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HOBSON'S SPEECH ON NAVAL BILL

PLEADS FOR TWO ADDITIONAL 25,000-TON BATTLESHIPS—WOULD INCREASE THE NAVY UNTIL AMERICA HAS CONTROL OF THE SEA—GIVES WARNING ABOUT JAPANESE WAR PREPARATIONS—SWARMS OF SPIES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6.—Pointing out what he declared to be the precarious condition of the national defense of the United States both in the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, Mr. Hobson, of Alabama, in the House of Representatives today made an earnest plea for two battleships of 25,000 tons displacement in addition to the two authorized by the naval appropriation bill. He said that a conservative estimate would indicate that for the minimum basis of security and safety in the Pacific ocean the United States should lay down at least four big ships a year for many years to come, "until Japan concedes to us what is inevitable—the American control of the sea around which our possessions are scattered." As a minimum for the Atlantic ocean the government should lay down six battleships a year, he said. Heretofore, said Mr. Hobson, the weakness of America in the matter of national defense had not been fatal to its growth and development, because the oceans constituted a great barrier between America and the armies of the world. "Now, however," said he, "the oceans have been bridged and the armies of the world have been brought to our doors, and along with the armies of the older nations of Europe have come the armies of the ancient nations of Asia." He said that where America formerly lived more or less in isolation, she is now exciting the jealousy of other great nations in threatening their supremacy in commerce, industry and finance. In addition, he declared that recent events have thrown us into the political vortex of the world, and that the dangers of being unprepared are becoming greater and greater with each succeeding year.

chance and no favor—simply the open door policy in China—but this policy goes counter to Japanese ambitions. The United States, said Mr. Hobson, must accept Japan's protestations of friendship, and we should most cordially reciprocate friendly feelings and should realize that if any breach should come between the two countries it would be our fault, on account of being so defenseless, and not the fault of Japan.

JAPAN'S PREPARATIONS.

Pursuing his analysis of the conditions in the Pacific, Mr. Hobson declared that "we cannot ignore the fact that Japan has undertaken stupendous war preparations, preparations which have doubled the national debt of Japan since the war with Russia was over. It is estimated that she has between 300,000 and 400,000 men under arms, yet there is no menace from the armies of Siberia or the armies of China or the armies of Europe. No nation since the world began has ever maintained such an army, under such conditions, except as a preparation for an early campaign of aggression."

Continuing, Mr. Hobson said that notwithstanding the fact that five battleships of the Russian navy had been added to the Japanese navy, and although the Russian fleet had vanished from the Pacific ocean and there was no fleet of any size of any European nation in that ocean and no fleet of any European nation that was available to be sent away from Europe into those regions, yet Japan has launched upon a stupendous program of naval expansion. Some, he said, had imagined that Japan's warlike preparations were intended for China, but he declared no one could conceive how a great new navy would be needed, whereas there is scarcely a Chinese gunboat. The United States, he said, could not ignore the fact that warlike activities have been going on in Japan "at a feverish rate" since the war with Russia. He said Japan had made great purchases of war material abroad. He pointed particularly to the fact that America had supplied 750,000 rifle barrels, "although our own troops have not yet been supplied with new rifles." Neither could the United States ignore the fact, he maintained, that two naval bases had been established in Formosa and the Pescadore Islands, down near Luzon, and that as soldiers were discharged at Hiroshima they emigrated to Hawaii.

After calling attention to America's lack of a merchant marine, which could be used as auxiliaries in time of war, and of transports necessary for properly conducting war operation, Mr. Hobson said:

LACK OF DEFENSES.

"We have almost no standing army and could not prevent the seizure by a foreign power of a harbor on our shores, to be used as a naval base; whereas if would be practically impossible for America to secure a naval base for operations in European waters. Forts, mines, torpedoes, torpedo boats and submarines are valuable accessories, but such defenses have never stopped a determined commander of a great fleet. They did not stop Nelson at Copenhagen, nor Farragut at Mobile bay, nor Dewey at Manila. Such defenses never determine the issues of a war, and have no weight in deterring an enemy from seeking war. The forts that we have are woefully manned, whereas the troops needed for other landward defense could not be mobilized within the time necessary."

THE YELLOW PERIL.

The possibility of a conflict with Japan was discussed at length by Mr. Hobson. He said it was but perfectly natural for Japan to aspire to dominate the commerce of China, the commerce of Asia and of the Pacific ocean. And he added it was perfectly natural for Japan to seek to control the policies of China and to attain supremacy in the Pacific ocean, and to lead the Yellow race toward a recognized supremacy in the world.

With regard to the great nations of the white race, Mr. Hobson said, "It is, of course, clear to the Japanese statesmen that America is the one great nation standing athwart of the realization of these ambitions. It is true that America only asks a fair

SWARMING SPIES.

Mr. Hobson charged that Japanese spies have been diligent and active throughout the Philippines, in our outlying possessions, throughout all parts of America, in our forts, arsenals, shipyards, and particularly up and down the coast along the Pacific, in noting the elements of America's defense and mapping and charting harbors and approaches from the rear to our coastwise forts and to our cities.

Referring to the situation in San Francisco, Mr. Hobson declared that the most troubling incidents there were seized upon and made great international affairs.

"When we realize," said he, "that in case of a war with Japan we could do nothing practically to harm that country, whereas we would be exposed on all sides to injury that cannot be computed, it becomes a matter of absolute necessity for our peace and tranquility that we should not only have a naval force in the Pacific as large as that of Japan, but that on account of our strategic disadvantage we should have

THE MASCOT NEXT WEEK

The much-talked-of "Mascot" will be presented on Thursday and Saturday of next week and much interest is being centered on that occasion.

As a matter of fact "The Mascot" is now in good enough shape to present it this week. Everything necessary has been done to make it a complete success, and all is running as smoothly as a well regulated machine.

In "The Mascot" the audience are not the only ones who will see actors, but the actors themselves will also see others, who have been brought there for their benefit. In other words there is a stage within a stage, and it is here that most of the specialties will be run in. Mrs. Walter Macfarlane, Jr., as "Ma Cherie" has a very telling specialty, set with beautiful stage effect, which will be absolutely new in Honolulu. "Sonny" Cunha and Jas. D. Dougherty have some extras to run in also and it goes without saying that they will be extra in quality as well as quantity. "Jimmie" has one particularly good song in which local "hits" will be introduced. His voice ever popular is in good form and his very many admirers have a treat in store in his rendition of the important part of "Prince Frederick."

There are one or two minor principals in "The Mascot" who will bear watching as coming "stars," both "Wille" Kerr and Chris Jenkins in particular. Mr. Kerr has a particularly fine bass voice and though his part is a minor one he throws heart and soul into it and does it full justice. Chris Jenkins has an exceedingly pleasing voice and the rendition of his part will also give much pleasure.

The chorus of "The Mascot" is a particularly strong one and the "team work" is excellent.

All in all "The Mascot" promises to be one of the most successfully staged comic operas yet presented in Honolulu.

FIRE-CONTROL SYSTEM.

WASHINGTON, April 6.—All of the ships in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets, except those already equipped on the Asiatic station, are to be furnished with fire-control apparatus, and Lieutenant C. S. Miller, who is detached from duty here with the bureau of equipment, is to visit Mare Island and Puget sound to superintend that work at once. The greatest importance is attached to this work, as the efficiency of the ships is greatly increased by the installation of this fire-control system.

In conclusion, Mr. Hobson said: THE PRESENT CRISIS.

"It may be remarked that at this critical juncture, when the world is drifting towards wars, that the failure on the part of America to build up the naval power adequate to keep peace in the Pacific ocean will be liable to entail not only a war between America and Japan, but ultimately a war between the White race and the Yellow race, and engender a hatred and anger between the races that would prevent the carrying of the gospel of peace throughout Asia. The true policy for a Christian to advocate is to have his country, the great peace country, keep the peace, secure and create the opportunity for the church to reach the myriads of Asia and carry the gospel until every knee shall bow."

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USE RAWHIDES ON WRONG PREACHER

SALEM, Or., April 6.—Declaring that their father, J. F. Goode, had been repeatedly slandered by Rev. Samuel Roper, pastor of the Free Methodist Church, Miss Lou Goode and Mrs. Nettie Rhodes armed themselves with rawhides last night and went to the church for the purpose of thrashing the clergyman. The ladies, however, fell on Rev. W. N. Coffey of Portland, who met the sisters at the church door, and this minister was given a severe beating. The women were accompanied by several friends to keep bystanders from interfering, but who took no part in the attack.

The incident was caused by a church row. Goode originally was a prominent member of the church and donated the site of the present building. Afterward he was expelled from membership. Roper tried to escape through a rear window when the women approached. Coffey greeted the sisters with a challenge to take out their spite on him and they took him at his word.

SEATTLE, Wash., April 6.—Earthquakes and volcanic disturbances in the north are causing more trouble in northern waters with the Alaska cable. The cableship Burnside has been in the north for several days and has discovered two breaks north of Sitka within a few miles of each other. From late reports the damage to the cable between Sitka and Valdez is greater than was at first supposed. A new and active volcano is reported in the vicinity of Valdez, and there is little doubt that the disturbances which accompanied its appearance caused the trouble.

The Burnside is now operating in water more than a mile in depth, and on account of this and the rough weather it is difficult to say when the damage will be repaired. In the case of the breaks near Valdez during the winter, when were repaired, the ends of the cable were found to be buried deep and fast in the volcanic overflow or the masses of ocean floor shifted by the earthquake.

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