

The Hawaiian Star

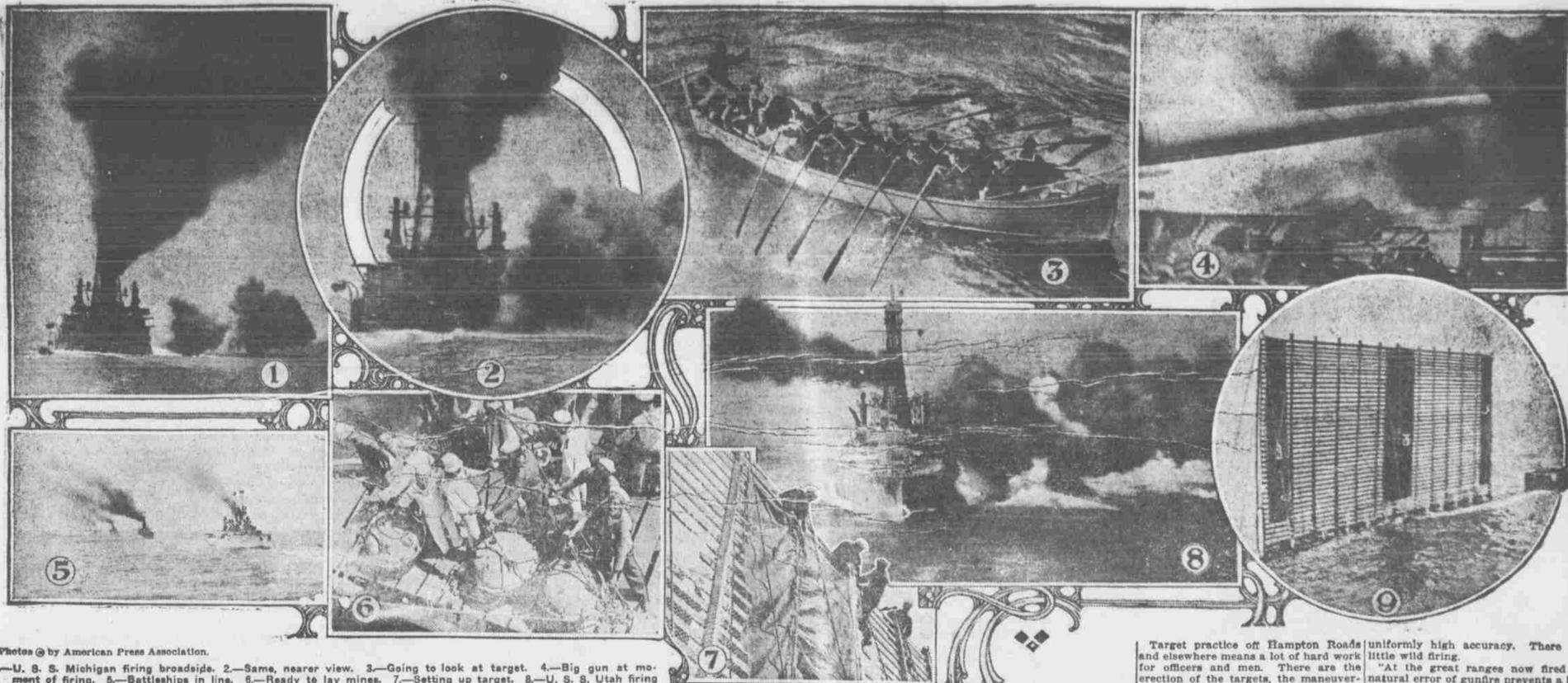
SECOND SECTION

PAGES 9 TO 12.

HONOLULU, HAWAII, FRIDAY, MAY 31, 1912.

PAGES 9 TO 12.

YANKEE NAVY AT TARGET PRACTICE



Photos © by American Press Association.

1—U. S. S. Michigan firing broadside. 2—Same, nearer view. 3—Going to look at target. 4—Big gun at moment of firing. 5—Battleships in line. 6—Ready to lay mines. 7—Setting up target. 8—U. S. S. Utah firing broadside (copyright, 1912, by Enrique Muller). 9—Target in position.

By CHARLES N. LURIE.

WITH twelve inch guns roaring and their projectiles piercing canvas or dropping into the sea the Atlantic battleship fleet of the American navy, the greatest Yankee fighting command ever assembled in one place for battle practice, demonstrated recently in Hampton Roads its readiness for instant sea service if needed. There were some remarkable scores made, which had not up to the time of writing been made public by the navy department. But enough was known to make it certain that never before had the American sailors shot better with their monster ordnance.

Most of the scores of battleships did well at target practice in its various branches—individual and division firing, single gun and broadside discharges, etc.—but three of the big ships covered themselves especially with the glory that was abundant enough to go around. They were the Utah, the New Hampshire, the Rhode Island. These

were destroyed the first run over the course. It was a surprise to the members of the seventeen battleships now present, all striving to win the trophy and pennant which the Michigan now holds, and I am pleased to say that we are waiting to see the boat come alongside with one well earned treasure.

If that doesn't breathe pride in a ship, then the American bluejackets are an unfeeling lot, without care whether their shells destroy targets or not.

The navy department men say that the Utah has established a remarkable record with her ten twelve-inch guns in demolishing the target while steaming in squadron at a speed of fifteen knots, the movements of the target being unknown. The Utah's record was all the more unexpected, say the men in Washington, because most of the officers in charge of the guns of the Utah, the navy's latest big acquisition, with the Florida, had never had previous experience in battle practice. The gunners of the new ship were considered "raw" compared with those of the other vessels.

But the Utah had one great big advantage in having a commanding officer to whom accurate firing with naval guns is not at all new. He is Captain W. S. Benson, who was in command of the cruiser Albany when she won the gunnery trophy for vessels of her class. Again, the Utah was aided by the fact that her giant engines use oil fuel, which makes practically no smoke to interfere with the sighting of the gunners.

The Utah's men, of whom there are almost a thousand, say the ship is remarkably steady, her turbine engines, with their comparative absence of vibration, making her a fine gun platform. "At Portland, Me., when she was steaming under oil on her trial trip, from the inside you couldn't tell whether she was moving or not. Now, if you were a gunner and had to do with vibrations you'd like that, wouldn't you?" said one of the battleship's engineers. And the questioner had to admit that he would, especially when it came to a question of accounting to the people of the United States for the \$500 or so which it costs the taxpayers every time

one of the twelve inch guns of the Utah is fired. If the whole armament of the super-Dreadnought, including the torpedoes, were fired at once, the cost would amount to something like \$25,000. The Utah carries ten twelve-inch guns, arranged in pairs in turrets, two forward and three aft. Each one of them cost about \$5,000 and can be fired 300 times before its usefulness is gone by reason of the action of the powder and gases.

Ever since the time of the Spanish-American war, when the American ships, although they disposed of Spain's weaker navy in justice, did not make a large percentage of hits, the navy department has devoted time and brains to the matter of improving naval marksmanship. "The shots that hit are those that count" is a navy axiom that is impressed on all the officers and men, and there is keen rivalry among the vessels for the honor of flying the black balled flag which indicates supremacy in gunnery. Last year the Michigan flew the bunting proudly, but as has been recorded, she has had to yield the palm this year.

Target practice off Hampton Roads and elsewhere means a lot of hard work for officers and men. There are the erection of the targets, the maneuvering of the ships, the handling of the ammunition, the loading and firing of the guns, the inspection of the targets after fire and many other details. The strain on the nerves comes mainly, of course, when the big guns commence their ear splitting booming. When the order to fire comes the great gun emits a deafening roar and a sheet of flames. It recoils with the shock, but soon recovers, and then follows anxious watching and the desire to hear the report of the landing of the projectile. If it scores a hit, well and good. If not, there are scowls and frowns, for each shot counts in the total.

In a recent interview Rear Admiral Osterhaus, commander in chief of the Atlantic battleship fleet, said, speaking of the target practice in Chesapeake bay: "The Utah, the Delaware, the Michigan, the New Hampshire and the Rhode Island are close together in their scores. Some ships did not do so well, but in nearly every case where a ship failed to meet expectations it was attributable to some condition of weather or material which placed it at a disadvantage. The entire firing showed a

uniformly high accuracy. There was little wild firing. "At the great ranges now fired the natural error of gunfire prevents a high percentage of hits. For instance, the theoretical average of hits of a gun on a stable platform ashore, perfectly aimed and with precise calculations of observation, windage, etc., is only 10 per cent at 15,000 yards. The theoretical ratio of hits to shots increases as the range decreases."

Of course it costs much money to put a fleet of twenty battleships through a series of maneuvers with firing of the big guns and little guns. It has been estimated that spring training, such as the Atlantic battle fleet completed recently, cost Uncle Sam's treasury the large sum of \$3,000,000. This is about 3 per cent of the money which it takes yearly now to maintain and strengthen the navy in order to keep up with the world's procession of super-Dreadnoughts, Dreadnoughts, ordinary battleships, armored cruisers, lighter cruisers, torpedo boat destroyers, torpedo boats, submarines, auxiliary vessels, etc. But naval officers and department officials say the \$3,000,000 is well expended, for if America is to have a big navy at all, they argue, money must be spent to keep it on a high plane of efficiency.

PERIL OF CAESARISM

By Arthur Withington, in Newburyport, Mass., Herald.

A short paragraph that I showed the editor of the Herald as a jeu d'esprit being published without my consent, I suppose I must assume the responsibility and with it the solemn lecture of Mr. Blood in public and the cat-like scratching of a private letter. I apologize to Mr. Pearson for causing a somewhat unpleasant experience.

The discussion of the present political campaign is a serious matter. I have had a personal pride in the fact that of the six great political reformers in the country three were lawyers and three printers, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and John P. Altgeld, Benjamin Franklin, William Lloyd Garrison and Henry George. Having been nurtured in the atmosphere of the practical democracy of these men, it is revolting to see a pseudo democracy which advocates nothing—fundamental but all kinds of quackeries from the protecting of fools from buying patent medicines to the whispering in one's ear because Taft appointed Judge White, chief justice, "the Catholic church is in this," used as the instrument to elevate a man of unlimited ambition and to see the real reform killed by hero worship, even as that fake follower of Robespierre in the French Revolution, Napoleon, killed a million men and republicanism at the same time.

There is but one cry now, "The rule of the people." As Lord Brougham said "All we see around us, king, lords and commons, resolve themselves finally into twelve men in a jury box." So long as we have the grand inquest of twenty-three men

drawn by lot from the freemen of the county of Essex, and a trial by a jury of his peers of twelve men drawn in the same way, we have the rule of the people. And whenever that right coming down as it does from Magna Charta is assailed as it was in 1894, when judges sitting in courts of equity attempted to administer the criminal law without a trial by jury there will be found some giant intellect like John P. Altgeld to make an "assault on the courts" which has merit in its cause. The positive legislation desired by the people can be had the moment they make a demand and there are plenty of cowardly legislators to pass half-baked laws like our presidential primary system on the mere whisper that the people want it. In fact there are a thousand men in Massachusetts today searching for a popular issue to advance their political prospects. What is difficult is arousing people to take an interest in real political reforms and not the enacting of the reforms after the interest has been created.

The one great obstacle that democracy has to contend with is the tendency to make a hero of a leader and when that leader has not the power of self-abnegation so often displayed by Abraham Lincoln to ride over the ruins of democracy and in the name of liberty erect an empire. It is most fitting that John S. C. Abbott, the most gushing of the biographers of Napoleon, should have a nephew in Lyman Abbott, the most abject promoter of the idolatry of Theodore Roosevelt. It is this idolatry of Theodore Roosevelt which is the symptom of disease. It means that he who believes in personal govern-

ment as distinct from government by the people is having his day. I know of no great reformer or no person of my personal acquaintance who has fought for great reforms for twenty years who has any faith in Roosevelt. His support is a personal support playing upon prejudice. Who has ever heard in his state of any reform that Matthew Hale or Arthur Hill has ever advocated or now advocates? Where did James R. Garfield, William Allen White, Charles J. Bonaparte and George W. Perkins win their radical spurs? In fact Theodore Roosevelt's career is marked by his opposition to great reformers. He began his career by running for mayor of New York against the greatest force in modern political reform, Henry George. In 1896 he said he expected to meet John P. Altgeld on the field of battle and he hoped to see him lined up under a wall and shot. In 1910 amidst the most tremendous English reform movement he rushed to call on Joe Chamberlain and didn't think Lloyd-George worthy of his attention.

I believe Theodore Roosevelt could convince himself, if elected for a third term, that his rule was indispensable, and we have on the authority of one of his chief supporters the doctrine that whatever is right is constitutional. It is but a step to convince himself that anything is right. With that disposition and that theory government of laws has passed away and with it trial by jury and government by the people. It would be the simplest thing for a president to foment a war and, with friend Gen. Leonard Wood as chief of staff, set up a military despotism if the American people give Theodore Roosevelt the encouragement of their support. Those that think this is a wild dream have but to remember how the statements of "the king business" in New York in 1910 and that Taft was an

(Continued on page eleven.)

ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE

By Nathan N. Withington, in Newburyport, Mass., Herald.

How are the mighty fallen! What strange vicissitudes in the life of man, and especially in the career of a public man! A year ago Senator La Follette was the chief apostle of the Republican insurgents, their acknowledged leader and without a rival. He had distinguished himself as governor of Wisconsin and made that state a model on which other states aimed to frame their public policy. He had, as a new senator, forced his way against the opposition of older senators of both parties to a new man, to recognition in the front rank in that august body. Only a few weeks ago he was the acknowledged head of what was called the progressive movement in the republican party, and if President Taft was to have a rival set up against him Senator La Follette was the only person to be seriously considered. He could say with Nebuchanezzar, "See, this great Babylon which I have builded," when suddenly as the great Babylonian king he was turned out to grass with the common herd of the field, and has nothing left of his former trophies but a few delegates from North Dakota and Wisconsin and one or two scattering. It is like the transformation scene in a theater.

I have a profound sympathy with Senator La Follette, for in my small way I have had a similar experience. When I was four years old Andrew Jackson was president of the United States, and was even more talked about than any previous president since Jefferson. There were two kinds of candy in those days, one of sugar, called a Gibraltar because it was so hard, and the other of the same

may water, but Roosevelt takes the increase.

This makes the case doubly aggravating, that while the Senator had cultivated the field and raised the crop, it should be seized by one who had done nothing in the tillage. Nobody had ever heard of Roosevelt as an insurgent or as favoring insurgency until La Follette had blazed the way and done all the intellectual parts of the work. But that is in line with the ex-president's whole career. He does not originate ideas nor policies, but puts electric energy into the ideas and policies of others, and this energy is sometimes not in strict line with the constitution and laws of the Union. Senator La Follette is a man of great energy and force of character and notably superior to the other in intellect and original ideas, but he can not compare with the man who has superseded him in the titanic force which Roosevelt puts into every undertaking.

Here is a remarkable situation as affecting the republican party. The split between the Taft and Roosevelt supporters is wider and deeper than that which separates either faction from the democratic party, while so far as personalities are concerned it is hard to see how a La Follette man can aid the cause of one who has inflicted such bitter wrong and disappointment upon their favorite. We have had a pretty warm time in the political world in the few weeks past, and a hot time is in prospect.

A MATTER OF COMMON INTEREST

How to cure a cold is a question in which many are interested just now. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has won its great reputation and immense sale by its remarkable cures of cold. It can always be depended upon. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Agents for Hawaii.

ANOTHER LAND PATENT DENIED

HONO, May 30.—The second of the test cases brought by the Territory against the applicants for patents to homesteads in the Kauwili III tract, Hakalau, was decided yesterday in favor of the Territory. In the case decided by Judge Parsons yesterday, Manuel Nicolau de Souza was denied his application for patent on the grounds that he had not fulfilled the conditions of homesteading as regards the cultivation of a portion of the land or the planting of trees. The decision also states that the nonassignment of interest clause in the homestead agreement is unfulfilled.

This case differs from that of the Henderson test case in that it was brought under a right-of-purchase lease, although the points made by the government were similar to those advanced against the Henderson claim, which was under a homestead lease. Judge Parsons' decision followed along the lines laid down by the supreme court in the appealed Henderson test case.

CHINESE IS SHOT

BY DRUNK FILIPINO
WAIMEA, May 28.—A Filipino laborer in Camp 4, Makawell laboring under a misapprehension, caused much excitement the other night, when he attempted to shoot up a Chinaman. One shot was fired, the ball passing through the Chinaman's hand, causing a painful though not necessarily a fatal wound. The police interrupted the proceedings with the result that one more boarder is registered at Sheriff Crowell's popular hostelry.—Garden Island.

Fine Job Printing at the Star office.