in charge of the Bureau of Supplies of the navy.

Sometime ago vast quantities of brown powder was purchased by the department to be used for certain guns in experiments with explosive shells "after contrast." The experiments demonstrated the unfitness of the powder and its use was discontinued. Subsequent naval appropriations have been small and for the navy department to have thousands of dollars tied up in worthless powder, is a heavy blow to the ambitious secretary of the navy, Meyer.

Paymaster Cowie has tried to sell the store of powder to the army but

the wisesacres smiled. He attempted to saddle his troubles on the various quarry men but to no purpose.

His other heritage will fall to the lot of all subsequent paymasters—the disposition of dilapidated ships of the navy. At present the department is up against a proposition to dispose of the Boston, Detroit and Winslow. Naval officers say that they are utterly worthless for anything except as coal barges.

In this way, it is estimated that more than \$2,000,000 of hitherto valuable property will pass out of the hands of the navy with practically no return, thereby shattering the hopes

of a number of pet plans which have been urged upon Secretary Meyer and for which this "salvage" money could be used.

That fine old cup defender, Volunteer, which was bought by Captain Barr last year, has been sold to a firm of wreckers, who will break her up for the value of the lead and fittings.

PALLADIUM WANT ADS PAY.

A Different Family. Some ladies were visiting the Boston Art museum when one of them showed a lively interest in some large plants which had been placed there for decorative purposes. She turned to one of the elderly retainers and asked eagerly, "These plants belong to the banana family, do they not?" With scorn and injured pride the veteran attendant answered coldly, "No, they belong to General Loring."

England's Roman Amphitheater. Dorchester possesses the best preserved Roman amphitheater in England, in which over 10,000 people gathered in 1705 to witness the burning of a woman who had murdered her husband. Dorchester was a place of importance as early as the Roman occupation, and at a later date it had an unavoidable association with Judge Jeffreys and his bloody assize.

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A very few of the exceptional savings are gone, but most of the lots we offered at the biggest reductions still have a number of sizes and styles in them so that you stand an excellent show of finding your size in just what you want.

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Ladies' tan shoes, both oxfords and high shoes that were sold at \$3.50 and \$4 go now for \$1.45.

One lot of \$3.50 Evening Slippers that were \$3.50, now \$1.65.

All \$5 ladies' pumps and oxfords including some very new shipments of pumps are now \$3.95.

One lot of Misses' \$2.50 and \$3 ankle strap pumps, now \$1.25.

An odd lot of men's \$3 and \$3.50 shoes are now 98c.

A few wine colored shoes that were \$3.50, good styles, are now \$1.98.

All \$5 Shoes are now \$3.95.

All \$6 shoes are now \$4.95.

Boys' shoes at the same big reductions.

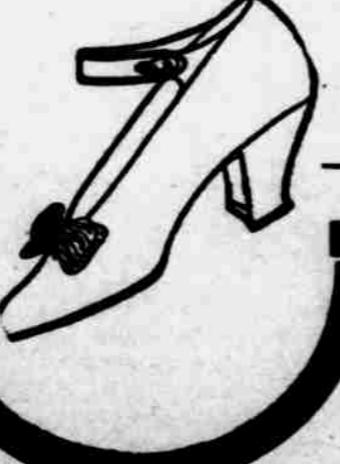
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