

WORLD WATCHES THE BIG PACIFIC FLEET.

Greatest Naval Fighting Strength Under Flag for the Long Cruise.

TOWER OF AMERICAN NAVY.

Movement Is Significant, Marking Transfer of Theater of Action from the Atlantic.

Not since the war with Spain has there been such a tense feeling in naval circles as that which marked the preparations for the departure of the great fleet, under Admiral Evans, for the Pacific. All the vessels which were to be a part of this greatest naval demonstration in our history assembled at Hampton Roads.

The President's yacht, the Mayflower, swung into historic Hampton Roads bearing President Roosevelt and the high officials of the Navy Department. Promptly sixteen huge battleships of the United States navy dressed ship and began firing the President's salute of twenty-one guns each. The Mayflower came to anchor in the roadway. Gigs and cutters put out from each battleship bearing the flag officers to the Mayflower, where they were received on deck by President Roosevelt and his official party. On their return to their ships the Mayflower hoisted anchor and proceeded down the roads toward the entrance. Here the little yacht stood out of the roadway while the same sixteen battleships passed by her, decks and fighting tops dressed and roaring from their guns another President's salute.

Bands aboard ship played the national airs. This was the farewell to the commander-in-chief of the army and navy to the American battleship squadrons, which then began their cruise to the Pacific ocean.

The torpedo flotilla had already started, as its progress is so much

"GOOD-BY, BOB: TAKE KEER YOURSELF."



—Chicago Inter Ocean.

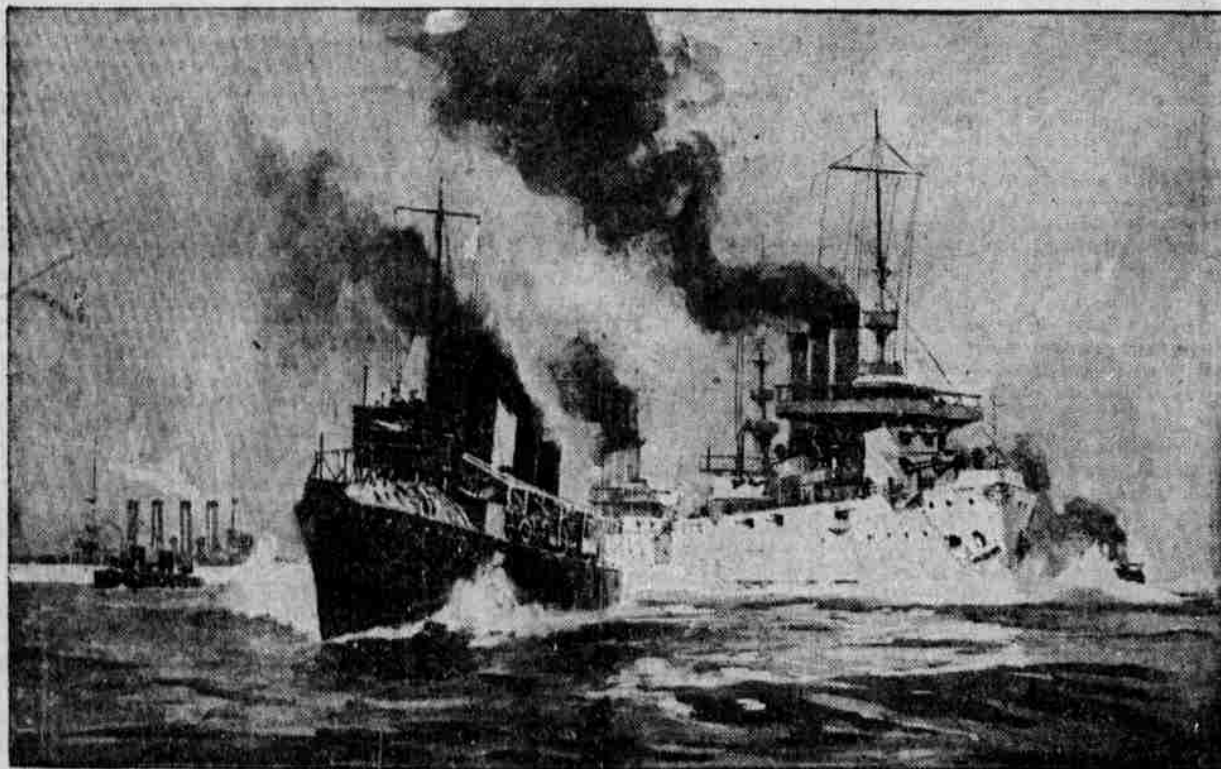
progress of the fleet will be watched with interest by the whole world, and will be accompanied by the prayer that no occasion may arise for a display of that awful power of destruction which lies within its guns.

The significance of the transfer of the battleships stamps the event as an epoch in the history of the United States. It transfers the theater of action of the navy from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean for the first time since the United States became a nation. It reduces the naval representation of the country in the Atlantic from second place to the lowest place among the naval powers of the world, but it raises its representation in the Pacific ocean to the highest place, where the United States is now a poor second. Whether "for fun or for frolic," as Rear Admiral Robley Evans has expressed it,

maintained a target practice station for several years. Magdalena bay is on the peninsula of Lower California, 3,012 knots from Callao and 1,000 knots from San Francisco. Here the fleet will remain at least a month engaged in target practice. Upon the completion of this work it will sail for San Francisco, where it is expected to arrive about the middle of April or the 1st of May.

On the journey around the Horn the battleships will pass the second torpedo boat flotilla, which sailed for the Pacific on Dec. 2, and at San Francisco, if not at Magdalena bay, it will be joined by the armored cruiser squadrons under Rear Admiral Stockton and Sebree, consisting of the cruisers Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland and Colorado and the California, South Dakota, Tennessee and Washington, the later two ships now nearing their

THE GREAT AMERICAN PACIFIC SQUADRON.



The vessels prominent in the picture are the Battleships Washington, Tennessee and Rhode Island, and a Torpedo Boat Destroyer.

slower than that of the battleships that two weeks more will be consumed than by the latter in the journey toward their destination—San Francisco.

All the navy yards of the Atlantic coast have been busy for weeks in fitting out the ships. At Brooklyn, New York, Boston, Norfolk, Philadelphia and Charleston painters, carpenters and machinists have participated in the great activity. High up on the smokestacks the paint brushes were moving back and forth and the sound of hammers and saws has been ceaseless. Nor has there been any chance for idling by the enlisted men. The powder magazines have had to be filled and the quantities which have been taken aboard have caused some spectators to wonder what it is all about. The large supply of ammunition is necessary because of the project to have target practice on the long journey. Then also there will be many salutes to fire and these will eat up thousands of dollars' worth of powder. Furthermore, in case an emergency should arise while the fleet is in distant waters there will be no lack of ammunition. No such emergency is expected, but the fleet "will keep its powder dry" while trusting in divine Providence!

Greatest Fighting Strength.

The fleet which Admiral Evans takes to the Pacific includes all the new battleships and the best armored cruisers. It is the tower of the American navy, far superior to that which destroyed the Spanish fleet nine years ago. The Louisiana carries the largest crew—950 officers and men. The Connecticut, which is the flagship, is the finest ship of the navy, costing \$4,600,000. Among the other battleships are the Alabama, Georgia, Kansas, Virginia, Minnesota, Ohio, Rhode Island, Kentucky and Vermont. In all there are 32 battleships and armored cruisers, besides the flotilla of torpedo boat destroyers, repair and supply ships. The

battleships upon arrival in the Pacific will do the United States full honor.

The date of arrival at Rio Janeiro is Jan. 11, 1908, and the day of departure ten days later. Here the crews will be allowed shore leave. Leaving Rio Janeiro on Jan. 21, the fleet will proceed slowly to Punta Arenas, or Sand Point, where it is due to arrive on Jan. 31.

Punta Arenas is the last stop before rounding the Horn, and five days will be passed here in coaling from colliers hired by the government. The distance

destination after a trip around the Horn. In addition the battleship Nebraska, which has just been commissioned, will join the fleet as well as the protected cruisers Charleston, Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis and the gunboat Yorktown.

Battle drill will occupy the time of the fleet for some days, no complete fleet of the American navy having been trained in sea evolutions in recent years.

In all probability a part of the fleet at least will visit Puget Sound before returning to the Atlantic coast again. No plans have been made for the return of the fleet beyond the expressed determination of the President that it shall return at some future date.

Bell Airship Launched.

The successful launching of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell's recently completed airship took place a few days ago at Baddeck, Nova Scotia. The ship is built up of 3,050 unit tetrahedrons, which are so disposed as to make the ship itself one great tetrahedron, which has for its base the top of the machine, 13 meters in length. The several units are covered on two of their sides with silk. The total surface thus exposed is over 2,000 square feet. The motor used is of the Curtis type, four cylinders, 20 horse-power. It weighs 120 pounds, which brings the total weight of the ship up to 200 pounds. Owing to a snowstorm in progress at the time of launching, no attempt was made to fly the machine. While Dr. Bell has great faith in the success of his invention, he does not assume to have entirely solved the problem of aerial flight.

Jews to Protect Their Rights.

Representative Hebrews from all parts of the country met at New York to organize a committee or central bureau to which applications for relief or intervention may be sent by any members of their race whose civil or religious rights may have been interfered with in any country throughout the world. Delegates to the bureau will be in proportion to the population.



ADMIRAL EVANS.

of this leg is 2,230 knots. On Feb. 5 the fleet will round the Horn, regarded by all naval officers as the most dangerous point in the trip, and Feb. 23, it is due at Callao, Peru, 2,850 knots from Punta Arenas. Another stop of ten days will be made at this point for coal and shore leave.

The last leg of the trip which is fixed as to dates calls for the departure from Callao on Feb. 26 for Magdalena bay, Mexico, where the United States has

INGENIOUS THEATER FLOOR.

Can Convert Auditorium in Few Minutes into a Ballroom.

The movable stage which Steele Mackaye attempted to make a feature of theatrical construction many years ago is outdone by the reversible auditorium floor introduced in a new Apollo music hall on the Rue de Clichy, Paris. This device makes it possible to change the parquet into a dancing floor in seven minutes.

The floor is reversible. On one side it is fitted with 500 chairs of the usual folding variety. On the other side it is planked with hard wood, waxed and polished.

During the performance each night it is pitched at an angle of about 15 degrees, like the floor of any other theater. When the show is over and the dancing begins it is absolutely level.

All who patronize the house will see the transformation every night. When the curtain falls the seatholder will be hustled back into the orchestra circle and the foyers. Then the mechanism will work.

The floor, or rather the two floors, are built on each side of a framework of steel girders. This is hung on pivots and when the machinery is set in motion it simply turns the other side up—the huge seesaw—it measures about 45x50 feet—stops at the appropriate angle when it is to be an auditorium and is secured there by strong supports.

When it reaches the level position to serve as a ballroom equally strong supports hold it there and provide for the safety of the dancers. When it stops in either position it is in immediate communication with the other parts of the house, as all the necessary steps are attached to it either to reach the orchestra circle when it is level or the stage when it is inclined at an angle. Stage and floor are continuous when used for dancing, the electric footlights being attached to a disappearing framework, while a section of solid flooring takes their place.

The entire contrivance cost \$14,000, of which \$9,000 was spent on the floor and its mechanism and the rest on the twenty-seven foot deep brick-lined well through which the floor revolves.—New York Sun.



A plutocrat has it; a demagog wants it.

Most men can be honest, unless they have a chance not to be.

A woman's idea of social standing is being so sulpy that everybody hates her.

A girl that doesn't get married can make everybody believe she is glad of it but herself.

It makes a woman feel about twenty times richer to call her husband's money his estate.

The difference between pleasure and duty is the difference between going fishing and to church.

A woman will work harder to get a nice, fresh complexion than a man will to get a million dollars.

As people always give ten times as much in wedding presents as they get, where does the difference go?

Where a woman is sensible is in pretending she isn't so she can put the responsibility for such things on her husband.

A man has to know a lot about some particular thing not to be always trying to show what he knows about everything.

A woman's enjoyment of a visit is writing long letters to those at home, telling them all the grand things she is doing just as if she really were.

Male Blushers and Their Cure.

"A good many men blush," said a physician; "some so painfully that they come to me to be cured. The cure I recommend is an old one. It is the abandonment of overheavy clothing, especially of woolen socks. Amazing it is how many male blushers have a predilection for thick socks of wool. But some blushers wear light enough clothes. To them I can only recommend a nerve treatment. I advise them to make speeches at banquets, to be witnesses in murder trials, to go to teas and dances, to develop, in short, the nerve, as a wrestler develops his muscle. Blushing is a difficult disorder to cure. As a rule, it passes away of itself when the victim reaches his 35th year."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Father's Adherent.

"Wasn't that Miss Bangs who just passed?"

"Yes, that was my Aunt Helen Bangs."

"Your aunt, eh? Ah, on your mother's side, I suppose?"

"Not much! She always sticks up for dad."—Philadelphia Press.

Usually the Way.

"Spent your vacation in the mountains, eh? Did you stay there long?"

"Yes; but I came home short."—Houston Post.

When a young girl wants a new black dress, her mother is liable to say: "Mercy, what do you want to go into mourning for?"

FARMS AND FARMERS

Curing Hams and Shoulders.
As soon as possible after the meat is cold all through, the hams and shoulders should be cured. They should be placed on a table in the cellar, skin side down. Then for every 100 pounds of meat make a mixture of four pounds of the best fine salt, two ounces of powdered saltpeter, and four ounces of brown sugar. This mixture should be well rubbed into the hams all over, and some pushed into hock end around the bone. Keep on rubbing until the meat will take no more; then let them remain on the table for a week, when the remainder of the mixture can be rubbed in. Allow them to lie for about two weeks altogether, and then hang up by a string placed through the hock, in a cool, dark smokehouse.

For two or three days keep up a good smoke from hickory chips, smothered with sawdust, during the day. Keep in a cool place, and before spring examine to see that no insects have deposited eggs. Dust a little cayenne pepper, then cover with coarse muslin to fit the ham exactly and stitch tightly. Give a coat of whitewash or chrome yellow, and hang in a cool, dark, dry place.

For curing in pickle, one gallon of water take one and a half pounds of salt, half a pound of sugar, half an ounce each of saltpeter and potash. In this ratio the pickle can be increased to enough to cover any amount of pork. Boil together until all dirt rises to the top and is skimmed off. When cold pour it over the hams or pork, which may be pickled in this way. The meat must be well covered by it, and should not be put down for at least two days after killing, during which time it should be slightly sprinkled with saltpeter, which removes all the surface blood, leaving the meat fresh and clean.

A good way to keep hams is to pack in dry salt in a dry place, not having any part exposed or touching each other.

Bar for Drying Clothes.
If your wife wants a clothes bar so she can dry her clothes in the house, then borrow a 3/4-inch auger, a plane and a saw if you have none. Get some light pine lumber 2 inches wide and 1 1/2 inches thick, cut 8 bars; 4 bars 3 feet 11 inches long, these are for the lower ones. The 4 bars for the top are 1 foot 11 inches long. You can make it as wide as you wish and 8 rods are needed to go crosswise for holding the bars together and to hang the clothes on. Dress the rods to about 1 inch square and make them smooth so as to not tear the clothes. For bars the size as given above the rods need to be of the following lengths: Four rods 4 feet long; 2 rods 4 feet 2 inches long; 2 rods 3 feet 10 inches long, 1 rod 4 feet



LOW DOWN BARROW.

foundation for the floor, which should be of three-quarter-inch boards. The legs are mortised into the shaft or handle pieces, the front ones resting about three inches from the ground and the rear ones securely braced, as shown in the cut.

If desired the sides may be built from the floor solid and straight up, but we find it better to have a permanent bed from floor to top of handles, with removable side boards to slip on for use in handling bulky stuff.

Heavy material, such as bags of fertilizer, large stones, etc., are easily handled with this type of barrow, as they may be loaded between the handles directly from the ground.

Fruit Trees and Grass.

Extended experiments recently conducted in England have shown clearly that fruit trees suffer very materially, and are often killed outright, when grass is allowed to grow under the tree and close up to the trunk. Various probable reasons for this effect, such as the removal of plant food and of water by the grass, also the supposed liberation of carbonic acid, which might prove injurious to the roots of the trees, were respectively demonstrated to be outside the primary cause of injury, and, finally, after seven years' work, it was concluded that the injurious effect could only be due to some poisonous substance formed in the soil by the roots of the grass.

On the other hand, it is a well-known fact that in many instances considerable difficulty is expressed in obtaining a growth of grass under trees. There is distinct evidence that plants produce toxic conditions in the substance in which they grow; as a rule the excretions given off by the roots of a certain plant are more toxic to the same or a nearly related plant than to plants not so closely related. The effect of tree-seedlings on the growth of wheat was tested, and after eliminating, as a cause of injury, such factors as removal of plant food or water by the tree roots, it seemed that the roots of the latter had some direct effect on the growth of the wheat, which suffered in all the experiments. The seedlings were placed in plant pots, hence the roots of the tree and those of the wheat plants were in close contact.

Trees of various kinds were used in the experiments, and the retarding influence, although noted in every instance, differed in degree; cherry was least active in checking growth, pine next so. The conclusion arrived at was that the effect of trees on wheat appears to be due to the excretion of substance by the trees toxic to wheat.

The fruit crop of the past year was light, but it brought a very good price, and the prospects now are that Oklahoma may have an excellent crop in 1908, says a bulletin issued by the State. The drought during the summer, prevented excessive growth, and the early fall rains caused the trees to set a good crop of fruit buds. The orchards that were well cultivated have now passed into winter quarters in good condition. There is a great variation in the number of fruit buds set on the different varieties of peaches and in different orchards, but the plums seem to be uniformly full of fruit buds.

Trees that have not been pruned well each season have a relatively poor setting of fruit buds. Plum and cherry trees do not require as much pruning as do the peach trees. Peach trees may be pruned any time from the first of December to the middle of March. The branches should be cut back to about one-half of the length of last season's growth. This form of trimming will thin the fruit and keep the tree from growing tall. This is a distinct advantage in gathering the fruit and in spraying the trees.

Winter Shelter for Stock.

With the approach of the cold months as the farmer is making preparations for his comfort, he should not forget to similarly provide for the animals on the farm.

Especially young stock demand good, warm shelter, and this should be provided for them before the real cold weather sets in. Warmth to a young animal is equal to a moderate amount of food.

Animals exposed to the frosts and storms of winter are almost sure to catch cold. If not contract some other disease that will either enfeeble them or prove fatal.

Farmers that do not take this matter into consideration often have animals take sick and mope, and, perhaps, die, without the fact for a moment being taken into account that their sickness is due to the cruel exposure to which they have been subjected.

Truly it has been said that the merciful man is merciful to his beast, and the man who is not is not only unfit to have the care of animals, but deserves to lose them.

Study of Mushrooms.

A singular and very interesting and useful institution has been established in the little city of Tarare, near Lyons, France. It is a mycological bureau where expert judgment is furnished concerning mushrooms, many of which are poisonous. Since the establishment of the bureau nobody buys mushrooms which do not carry its ticket of identification and guarantee, and all the country people from miles around bring their mushrooms for examination. One surprising result has been the discovery of scores of edible mushrooms, which before nobody dared to touch.

Quarters for Fowls.

When comfortable quarters are provided for fowls, says Prof. Watson, the nutritive ration of the food should be about one-fifth; that is, one part protein or muscle-producing compounds to four parts of carbohydrate or heat and fat-producing compounds.