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Army appropriation bill.

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ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

FEBRUARY 3, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HULL, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 5359.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, in presenting the bill making appropriations for the Army of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, submit the following in explanation thereof:

The estimates submitted by the War Department, upon which this bill is based, will be found on pages 105 to 116 of the Book of Estimates and aggregate the sum of \$24,093,276.03. This bill appropriates the sum of \$23,275,902.73, being a reduction from the estimates of \$817,373.30.

The appropriations for the same purpose for the four preceding years were as follows:

1892-93	\$24, 288, 499. 82
1893-94	24, 208, 639. 78
1894-95	23, 468, 424. 68
1895-96	23, 252, 608. 09

As will be seen from the above figures, this bill carries \$192,521.95 less than the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895, and \$23,294.64 more than appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1896.

The War Department has submitted evidence that there would be a deficiency in the pay of the Army for this fiscal year of \$400,832.13, the details of which are as follows:

Disbursements from appropriations for "Pay, etc., of the Army, 1896."

ACTUAL.

July, 1895	\$490, 084. 17
August, 1895	1, 058, 011. 13
September, 1895	1, 143, 569. 84
October, 1895	1, 107, 861. 44
November, 1895	1, 150, 099. 14
December, 1895	1, 159, 402. 73
Total	6, 109, 028. 45

ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL.

ESTIMATED.

January, 1896.....		\$1, 159, 402. 73
February, 1896.....		1, 150, 099. 14
March, 1896.....		1, 107, 861. 44
April, 1896.....		1, 143, 569. 84
May, 1896.....		1, 058, 011. 13
June, 1896.....		1, 121, 788. 85
Total		6, 740, 733. 13
Disbursements for first six months.....		6, 109, 028. 45
Disbursements for second six months.....		6, 740, 733. 13
Estimated amount required for disbursements after close of fiscal year, based upon average disbursements after close of fiscal year for 1891, 1892, 1893, and 1894.....		838, 688. 64
Total		13, 688, 450. 22
Amount appropriated for 1896.....	\$12, 862, 618. 09	
Estimated soldiers' deposits.....	300, 000. 00	
Estimated collections.....	125, 000. 00	
		13, 287, 618. 09
Estimated deficiency.....		400, 832. 13

REASONS FOR INCREASE.

Increase in pay of \$4 per month for 5,000 men for one year.....	\$240, 000. 00
Pay of General and staff of the Army, and pay of general of the Army, retired, not appropriated for.....	10, 014. 67
Pay and interest due discharged soldiers on account of amount deducted in first year of enlistment, act June 16, 1890.....	150, 817. 46
	400, 832. 13

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE, *January 22, 1896.*

In order to avoid a deficiency in the pay of the Army this bill has largely increased the appropriation over the amount given for fiscal year ending June 30, 1896, in no case exceeding the estimates, and in some cases reducing the same. In each case where the estimates on pay of the Army has been reduced the committee has acted on the testimony submitted by the officer in charge. The reductions from the appropriations for this fiscal year, are as follows:

For the Subsistence Department.....	\$5, 000
For the Quartermasters' Department.....	120, 000
For the Medical Department.....	18, 000

Your committee has submitted a few matters of new legislation in the bill, which are as follows:

A proviso, That hereafter all appointments made in the Pay Department of the Army shall be made by selections from the line of the Army.

Your committee recognizes the staff appointments as most desirable positions and thinks the officers of the Army should have reserved the right to receive the appointments to all vacancies in the staff.

The officers of the Army are restricted to one line of ambition, and your committee believe it unjust to permit appointment from civil life to any staff corps of the Army. If this provision shall be adopted it will leave only the Judge-Advocate's Department open to appointments from civil life.

"That hereafter no pay shall be retained," and submit herein the remarks of the Paymaster-General:

General STANTON. Let the committee turn back to page 6 for a moment, if you will—that item of pay for enlisted men by reason of length of service. I want to

suggest a change for the better in the way of simplification. The way the Army is paid is for service of three years. The Army retains \$12; why not pay it right along? Pay him with the current pay every month, which would simplify the keeping of accounts. Why not, then, pay it right straight along?

The CHAIRMAN. Why is any of the amount retained by the Army?

General STANTON. There are a great many desertions. If a portion of the pay is retained that might lessen the desire for desertions.

Mr. WASHINGTON. It seems a small thing on the part of the Government.

General STANTON. There is no occasion for retaining the \$12. Before the war we had stations on the frontier 1,000 miles from civilization. There was no means for them to get home; meager communication facilities. The Government allows all these men a liberal traveling allowance to get home on.

The CHAIRMAN. Are they allowed anything if dismissed from the service?

General STANTON. If they are dismissed they are allowed the same. When a man is discharged the amount that has been retained is paid to him.

Mr. WASHINGTON. I move that it be inserted that the Government not retain that amount.

General STANTON. It is simply a matter of simplification.

“That there shall be no appointments of hospital stewards until the number is reduced below one hundred and thereafter the number shall consist of one hundred,” and submit the remarks of the Surgeon-General:

General STERNBERG. We have at the present time, perhaps, one or two more hospital stewards than we want, but not more acting hospital stewards. We are not making any new appointments because some posts have been broken up.

The CHAIRMAN. You have 112 hospital stewards?

General STERNBERG. That number can be gradually reduced.

The CHAIRMAN. How would a proviso that no new ones shall be appointed until the number is reduced to 100 affect you?

General STERNBERG. My impression is that we could get on with 100 hospital stewards.

That the words “inspection districts” be inserted in the section which reads “Said clerks and messengers shall be employed and apportioned to the several quarters and stations by the Secretary of War—”

In compliance with the wishes of the Inspector-General as below expressed, and your committee believing it a wise insertion, complied with the request:

General BRECKINRIDGE. May I bring up one or two little things? I wish to refer to the clerks on pages 7 and 34. May I suggest that my Department be mentioned in them?

The CHAIRMAN. It reads: “Said clerks and messengers shall be employed and apportioned at the several quarters and stations by the Secretary of War.”

General BRECKINRIDGE. We have only six instead of twelve stations. One of them is at Santa Fe.

The CHAIRMAN. I understand that the clerks and messengers are at these different places.

General BRECKINRIDGE. They are for those headquarters. We are trying not to use them at places where we do not wish to use them. This adds nothing to the appropriation.

The CHAIRMAN. You want your Department mentioned where it says “said clerks and messengers shall be employed and apportioned to the several quarters and stations by the Secretary?”

Mr. KENT. Strike out the word “and,” after the word “quarters,” so that they will be apportioned to the several stations and “the inspection districts.” The inspection districts are not always at the Army headquarters. On page 34 the same idea occurs under “contingent expenses.”

Upon the recommendation of the Paymaster-General, as below stated, a proviso was added that “hereafter a monthly allowance of \$9.50 be granted to retired enlisted men in lieu of the allowance for subsistence and clothing.”

General STANTON. I want to submit to the committee a matter of the estimated amount. I have made a memorandum I would like to explain. Now, when you

come to make up these amounts for salary they are entitled to an allowance for rations of 20 cents a day, a clothing allowance provided by law. They are entitled to two-thirds of each of these allowances. The clothing allowance is constantly increasing or changing, and it is a great deal of bother to pay this account. It requires a great deal of minute detail, and it would be much simpler to give them a fixed sum. These men do not draw any clothing from the Government. The Government pays their allowance for clothing and rations in money. If a fixed sum be given it would be better than to have it constantly changing.

The CHAIRMAN. What would be the amount necessary?

General STANTON. Nine dollars and fifty cents would be about the sum in round figures. After careful figuring I think that would cover it and not increase the appropriation.

* * * * *

General STANTON. In answer to your question if striking out the 50 cents and making it \$9 would be sufficient, I would say that it would not cover it. The \$9.50 is simply a matter of simplification. There are a thousand on the retired list now; increasing all the time.

After the item for "commutation for quarters for commissioned officers," etc., the following proviso was inserted, as recommended by the Secretary of War in the Book of Estimates:

Provided, That hereafter in case the public quarters at any station are so full as to prevent the assignment of quarters in kind to a commissioned officer there stationed on duty with troops, commutation of quarters at the usual rates shall be paid to him as is now authorized by law to officers on duty without troops; the question of inadequacy of quarters in each case to be determined by the Secretary of War.

The necessity for this proviso is rare, as almost always there are quarters sufficient; but it would be a grave injustice to make the officer pay for quarters he would be obliged to hire in the vicinity, in case he could not be furnished Government quarters.

In the item of mileage to officers when traveling on duty without troops, your committee have stricken out, after the words "sleeping-car fare" and before the words "And provided further," the words "and transfers," which appeared in last year's bill. It did not appear to the committee to be just to require the officer to pay any part of the expense for his transportation, made necessary in complying with orders, and also added a proviso "That advance mileage may be paid for all distances over 2,000 miles, under such regulations as the Secretary of War may provide," and submit the testimony of the Inspector-General, as follows:

General BRECKINRIDGE. There is another matter I wish to call your attention to. We travel a good deal in my department, and there is a matter there which I think can help us without increasing expense, and that is if you will authorize an advance of mileage. We had it for a long time and there has never been any loss. Mr. Kent will read the proposed amendment.

Mr. KENT. Insert, after the word "railroad" after the last "and," "*provided further*, That advance mileage may be paid under such regulations as the Secretary of War may prescribe for all distances exceeding 2,000 miles."

General BRECKINRIDGE. The officers have to borrow money and pay interest on it whenever they go out under orders of the Government. It does not affect me, because I have a bank account. It has never caused any loss, and I do not believe it will. The mere idea is to fix it so that the Government for carrying on its own business shall stand its own expense.

Mr. KENT. Under the old practice the Treasury advanced mileage, and permitted it to be paid for all distances exceeding 2,000 miles and in special cases distances exceeding 1,000 miles. That was the case until the Second Comptroller called a halt by referring to the statutes, which provide that no advance of public money shall be made on any account whatever. He construed that as cutting off the authority of the Secretary of War. When an officer gets orders to travel distances over 2,000 miles he must make the advance himself sufficient to cover the mileage.

In item for subsistence of the Army, your committee have included among the items to be provided for, not heretofore included, 3,000 cook-

books. This was done upon the suggestion of the Commissary-General, as appears below:

The CHAIRMAN. Is there anything further you have to say?

General MORGAN. The chief clerk suggests that you put in there the appropriation which we had last year for the army cookbook, and also for the militia or National Guard.

The CHAIRMAN. What is that provision?

General MORGAN. Under the rule we could get only a thousand, and now we ask for 3,000. The expense of those 3,000 books would be about \$1,500, but we do not ask that in addition to our regular appropriation. It would give great satisfaction to the East, West, North, and South.

The item for purchase of horses for cavalry, artillery, etc., your committee have increased \$30,000 over the amount estimated by the War Department, for the reasons herein given by the Quartermaster-General and the statement made personally by the Secretary of War to the chairman that the additional \$30,000 should be granted.

The CHAIRMAN. Page 24, for the purchase of horses for the cavalry and artillery and for Indian scouts, \$100,000.

General BATCHELDER. We want \$130,000 for that.

Mr. McCLELLAN. The War Department last year only asked \$80,000. That was not sufficient?

General BATCHELDER. No, sir; we have a deficiency of \$49,900 now before the Committee on Appropriations to carry us to the end of the fiscal year. That has grown out of several reasons. The last two years we have been helped out on the annual appropriation though the discharge of the Indian cavalry soldiers, and their horses have been transferred to the Army. The estimates for this year are much larger than for several previous years. The appropriation is exhausted, and we have nothing left and have not had for some time.

The CHAIRMAN. You have nothing left, and a deficiency?

General BATCHELDER. Yes, sir; \$49,900 to carry us the remainder of the year.

The CHAIRMAN. So that the estimate of the War Department itself is below what you require?

General BATCHELDER. Yes, sir. This is the only time in my experience since I have been Quartermaster-General that we have made a deficiency. I have two or three changes on page 20 which I wish to suggest under the head of regular supplies.

Mr. McCLELLAN. You are allowed no reserve horses under this proviso?

General BATCHELDER. We have one horse for every man, and there are usually several men sick or on detail duty.

In item "for manufacture of ammunition for small arms," etc., after the word "practice," not heretofore included, your committee have added "ammunition for burials at national homes for disabled volunteer soldiers;" and also in the item "for firing morning and evening gun," after the word "seven," have inserted "and at national homes for disabled volunteer soldiers."

Under present law there is no provision for furnishing this ammunition, and your committee believe the authority should be granted.

Appendix marked A is a communication from Maj. George W. Davis, U. S. A., written by direction of the Secretary of War, inviting attention to certain phraseology used in respect to certain items in the Book of Estimates, and explaining the same. It was the sense of your committee to approve.

Appendix marked B is the evidence of the Chief of Ordnance before your committee, which is herewith submitted.

Statement of the increases and decreases recommended in this bill as compared with the appropriation for the Army for last year.

	Law of 1895-96.	Bill 1896-97.	Increase. in bill.	Decrease in bill.
Pay of the Army.....	\$2,750,000.00	\$2,768,000.00	\$18,000.00	.....
Length of service.....	775,000.00	770,000.00	.....	\$5,000.00
Pay of enlisted men.....	4,170,000.00	4,265,000.00	95,000.00	.....
Service pay of enlisted men.....	440,000.00	451,000.00	11,000.00	.....
Hospital Corps.....	215,000.00	206,200.00	.....	8,720.00
Adjutant-General's Department.....	68,250.00	61,750.00	.....	6,500.00
Ordnance Department.....	166,270.00	164,190.00	.....	2,080.00
Subsistence Department.....	100,750.00	92,950.00	.....	7,800.00
Medical Department.....	504,790.00	509,470.00	4,680.00	.....
Pay Department.....	109,200.00	96,200.00	.....	13,000.00
Officers on retired list.....	1,400,000.00	1,420,000.00	20,000.00	.....
Retired enlisted men.....	325,000.00	386,287.25	61,287.25	.....
Veterinary surgeons, etc.....	25,000.00	25,800.00	800.00	.....
Paymasters' clerks traveling expenses.....	80,000.00	69,100.00	.....	11,000.00
Reporters, witnesses, etc., for courts-martial.....	6,148.09	6,150.00	1.91	.....
Officer in charge of public building.....	1,000.00	.....	.....	1,000.00
Commutation of quarters.....	175,000.00	210,725.48	35,725.48	.....
Travel retained and detained pay.....	790,000.00	700,000.00	.....	90,000.00
Civilian physician.....	1,000.00	500.00	.....	500.00
Apache Indians.....	10,000.00	5,000.00	.....	5,000.00
Regular supplies of Quartermaster's Department.....	2,300,000.00	2,200,000.00	.....	100,000.00
Cavalry artillery horses.....	80,000.00	130,000.00	50,000.00	.....
Transportation Quartermaster's Department.....	2,450,000.00	2,400,000.00	.....	50,000.00
Construction and repair of hospitals.....	45,000.00	75,000.00	30,000.00	.....
Clothing, camp, and garrison equipage.....	1,100,000.00	1,050,000.00	.....	50,000.00
Medical supplies.....	160,500.00	140,500.00	.....	20,000.00
Medical Museum and Library.....	13,000.00	15,000.00	2,000.00	.....
Engineer Department.....	6,500.00	9,500.00	3,000.00	.....
Manufacture metallic ammunition.....	180,000.00	225,000.00	45,000.00	.....
Repair and preservation ordnance.....	10,000.00	8,000.00	.....	2,000.00
Manufacture of ordnance stores.....	115,000.00	125,000.00	10,000.00	.....
Infantry, cavalry, and artillery equipments.....	190,000.00	200,000.00	10,000.00	.....
Morning and evening gun.....	20,600.00	20,000.00	.....	600.00
			396,494.64	373,200.00
				23,294.64
Increase.....				396,494.64

APPENDIX A.

WAR DEPARTMENT, OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, January 15, 1896.

SIR: Referring to the estimates for the military establishment as appearing in the Book of Estimates for 1896-97, by desire of the Secretary of War I have the honor to invite your attention to certain phraseology used therein with respect to particular items of estimates, and to submit the following explanation thereof:

On page 108 of the Book of Estimates, under the subheading, "Commutation of quarters to officers on duty without troops at stations where there are no public quarters," appears the following: "Provided, That hereafter in case the public quarters at any station are so full as to prevent the assignment of quarters in kind to a commissioned officer stationed on duty with troops, commutation of quarters at the usual rates shall be paid to him as is now authorized by law to officers on duty without troops; the question of inadequacy of quarters in each case to be determined by the Secretary of War."

The object of the proviso is to give to the Secretary of War authority to reimburse officers stationed at military posts on duty with troops where there are not sufficient public quarters for their accommodation by paying them the same commutation allowance that is now authorized for officers of the same grades when on duty where there are no public quarters, the payment amounting to a reimbursement to them for actual outlay necessarily made, and each case as it comes up to be decided by the Secretary of War. There are now before the Department the claims of a few officers for such reimbursement for the hire of rooms in private buildings while they were serving with troops at their regular stations, but as the law is now construed by the accounting officers there is no authority for the payment of these claims, some of which are particularly meritorious, and their denial has in some instances worked a hardship to the individuals. It is to provide against the recurrence of such conditions in future that the proviso above referred to is suggested.

The provision will not involve an increase of former appropriations, and the annual disbursements on this account will not exceed a few hundred dollars. The aggregate amount of all claims filed since 1878, when the present law went into effect, does not exceed \$3,000. The claims filed last year amounted to about \$500.

On page 109 of the Book of Estimates, under "Subsistence Department, subsistence of Army," appears the following new verbiage:

"For toilet articles, barbers' laundry, and tailors' materials for use of general prisoners confined at military posts without pay and allowances."

On page 111, under "Incidental Expenses, Quartermaster's Department," appears "for a donation of five dollars to each dishonorably discharged prisoner upon his release from confinement under court-martial sentence involving dishonorable discharge," and on page 114, under "Clothing, and Camp, and Garrison Equipage," appears "For a suit of citizen's outer clothing, to cost not exceeding \$10, to be issued upon release from confinement to each prisoner who has been confined under a court-martial sentence involving dishonorable discharge."

By the act of Congress approved March 2, 1895, the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kans., was transferred to the Department of Justice. Since the transfer, which took place on June 30, 1895, nearly all military prisoners now serve their sentences at certain garrisoned posts.

Prior to the transfer of the prison the appropriations for its support included sums for the material, clothing, toilet articles, and donations which the language quoted above authorizes to be hereafter furnished by the Subsistence and Quartermaster's Departments, and for which expenditures there is at present no legal sanction.

These prisoners, after trial by court-martial and dishonorable discharge, have no pay whatever or any allowance except food and prisoners' clothing, but no clothing allowance as have soldiers. When the sentences expire these men are simply turned adrift, and have no other clothes than the worn prison garb. They have no means for subsistence while looking for employment, nor for travel in reaching their homes. In many cases they are a tax upon the civil community, or the officers and soldiers of the garrison make up a purse to enable them to secure necessaries, comfortable clothes, and to enable them to get away from the posts. While confined they need brushes, combs, towels, needles, and thread for mending, barbers' services, etc., but as no means exist for supplying these, rules for neatness, cleanliness, etc., can not be observed unless provided through the charity of others.

It is estimated that there will be an average of about 350 prisoners who should be supplied with toilet articles, etc., and the expense of this, it is estimated, would not exceed 50 cents per man per month, or a total outlay from the Subsistence Department appropriation of \$2,100, but an increase over former appropriations for subsistence will not be required. All post commissaries now keep in stock for sale or issue all the articles that will be needed to supply these military prisoners with necessary articles, and if the authority asked is granted, regulations would be formulated by the Secretary of War specifying the articles that could be issued, with necessary restrictions upon the issues.

The number of prisoners to be discharged annually will be about 250, each of whom it is proposed shall be given a suit of citizen's outer clothing, costing not to exceed \$10, and a donation of \$5, to enable him to reach his home or place where he can secure employment, making an aggregate under these two heads of \$3,750.

While these prisoners are serving their sentences they are kept at hard labor and render services to the Government of very considerable money value.

No additional appropriation over amounts previously allowed for "Incidental Expenses, and Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage," will be required.

Yours, very sincerely,

GEO. W. DAVIS, *Major, U. S. A.*

Hon. J. A. T. HULL,

Chairman Military Committee, House of Representatives.

APPENDIX B.

STATEMENT OF BRIG. GEN. D. W. FLAGLER, CHIEF OF ORDNANCE.

The CHAIRMAN. You have one brigadier-general, three colonels, ten majors, etc. We simply want to ask you, as we have asked all the others, if there is any part of your force that can be reduced without impairing the efficiency of your Department.

General FLAGLER. There is not. I have been compelled for the last three years, out of a sense of duty, to ask for an increase of officers. The reason we are in such distress in regard to the number of our officers is because there has been a change in the work imposed upon the Ordnance Department in the last year. That has been due to the new armament and equipment. The manufacture, especially of the new guns, involves an amount of inspection, and a number of officers must be at the steel works to inspect forgings. It requires the selection of the best officers, and a large number of them. It has crippled the force of officers very seriously at the arsenals. At the present time there are about six officers on that duty. Then the work at Sandy Hook Proving Ground requires the best officer that I can put there. It can not be delegated to anybody else, except a scientific officer who has studied the subject for a great many years.

The chairman of the committee is familiar with one arsenal, that at Rock Island. I have four men there, and it is with great difficulty that I am able to keep even four. You are familiar with the fact that the organization of the company in line is three officers. We have larger companies of soldiers at Rock Island than we have in line. The amount of work for the officer in action is certainly not 1 per cent of the work the officer must perform at that place. I mention that so that you will see what those officers have to do. As a general thing my officers are overworked. You think it a strange statement to make, but it is true. They have more work imposed upon them than they ought to have.

Mr. McCLELLAN. If the Committee on Appropriations should make appropriations to give us adequate coast defenses they would have more work still?

General FLAGLER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. I was satisfied that substantially what you say is true.

General FLAGLER. I will only mention one other case. I became satisfied four or five years ago that I must put an officer on what we call powder duty. I wanted a man who would devote his time to the study of the manufacture of powder. I knew a man in my Department, an officer of education, and a man of adaptability to that work. I spent three years to get that man on powder duty. And the results have proved the advantage of it—not only proved it, but the result has been that the man is a great deal more important and useful than I anticipated.

The CHAIRMAN. You have increased the estimate for this year \$2,000, practically, over last year. How does that come in—captains retired and lieutenants in?

General FLAGLER. Yes.

The CHAIRMAN. Page 32, "Increase of manufacture of metallic ammunition;" you ask \$225,000, as against \$180,000 last year.

General FLAGLER. My estimate was for \$250,000 for ammunition.

The CHAIRMAN. Ammunition for small cartridges, \$225,000.

General FLAGLER. Somebody has reduced that.

The CHAIRMAN. You think you ought to have the full \$225,000?

General FLAGLER. I ought to have more. That is a very simple matter. You know that we are now compelled to have a new kind of ammunition for the magazine rifles. We are using the smokeless powder, and it costs 1.6 times as much as the other powder; thus there is an increase in the cost of ammunition. Then the bullet requires the use of a jacket, which adds, I think, about 36 per cent to the cost of the ammunition; so that altogether that ammunition costs nearly one and a half times as much as the old ammunition. We are trying very hard to reduce that cost, and may make some further reduction; but if so, it will be very little. The regulations of the Department require a certain amount of ammunition to be issued to each soldier for target practice. I do not think I need to tell you the necessity for that issue. It is imposed upon me to furnish that, and the necessity for it is well known. You can not reduce that. That \$180,000 will not give me the amount of ammunition required for target practice alone. I think most of the members of this committee especially will feel the importance of a reserve for emergencies. We ought certainly to have a considerable supply of that ammunition on hand, and without an increase we can not have any.

The CHAIRMAN. You think that is not too little—\$250,000 for ammunition?

General FLAGLER. I say it will take \$200,000 for target practice alone.

Mr. McCLELLAN. If you had \$250,000 how much reserve ammunition would you have?

General FLAGLER. I would use \$46,000 in accumulating reserve ammunition. About \$204,000 ought to supply the amount required for target practice.

The CHAIRMAN. It takes \$204,000 for target practice alone?

General FLAGLER. Yes; and you can not do with any less than that. I think this committee appreciates the fact that we ought to accumulate a little reserve of that ammunition which is needed for the magazine rifle. I have no reserve ammunition for the new rifles. I am barely able to issue what I am compelled to issue.

Mr. WASHINGTON. After it is put up how long will it keep?

General FLAGLER. Practically forever. It does not deteriorate. We have had ammunition twenty to thirty years old stored in a damp magazine, but when we took it out and fired it there was no deterioration. We do not anticipate any difference in that smokeless powder.

Mr. BISHOP. In current expenses, the appropriation is \$100,000, and \$100,000 is estimated for. Do you know whether you used the entire appropriation last year?

General FLAGLER. We estimated for \$125,000. The estimate states pretty well what that money is required for. The operations are contracted and curtailed, I think, improperly in the economy we are compelled to use under that general appropriation. It would be much better for the service if we could have a little more. I never have a dollar of that left, and no establishment as large as that could be properly managed for any less.

The CHAIRMAN. In other words, the Secretary has cut \$25,000 off what you feel you ought to have?

General FLAGLER. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. We can not go beyond the estimates, unless the Secretary will send in a supplemental estimate. I think the committee is disposed to do whatever the Government needs require.

General FLAGLER. I only make that statement about the general appropriation, because it is true, and I feel that I ought to say so.

Mr. BISHOP. The next item is the purchase and manufacture of ordnance stores.

General FLAGLER. There is another item there for preserving the ordnance stores in the hands of troops, \$10,000. I only want to say that by pretty close economy that item was managed well last year, so that I think I can get along with \$8,000. I do not care to go into details, but that item has been carefully husbanded.

The CHAIRMAN. For purchase and manufacture of ordnance stores to fill requisitions of troops, \$10,000 increase. Last year you got \$115,000.

General FLAGLER. My estimate for this year is \$125,000.

The CHAIRMAN. Have you used all the \$115,000?

General FLAGLER. Every dollar of it, and always find it too low. The requisitions can not be filled, and sometimes it cripples the operations of the Army because they can not have stores. There is a statement to be made in that connection, and the other two estimates which follow it—infantry, cavalry, and equipment. What I have to state relates to both that and the next one. From the close of the war until say, two or three years ago, we had a great quantity of old equipment left over from the war which could not be issued, but by breaking those up we got very valuable materials which could be utilized in the manufacture of new articles. In the harness, the iron was available, but the leather was unserviceable. We could use the old saddletrees. There were a great many of the old materials which could be used, but that material is all exhausted. The appropriation has been too small, and within two or three years we have cleared out everything. The arsenals are empty in stores and the Army needs them.

I think that that old material which was made over and used saved 30 to 40 per cent in the cost of the new stores. The quantity we can manufacture has fallen off that much, and there is not enough to keep the Army properly equipped. There is a little drain on our stores which was not contemplated, but we can not prevent its being done. Under a special law we equipped the militia of the District of Columbia. That is outside of the Regular Army equipment. We furnish stores, both the military arms and equipment, to a large number of schools and colleges. The law allows all such as can be spared without detriment to the service to be given in that way. In the management of that business these requisitions come in and we have to fill them. It takes so much away from what ought to go to the Army. It often puts an officer in a position where he can not say he can not spare it, if he has got it on hand.

The CHAIRMAN. For purchase of ordnance stores for infantry, cavalry, and artillery equipment, you think that is the least you can get along with?

General FLAGLER. I believe the Army can not get along with less than \$125,000 for the first and \$215,000 for the second item.

The CHAIRMAN. The Ordnance Department was cut down on that second item to \$200,000. You think you ought to have \$215,000?

General FLAGLER. I ought to have that much to fill the requisitions I am compelled to fill. I have no reserve supply.

The CHAIRMAN. The Secretary will have to recommend a deficiency.

General FLAGLER. We have stood on our reputation not to involve a deficiency.

The CHAIRMAN. For overhauling and preserving new ordnance on hand, at the arsenal, \$5,000.

General FLAGLER. That has been necessary for a great many years.

The CHAIRMAN. There is \$10,000 increase for firing morning and evening guns; \$20,600 did not pay for it.

General FLAGLER. It did.

Mr. BISHOP. I think that item has been up before every Military Committee for over fifteen years.

General FLAGLER. I can get along with less. The officer I mentioned as having been put on powder duty (though what I am about to mention is practically of no importance, compared with his regular work) has devised a powder for that morning and evening gun which costs very little money, and we are able now to fill the requirements of the Army for \$20,000 a year. The powder we bought formerly for 18 cents we can now get for about 8.85 cents.

The CHAIRMAN. Targets for military practice is the same as last year, \$6,000.

General FLAGLER. I thought at one time I could get along with a little less; but now I am afraid to say so, because we are about to supply the artillery with new ordnance, and there will necessarily be more artillery practice, and we will want more than we have had heretofore. Therefore I think you had better not reduce that.

Mr. BISHOP. Explain briefly what those targets are.

General FLAGLER. We use lumber to make a raft, which is usually a triangular structure, which we can put upon a frame, on which we mount a target. The target itself is canvas. We put it out at anchor somewhere and fire at it.

The CHAIRMAN. The next item is the same you had this year, \$400,000 for national armories. There is a bill before us now doubling the works substantially. Has it been submitted to you?

General FLAGLER. No.

The CHAIRMAN. Is an increase necessary or desirable there?

General FLAGLER. If an emergency arises requiring their production more rapidly than now we would want an increase in machines, but not much in the way of buildings and things of that kind.

The CHAIRMAN. That bill will be submitted to you, and we would like to have a separate report on it.

General FLAGLER. I think that had better be considered by itself.

Mr. BISHOP. Do you think it best to not reduce that?

The CHAIRMAN. You are not making those arms now, I suppose?

General FLAGLER. No. In the present condition of affairs it would be unwise to make a reduction in arms. That is especially true now, as we have this new magazine rifle, and we want to accumulate those supplies.

Mr. BISHOP. We manufacture those here?

General FLAGLER. Yes. The infantry and artillery have been supplied with new rifles. The cavalry has not been supplied, but we have been getting ready to issue them to the cavalry. That appropriation will enable us to accumulate probably over fifteen new arms per annum.

Mr. McCLELLAN. How long would it take to equip the Army with the new arms under this appropriation?

General FLAGLER. We have gotten all the Army equipped except the cavalry.

Mr. WASHINGTON. Where are these rifles made?

General FLAGLER. In Springfield.

Mr. WASHINGTON. What do they cost?

General FLAGLER. We would be able to produce them at about \$18. I think we will reach that figure hereafter, but it has involved a large change in the methods of manufacture. We have a great deal of new machinery, and we have accomplished considerable with that.

Mr. BISHOP. That is a foreign patent, is it not?

General FLAGLER. It is a foreign patent.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it going to be satisfactory? I have understood it is very unsatisfactory.

General FLAGLER. I would say that that is not true. There will be complaints, of course. No new arm has ever been adopted by an army in this country or any other without finding imperfections which can be overcome or in which improvements could be made. That has always been the case. So far as I can remember, in my time there has been no gun issued to the Army in which so few of these imperfections have been developed as in this, and I think that we will have a satisfactory gun in the new single loader. The Springfield arm is justly regarded as the best in the world, and has been satisfactory. It was satisfactory six years before the present improvement and changes ceased.

Mr. McCLELLAN. You say that with the present plant you can accumulate fifteen arms a year above what is needed for the Army?

General FLAGLER. Yes, sir.

Mr. WASHINGTON. What is the name of that patent?

General FLAGLER. It is the United States service magazine rifle. The owners are Gerke & Jerkensen.

Mr. BISHOP. I am very much interested in what you say about this matter.

General FLAGLER. Back about fifteen years ago the question arose as to whether we should have a magazine rifle. It was a question of magazine rifle versus the single loader. The Army, of course, was divided. At that time, however, very few officers of the Army were in favor of the magazine rifle, but it was the duty of the Ordnance Department to investigate the matter, and I think it was about twelve years ago when they were in session and made a recommendation for the trial of two magazine guns. We manufactured 500 and issued them to the Army, and the result was that they were inferior to our Springfield caliber .45 breech-loading rifle. None of them were adopted, but the Ordnance Department was considering the matter and working on the subject from that time until 1889. In the meantime nearly all the first-class foreign powers adopted and were using magazine rifles. The information the Ordnance Department had was rather to the effect that those foreign magazine guns were inferior to our Springfield rifle and we were unwilling to use any one of them.