GENERAL FRED D. GRANT ON THE ARMY

States. They are of long extent and are very rich.

It's what we see in the papers I'm sure you have not heard of General Grant. But what we see as reports are what can be absolutely relied upon, and men upon which one who does not lose an opinion. New and powerful engines seem to have been discovered, the wireless telegraph has been operated for the first time, and new things are in the air. We shall get the facts as to such of the army and navy, but that will not be before the war is over. It still is time enough to express an opinion.

What is the general condition of the United States army?

It is steadily improving. Our soldiers are better trained from year to year. They have better health, they are fed stricter, and they have higher morals.

How about patriotism, General Grant?

It is said that the United States soldier is the whitest Ignorant ever on earth.

"I don't believe that," said General Grant. "I know many soldiers who use profane language, but they are individuals only. There are many who do not swear at all. Profanity is, as you know, prohibited by the army regulations. At this point the conversation turned to the officers, and I asked General Grant what his father used profane language or not. He replied that they were none, and that he had never heard his father use a profane word. Said he:

"My father told me that he had never sworn on oath in his life. I know that he did not use any of the ordinary expressions that he was aware of. I once heard him say 'blodgy and blodgy' and once or twice say 'shoddy,' but I thought that he was referring to the latter part of his life. I did not use any such expression. He was a man of many words, and he never had a vulgar term or word which he would not use ich General Grant, 'I have tried to."

"Then you think our soldiers are growing better?"

"Yes. The character of our army always improves when the army has something to do. Since the Spanish war we have had something to do. Our soldiers have been better off, and there has been plenty of active service. Army life is better than the life of a civilian. The people have a higher re- spect for the officer than they have for the private soldier. Our soldiers feel it. The profession of the enlisted men in the army to-day is one in which I think we may be making better a man of thirty or forty years of age."

"Why do you advise a young man to go to the army?"

"That would depend much on the man. In some cases, his character, his intelligence, and his ambitions, and General Grant. "If he is intelligent, he will try to make a success of his life. If his character is good, if his ambitions are high, and if he can be a success of which would be desirable."

"How does one become a member of the military service?"

It is open to any person who is a citizen of the United States, willing to serve. There are no special qualifications, and there is no age limit.

How do you get into the army?

You must go to a recruiting station and apply for service. You will be examined by a board of officers, and, if you are found suitable, you will be accepted.

How long do you serve?

The length of service depends on the wishes of the individual. There is no fixed term of service.

How do you get paid?

You are paid according to rank and service. You are paid according to the work you do and the rank you hold.

How does one get promoted?

Promotion in the army is based on merit and service. You are promoted for your abilities and your conduct.

What is the pay like?

The pay varies according to rank. You can expect to earn from $150 to $300 per month, depending on your rank and the duties you perform.

What is the living conditions like?

You will live in a barracks or a tent, depending on your rank and the station. You will have a place to sleep and eat, and you will have access to medical care.

What is the physical training like?

The physical training is rigorous. You will be required to maintain a high level of fitness, and you will be trained in various physical activities such as marching, shooting, and gymnastics.

What is the social life like?

In the army, you will have the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. You will have access to various activities such as sporting events, social events, and cultural events.

What is the retirement plan like?

You will receive a pension upon retirement, and you will be eligible for various benefits such as medical care and disability payments.

What is the overall experience like?

The overall experience can be varied, depending on your rank, duties, and station. You will have the opportunity to travel and experience different cultures, and you will have the chance to develop important skills and abilities.