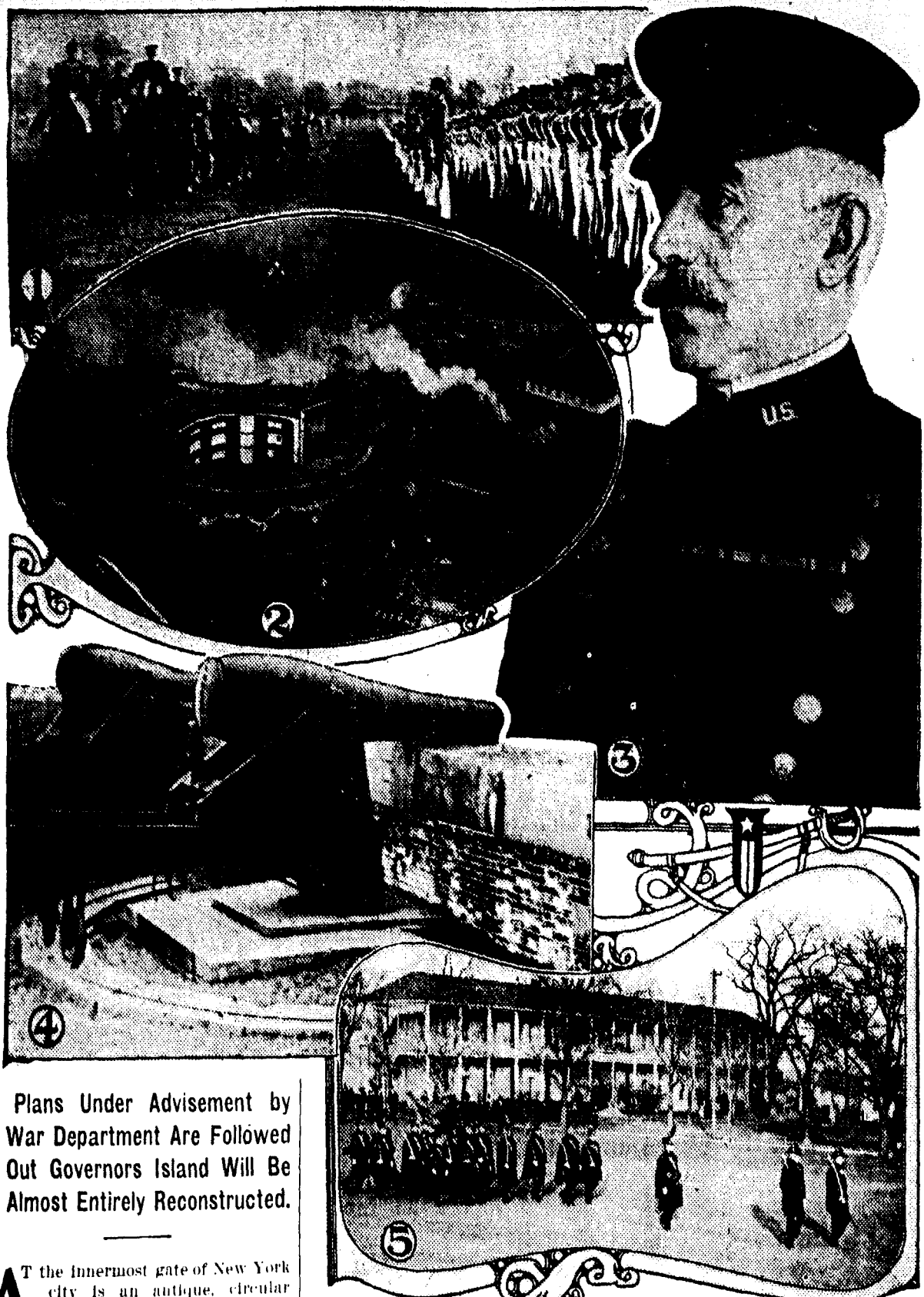


World's Finest Military Post



Plans Under Advisement by War Department Are Followed Out Governors Island Will Be Almost Entirely Reconstructed.

At the innermost gate of New York city is an antique, circular fort situated on a small island, which some day may be the most luxurious and complete military station in the world. There is little fear of America's greatest city ever having to call on Castle William now used as a prison for offending soldiers in case of an invading fleet's attack, as she is amply protected with modern strongholds at all outside points, making her well nigh impregnable. Still Governors Island is the headquarters of a most important branch of our army. The department of the east is maintained there. Major General Thomas H. Barry is in command. He was sent from West Point to succeed the late Major General Frederick Dent Grant.

Governors Island is the mecca of the social army life in the east, and as it is at the very doorway of this country, there are those inside and outside of the army who consider the contemplated improvements as befitting of this country.

APPROVED BY TAFT

The recently revived interest in re-planting Governors Island came with the submitting to the war department at Washington of a scheme of harmonious arrangement of buildings. This matter now is being discussed, with the thought of presenting the plans for congressional approval. Several years ago congress appropriated \$1,000,000 for the reconstruction of the Governors Island army post and 103 acres have finally been reclaimed from the bay. Other improvements were suggested, and in 1908 President Taft approved plans for a regimental post. However, nothing has been done since then to carry them out. It was intended to make Governors Island the finest military post in the world. All the old buildings were to be razed. Fort Jay, South Battery and Castle William alone to remain. The first was to be the center of a park with a castellated tower; its moat, drawbridge, fine old gateway and sallyport were not to be interfered with. The barracks were to be of the latest model with every appliance for comfort and use and to house a full regiment of 1,200 men. Magnificent parade and athletic grounds, libraries, rows for passengers and freight and plans for commodious buildings for the officers were included in the plans.

Situated near what is considered today one of the most valuable pieces of real estate property in the world, Governors Island was purchased (1827) by that shrewd old barrator, Wouter Van Twiller, director general of New Netherlands, for some ax heads, a string of beads and a few nails from two Indians, whose names, Cakapetjon and Pehlwas, would indicate a greater mentality than they seem to have possessed. Across Buttermill channel to the origin, naming and history of which Captain Smith devotes two chapters of his book, Sara, the first Christian child to be born in the Dutch colony, daughter of Joris Janson de Rapalge, was taken in a tub at a very early age of her career and furnished the only thrilling narrative of the place for some time.

FIRST BUILDING IN 1659

For several years it furnished a convenient landing place for the settlers and the first building was erected (1660) by Van Twiller, and this was destroyed by the assembly as being

"Part of the Denizen of His Majesty's Fort at New York for the Benefit and Accommodation of His Majesty's Governors and Commanders in Chief for the Time Being." After this it became known in familiar parlance as Governors Island, but not all at once in legal documents.

In its early history it furnished examples of rapine and graft which put to shame the efforts of the present day. One of the early governors, Lord Cornbury, cousin of Queen Anne, comes down to us as "being universally detested," principally for his questionable dealings in regard to this piece of land which the people at large were already beginning to cherish for its beauty and utility.

In 1710 the island served, in fact if not in name, as the first quarantine post of the province and in that same year shiploads of Palatines, religious refugees, were housed there, "the proper place for their sickness and poverty," said Queen Anne, who financed them parsimoniously. One of these immigrants, Peter Zenger, was the first citizen to vindicate publicly the freedom of the press and personal liberty.

Among the active work of the post is the branch of the Y. M. C. A. conducted by Chaplain Edmund B. Smith. The classes for enlisted men and the drills supplemented now with the more picturesque music drills or silent manual.

The military student finds at present little to interest him, for the island is not fortified, being in no way a part of the scheme of fortifications, which embraces Sandy Hook and the mouth of the harbor. Fort Jay, for 100 years known as Fort Columbus, but originally named for John Jay, was during the civil war manned with heavy guns, although not even threatened. When Fort Lafayette was too crowded with prisoners at that period Castle William took charge of the overflow and at one time housed over a thousand prisoners. Among the noted prisoners who have been confined there was John Yates Beall, the Confederate spy.

CHAPEL OF ST. CORNELIUS

Castle William was completed in 1811 and is built on bed rock. In one of the departmental reports it is described as "a stone tower with fifty-two forty-two and thirty-two pounders maintained on two tiers under a bomb roof and a terrace intended to count twenty-six fifty-pound columbiads." In several other reports Castle William is referred to as an "example of outgrown science."

In the museum on the island is Sheridan's famous horse Winchester, who bore his master in forty-seven battles. In place of a regular army chapel Trinity corporation has provided the Chapel of St. Cornelius The Centurion for the use of the post. It is a charming Gothic structure of granite, built near the old frame building, erected in 1847 by Dr. McVicker, who taught ethics at Columbia college during the week and on Sunday preached in the chapel he built and presented to the island himself.

Guarding the channel are several watch posts connected with a heavy chain, and a bronze tiger statue

that they are cannons used in the several battles of the Mexican war. Over the choir a double row of tattered but tattered flags hangs. One is a mere cobweb, and the light from the stained glass window shows a fringe of blood red threads and a splash of blue where stars were once woven. This is the last flag pulled down in Cuba. Another of peculiar interest is the one under which Major Reilly died and which was carried from Tientsin in the Boxer uprising in China.

A POST DE LUXE

To the casual glance at present every house on Governors Island would be bettered by a coat of paint. But complaints are rarely heard, notwithstanding the dictum that an army officer who doesn't complain has something the matter with him. This military station is one of the postes de luxe it is hard to get there and one has to pay an incumbent away. So when the authorities at Washington spell "economy" out loud the officers at the post are obediently silent.

General Barry's house, an old time dwelling, is a three minute walk from the landing, and directions to reach it are given by a trio of guards.

Turning a corner you face the parade ground, on which many of the houses, including General Barry's, front. Like the majority, his is a two story and a half structure and has an additional wing or two to distinguish it.

The architecture of these old houses is that of the late colonial period. The color is a saffron, dulled to a brownish tint, the trimmings white and the blinds green. The latticed porch and balustrades recall the gingerbread work of the Dutch housewives preparing some special form of ornamented cakes.

Along Colonel's row, as one of the residential streets is called, the names are printed in black letters on the rise of the veranda steps.

The Dutch name for the island was Nutting, Notting, Nutton or Nut. It was so called, obviously, for the splendid orchards of nut trees, but with the exception of the chestnuts—horse, not edible—there is no trace at present of them. There are six Lombardy poplars, remnant of the hundreds sent by Louis XVI. At headquarters, a large house with Georgian front and high ceiling, roomy offices, the affairs of the island are managed.

MILITARY STATION IN 1755

Nutton Island (Governors) was made part of the city of New York by the Montgomery charter (1730) and an act of March 7, 1788, included it in the county. It was in 1755 that it first fulfilled its manifest destiny as a military post. From 1755 to 1773 there were several royal regiments of England living there. These were the Royal Americans, his majesty's Sixty-first regiment of foot under Lord Loudoun and his majesty's Twenty-second and Forty-fourth regiments of foot. Details of their life were found by the historian referred to in the private library of Colonel Fitz-Clarence, earl of Munster, who committed suicide (1842), and in the English army records (1842). These regiments are in name existing today, and the colors of the band who played at the

of the Army Relief society is a lineal descendant of one of the officers.

In 1756 the first fortification was built; in 1776 a "strong castle" was erected. General Putnam, writing at this time to the president of congress, speaks of it as "a very important post." Washington wrote of "its strong works;" the New York Gazette referred to the thousand continental men stationed there; Lord Stirling considered it "better guarded than any other post." The brothers Howe stayed there until the evacuation of New York.

ONCE A RACE COURSE?

After the battle of Long Island and the British victory, Aug. 27, 1776, the "Liberty" boys came back under cover of the darkness and right under the noses of the victorious enemy secured munitions and food.

Tradition says that Governor Clinton lent the island once for a race course (1784-5).

In 1794 a ferry was established which took passengers at 3 pence a head. The one in use now averages 30,000 passengers a month.

That year congress appropriated \$3,727.52 for the island's defenses. In 1796 the works were dignified as forts, and about this date Knox reports "On Governors Island, one bastioned square, commanding two low batteries quite finished." Between 1794 and 1806 more than \$110,000 was expended on the works.

In 1798 the faculty and students of Columbia college, repeating their patriotic work in Harlem, came down to Governors Island with pickaxes and shovels to help erect breastworks when one of the French war scares aroused local fears and inspired the call for harbor defense. In 1800 it was ceded by the state of New York to the United States, and in 1821 the federal military headquarters were transferred there.

IN "PRISON OF SILENCE."

Ingenuity Exhausted to Make Lives of Inmates Miserable.

Entombed in a grim castle on the outskirts of Lisbon are some of the most miserable men on earth. These are inmates of Portugal's "prison of silence." In this building everything that human ingenuity can suggest to render the lives of its prisoners a horrible maddening torture is done. The corridors, piled tier on tier five stories high, extend from a common center like the spokes of a huge wheel.

The cells are narrow tombs, and within each stands a coffin. The attendants creep about in felt slippers. No one is allowed to utter a word. The silence is that of the grave. Once a day the cell doors are unlocked and the 500 wretches march out, clothed in shrouds and with faces covered with masks. For it is part of this hideous punishment that none may look upon the countenances of his fellow prisoners. Few of them endure this torture for more than ten years.

Divvy Up.

To have for one must share it. Happiness was born a twin. Byron

Diamond Pickups.

By "ROOTER"

Mike Mowrey of the St. Louis Cardinals claims that it makes no difference to him how important a contest is he never gets nervous. To his mates he is known as "Iron" Mowrey. The sorrel topped third baser, will never forget the day he broke into the big ring at Cincinnati some years ago. It was on a Sunday, and a double header was being contested.

"That day I made five errors," said Mowrey, "but it never bothered me a bit. All I would do was to laugh, and the funny part of it all was that not a fan hooted me."

"After making a few bobbles I had almost every one of the fans with me. And that's just the way I would act in a world's series game. I don't consider them a bit harder than a regular contest in the National League."

"To make up for my errors I banged out five safeties, so it was even up—five errors and five base hits the day I made my debut in the National League."

"Although I laughed during the game while I was making the bobbles, kicking 'em all around, I did not feel the same way that night. I was the sorriest person on earth and never wanted to see a ball park again, but here I am still at it, and I'll stick until they count ten on me."

Although Mowrey is considerable of a third sucker, he takes off his hat to Bobby Byrne of the Pirates.

Putting New Life in a Team.

A sample of what can be done in the way of making a promising ball club out of almost hopeless material one could do a lot worse than offer that Boston National outfit of George Stalings.

A McGraw Anecdote by McAleer.

According to James R. McAleer, president of the Red Sox the Cleveland club of which he was a member some years ago was sitting out in front of a notoriously poor hotel when a bus conveying the Baltimore Orioles, deadly rivals of the Cleveland gag, whirled by. A spidery youth whom McAleer has since identified as John J. McGraw, peered from the cavernous depths of the conveyance.

"Hi!" he bawled. "A second class club at a second class hotel!"

Kind Words For McBride.

"George McBride is today the greatest shortstop playing baseball. You can have your Wagners, Weavers and the pick of all of them, but for mine I will stick to the man we have."

"Hi!" he bawled. "A second class club at a second class hotel!"

There are men playing the position

who can hit more frequently than McBride, there may be some who can field as well, and there may be some who are as wise in baseball, but in the combination of all I think there is not one who is in the same class with George.

"McBride works for the team's good every minute of the day. When I first went to Washington I found certain



Photo by American Press Association. George McBride, Shortstop, Who is the Pride of His Manager.

people who seemed anxious to criticize the captain, but I was certainly happy when I found that the fans were beginning to appreciate the value of the man whom I took upon as my right bower. I smile when McBride hits the bit means something and a person would have to be pretty close to the club attend the club meetings and follow every move on the field to know what a part the shortstop has played in lifting Washington from a joke to a real live factor in the American League. "Give me McBride and the others can have their pick of the shortstops in both leagues."

The Height of the Ridiculous

Improving Nothing.

"And we understand you are a self taught as well as a self made man?" The Personage—I ham, sir. At twenty-one I knew nothing. Then I set to work, and at twenty two I'd taught myself all I knew!—Sydney Bulletin.

Better Than Nature.

"My boy, remember, no matter how great an artist you may become, you can never improve upon nature." "I've got to. I'm the fellow that draws the women for the magazine covers."—Washington Herald.

Perish the Thought!

"Madam," said the doctor, "what you need is more exercise. Why don't you walk four or five miles every day?" "And have people think we've had to sell our automobile? I guess not."—Detroit Free Press.

Discounted.

Maud—Last night Jack asked me how old I was, and I told him twenty-one. Marie—You were always good at subtraction, dear.—Boston Transcript.

Perfect Manners.



"Here! You musn't come here! Couldn't you see the board?" "Yes, sir. But we didn't read what was on it because it said it was 'private.'"—Comic Cuts.

Good News.

"Your father objects to my marrying you." "Good! That just gives me and me another opportunity of showing him who's boss around here."—Detroit Free Press.

Business Pointer.

"Is he working good?" "He sure is. He never comes in here to see me and I never see him."

Sailing Under False Colors.

"Do you always feel as hopeful as you write?" she asked the young man who was conducting a sunshine column.

"Not always," he answered. "My landlady manages to meet me in the hall about once a week."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Gentler Sex.

Griggs—Let's see. The first state in which women got a chance at law-making was Wyoming, wasn't it? Brigs—No; they got their first chance at lawmaking in the state of matrimony.—Boston Transcript.

Promising.



The Suffragette Mother—How splendid! She's going to grow up a real militant.—London Opinion.

The Horticulturist.

Knicker—How do you remember to water the plants when your wife is away? Bocker—I keep 'em in the bathtub.—New York Sun.

Essentials.

Mrs. Youngbride (to grocer)—Shall I open an account or do you prefer to have me pay for what I get? Grocer—Both, madam.—Boston Transcript.

The First Consideration.

"During, do you love me for myself?" "Why, certainly, Charles. But you truly love him, don't you?"

Dodging.

"I think we suffragettes had better not parade on Monday. Any other day would be better." "Why so?" "Our critics will make capital of the fact that Monday is wash day."—Kansas City Journal.

Offended Dignity.

"The duke is angry with me," said his wife, the heiress. "Seriously?" "Oh, very. He refused to borrow any money from me for more than a week."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Sweet Thing.

"This piece of lace on my dress is over fifty years old." "It's beautiful. Did you make it yourself?"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

The Souvenir Craze.

Ethel—Muriel, why do you wear a lock of your husband's hair? He hasn't departed his life. Muriel—No, he hasn't, but his hair has.—Puck.

Proof Positive.



Lady—I am collecting for the suffering poor. Man—But are you sure they really suffer? Lady—Oh, yes, indeed! I go to their homes and talk to them for hours at a time.

Of the Same Opinion.

Miss Prim—I would like to see my man try to kiss me! Miss Perry—Oh, nobody doubts you would kiss him.—Washington American.

A Typical American.

"Did you know that?"