

NAVY NEEDS MEN.

BARRAGING SITUATION SHOULD PEACE BE DECLARED BEFORE CONGRESS TAKES ACTION.

A treaty of peace with Spain should be signed before congress makes provisions for an increase in the enlisted strength of the navy. An important branch of the government would be badly crippled. With the increase of the navy there has been a demand for more men, and at the beginning of hostilities congress authorized Secretary Long to enlist enough men to man the vessels, but their services must be dispensed with when peace is declared. April 1, when preparations for war were being made, the men and apprentices numbered 13,096, and under the authority allowed in the conduct of the war this was increased until the maximum strength was reached August 15, when 24,122 enlisted men were in the service. This number has been gradually decreased by discharge of the naval reserves until there remained on October 15 only 20,279 men. Of these 750 are on receiving ships and 400 of them are short term men, and 400 available for foreign service.

Secretary Long asserts that if further reductions are made the navy will be crippled, the departments will be unable to reestablish European and other foreign stations, and will be compelled to put some of the vessels out of commission.

Secretary Long will ask congress for an increase of at least 7,500 men, which will bring the enlisted strength of the navy up to 20,000. Every day hundreds of applications for discharge are made by men who enlisted for the war and whose positions in civil life are in jeopardy because they do not resume their duties. The department is unable to grant these requests and this may cause many of the men who fought for their country to lose their positions in civil life.

SEA-SIGNALING DEVICE.

IMPROVED APPARATUS GIVEN A THOROUGH AND SUCCESSFUL TEST AT HOBOKEN, N. J.

An interesting test was made at the Hoboken (N. J.) pier of the North German Lloyd Steamship company of the telegraph, an invention of John W. Hayard for signaling at sea. The telegraph is a combination of typewriter and stereopticon. Instead of a screen a rapidly revolving "pin-wheel" is used, on which are thrown the signal letters that are brought before a strong light on slides worked by a keyboard. A pure white light thrown upon the disk is intended by the inventor as a signal of attention. When answered by another vessel, the letters representing the international code messages are thrown upon the disk. These letters may vary from a minimum of 15 feet to any size, and may be seen by the naked eye at a great distance. The test proved successful. Letters of light 18 feet in length were thrown upon a revolving screen, and could be seen with ease from the New York side.

WILL CAUSE A BOOM.

DECISION TO RETAIN ALL VESSELS PURCHASED DURING WAR WILL KEEP SHIP BUILDERS BUSY.

It is expected that the decision of the secretary of the navy to retain all the vessels purchased during the war will have the effect of causing a boom in American shipbuilding. It comes just at a time when there is an unusual demand for ships flying the American flag on account of the expanding commerce of the United States in general and particularly on account of the decision of the administration to confine trade between American ports and Puerto Rico to American vessels.

The navy, in preparing for war, drew very largely upon the tonnage of the coastwise and foreign lines sailing under the American flag and the business of these lines cannot be restored to its former proportions until vessels have been built to supply the places of those taken by the government. To restore to these lines the number of vessels they had before the war will require the construction of 17 vessels.

MONTH IN DRY DOCK.

GROUNING ON CORAL REEF AT GUANTANAMO NECESSITATES THOROUGH OVERHAULING OF HER PLATES.

When the cruiser Brooklyn went into the new timber dry dock a few days ago at the navy yard, Constructor Bowles and his assistants immediately set to work and inspected the vessel's bottom. While the cruiser was at Guantánamo it struck a coral reef, and it was thought at the time it was seriously damaged. The report of Mr. Bowles to the navy department of what he sees, now that the Brooklyn is in dry dock, is that the ship ground forward, and that its bottom is badly scraped for a distance of 90 feet, extending outward on the starboard side. On the port side is another long scar. The plates are denied, varying from a half inch to two inches, but the rivets are in place. Mr. Bowles says it will be fully a month before the Brooklyn can leave the dry dock.

MARVELOUS DEVELOPMENT OF SHIP-BUILDING BY THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT.

Latest reports to the state department tell of a marvelous development of ship building in Japan. United States Consul Harriss, at Nagasaki, says that there has just been delivered there the largest steamship ever launched outside of America and Europe. The ship is the Hitachi Maru, built by the Mitsu Bishi company, at Nagasaki, and her displacement is 11,660 tons. She is classed by Lloyd as a 100-A. Her sister ship will be built at once. There was also opened at Nagasaki a new granite dock 371 feet long, and besides a complete and powerful plant the ship building company has laid its yards for vessels up to 500 feet long, which can also be docked there. The company employs 2,000 men.

BULGARIANS HONOR THEIR HEROES.

The Bulgarians have erected 306 monuments in commemoration of events in the Russo-Turkish war, and are now sending to the czar an album containing illustrations of all of them.

NORWEGIAN SCULPTOR DEAD.

Brynjulf Bergslien, the Norwegian sculptor who made the equestrian statue of Bernadotte at Christiania, is dead.

ENGLISH WORDS WITH NO RHYME.

About 5,000 words in the English language have no rhyme to them.

GIFTS FOR SOLDIERS.

CHRISTMAS BOXES TO BE TAKEN TO MANILA FOR OUR BOYS.

GOVERNMENT WILL CARRY GOOD THINGS WHICH FRIENDS WISH TO SEND—MUST NOT INCLUDE MANY SWEETS.

The converted yacht Frolic, formerly the property of Senator Mark A. Hanna, will be brought to Chicago from Norfolk, Va., to be used as a training ship by the Illinois naval reserves. She is a fine, fast boat of modern construction and carries two masts. She was built at Cleveland at a cost of about \$64,000, and after having been used by her owner five years was sold to the government at the breaking out of the war with Spain last spring. A generally accepted estimate of the price Uncle Sam paid for the Frolic places it at \$16,000.

When Gov. Tanner was in Washington recently he visited the navy department for the purpose of securing one of the converted yachts for the benefit of the Illinois reserves. Secretary Long promised him the Wasp, which is a larger boat than the Frolic, but after the Wasp had been stripped of her armament and relieved of every possible burden she still drew 10½ feet of water and the Welland canal will only accommodate vessels having a draught of nine feet or less. The officials at the navy department claim, however, that the Frolic is better suited for training purposes. She is faster, has a draught of about 7½ feet and is built on graceful lines. Department officials say she is one of the handsomest boats that belonged to the mosquito fleet.

Gov. Tanner has been notified to send three officers and 20 men to Norfolk for the Frolic. The navy department will furnish a commander, navigator and engineer to see that the journey is made in safety.

BOAT FOR NAVAL RESERVES.

ILLINOIS MEN TO GET THE CONVERTED YACHT FROLIC, FORMERLY OWNED BY SENATOR HANNA.

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TO REMAIN IN MANILA.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S PRESENCE WITH HIS FLEET WILL BE NEEDED FOR SOME TIME TO COME.

Secretary Long said that Admiral Dewey had not made application for leave of absence and he would remain at Manila as long as the situation demanded his presence there.

Admiral Dewey will not leave Manila until the Philippine question has been settled by the peace commissioners at Paris. Everything is quiet at Manila at the present time, but Aguinaldo realizes that his representatives at Paris will not receive any recognition at the hands of the peace commission. He may be disposed to make trouble. The administration has perfect confidence in Gen. Otis to handle the situation whatever it may be, but at the same time it is the intention of President McKinley to keep Dewey there for the moral effect his fleet would have if anything disquieting should occur.

In the event that Aguinaldo's followers should become restless and commit any overt acts, the desire to interfere might manifest itself again and his representatives may undertake to cooperate with the insurgents. For these and other reasons Admiral Dewey's presence at Manila is just as necessary now as it was three months ago. In addition to this, when the Washington authorities intimated to Dewey a short time ago that his presence here was desirable, he replied that he had better remain at Manila. Since then nothing has been said about Admiral Dewey leaving his post.

NEARLY READY FOR SERVICE.

THREE SHIPS OF NAVY COULD BE PUT IN COMMISSION IF THERE WERE SAILORS TO MAN THEM.

The war department has received a detailed description of the fortifications of Havana. Besides old guns there are 45 new guns. These guns are principally of theontoria and Ordóñez pattern, but there are a few Krups among them.

The strength of the Spanish garrison in Havana is estimated at 100,000, evenly divided between volunteers and regulars. This strength could have been increased at any time by calling provincial troops to Manila.

The exact number of arms in Havana is not known, but the armament on hand in depots, artillery parks and stores of all divisions of the army of the island of Cuba is: Mauser rifles and carbines, 131,015; Remington rifles, 137,974; of private gunneras, 14,000; total, 252,989. Out of this only 30,000 are believed to be new. Of cartridges there are 5,000,000.

Great ingenuity has been displayed in the construction of masked batteries. Closely underlying much of the soil in the vicinity of Havana is coral rock, easily excavated. Trenches are cut into it, and from short distances nothing is seen to indicate the existence or extent of defensive works.

WILL BUILD WARSHIPS NEXT.

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AMERICAN BEER IN CHINA.

Several American brewers are successfully introducing their product in Hong-Kong by first furnishing the same gratuitously in many places and then agreeing on a price that leaves both the retailer and the brewer a good profit.

COST OF HAVANA CIGARS IN PARIS.

The finest brand of Havana cigars fetches \$1,500 a thousand in Paris.

SEA WALL CAVES IN.

ACTION OF THE RISE AND FALL OF THE TIDE CAUSES DISASTER AT BROOKLYN NAVY YARD.

The caving in of a sea wall that had been condemned has placed the stone dry dock and big steam derrick at the Brooklyn navy yard in the gravest danger.

The battleship Indiana was moored close to the wall, when a rumbling noise was heard, and the whole wall slid into the water. Several huge stones narrowly missed striking the Indiana's bow.

The big ship was at once warped astern and was made fast to the wooden wharf. Some of its officers made an examination of the fallen wall and found that the accident had been caused by the rise and fall of the tide.

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