

cannot be had for fortifications, appropriations can be made for the purchase or manufacture of enough guns to employ the artillery and fit them for any emergency. The light batteries in this division are said to be in good condition. A concentration of these batteries may be made at Fort Niagara, N.Y., which affords better facilities for their work than any other place in the division, when that post can be prepared for their reception."

Again, in connection with the recommendation of the Lieut.-General that the army should be increased by the addition of 5,000 men to the present force, the Secretary calls attention to some remarks of General Schofield in his report, wherein he suggests the importance in the event of any increase of the army, that two additional regiments of artillery be provided for, in connection with certain changes in the present organization of artillery regiments. "While addition," he says, "to the present force is desirable to make more perfect and efficient our small army and render it more easily and rapidly capable of development and expansion in time of emergency, it is very plain that in any increase the fact should be kept in mind that those arms of the service which require long training to perfect the soldier should not be overlooked. The artillery is one of these arms, and should Congress decide to add to the army, the artillery should come in for its share of increase."

"The reports of the commanding officers of the schools of instruction in the three arms of the service, viz., cavalry, artillery and infantry," says the Secretary, "justify the expectations of those who established these schools. They afford admirable post-graduate courses of study, and it will be necessary, as it is desirable, that every officer should take his tour of study, in order that he may be fully equipped for his duty. If the recommendation that officers should be examined for promotion, as proposed in the report of 1886, is approved, every officer would have to advance to the standard established by the schools of his special arm. I trust that the bill introduced in the Senate at the last session may be passed by Congress."

The ordnance department report shows that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, 41,106 rifles and carbines were manufactured at the national armoury. "The question," it says, "of a reduced calibre for small arms is now under careful consideration and experiment by the department; and while the present calibre, .45, meets the demands of the service in a satisfactory manner, and was adopted fifteen years ago, after extended tests, the interest awakened in the military world justifies a further examination and report upon this subject. A magazine gun has become a necessity, and during many years the department has endeavoured to find one that would give satisfaction to the army. From what we learn of the magazine systems abroad, nothing is to be gained by haste, and the Springfield rifle must continue to serve our purpose until a magazine gun, that will do credit to the inventive genius of our people is adopted. It is to be observed that under the existing law, Revised Statutes, section 1672, only the Springfield guns can be manufactured by this department. We are unable, therefore, to make magazine guns, and can only test and examine the magazine guns and systems brought to the department by dealers or inventors. It is very desirable that this statute should be so far modified that we can purchase or manufacture magazine guns for experiment and trial. Larger appropriations for ammunition and target material are asked for. A matter so necessary to the effectiveness of our small army deserves the favourable consideration of Congress.

"In view of the success attained by our steel makers, it is apparent that the assurance that the outlay for the necessary plant will prove remunerative is all that is required to produce in this country the largest gun forgings of suitable quality. It is believed to be of vital importance that appropriations be annually made by Congress until our present need of modern guns is supplied and the aid that our steel industry demands is assured. As a step in this direction an appropriation of \$1,500,000 for the forgings of 8-inch and 10-inch B. L. steel guns has been recommended in the estimates. This sum would procure the steel for about fifty 8-inch and forty 10-inch guns, and should be made available until expended. A trial of the improved Powlett carriage should be authorized. It was first tried by this department, and its favourable action induced further trial by the Navy department. The conditions differ so much in the two departments that appropriations for renewed trials by this department are recommended."

On the subject of coast defences the Secretary says: "The same report comes from the Pacific as from the Atlantic coast, that our harbours are destitute of fortifications, guns, and armament of every description. San Francisco is without a gun that can be fired with safety with present charges of powder and modern projectiles." And the report of the Engineer bureau contains the following: "During the past year no work has been done in connection with fortifications, as no appropriation for this purpose has been made since 1885. The existing works, many of which are of value for the defence of our harbours, are in a dilapidated condition, and extensive repairs are necessary for their preservation. The importance of immediate action looking to the reconstruction of the

defences of our sea coast and lake frontier was fully set forth in my annual report of last year. Should the funds now asked for, \$5,234,000, be appropriated by Congress, it is proposed to apply them to the construction of earthen gun and mortar batteries, which form by far the greater part of our projected defences, and in which the question of armour is not involved; and also to the completion of our system of submarine mines, the details of which have been perfected. The works at present in contemplation are for the defence of the harbours at Portland, Boston, Narragansett Bay, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Hampton Roads, Washington, New Orleans and San Francisco. There appears to be no reason for further delay in beginning the important work of fortifying these great harbours. Special attention is invited to the needs of the Engineer School of Application at Willet's Point. The importance of the battalion of engineer troops as a torpedo corps, practiced in the rapid and certain planting of submarine mines, cannot be too strongly enforced."

The War Department estimate for 1889 exceeds that for 1888 by five million dollars, and is twenty-two millions greater than the actual appropriation for 1888.

The British in Burmah.

THE slaying of the noted dacoit chief Bo Shwe, of which intelligence arrived some time ago, has lightened not a little the arduous work of the British army in Burmah. The subjection of the predatory fiends of whom Bo Shwe was a leader and of other native insurgents, has been attended with immense loss of life to the British and Indian troops employed, the mortality in the first year, from November 1885 to November 1886, having been 91 officers and men died from wounds; 930 died from disease, and 2,032 invalided—a total of upwards of 3,000 out of a force of about 14,000 men.

The last mail from India brings papers to 14th October, which give interesting particulars of the chief's death. On the 5th of that month Major Harvey, of the South Wales Borderers, with 40 of his own Mounted Infantry under Lieut. Way and 31 men of the 7th Bombay Mounted Infantry under Captain Alban, after a forced march of fifty miles, attacked Bo Shwe, killing him and ten of his men, besides wounding many others. After their leader was killed the dacoits, who numbered about 200, scattered in every direction. The troops dismounted and followed them into the jungle, which is very thick at this season, for a distance of two miles. All the camp outfit of the dacoits was captured. Bo Shwe's body was brought in and fully identified. He had so frequently escaped capture that his apprehension alive or dead was almost despaired of. The mutilated bodies of the European soldiers who fell into his hands gave evidence of his diabolical ferocity, and his own fellow-countrymen tell dreadful tales of his cruelty and oppression. Much credit is given to Major Harvey for the manner in which he conceived and carried out the expedition which has resulted so favourably. Like all dacoit leaders Bo Shwe was too cowardly to fight against even an insignificant force; his scouts and spies always gave him sufficient information to give the troops the slip. Escape was so easy owing to the proximity of the jungle in the district in which he has been lurking that it required great caution to take him. A forced march of fifty miles, even performed on horseback, over a rough country, where for the most part there are no roads, and in such sultry weather, the mercury skirmishing in the vicinity of 110° in the shade, was in itself no small undertaking.

Bo Shwe was one of the very worst specimens of the dacoit pests who have been the curse of Burmah for the past hundred years or more. Utterly ruthless and brutally cruel, he was ready and willing to commit any atrocity on the unfortunate wretches who fell into his hands, in order to inspire with terror the native villagers on whom he preyed. Only a few months ago a party of a dozen Chinamen who were working on a road a few miles from Minbu were attacked by him, surrounded and overcome. Finding they had nothing about them to satisfy his cupidity he cut the muscles on one side of their necks, so as to let their heads fall over on one shoulder, and these poor Mongolians trudged into the British camp holding up their heads with their hands. Before British rule was established in Burmah it was such men as these, who by their excessive cruelty carved their way to the throne or became the head men over districts which the native princes were unable either to take from them, or supervise. The whole history of Burmah for centuries back has been one long record of passive submission to ruthless brutality. The people themselves have been ground between the two millstones of governmental rapacity, and dacoit barbarity, so that life if spared to them was scarcely worth having, and one of the richest and pleasanter countries in the world, capable of supporting many millions of human beings in comfort, was fast becoming a wilderness. There is plenty of evidence to show that Upper Burmah was at one time inhabited by a highly cultured people, the beautiful temples or pagodas still standing showing to what high extent architecture had been arrived,