

SECRETARY OF NAVY PRAISES U. S. BATTLESHIPS

Report of Secretary of the Navy Speaks Highly of Men and Ships

Secretary Metcalf of the Navy Department, in his annual report, discusses, as the most notable naval event of the past year, the voyage of the battleship fleet, which "has proven an epoch-making cruise."

Late in the spring of 1907 it was decided to send the Atlantic fleet on a practice cruise to the Pacific. When the purpose of giving this assemblage of 16 battleships such a practice cruise, under severe conditions, was announced, he states, criticism from high technical quarters was heard. The undertaking, it was said, was too monumental; dangers more than multiplied with numbers in such a case; battleships should not be sent around the globe on any ordinary occasion; the skeletons of some of them would doubtless be left in the Straights of Magellan; and if the ships should round South America, they would, one by one, arrive with machineries loose and unserviceable and with crews reflecting the condition of the material.

The facts are, Secretary Metcalf says, the ships maintained schedule time, and have practically taken care of their own repairs on this cruise. The repairs list sent in at the naval station, Cavite, P. I., have just been received, and are significant. They show that after the voyage to the distant borders of the Pacific, the needed repairs are negligible. The performance of the Oregon, in 1898 has, it seems, been substantially repeated.

Passing to certain recent criticisms of the new and larger battleships now building, the Secretary says that at the conference, convened and opened by the President at Newport, the general matter of design of these ships was approved, after forty-three days' consideration, by this assemblage of the best authorities available in the Navy, consisting of about sixty officers, all but seven of whom were line officers of the sea-going branch of the service.

Marksmanship he says, has improved on the practice cruise. With respect to the assertion that our 12-inch guns are inferior to those of other powers, the facts are found to be that the actual muzzle energy of these 12-inch guns, which form the armament of our eight latest battleships in commission, is somewhat greater than that of any gun afloat in any other navy.

As the officer in command of the American fleet now in the Far East holds the rank of rear-admiral only, he is in a position of subordination to foreign and naval officers. This is true because foreign powers have, on important naval stations, representatives of the rank of vice-admiral.

It is deemed highly desirable to

acquire by purchase or to construct a dock in San Francisco harbor. With the acquisition of such a dock, and the bringing up to high efficiency of the yards at Bremerton and Mare Island, another navy-yard on the Pacific coast will not be necessary for some time to come.

The Navy Department being a large business organization, Mr. Metcalf suggests rearrangements of the duties of any bureau, are exceedingly difficult and complex, and necessarily rests with Congress; but those who speak of the millions unnecessarily spent annually by the lack of economical administration do not realize that a comparatively small percentage of the annual budget goes for repair and maintenance of the material of the fleet. The greater part is expended for the pay and provisioning of the Navy and Marine Corps, ammunition, fuel and expenditures on account of increase of the Navy. So far as concerns the last-named item, the department has long been an exceedingly economical purchaser, the contract price of our latest battleships being hardly more than the actual cost of labor and material and incidental expenses, and very considerably below the limit fixed by Congress. The Secretary says also that it would be difficult to find in any large manufacturing establishment, or other industrial organization, greater coordination than exists among the heads of the great bureaus and offices of the Navy Department.

New Ships.
The Secretary recommends that Congress authorize at its approaching session the construction of four battleships, 4 scout cruisers, 10 destroyers, 4 submarines, 3 colliers, 1 repair ship, 1 ammunition ship, 2 mine-laying ships—these two ships to be converted from cruisers now on the navy list.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY OF WAR

The total estimates of the war department for the next fiscal year, as shown by the annual report of the secretary of war, amount to \$189,755,939, an increase of about \$2,000,000 over the appropriations for the present fiscal year. This increase is largely for river and harbor work, and other public works of a civil character, for which purpose about \$24,000,000 is asked. Of this balance, about \$10,500,000 is an additional estimate for the support of the army, military academy and the militia. For military public works, such as fortifications, arsenals, military posts, etc., the estimates call for an increase of \$17,500,000.

The secretary of war especially recommends an addition of 612 officers to the army, and also approves a policy for the elimination from the service of all officers who fail to maintain the requisite standard of efficiency. Both of these propositions were before congress at its last session and will be strongly urged this year.

IMMEDIATE RELIEF From Coughs, Colds, Sore Throats and Hoarseness by Using Hyomel

When you catch cold you want to get rid of it as quickly as you can. You don't want to lie around the house for a week swallowing nastiness. Why not cure it over night? You can this you are not only making yourself miserable, but are a nuisance to every one about you. Why not avoid all this—why not relieve your cold in five minutes? Why not cure it over night? You can do it by using Hyomel, the sure and guaranteed cure for colds, coughs, sore throat, catarrh, bronchitis and asthma. Hyomel is antiseptic and medicated air; you breathe it into the lungs through a small pocket inhaler, and its soothing influences as it passes over the inflamed membrane of the respiratory tract stops the mucous discharge, allays the inflammation, and the cold is cured. A complete Hyomel outfit costs you \$1.00, and the Red Cross Drug Company will refund your money if it fails to cure. Husband and Wife Cured. I had a bad form of catarrh. My left nostril was closed entirely. There was also a constant dripping of blood from the right. I only used Hyomel a little over two weeks, and am now cured. My husband was also cured of catarrh and lung trouble two years ago by Hyomel.—Mrs. Harry Obner, Alliance, Ohio.

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PRUNE DEALERS OBJECT TO RATES

A communication has been received by the railroad commission from A. C. Burdick & Co., large prune packers of Portland, saying that notice has been given to the effect that the rate on dried fruits will be advanced on Oregon lines on the first of the year from the present rate of \$1.00 to \$1.10.

The Burdick people protest strongly on this advance in rates, which are now imposed on the minimum weight cars of twenty tons. During the time when the fruit industry was in its infancy, states the communication, the railroad company solicited the trade of the fruit growers on their freight lines, and gave the minimum weight car of 12 tons, but later they have gradually raised the weight to fifteen tons, and are now compelling the fruit men to take the service of a 20-ton car. It is apparent that the 20-ton car is too large for the dried fruit shipments, which are hardly large enough to properly necessitate so large a car.

The letter also states that the present rate in rates will be largely responsible for the decrease in the fruit business in Oregon, and that at the present time several of the farmers are digging up their trees, unable to meet the circumstances involved through shipments.

The commission has taken the matter under advisement.

TAFT TO SPEAK AT CIVIC FEDERATION

New York, Dec. 12.—A busy week is ahead of President-elect Taft. With Mrs. Taft he will go to New York to attend and speak at the annual meeting of the National Civic Federation, the sessions of which are to be held Monday and Tuesday. He will also be the guest of honor at the annual banquet of the Ohio Society of New York at the Waldorf-Astoria Wednesday night. Toward the end of the week, the President-elect and Mrs. Taft will start South for a stay of a month or more at Augusta.

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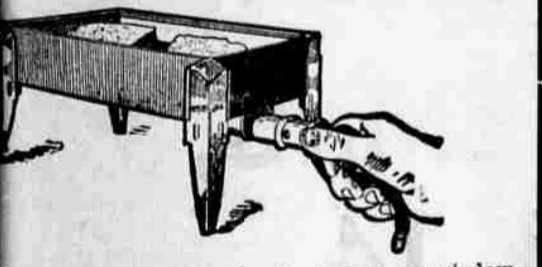
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