

## SUGGESTED ARMY REFORMS

By Governor Theodore Roosevelt of New York

Whose Experience as Commander of the Rough Riders Enables Him to Write Advisedly.

(From Monday's Daily.)

All patriotic Americans should feel very proud of and very grateful to Secretary Root for the way he is handling his office. His report is as able a document as we have had from a cabinet officer since the days of Alexander Hamilton; it is the report of a far-seeing, constructive statesman. It is admirable throughout; but, at the moment, I want to call your attention to that part of it advocating a reorganization of the army. The Crimean war taught England the terrible shortcomings of her military system. She profited by the teaching. Our Spanish war was so much easier a task that at one time it seemed likely we should not learn the lessons it ought to teach us. Thanks to Secretary Root, there is now a chance that we shall learn them, that we shall profit by the mistakes. After the close of the campaign in Cuba, the bitterest attacks were made upon almost all the high officials in the war department and almost all the leading generals in the army; yet the real responsibility lay with the people and their representatives, who, during over 30 years of peace, had resolutely refused to prepare for war, and, as Secretary Root aptly puts it, had preceded upon the theory that the real object of having an army was not to provide for war, but to use it in time of peace so as to secure economy of expenditure, occasional scientific work and efficient police duty.

Nothing was done to provide for the effective organization and training of the army, as a whole, for purposes of war, in spite of the army's earnest desire for such organization and training. The staff was kept wholly separate from the line, and, indeed, the word staff was used in an entirely false sense to designate something different from what is known as the staff in all other countries. The higher officials in the quartermaster's and commissary's departments had either never, or at least not for an indefinite number of years, served as line officers, and had no active, living knowledge of the line's needs. The ordnance, quartermaster, and commissary supplies were provided and handled by men who were utterly out of touch with the men who were to do the actual fighting; all this being the very reverse of what occurred under our efficiently organized navy department. The confusion at Washington at the outbreak of the war, and the confusion worse confounded at Tampa and outside of Santiago during its continuance, were absolutely inevitable under the then existing system—a system which can be properly changed only by legislation.

But we cannot expect legislation unless there is leadership; and this leadership Secretary Root has given. All that he says on the subject of the reorganization of the army deserves the most careful consideration of every good citizen who wishes to see our army put upon a satisfactory basis. With his usual grasp of a subject, the secretary clearly shows that the army must be kept in a condition which will permit its being turned into an efficient instrument of war as soon as the occasion arises; and that, moreover, there should be a comprehensive scheme of organization in outline, which will permit the raising under the best conditions of a first-class volunteer army to act with the regulars in time of need.

The secretary points out that in order to prepare an army for war there must, in the first place, be a systematic study by responsible officers not only of the larger problems of military science, and of all the information available as to the state of the art, but of all contingencies of possible conflict. This need can be met only by the establishment of an army war college, modeled somewhat on the lines of the naval war college founded by Capt. Mahan, which has done such admirable work.

It would include the present service schools, which already do excellent work, and would provide a means by which all officers would be trained in the higher duties of their profession.

In the second place, and almost equally important, is the preparation of the material of war. We must keep pace with the progress of military science. It seems incredible that a nation which prides itself upon its mechanical ingenuity should have permitted, or, to speak more accurately, have deliberately insured, such military

backwardness as was shown in the ordnance department at the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. Our volunteers went into the field with a weapon which was almost as inferior to a first-class modern rifle as it was superior to an old flint-lock musket. The regular artillery was just as backward; while not a few of the so-called experts were still solemnly stating that black powder was better than smokeless—which was about as sensible as if they had championed muzzle-loading smooth-bores, or, for the matter of that, arbalests.

In the third place, the secretary advocates a process of selection, according to merit and effectiveness, among the officers of the army, so that the men of superior ability and power may as rapidly as possible be put in the important positions of responsibility and trust. This is, of course, a dangerous step if political considerations, or any considerations save those of military merit, are to be taken into account; but it is a necessary step if the army is to be brought to a high pitch of efficiency. The secretary outlines a method which would, so far as possible, secure for each officer the consideration of his ability, faithful performance of duty, and gallant conduct, and the exclusion of all social and political influence.

Again, the secretary recommends that all staff appointments should hereafter be made from the line of the army for a fixed period of four or five years, the holder to return to the line at the end of the period. This is one of the most important recommendations that he makes. One great cause of the trouble with our army at the outbreak of the war with Spain was the fact that the so-called staff positions were held by elderly men who were completely out of touch with the line. Every first-class fighting army in the world is modeled on the system suggested by Secretary Root.

Finally, the secretary recommends the continued exercise and training of the army in large bodies of troops, under conditions as nearly as possible approaching those of actual war. This means expense, but it is the indispensable prerequisite to efficiency. It is criminal folly for the nation to keep the army so split up during long years of peace that no officer ever has command of so much as an entire regiment, and that none but the juniors see anything approaching to active service, and then to expect that, in the event of war, the aggregate of all these isolated units can act harmoniously together or can be efficiently commanded by a man who, however good, has rusted for long years without even performing the work he did in his days as a junior.

Not merely inertia, but the malign influence of officers who have procured soft places at Washington through social or political influence, will be against Secretary Root in his efforts to secure this reorganization. It is proper that every patriotic American should, accordingly, give him the support to which he is entitled, and that our representatives in congress should realize that the adoption of his plan for the betterment of our military conditions is of grave moment to the honor and interest of the nation.—Theodore Roosevelt in Outlook.

## Bears in Harness.

These days of happiness which the three little bears, tied up in front of the Whitehorse hotel, are enjoying are soon to be cut short. The time is not far distant when the sting of the whip lash will take the place of the gentle stroke of feminine hands while condensed cream, fruit and candies will give way to chunks of frozen meat as a regular diet. Norman Macaulay who owns the cubs declares that they will soon be large and strong enough to haul sleighs over the ice and to this occupation he intends to educate them. He has had some experience in training bears and asserts that they can be broken in with a dog at their head to do good work in harness. Mr. Macaulay with his novel idea of transportation does not intend to enter into competition with any of the regular winter lines, but he promises a few of his friends a ride over the ice to Dawson and return during the coming winter.—Whitehorse Tribune.

## Coal Discovered.

Coal beds have been discovered and located not many miles from Whitehorse. The discoverer, Mr. Gustave Gervais, returned to town last Saturday with a small sack full of samples taken from a location which he made July 23 on the Dalton trail, below Lebarge. He had been out for eleven days.

The samples have been examined by a number of Whitehorse men who are acquainted with the nature of surface indications of coal deposits and they are all of the opinion that he has found a valuable bed of black diamonds. Mr. Gervais declines to make public how he came to make the discovery,

further than to say that he had information which prompted him to go into the district on a search. His information, he says, was most reliable and he had little or no difficulty in finding what he was after. He has had many years of experience in coal mining and was on the ground when the first discovery was made at Pincher creek, N. W. T. He was also connected with coal mining in Lethbridge and Anthracite, N. W. T., and is convinced that the samples he has will lead the way to an output of a better class of coal than has been taken out in any of these places.

Mr. Gervais is interested in copper mines around Whitehorse, but he announces that from now on he will concentrate his efforts on the development of his coal location.—Whitehorse Tribune.

## American Oil of Joy.

E. S. Busby, supervising agent of Canadian customs, has announced that American liquors can now be bonded through British Columbia and Yukon territory from Skagway to American points on the Yukon river. The delay, says the Alaskan, in establishing the order, he says, is attributed to the lack of information by the Ottawa government of the change in the Alaskan prohibition law. Mr. Busby states:

"I am instructed by the commissioner of customs that spirituous liquors may be transported through Yukon territory to ports or sub-ports in Alaska from Skagway via White Pass and Dawson, Y. T., via bonded carriers. Each package shall be marked in 'in-bond for Alaska.'"

"Spirituous liquors in transit to Alaska and transported in bond through the Yukon territory shall not be allowed to go into consumption in said territory."

"There has been unavoidable delay owing to the necessity of communicating with the United States government for information with respect to the laws restricting or prohibiting the importation of liquors into Alaska."

## Obviously His Due.

A correspondent of the Chicago Record shows how "base authority," in the person of a Turkish policeman, settles disputes with justice and self-satisfaction alike. A tobacco box was found on the sidewalk, as alleged by a Kurd. An Armenian claimed the box as his own. Neither would give in, and the dispute waxed warm. From words they were near coming to blows when a policeman came up; but he could not decide the question of ownership. At last the Armenian suggested that the policeman ask what was in the box. "Tobacco and cigarette paper," said the Kurd, promptly.

"The box contains nothing but a twenty-five cent piece," said the Armenian, smiling.

The officer opened the box, and finding the Armenian was right, settled the dispute by giving him the box. "The Armenian is the owner of the box," he said. "The Kurd is a liar." Here he smote the Kurd over the head. "Allah be praised! For my trouble in deciding this complicated affair I will keep the twenty-five cents."

## The P.-I.'s Opinion.

It is announced from Ottawa that the Canadian government proposes to abolish the present royalty on Klondike gold, and to establish a government assay office in the Klondike, with a compulsory charge of 3 per cent on all gold, whether presented to the assay office for sale or exported from the country in the form in which it comes from the mine. The object of the latter provision, of course, is to prevent any portion of the Klondike gold from going direct to the United States assay offices and mints.

The time is opportune for the abolition of the royalty. The poorer miners have been pretty well frozen out. The men who have been working on lays have discovered that there is little to be made in that way, after the claim owner has taken his share and the royalty has been paid. The bulk of the mining in the Klondike hereafter will be done by the claim owners who have already acquired large wealth, or by the rich corporations which have acquired many of the claims; while those who have not command of capital must be content to work for wages. A "cinch" policy against which the individual miner of limited means could do nothing but feebly protest will not be enforced against the wealthy corporations, the stock of which is largely held in Eastern Canada, where men have votes, as they do not have in Dawson; hence the grab game of the Canadian authorities has to end, or at least to take a new form.

The establishment of an assay office at Dawson will enable the government to collect a handsome revenue, under the guise of an assay charge.

Of course, when the new office is established, a large share of the Dawson gold which has heretofore gone to the Seattle assay office will cease to come this way. Its place, however, will be

made good by the gold from the new fields of Alaska, which have been and which will hereafter be developed largely by the practical miners driven from the Canadian government. There is one advantage to the Alaskan miner. His gold is worth 3 per cent more than it would be on the Canadian side of the line, for this government charges nothing for its services in assaying or minting gold.—Seattle P.-I.

## Dawson Taking Lessons.

Dawson's Board of Trade has evidently been taking lessons from the Skagway chamber of commerce. It is loading itself with facts and figures to present to Lord Minto, the governor general, when he arrives at that city. An effort will be made to secure the influence of his lordship to right the wrongs under which the Yukon country has been laboring since the establishment of government therein.

The royalty, the high miners' license fee, the system of charging a license fee for hunting privileges, fishing privileges and other privileges, the exercise of which are essential to the development of the country, will all be vigorously attacked. Representation in the Dominion parliament will be demanded, and a better system of local government asked for. An effort will be made to secure the opening of the crown lands.

This action on the part of the people of Dawson speaks well for the community. Petitions from the people, where they represent the unanimous sentiment or nearly so, cannot long be ignored by an Anglo-Saxon government. Never in the history of the English-speaking people have the demands of any considerable number of the people for that which is their right, been successfully defied very long, and it has not been tried since the foolish attempt of George III.—Alaskan.

## The Future Possibilities.

With reasonable development of the natural agricultural resources of this section of the country the general cost of living would be very materially reduced. Sufficient experimental work has been done this season to prove beyond all doubt that the soil of this section of the Yukon valley is of the quality that produces very rapidly, and that there are four months' of growing weather after the ground becomes sufficiently warm to sprout germs in the spring. With scarcely any attention and encouraged only by the heat of the sun and natural fertility of the soil such crops as radishes, lettuce, onions, beans, etc., grow to maturity in from four to six weeks, while with artificial means the growth and maturity can be much accelerated.

Three miles back from West Dawson were to be found a few days ago as fine a quality of ripe red raspberries as were ever grown in the most carefully tended garden, and if vines will thus grow and produce in soil that has never been stirred, it is logical to conclude that, with ordinary care and cultivation, this same variety of berry could be made to yield luxuriantly and to financial advantage. It is well known that in all berry producing climates strawberries ripen from four to six weeks in advance of raspberries, and when the latter, without care or cultivation, ripen to perfection by the first of August, there is no apparent reason why Dawsonites should not revel in the delights incident to home grown strawberries early in the month of July.

The matter of cultivating hay is another to which the Yukon valley is certainly adaptable. Timothy and oats for hay could be made to yield profitably with proper cultivation, while German millet and alfalfa, either of which is of remarkably rapid growth, could be raised here even if the summer season was a third shorter than it is. The fact that this latter statement is true has been most satisfactorily demonstrated by Chris Sonnekson on Stewart river, and by others who have attempted feed growing in this country.

The fact that there has not been a frost since early in April is evidence of the possibilities of this country as a producer during a period of fully five months of the year.

## A Hoodo'd Faro Table.

It was suggested by a local sport in the Dominion saloon this morning, that the faro table be taken out and reduced to a pile of nice white ashes, with all the ceremony due to such an occasion. The reason given for the proposed incineration of the luckless table was that it had been presided over at various times by the best of Dawson's local talent, by men who shrink and turn away from opals, the maltese cross, the No. 13 and cross-eyed colored persons, and who covet the rabbit's foot found by the seventh son of a seventh daughter in a cemetery at midnight, and yet it has been a steady loser.

Whether the suggestion will be acted upon; or when the ceremony will take place are matters so far of conjecture.

## MANY STEAMERS ARRIVE

From Up River With Passengers and Freight.

Large Amount of Stock Coming In—Travel Is Steadily Increasing and More to Follow.

The steamers Anglian and Zealandian arrived last night at midnight, coming in within five minutes of each other. The Zealandian brought 32 sacks of mail and 62 tons of freight. The Anglian carried 39 tons. Following were the passengers:

Anglian—Minnie Anderson, Edith Anderson, F. C. Maltby, M. Marks, F. H. Austin.

Zealandian—Blake Murbarger, Mrs. Murbarger and child, E. E. Reynolds, J. A. Westbrook, W. B. Westbrook, A. Smith, Anna Smith, Mrs. Fred Mallor, Hannah Julema, A. Cameron, Mrs. Cameron, D. C. Brownell, Miss Carrie Hooper, J. L. Massler, Francis Parker, Mrs. M. Davis, E. A. Dealey, Mary Goursey, Charles Bergman, Mrs. Bergman, Mrs. C. M. Chambers, Miss Chambers, Mrs. H. Brewit, H. S. Walker, Mrs. E. Crompton, R. Crompton, D. Boyle, G. M. Riley, C. J. McLennon, A. L. Berdoe, W. E. Warren, Sergeant Pringle and two Japanese.

The Bailey arrived Saturday night and sailed yesterday. Her passengers were as follows: Bowen Smith, Ed. Brooks, J. H. Rogers, Louis McGregor, S. M. Irwin.

The Clifford Sifton completed her first round trip this morning between Dawson and Whitehorse. She brought in 32 head of horses and some miscellaneous freight, among which is some heavy machinery. The following passengers were booked: C. E. Robinson and wife, John Devine and wife, S. Dewey and wife, J. B. Morlin, C. E. Corwin, A. Bryan, J. D. Ketcham, W. B. Wafford, C. W. Kunz, Chas. Redmond, William Greig, M. McNeil and wife, Ed. Cumming, E. Cole, C. C. Whittaker, Mrs. L. Martin and child, H. H. Wilkins, C. H. Sinclair.

Both the Clifford Sifton and Zealandian are unloading at the Yukon Dock, the freight space of the C. D. Co. being taken up entirely by goods arriving on previous steamers.

The wire is still down between here and Ogilvie consequently no news from up-river points is obtainable. The recent heavy wind played havoc with the wire and broke it in many places as well as toppling many trees over across the line which are now being removed.

The water front opposite the barracks present an attractive appearance; it being entirely free from rubbish of any kind, the same having been hurriedly removed recently.

Scows are again coming in with frequency and from now until the close of navigation there will not probably be a day pass without witnessing the arrival of a number.

## Harry L. Douglass.

W. D. Read, of San Francisco, writes the Nugget for information regarding his cousin Harry L. Douglass, formerly of Nevada City, California. The letter says:

About two years ago my cousin, Harry L. Douglass, of Nevada City, Cal., left here for the new gold fields in the north, being one of a party of 20 sent out by a Boston syndicate, who are represented by Mr. James Dietrich, sometimes referred to as "Steamer" Dietrich. All of these men were practical miners and mill men and were sent out with the object of locating valuable mining property in the new Eldorado. They have nearly all returned—in fact I think that of the entire party only my cousin just mentioned and a Mr. Armstrong of Nevada county are now absent in the north. The last letter received from Douglass was dated at Peavy, Alaska, December 4th, 1899. His aged mother is very anxious to hear from him.

## Local Horse Market.

In keeping with the general improvements noticeable on every side is the quality of horse flesh in Dawson, as a better grade of horses are being imported this season than ever before in the history of the country. Formerly the grade of work animals brought to Alaska and the Yukon country was the kind of which it was said "They are good enough to kill on the trails." That sentiment is now a thing of the past for the reason that packers and freighters have learned by costly experience that it pays to keep good stock, and give it proper care.

There are now as fine horses in Dawson as money will purchase in the outside market.