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CONDITION OF AFFAIRS IN CALIFORNIA.

A correspondent of the *Bulletin*, who evidently has some fearful forebodings in relation to the future, recently sent to that journal the following communication, in which he points out some of the dangers to which California is exposed from the Secession movements of the day:

EDITOR BULLETIN:—That California, although she has not yet sent at her own cost a soldier to the East to take part in the struggle now going on, is the right arm of the Government, none can doubt; for, without her millions of treasure sent forth monthly, the Government would long since have been bankrupt. Yet, notwithstanding her importance to the nation, there is no part of the American continent so unprotected and exposed to the attack of a foreign or domestic foe. This domestic war has now been raging for more than eighteen months, and California is in a more defenseless condition to-day than at its commencement, except that the fortifications in the harbor are in a little better condition.

At the commencement of the war it was well understood that the secessionists and their sympathizers in California had formed either as Knights of the Golden Circle, or under some other *soubriquet*, a League, by which its members were bound by solemn oath to sustain the Southern cause by moving on the Pacific Coast for the formation of a Pacific Republic, and taking and holding under that pretense, the fortifications in this harbor, and if necessary seizing the Custom-house and Mint in this city, the Navy Yard at Mare Island, and the Benicia depot. The more readily to effect their purposes, every gun at Alcatraz Island was examined, the caliber and condition of each noted, as well as its station marked. Then, Fort Point had not been turned over to the Military Department, it being still in charge of the engineer as a work in an unfinished state. The exposed condition of the Navy Yard with its immense magazine of powder, was well known and marked, as was also the condition of the Benicia Arsenal with its large supply of small arms and fixed ammunition. At that time every public post was in charge of a Southern man, as well as the Military Department of the Pacific. But they were not all traitors, and it is but a simple act of justice to say of the Commanding-General Johnston, that so soon as it was made known to him that the forts and arsenals were in danger, and their exposed condition known outside, he took prompt and efficient measures to put them in a condition to resist an attack, and thereby save the public property to the government. Fort Point was immediately put in a condition to receive a garrison; all the loose guns, shot and shell that were outside, were moved to the inside of the fort, and a sentinel placed at the gate. Alcatraz was carefully examined, and every gun put in a condition for immediate use. For a time strangers were excluded from the Island, and the surplus arms were removed from Benicia depot to Alcatraz, where they were more secure.

By the time these arrangements had been made, an order came from Washington directing the concentration of troops at this point, from Oregon and the Northern part of California. Soon after Gen. Sumner arrived here and relieved Gen. Johnston. The secret organization hereinbefore referred to was well known to some of our most prominent citizens, and an effort was made to induce the late Sheriff, Doane, owing to his connection with the Vigilance Committee movements, and his long residence at the South, to unite with them; but he not only refused to join them but united with other citizens to thwart their movements, and it is to this quiet association of gentlemen that this scheme of the secessionists became known. This same association, upon inquiry, learned the fact that every musket or other available firearm that could be had in San Francisco had been purchased by secessionists, and removed to the interior of the State, where they are no doubt still deposited, except such as may have been used to arm Gen. Johnston's party, and the other parties who have left the State for rebellion. Such was the condition of California at the time Gen. Sumner assumed command here. Let us see what is its present condition.

The order issued from Washington to Gen. Sumner to organize six regiments of volunteers in California was followed by one to send East all the regulars, infantry, artillery and cavalry. This order was carried out, and all the regulars were sent East excepting three companies of artillery and the 9th Regiment of infantry. All those that were left have been reduced numerically, owing to the expiration of the term of service of a large number of rank and file; and up to this time, the commanding general has not been able to fill up their thinned ranks. But owing to that order there was an end—for a time at least—

of all idea of a Pacific Republic or secession movements, which gave opportunity to the incoming Administration to change its public officers in the Custom House and other departments of the Government here, nearly all of the old incumbents being Southern men and sympathizers—except some of the officers of the Mint—and who, it was generally understood, were warm advocates of a Pacific Republic or secession.

The exposed condition of the public property at Mare Island, and especially the magazine, was made known to Gen. Sumner soon after his arrival, and for a time he stationed a guard there under the direction of the commander of the Yard, who, about the same time asked authority from Washington to enlist a company of marines, to be placed in charge of a proper marine officer, to guard the public property at the Island. This request has never been complied with up to this time, notwithstanding its importance and absolute necessity has been urged by the present able Commandant, Com. Selfridge, as well as his predecessors; and at this time the Navy Yard, with its valuable dock and stores, as well as its magazine, is without any other protection than the unarmed workmen employed in the Yard; and the magazine, which is remote from the closely inhabited part of the Yard, has no other protector than the keeper, who resides in a small house close to it.

Of the five regiments of infantry and one and a half of cavalry raised in California, but a very few of them are in striking distance of San Francisco and the other thickly populated portions of California; they are mainly distributed over the entire frontier of the State from Humboldt to Tucson, while a column of about 2,000 is now in New Mexico under Gen. Carleton, and Col. Connor's command is distributed from Fort Churchill to Salt Lake. Thus the available military strength of the State is reduced to a force of a few hundred men, to suppress a sudden uprising of secessionists on land, or in case of the advent of a foreign foe, upon the seaboard. It will be perceived that at least 4,000 loyal fighting men have been sent from among us, while the secession element, from its accession of the paroled soldiers and refugees who have come among us from rebellion, has largely increased; for it is a well ascertained fact that many thousands of this class of immigrants have been quietly locating in our midst, many of whom are known to have walked the streets of San Francisco and other parts of the State, boasting of their exploits against the Yankees at Bull Run and other points.

The late election, to a casual observer, will exhibit a diminished secession strength from last year's vote, but to an acquaintance with their tactics, it is apparent that they really only voted this year in those districts where they had some sympathizing friend to elect. In all other cases, they did not go to the polls, and that, too, for the express purpose of lulling the loyal citizens into a belief that secession advocates are on the decrease in California. The fact, however, is, that the secession element in this State was never stronger or better organized than it is at this time. The secessionists here, and especially the leaders, are bold, daring, talented men, of indomitable will and courage, who exercise an unlimited control over their less informed followers. Nearly all, if not all, the leaders are men who emigrated to California for the purpose of obtaining, and actually did obtain office under the State and General Government, which they held up to the election of Mr. Lincoln. Their loss of office has made them desperate, and having nothing to lose they are ready for any mischief that may be turned to their advantage, while the Government at Washington feel perfect security for the protection of the public property in this State in the loyalty of a very large majority of the people of California, while the people of the State themselves are lulled into a false security as to the loyal strength of California, the secession leaders are maturing plans which, if they be not watched and checked, may cost us dear at no very distant day.

The late proposition to raise, arm and equip a regiment for service in the East has exposed the poverty of California in arms and equipments necessary to arm any considerable number of men for either branch of the service. It is said that there is not a light field battery fit for service in California, except that owned by the old California Guard, which was purchased for them by the citizens of San Francisco; and that there are not muskets enough in the National armory of California to arm a single regiment. Now, if this statement be true—and for one I do not doubt it—then had the patriotic gentlemen who proposed to expend some \$300,000 to equip a regiment for the East, better, far better, appropriate the same amount for the purchase of the necessary arms and equipments for the purpose of arming our citizen soldiers in case of an emergency—which, in my humble judgment, will surely arise if the

present war continues; for it is apparent to me that the secessionists, while they will leave a strong co-operative force in California, are about to form a settlement in a neighboring Territory, near our southern frontier, that is destined to give us trouble at no distant day, and therefore should be looked to.

It will be remembered by all that some few years ago, an expedition was fitted out under the then Captain, now General Stone, for the purpose of surveying and settling the public lands of Sonora and other parts of Mexico, under a contract with the Mexican Government. At the time it was said, and there is no doubt of its truth, that many men of capital in California, and elsewhere had embarked in this speculation. The expedition left California and commenced its operations, which for a time progressed peaceably, but finally got into difficulty with the State Mexican authorities and was abandoned, at least for a time. Since the commencement of the Southern rebellion and after the idea of a Pacific Republic was abandoned by the secessionists, the State of Sonora in Mexico has been the point selected for the formation of a new Republic. That State and its mineral, and other resources, have been examined by shrewd men under the pretence of establishing mining and trading posts, and thus far under the prudent management of a man well known here as a secessionist, but at Guaymas, where he resides, as a well-informed merchant. This man has the control of a well-established mercantile house in charge of relatives who are secessionists, (or at least known as strong sympathizers,) who are now and have been for sometime past engaged in shipping machinery, stores, and other property, to their mines in the interior of Sonora and near the Yaqui river, and to other points, where it is proposed to establish a settlement of secessionists from California. Among the leaders, if not indeed the leader of the first band of emigrants, will be a distinguished soldier of the wars between Mexico and Texas, and the United States, who lately held a high civil appointment under the General Government. He, it is said, goes for the purpose of surveying and running out some land lines formerly surveyed by Stone. It is well known that the present Governor of Sonora is opposed to the scheme of colonization sought to be carried out under the Stone contract and expedition; and it is therefore not probable that this party of emigrants will attempt to carry out the Stone contract, until they feel strong enough to resist the Mexican authority in Sonora, which would be but a very short time after they once got a foothold.

Such is undoubtedly the present scheme of the secessionists of California to give us trouble; and let any prudent man ask himself if a scheme fraught with more danger to our peace at home, as well as with a friendly power, could be devised; or that would be more dangerous than the settlement of a band of desperate men within a few miles of our territory, but under the protection of a foreign flag, especially connected as they undoubtedly will be in communication and sympathy, with at least thirty thousand men equally desperate, who are now living in our midst? I therefore ask, are there not dangers that should be looked to, and, if they can, be guarded against?

But, in addition to all this, there is another element of danger to the peace of the Pacific coast being organized, to which the secession element, if it once gets foothold in Sonora, will be a most powerful auxiliary to do us harm. It is a fact well known to all the world that France most earnestly desires to acquire a foothold in the Pacific Ocean, and, if possible, somewhere on the east of America, where the precious metals are found in abundance. It is also a fact well known to our Government at Washington, as well as to all the French officials in Mexico, that it is the determination of the French Government to establish the Church party in power in Mexico, and for doing that the Emperor will require the cession of Sonora, with all its sea coast, to France. Nothing would suit our secession emigrants better, for they never would be content to live again under the American flag. It has long been a fixed fact that Sonora would, at no distant day, form a part of the territory of the United States; and whether the interference of France at this juncture will retard or hasten this result, cannot at this time be predicted with certainty; but sure it is that the secessionists would favor the pretensions of France in opposition to American interests.

At this time there is a population of at least 125,000 able-bodied men fit for military service in California, of which at least 40,000 are secessionists and their sympathizers who are opposed to the Government; and at the same time the most powerful nation of Europe is seeking a lodgment on our border. With these facts staring us in the face, and while the population is boiling over with patriotism and sympathy in support of the war on the Atlantic side, California, who sends forth her

monthly tribute of \$4,000,000 is left entirely dependent for her safety on her distance from the seat of war and the loyalty of her people. None seem to reflect that however distant we may be from the seat of war, we have in our midst and surroundings a powerful element of destruction, and that our people, however loyal and brave, cannot defend themselves without arms and munitions of war. I have shown in another part of this article our inability to arm 1,000 men; and while we are plethoric with patriotism for the war in the East, and hundreds daily are offering their services to fill the ranks of a California regiment to go East, none can be induced, either for bounty or patriotism, to enter the 9th Regiment of U. S. Infantry now stationed at the Presidio, whose ranks, by reason of the expiration of the term of service, are reduced to about 350 men. The officers of this regiment have no superiors in the army for experience, military knowledge and education, and yet they cannot obtain recruits enough to fill their thinned ranks. None seem to realize the fact that we are at the mercy of a well armed force on land, and that a single iron-clad steamer might either destroy our flourishing city in a few hours or levy a contribution of millions upon our unprotected citizens; for it is a fact that cannot be contradicted, that our entire harbor defenses afloat consist of but a single revenue cutter of 4 or 6 guns, and the land fortifications at Alcatraz and Fort Point. These forts, although in as perfect order and as well manned and supplied as the military force of the Department at his disposal will enable our talented and experienced Commanding General to extend to them, the entire change made in maritime warfare by the advent of the Merrimac will render our forts almost powerless against such an adversary; and yet all, all seem determined to leave California to her fate and go East. Even our experienced "train bands" of the city have caught the fever; for it appears by an announcement in one of the local papers a few days since, that the entire military staff of Brig.-Gen. Ellis—consisting chiefly of the attaches of the Sheriff's office—had authorized their chief to tender their valuable services to the President.

The important question therefore is—Is there a remedy or preventative for the evils that may result from such a state of things? I am free to confess, that while from my observation of passing events I may be able to point out dangers that surround us, and which are likely to endanger the peace and prosperity of our now quiet and prosperous State, I have not the ability even to suggest a perfect remedy, but will in a future article venture a few suggestions that may, if carried out, prepare us to meet the storm bravely, if it ever does come upon us.

FROM OREGON.

The following newspapers in Oregon have been excluded from the mails, by the order of Gen. Wright:

The Albany Enquirer, Democratic Register, and the Portland Evening Advertiser.

New gold diggings have recently been discovered, according to accounts from Oregon, on Boise river, about two hundred miles from Auburn on Powder river, of great richness. The discoverers, Samuel Moore, of Calaveras county, Cal., and a Mr. Sanford, of Walla Walla, Oregon, found prospects in the gulches of coarse gold, that would reach as high as \$50 to the pan. They also found good dry diggings for thirty miles in extent that would pay from \$50 to \$100 per day to the man with sluices. The mines were easy of access, and a party is reported to have gone to the new Eldorado to winter.

It is said there are seven steamers running on the upper Columbia this fall.

CAMP DOUGLAS.—Colonel Connor, on Wednesday last, removed his encampment from where he first pitched his tents on arriving in the city, further northward near the mouth of Red Butte, and named it "Camp Douglas" in honor, of course, of the deceased Little Giant. The location of the camp is very pleasant and eligible for the summer season, but it will probably be found to be somewhat exposed and cold for winter, and should the approaching reign of frost be as rigorous as some which have been experienced within the last fifteen years, guard mounting may not at all times be particularly pleasant or desirable to the soldiers.