

The New Military Plan **MAY 17 1916**

Just what the immediate effects of the Federalizing of the National Guard will be upon the Guard itself is somewhat problematical, but the eventual effect will undoubtedly be to transform it into, practically, a reserve regular army, out of active service but ready to be called into the field at a moment's notice. Officers and men will receive part pay from the general government, and a great deal more in the way of work and efficiency will be expected of them than under the old system. Another feature (and that has caused National Guardsmen to hesitate about supporting the proposal in its entirety) will undoubtedly be the introduction into the Guard system of the direct influence of the regular army. That might not be a bad thing—it might, indeed, be the best thing that could happen; but the National Guard on the mainland has always been a little jealous of its own identity and independence and the elimination of the line fence between regular and volunteer may not set well with the latter for quite awhile.

The part-pay feature of the new arrangement will have the effect of filling the ranks of the National Guard to the full limit permitted by law. In all of the States it will be necessary to turn men away rather than to look for them. But the personnel of the Guard will change. Many of the men now in it, particularly in the cities, will drop out, and "fancy" companies and regiments will be filled by other elements.

What all the effect may be in the Islands it is probably too early to anticipate. We imagine that the change in the system here will be made slowly, for the reason that schemes will have to be formulated and there will be a great deal of work in connection with aligning the Guard under the new law on the mainland before the outposts are reached. Time and the experience of other States will assist us, perhaps, in a better understanding of the new plan before it actually reaches us in its entirety.
