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The success of the cruise, performed, as it was, without a single accident, immeasurably raised the prestige, not only of our fleet, but of our nation; and was a distinct help to the cause of international peace.

been that no such feat was possible,

that is, that no such cruise as that

numerable breakdowns and accidents.

we actually made could be undertak- in Panama. The cruise of the battle en by a fleet of such size without in- fleet around the world was a striking

As regards the Panama canal, I really think that outside nations have part in any capacity in bringing a juster idea than our own people of the magnitude and success of the work. I wish our people realized what is being done on the Isthumus. If a man of intelligence who had never left this country asked me whether I would advise him to make a short trip to Europe, or a trip to the Panama canal, I would without hesitation, advise him to go to the Panama canal. He would there see in operation and completing of one of the great feats of modern times. Colonel Goethals and the men working under him are rendering a service to this country which can only be paralleled in our past history by some of the services rendered in certain wars.

Six years ago last spring the American government took possession of the Isthmus. The first two years were devoted to sanitation of the Isthmus, event of war we should find the to assembling the plant and working force, and providing quarters, food, and water supplies. In all these points the success was extraordinary. From one of the plague-spots quite rightfully, the contempt of the of the globe, one of the most unhealthy regions in the entire world, the Isthmus has been turned into a singularly healthy place of abode, where the death rate is small, where hundreds of children are now being raised under as favorable conditions as in most parts of the United States. The quarters, food and water supply are excellent, and the plant the best ever gathered for such a purpose. Active excavation on a large scale did not begin until January, 1907. Three years and a half have gone by since then, and three-fifths of the total excavation has already been accomplished. The amount taken out has passed anything which previous experience warranted us in believing to be possible. In 1908 and 1909 the monthly average of rock and earth removed was three million cubic yards, notwithstanding the fact that nine months of each year constituted a season of very heavy rainfall. There remains to be excavated only about sixty million cubic yards. If we could keep up the past average of excavation, this should be done in 20 months; but it is impossible to main-

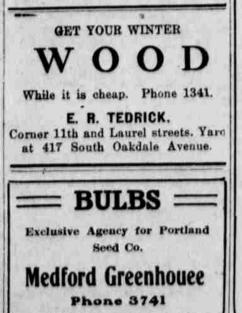
the navy, and what we have done a Panama represents the accomplishment of one of the great feats of the ages. It is a feat which reflects the highest honor upon our country, and our gratitude is due to every man who has taken an honorable

in Porto Rica? in San Domingo, and

about its preformance. We now have a greater duty to preform in connection with it, and that is to fortify it. We are in honor bound to fortify it ourselves, and only by so doing can we effectively guarantee its neutrality, and, moreover effectively gurantee that it shall not be used against us. The chief material advantage-certainly one of the chief material advantages -which we shall gain by its construction is the way in which it will for defensive purposes, double the power of the United States navy. To refuse to fortify it, and, above all, to consider for a moment such an act of utter weakness and folly as to invite other nations to step in and gurantee the neutrality of this

fleet around the world was a striking proof that we have made good with

purely American work (and thereby really to make it certain that in the canal used against it, as our fleet would be forbidden to pass through it, or else our opponent's fleet permitted to), would be to incur, and world, it would the complete abandonment of the Monroe doctrine, it would be a wicked blow to our prestige on the Pacific coast, and moreover, it would be in its essence treason to the destiny of the Republic.



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