



New Gun Giants To Guard the Coast

How lessons of the great war and changed conditions will affect coming fortifications of U. S. sea fronts, and why the work must take time.

BY RENE BACHE.
THE sea coast system of fortifications which Uncle Sam has spent several hundred millions of dollars during the last 20 years is now declared by the war department in view of the lessons of the great war, to be obsolete.

Under a plan newly worked out by the military authorities, the whole of it is to become merely a second line of defense—that is to say, an inner defensive line. The first line will be thrust out seaward, with fortresses built on islands wherever the latter are available.

The maritime littoral is a frontier. Along this frontier must be the biggest gun; and, in order to reach to best advantage a hostile fleet, they must be as far to the front as they can get.

The older idea was usually based upon an idea curiously different. Coast forts were placed not outside of harbors and river-mouths, but inside and sometimes far up, as if they themselves sought protection. The defenses of Philadelphia and things arranged to forts that ought to guard the entrance to Long Island sound are placed 25 miles to the west, in a narrow neck.

There is no need of a large island for the building of an offshore fortress. Where there is a big rock suitably located, it will be utilized for a revolving turret, somewhat like the turrets of a dreadnought, and, like the latter, operated by electric power. Such a turret will contain two huge 16-inch breech-loading rifles, with a range of 21 miles, that can be aimed at any point of the horizon.



Sea coast defense mortars in gun pit.

Suppose a hostile fleet were to approach. It might have dozens of guns of nearly equal, or possibly equal caliber. How, then, would the turret stand off the enemy?

Well, to begin with, it is reckoned as a fundamental proposition that one gun on land is equal to six guns of corresponding caliber on ships of the reason why being simply that the gun on land has a steady and immovable platform from which to shoot.

When you come into her presence you know that you are an open book to her, for she is the keenest observer of human nature one is likely to meet. Her eyes meet yours, and she is likely to answer your question before you have had time to put it into words.

It is interesting to note that it is not a small affair, but rather a matter of great importance in itself.

An American Heligoland. If something of much greater consequence be sought, it will be found in a plan now fully developed by the war department for fortifying the American Heligoland.

It is an island, almost a duplicate of the German Heligoland, singularly resembling the latter in shape and formation, and, like it, so situated as to be the key to a great seaport. We call it Block Island, and it lies in the mouth of Long Island sound.

Being an island, we have never hitherto taken the trouble to fortify it. Had Germany chosen to do so, it would have been a base for operations against the coast of Long Island.

Now—at last waked up—we are going to make of Block Island a veritable Gibraltar. It is larger than Heligoland—five miles long by four miles in greatest width.

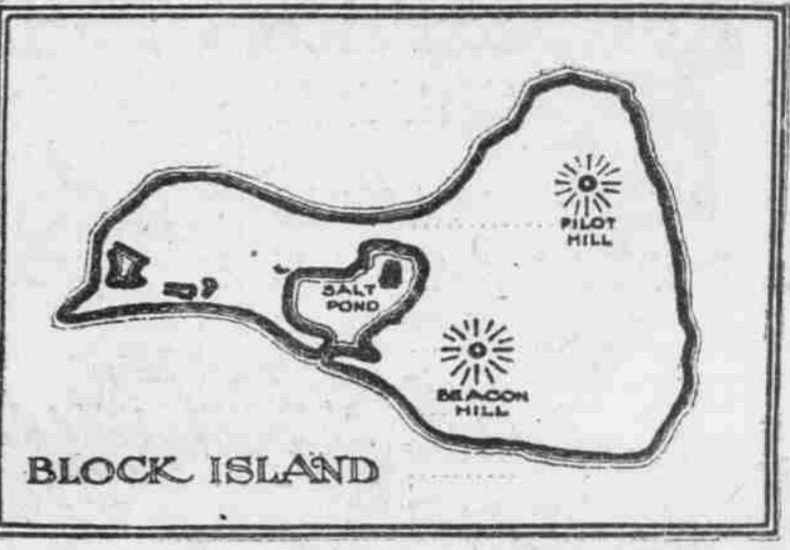
public of Panama and will be immediately ordered for the defense of the southern entrance of the inter-oceanic canal.

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Why was not the entrance of Chesapeake Bay, a narrow strait that is an opening into our very vitals—fortified long ago?

It was the second American triumph of the week because that of Dorothy Jordan in her first appearance on the operatic stage was sensational in every detail, showing as it did not only a voice of extraordinary character,

With Galli-Curiel more of a favorite and a greater artist than ever, a new tenor, Dolci, who in his last New York appearances had the luck to become a matinee idol as well as a delight to the most critical Stracciari, one of the greatest artists of the lyric-dramatic stage.



The island on the Atlantic coast which it is proposed to make "the Gibraltar of America." As this map rests, north is to the left.

There. They are putting the guns "up front."

Of what caliber shall the guns be that are to defend America's new coast fortresses?

General F. W. Coe, chief of the coast artillery, says that 24-inch rifles, with a range of 40 miles, can now be built.

lean river mouths and harbors. Of a certainty such a thing doesn't exist now; and the only way to get it is by establishing a system of offshore fortifications—by putting the big guns "up front."

Use Coconut Oil For Washing Hair

If you want to keep your hair in good condition, be careful what you wash it with.

For Rough, Wrinkled, Freckled, Pimpled Skin

As March winds, flying dust and dirt, are apt to injure any complexion, this information will be of special value.

Babies Smile

when stomachs do their work and bowels move naturally. Fretful, crying babies need

MRS. WINSLOW'S SYRUP

The Infants' and Children's Regulator to make the stomach digest food, and bowels to move as they should. Contains no alcohol, opiates, narcotics, or other harmful ingredients.

At your druggist.

MADAME ALDA ON TOUR WHICH WILL BRING HER TO THE PACIFIC COAST

Appealing Impersonation in Mimi of "La Boheme" Makes Deep Impression With Metropolitan Patrons—Requests for Concerts Pour in From Western Cities.

NEW YORK, March 15.—(Special.)—Mrs. Alda sang Mimi in "La Boheme" on Thursday evening to a chorus of 22 or more appearances.

Madame Alda is a singer of rare talent and her very appealing impersonation will linger in the memory of the Metropolitan patrons for the rest of the season.

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