

good of the service which prompted the request for Mr. Thoreson's resignation, he would have been allowed to remain until his term expired.

When the new Administration, however, came in, Mr. Thoreson assumed an independent position which seemed a challenge to those in authority over him. His zeal took the form of suggesting ways by which not only his office but other similar offices should be managed, and it happened that his suggestions were not in line with those that were considered efficient in conducting the big undertaking of Governmental surveying. At present the Government surveys are being made under a different method from that which formerly obtained. Heretofore it has been the practice for the Government to let out surveying to contractors. Now the entire work has been assumed as a Governmental undertaking with a very competent man in charge. Under him a small army of competent surveyors is establishing lines and correcting errors made by the contractors. It was felt that Mr. Thoreson was not adapting himself to the change in the policy of the Land Office. He was asked to resign; he refused to do so, and he was consequently dismissed.

It is not to be inferred that there are any discreditable charges against Mr. Thoreson, for there are not; but his record was not such as to include him in the class of those whose tenure of office would not be disturbed until they had served out their two terms of eight years.

Perhaps this case might not have gained such publicity if it had not been for the chance that made the nomination of his successor seem like the cure of a lisp. In putting Mr. Soreson in place of Mr. Thoreson, the Administration gave the newspapers an opportunity for headlines which was not overlooked. It should be said, however, that in this proceeding the Administration has not served a notice upon former Democratic officials that they have to go whenever it suits the appointing power to replace them.

THE ALABAMA AND THE AIR SERVICE

A SECOND Alabama has gone down to Davy Jones's locker. There was no Kearsarge to administer the *coup de grâce* nor any gallant Captain Semmes in command of the ill-fated ship, but the second Alabama went down quite as decisively as the first did off the coast of France. The second Alabama was destroyed by Army bombers off the Virginia capes in a test made by the military and naval authorities to determine both the effect of high explosives upon

battleships and the value of poison gas and smoke screens in air attacks upon naval vessels.

The experiments seem to have been carried out with even greater success than attended the demolition of the German warships a few months ago. The



(C) Underwood
GENERAL MASON M. PATRICK, CHIEF OF
THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR SERVICE

German ships were destroyed when the weather conditions were favorable for fliers. The Alabama was sunk while a high wind was sweeping over the sea. Following the destruction of the Alabama the cry has been renewed that its successful demolition has proved that the capital ship is an obsolete weapon of war. We cannot see the reasonableness of this cry. The need for the capital ship is just as great in naval operations as the need of infantry in land operations. The invention of the airplane has not abolished the infantry. The infantryman, however, has been forced to adopt new methods for his protection. Just so the navies of the world will be forced to discover new methods of protecting their capital ships from menace from the air. The battleship of the future will need the protection, not only of torpedo-boats, but of airplane carriers. If armies take up falconry, why navies must too.

THE NEW HEAD OF THE AIR SERVICE

TWO important Army appointments have been announced lately from the War Department at Washington, one of which is of general interest and the other of especial local interest to the city of Washington. The first is that of Colonel Mason M. Patrick, of the United States Corps of Engineers, to be Director of the Army Air Service, with the rank of Major-General, and the other

that of Colonel Charles Keller, of the same corps, to be the Engineer Commissioner of the District of Columbia, or, as one outside of Washington would say, one of the three Mayors of Washington.

The selection of Colonel Patrick for the important post he is to fill is one that is certain to give very general satisfaction and redound to the great benefit of the Air Service, which of late has not been functioning as smoothly as those best informed could wish. There has been some friction, which apparently was removed a few weeks ago when some differences between General Menoher (now succeeded by General Patrick) and his principal assistant, General William Mitchell, were apparently settled. At that time it looked as if one or other of the officers would have to leave that particular branch of the service, but Secretary of War Weeks, recognizing the merits of both officers, effected what seemed to be a satisfactory armistice. But apparently General Menoher has found the duties of his position not to his liking, and he asked recently to be transferred to the line and command of troops.

His request was granted and the selection of Colonel Patrick determined upon without delay. His selection was a natural one. General Patrick, for so he is now titled, did valiant service for the Army in France when, with the rank of Major-General, he was placed in charge of the Air Service over there. He brought order out of some chaos on the other side, and his executive ability was acknowledged as of a very high order. By many it was felt unfortunate that on his return to this country he was not at once placed in charge of the service here. General Patrick is not a flier, nor even a technician in air mechanics, but he is a wonderful executive, who understands the needs of the service and the direction of its personnel. He will have many important problems to iron out in his new position, such as the adjustment of certain disputed points as between the Army and Navy. He will have to see that whatever causes of friction may have developed in the internal working of the service are smoothed away. He may be depended upon to do that, tactfully and diplomatically if possible, by a strong arm if necessary.

In his appointment Secretary Weeks laid stress on the fact that General Patrick was an officer of mature years and seasoned by experience at home and abroad in positions requiring executive ability. For the great task of building up the ground service of the corps which includes procurement of aircraft and the supervision of some \$20,000,000 the War Secretary indicated that he re

WE WILL NOTHING WASTE

(As You Like It, Act II, Scene 7)

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WHY BLAME YOUR SHADOW

From Mrs. B. B. Benedict, Crownover, Nebraska

Perry in the Portland Oregonian



THEY OUGHT TO BE ABLE TO STOP THAT FELLOW

From Mrs. H. F. Butterfield, Woodburn, Oregon

Ireland in the Columbus Dispatch



ONE OF THESE DAYS THEY'LL PICK HER UP

From Miss A. K. Kenney, Centerburg, Ohio

Donahay in the Cleveland Plain Dealer



YES, PA HELPS OUT WITH THE CANNING