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THE TIMES

A DAILY NEWSPAPER

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THE TIMES
Port Limon, Costa Rica (C. A.)

The United States' Army.

OUR DISMEMBERED FIGHTING UNITS.

(By H. L. Clotworthy.)

II.

The army post is not a compact fort or fortress. Neither military needs or economy have ever been considered in its erection. It is an aggregation of buildings, designed to conform with an appropriation, scattered around promiscuously over as large an area as the confines of the military reservation permit. Equipped with the most costly utilities, the maintenance of these non-military establishments demands most of the time of the depleted garrisons stationed therein. The recruit who enlists to be taught the duties of a soldier finds, to his disgust that his military instruction makes the least demand on his time. Instead of being schooled in the attributes of a soldier, he is kept employed as a carpenter, painter, gardener, or general tinker.

TRAININÛ ONE SOLDIER IN FIVE.

In considering the efficiency of the army, the infantry (at once the "heart" and "punch" of any army) establishes the standard. The plodding, unpicturesque foot-soldier is the one who inflicts and sustains four-fifths of all battle losses. The efficiency of an army *is* the efficiency of its infantry. Owing to the great losses sustained by the army every year, about 50 per cent. of the enlisted personnel are at all times either raw recruits or but partly trained men. Now consider the iniquitous effect of the "post system" on this partly developed military material. As the same notorious conditions obtain throughout the army, it is not necessary to specify any particular command. The following applies to every infantry regiment in the United States army, and similar conditions exist in practically every branch of the mobile forces.

The peace strength of an infantry command is 43 privates and 12 non-commissioned officers, 2 cooks, 2 musicians, and 1 artificer. There are twelve companies in the three battalions that constitute a regiment. There are twenty-one regiments of infantry in the United States. Of these ten are stationed as regiments in the larger posts and eleven are dismembered and divided among the smaller posts.

The Government's property that is to be cared for is almost in direct ratio to garrison strength. The daily details for service—entirely non-military in character but necessary to the up-keep of these posts—exhaust from 50 to 75 per cent. of the garrison every day. In other words, though half of the entire enlisted personnel are either recruits or but partly trained troops, yet of this untrained force only about 50 per cent. are being trained in the duties of a soldier. These ames non-military duties, which prevent the training of the recruits, demoralize the more efficient men and breed that discontent which is reflected in the fact that only 12.6 per cent. of the enlisted personnel reenlist, and the great majority of reenlistments are old non-commissioned officers ormembers of the staff departments.

The regimental returns show that approximately 20 per cent. of the privates in the enlisted personnel are trained soldiers. This means that of the forty-three privates in each infantry company about ten are proficient soldiers. The only commands which can be found which exceed this efficiency standard will be found among the colored regiments, owing to the presence of relatively more old soldiers in those commands. In case of war the strength of a company would be immediately increased to eighty-four privates, and seven additional non-commissioned officers would be assigned to the enlarged command. Seven disciplined privates would most probably be elevated to these non-commissioned posts. This would mean that of eighty-four privates but three would be well-disciplined soldiers. Such a company could hardly be termed "Regulars." The "Regulars" do not exist.

The system is just as baleful in its influences upon the officers as upon the men, and is felt just as keenly.

OFFICERS IN NAME ONLY.

In every phase of *theoretical* military training, the American army-officer is splendidly equipped. No such professional exactments are imposed by any military institution in the world as are imposed on the cadet at West Point. Supplementing West Point, for more advanced study of military science, are the Army Service School at Fort Leavenworth and the War College at Washington. The American army-officer in most instances is a finished mental military officer in the world, not excepting those in the service of China, the least militant of nations. As shown above, the origin strength of a company when assembled for military instruction, under the more favourable circumstances, approximate in strength a sergeant's command—between ten and twenty men. The commissioned personnel of a company includes a captain, a first lieutenant, and a second lieutenant.

It cost the Government approximately $15,000 to graduate an officer from West Point. Through each grade his cost, at a minimum, is an additional $15,000. The combined pay of the three-company officers aggregates $7,000 per annum. The Government has an actual cash investment of at least $75,000 in those three officers and is continuing to invest in them on an increasing scale, at a base rate of $7,000 per annum. The pay of the sergeant whose functions they are discharging is $30 per month. This is one of the economic features of the system which wastes the highly specialized service of the officer after expensively equipping him for such service.

A Gentleman's Reply to Scurrility.

The main design of my taking pen in hand is to refute the silly author of an abominable production yclept "rebuffs and rebounds" to which we call our readers attention in "El Nation," April 4th. This half sheet scribbler shows his ill-humour and ignorance in the very title of his so-called editorial. Smarting under the lash of a well-merited chastisement brought on by his unsufferable conceit and bombastic utterances, he has descended to low scurilities which would do honour to a Shoreditch virago or a Bellingsgate wench, We are not surprised at the filthiness of garvey's utterances, but would warn him that his combativeness will yet involve him in serious disputes, let me advise that the arms with which the ill-disposition of the world are to be combated and the qualities by which it is to be reconciled to us, and we reconciled to it are moderation, gentleness, a little indulgence to others and a great distrust of ourselves. Nothing can be so unworthy a well composed soul as to pass away life in bickerings, snarling, and scoffing with every one about as. Dimly and afar off Moziah may yet see the great fault in his character—the devouring egotism which makes him look upon all things as revolving round ONE GREAT BIG I. Really we must all bow the knee in obeisance to this great luminary who has condescended to honour literary circles in our humble little republic, poet (!) journalist (!) wit (!) politician (!) What a combination of talents! This reminds us of a man not unlike garvey, who stated in all seriousness that the doctor advised his parents against giving him too much education—why? He was afflicted with an unlike amount of brains—too clever—and this would surely produce madness. marcus has it gone thus far? The authorship of the "letters of Junius," once ascribed to Edmund Burke, the great statesman, has never been fully proved—the great preponderance of evidence now points to marcus moziah garvey, shall we also ascribe the poems of Chatterton to this paragon? What a storm in a tea pot Moziah, Were I Moziah as I am VAN TULL I would start life by getting even with the man who inflicted such a handle on me. Were I in garvey's place I would have named my editorial "groats worth of wit Bought with a million of Repentance," for

Yet once more
We teach him—late he learns
humility,
Perforce like those whom Gideon schooled with briars.

This creature's attack upon those the dubs Dawnists is of the most senseless kind, prithee forbear friend moziah, or We shall like David of old take but one pebble from the brook Truth and slay this modern Goliath of Gath, defying the servants of the living God. Out upon thee man! Can'st not write something better than filthy utterances? or do better than string together a lot of words dexterously extracted from *your* unbridged lexicon! We will say by way of changing the programme some that your gross impertinence has (not preceded) but exceeded your physical charms. It might not be superfluous to enquire of this gentleman (!) of versatile genius (!) why he ever condescended to flit from the land of springs where he was such acquisition! Surely the proprietor (!) journalist (!) and politician (!) has left a Void in journalistic and other circles, and his paper of which he was proprietor in imagination must be sending up midnight howls anent his absence. So the master had to seek the aid of his Boy to strike a job in poor despised Costa Rica! Well done garvey, thou art a jewel—if a black one; "consistency thou art a jewel." There are many senses in which one can be *known to* and *in commercial* and journalistic circles across the seas. What construction shall we place upon this? With regard to "refugee"—we have only to quote from the Bard of Avon—the immortal Shakespeare "O Father Abraham these creatures are whose own *hard deeds* teaches them to suspect the deeds of others."

Don Quixote tilting at a wind mill is not in it with friend garvey—dost take Van Tull for the wind mill, and thou the crazy Knight—tilting at same—with his imaginary *grievance*! Tut man, brush the cob webs from thy drowsy befogged brain and get some light in it,

T. REPORTER: "TIMES."

High Grade School wanted.

We commend the efforts of the Government in enforcing compulsory education, as it is a means of checking the wild and vicious pursuits of many prominent youths, who would otherwise be a credit to themselves and a lasting benefit to the country; but the utter carelessness of some mothers who allow their children to have their own way and desires, thus going the way of the wayward. This to a great extent has been checked by the new regulation which enforces the regular attendance at school children between the age of 7 and 14.

The master of the Government School [illegible] posed to teach its [illegible] English and Spanish. This is a capital idea and can only be accomplished by one that speaks English and Spanish fluently. No one occupying such a dual position can be expected to achieve much result, he must prove a failure not only to himself but a loss of time on the part of his pupils who would be at his mercy, and whose dependence rests, to enable them in the future to be bread winners. No one should be employed to teach both languages except he is conversant with both languages.

Limon to-day stands greatly in need of a well disciplined school, where respectable children can be sent, and where English, Spanish, French and a little German would be taught, along with other subjects that is indispensable. There is ample room for such a school here; many parents are forced to send their children to the Government school simply because there is not a higher grade school in the town, and not having the wherewithal to send them abroad have to be content with having them waste their time in the Government School, where there is not an efficient man.

Found Woman Bawling in the Sea at Port Antonio.

Had it not been for the action of Corporal Stone, of the Port Antonio police, Irene Belnavis, a partially deaf and otherwise peculiar individual, might have met her death by drowning on Wednesday last.

The facts connected with the case are:

Between the hours of 5 and 6 a.m. on the day above mentioned, a queer sound was heard, from the direction of the sea, at the end of Blake Street (in Port Antonio). Some, who lives in a cottage at the end of the street was awakened from his slumber by the noise, and he hurried to scene, to find Belnavis, fully dressed, standing in the sea with the water as far as her neck. She was bawling at the top of her voice,

Stone called to her and she turned her face to the shore and went to him.

She had with her a "black coat" with boiled white rice, cocoes, and cocoanuts.

Asked by the "cop" why she went into the sea to such a depth she said "someone in the moon had called her, and told her that as soon as she entered the water she would be taken up to the moon."

Stone subsequently arrested Belnavis on a charge of attempting to commit suicide, and took her off to the police station where she was put under medical observation.

The woman will be brought before the R.M. to-day, formally on a charge of attempting to commit suicide, but it is expected that a charge of alleged lunacy will be preferred instead.

Current News.

The "Heredia," of the United Fruit Company line of steamers arrived here yesterday from New Orleans via Porto Barrios. The following is from New Orleans: P. J. Clemens, L. L. Matouch, [illegible] Brown, [illegible] and wife. From Barrios: W. J. Develin, José Fassbender and 4 deckers and 5 cabin passengers in transit.

The Chinese Minister for the Central American ports along with a party of his countrymen is expected to arrive here at any time to investigate matters in connection with his nationality.

We regret that we were unable to meet the demands of our many readers yesterday. Through some fault or other our machine got out of gear and in consequence of which the greater part of the amount of papers we usually print were destroyed, hence the shortage.

Greenwich Time

London.—Greenwich time will be adopted by all French and Algerian offices.

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A. R. Méndez

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