

cations from Verdun to Toul and from Epinal to Belfort are connected by double-track railways and underground telegraph lines. The principal parts are strengthened with armored towers. The number of heavy guns controlled by each fort varies between twenty and fifty, though several forts have as many as eighty each. The forts already enumerated, together with less important fortified positions, have been placed so thickly between Verdun and Belfort that, excepting only the gap between Toul and Epinal, not a spot along the line is beyond the range of the heavy artillery. All modern devices have been adopted to render the forts impregnable against siege and impossible of surprise. Several forts will hold 2000 or 3000 head of cattle each, besides the usual stores and garrison. Each is protected against the surprise of night attack by bell wires, traps, pitfalls and electric signals.

The details of the situation beyond Germany's eastern frontier are somewhat different from those of the west, although the total effect is virtually the same. The Russian quadrangle, which may be roughly described as having its corners at Odessa, Riga, Thorn and Cracow, is bristling with bayonets, is furrowed with trenches, is gridironed with military railways. In it are garrisoned troops as numerous as the whole German army of today—ready to be mobilized at an hour's notice and to sweep over the German or Austrian boundary. These troops, moreover, are organized, not as a dependence of the great Russian army of the interior, but as a force complete in itself, with artillery, infantry and cavalry, technical information and military stores in exactly the proportions required for a complete independent organization.

In the last ten years Russia has surrounded Noveo Georgiewsk with eight forts, Iwanzored with eight forts, Warsaw with sixteen forts, Brest-Litowsk with seven forts. In 1884 there were in the Wilna and Warsaw districts 214,653 soldiers waiting to make or repel the attack. To the command of these districts has since been added that of the districts of Odessa and Kieff, and the total force has been swelled to 480,000 men distributed among twenty-nine divisions of infantry, twenty-nine artillery brigades, seventeen divisions of cavalry, twenty-four mounted batteries, four brigades of sharpshooters, four regiments of mortar artillery, twenty-six batteries of fortress artillery, miners and sappers, and railway troops and the train.

Such is the straight-jacket in which Germany has been placed by her eastern and western neighbors. In arguing concerning her ability to burst it in case of war, the first consideration has been the comparative numerical strength of the armies of Germany and her allies and of France and Russia. According to the branches of the service, the strength is:

	Bat- talions.	Squad- rons.	Bat- teries.
Germany .....	539	372	434
Austria-Hungary .....	438	264	241
Italy .....	346	144	207
Total for triple alli- ance .....	1322	780	882

France .....	584	364	480
Russia .....	963½	608	388
Total for France .....			
Russia .....	1547½	972	868

According to the number of men in the standing armies:

Germany .....	436,000
Austria-Hungary .....	289,000
Italy .....	231,000

Total for triple alliance..... 1,015,000

France .....	519,000
Russia .....	987,000

Total for France and Russia..... 1,506,000

According to the number of men actually available for the war effort under the eventual operation of the present laws:

Germany .....	3,350,000
Austria-Hungary .....	1,800,000
Italy .....	2,500,000

Total for triple alliance .....

Russia .....	4,556,000
France .....	4,125,000

Total for Russia and France..... 8,681,000

The army bill proposed that, contemporaneously with the introduction of the two-years service term, the strength of the German standing army be increased to 573,000 men, and the number of batteries from 434 to 494. Under the provisions of the bill the German army on a war footing would be eventually 4,400,000 strong, and the numerical disparity between the combined armies of France and Russia and those of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy would be lessened, while Germany would be at least on the same numerical footing in war with France and Russia.

A SCAVENGER CHAMPION.

SALT LAKE CITY, Aug. 17, 1893.—In your issue of the 15th inst. there appears an article entitled "Olor from Scavengerdom," evidently from a disgruntled person, signing himself "X," in that article the writer by intendo attempts to create the impression that the city scavenger is not what we consider him to be.

Now I am one of those that believe in the doctrine of the eternal fitness of things, and that our scavenger's pre-eminent qualifications for the place are the considerations that influenced the Hon. Mayor and Council in retaining him in the position. That he contracts with the city and with private parties at the same time as an officer of the city administration I cannot entertain for a moment, and wouldn't if I was a member of an investigating committee. It's impossible! His honor is a thorough lawyer; besides, there are several astute legal gentlemen in the Council and connected with the city government; and if the things existed as alleged by "X," the scavenger would be called to the captain's office instantly, as has been the fate of every wrong-doer under the present city government. Nor is it possible that there should be any speculation in the scavenger's business, or that anyone connected with the city government can share any of the gains and profits with the scavenger. The thing is impossible! The city only pays him his salary and that upon voucher and pay-roll check, re-checked and counter-checked, under the present excellent system introduced

by the finance department. Besides, is it not our boast that we have the most economical administration that the city has been honored with—that the Council has brought to the government of the city the experience, habitude and environment of their private lives? Are they not assiduous and untiring in their supervision of the distribution of the people's money, guarding with "solemn stride" the corridors to the treasury every pay day, so to speak? Are they not ever diligent in their efforts to retrench in expenditures, even to the authorizing of the employment of firemen to cut down the weeds, so that now they have a retrenchment that shall not secrete itself in the weeds and thus escape? I am informed even that in the pursuit of the little creature they have introduced into the city menagerie, they have actually gone so far as to reduce the irrigation department to seven bosses and two laborers, and this at a time when the city is suffering a tremendous precipitation of vapors from the council chamber and watered operation of the department. I reiterate without fear of controversion that it is absurd for "X" to intimate there has been anything irregular in the scavenger's business.

He intimates that some one from Green River is giving the scavenger lessons in much-needed information. Now if there is a man between here and the antipodes that can give the scavenger information and points in his business, I want to know him. I desire to invest a few dollars myself.

Again "X" leaves us somewhat mystified as to his meaning about hayseed being in his (the scavenger's) bonnet. Does he mean a Jerusalem cricket, timothy, clover, red-top or alfalfa seed? Or that the scavenger upon a time was tramping through Wyoming, slept at Evanston in a haystack and got lucern seed in his head? It is evident that "X" did not know what he was writing about, and the scavenger owes it to his constituents of the First precinct to clear the matter up before beginning his canvass. Rise up, William, and explain! Y.

SAN LUIS STAKE CONFERENCE.

The quarterly conference of the San Luis Stake convened at Manassa on the 13th and 14th inst.

The meetings of both days were well attended. The bishops reported a good feeling with the Saints generally. The instructions given by the speakers were such as tend to encourage the people to be Saints.

Father Edward Dalton, who for more than two years has been confined to his room with his eyes, but is now able to see again, was one of the speakers. His fatherly counsel and strong testimony encouraged his hearers. The local officers were sustained by a unanimous vote of the conference.

A Stake organization of the Primary associations was effected with Sisters Margaret J. Haskell as president and Celia Roberts as first and Martha S. Smith as second counselors.

MARCUS O. FUNK, Stake Clerk.

SPEAKING OF the financial situation, a first South street merchant declares that as yet he sees very little "change."