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A PACIFIC BATTLESHIP FLEET

(Special Washington Correspondence of The Star.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., October 19.—There is a very simple, yet very effective means whereby President Roosevelt or his successor can force Congress to provide for a more rapid increase in the American navy, and but for the fact that the itinerary of the battleship fleet has been fixed, this remedy might be applied after the warships have concluded their visit to Japan.

If the President, at the conclusion of the circumnavigation trip, shall order one half of the big fleet, eight battleships, to take station on the Pacific, insisting that the west coast, with its growing commerce and growing seaports, is entitled to as much protection as the Atlantic coast. Congress will be very quick to respond by providing for the immediate construction of a new battleship fleet, to replace those ships that might be detached from the Atlantic fleet.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, the President has absolute say as to the station of both military and naval forces. He can assign warships wherever he thinks proper, and none can question his orders; no even Congress can intervene. If the President deems it expedient to assign eight or ten battleships to the Pacific coast, or divide them between the Pacific coast, Hawaii and the Philippines, his order must be carried out.

But any such order from the President would bring forth a tremendous howl from the populous states and cities of the Atlantic seaboard; it would be heralded abroad that the eastern ports of the United States had been left without ample protection against invasion, and such terrific pressure would be brought to bear that Congress would be compelled to provide for a large increase in the navy, in order that the Atlantic seaboard might have that measure of protection to which it believes itself entitled.

At the last session of Congress the President endeavored to secure authority for the construction of four battleships, and in this fight he had the almost solid backing of the West. But he also met with determined opposition from the East, and in Congress the strength of the West is no match for that of the older and more thickly settled states on this side of the Mississippi. The President's four-battleship programme was smashed by Eastern Senators and Eastern Representatives.

But by exercising his unquestioned authority as Commander-in-Chief, the President can circumvent the men who blocked his programme last winter, and he can, by the stroke of his pen, force the men who opposed him last winter, to work for the very object for which he then vainly struggled. Take away from the Atlantic fleet eight battleships, and send them to the Pacific, where Congress will have no further jurisdiction, and the very men who led the opposition to the President's plan will, of necessity, become the leaders of his cause—not because their attitude toward him has changed; not because they believe in a larger navy—but because they would then be unable to withstand the demand from their people. In other words, the plan to increase the navy can be made a local issue in the manner indicated, and the powerful states of the East, heretofore hostile, would become the foremost advocates of President Roosevelt's programme. Indeed, so great would become the demand for more battleships, that Congress might go even farther than the President recommended.

The situation is such that it is improbable President Roosevelt will play the trump card, which will force Congress to act, but there is no reason why Mr. Taft, if he succeeds Roosevelt, should not adhere to the Roosevelt naval policy, and as an evidence of his belief in the naval programme, increase the battleship fleet on the Pacific. Mr. Taft, being perhaps more familiar with conditions on the Pacific and in the Orient, than any other man in the government, fully appreciates the importance of adequately protecting not only the Pacific coast, but our possessions in the more remote parts of the Pacific Ocean, and he could, with perfect propriety, send a part of the Atlantic fleet back to the Pacific waters, after he became Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy.

The battleship fleet is scheduled to return to American waters late in February, and only a few days before President Roosevelt will turn over the affairs of state to his successor. It would be rather extraordinary for him, on the eve of retirement, and immediately after the completion of the voyage around the world, to send eight battleships around the Horn a second time. If it is the President's purpose to divide the fleet, he will probably do so before the battleships leave European waters on the last lap of their long and eventful voyage. He could, about the first of November, when the visit to European ports will have been concluded, send some of the ships back through the Suez canal, with orders to take station on the Pacific. Such an order would have instantaneous effect in Congress, and authorization would be made at the coming session for a bunch of new battleships, to replenish the Atlantic fleet.

LIQUOR PROHIBITED AT THE GREAT FAIR

ALASKA-YUKON-PACIFIC EXPOSITION DECIDES TO GO "DRY"—FIRST TIME THAT THE EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN TRIED, BUT THE DIRECTORS FIGURE THEY CAN MAKE MONEY BY THIS ACTION.

SEATTLE, October 18.—An experiment in connection with a great international exposition is to be tried next year when the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition is held in this city and it will be watched with more than usual interest by church and temperance people and members of the prohibition party. For the first time in the history of expositions, the sale of intoxicating liquors on the grounds or near them will be absolutely prohibited.

The management of expositions in the past have always advanced the claim that it would be impossible to make an exposition pay expenses unless the visitors could get their beer, wine or whiskey. It would be pointed out that the cosmopolitan character of the visitors, many of whom would be from foreign countries, made it a necessity for the restaurants and cafes and open air resorts to have wines and liquors for sale with meals. As the exposition managements took a percentage of the earnings of every restaurant and resort on the grounds, it was desirable to have the receipts as large as possible. At many expositions the receipts thus obtained have amounted to as high as \$7,500 a day, there being many places under the title of summer or beer gardens which would give concerts or vaudeville entertainments and sell beer or wine to the audiences. The sale of the beer and wine was the chief end of the enterprise.

In the case of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exposition in 1909, a different view of the matter is taken. The exposition was financed by the people of Seattle, and the stockholders naturally wish to get a dividend in part if not for all of their subscriptions. Therefore every dollar that could be obtained would help and yet the stockholders and directors have decided that they can get their dividend without the sale of liquor upon the grounds. At first it was much doubted if it was a feasible plan. To be sure the law as it stood prevented the sale

of liquors, for the exposition grounds are part of the campus of the University of Washington and the state law provides that liquors shall not be sold within two miles of the University campus. Those who wished to have liquors sold, claimed that the legislature was favorable to granting a special permit to cover the time of the exposition being open. A canvas of the nominees named at the recent primary indicates that the legislators are willing to do anything the directors might ask in this regard.

However, after a careful investigation and close figuring, it was unanimously agreed that the directors would not ask the legislature for this privilege, that the law should stand and that for the first time an exposition would try the experiment of going "dry."

The restaurants and cafes will serve non-alcoholic drinks and mineral waters. The exposition grounds will be supplied direct from a fine mineral spring through galvanized iron pipes. The resorts on the Pay Streak, the mile long amusement street at the lower end of the grounds, will also stick to the non-intoxicating beverages when they have occasion to serve liquid refreshments.

The mineral water concerns are taking advantage of the exceptional opportunities offered to exploit their products and at least a dozen of the leading springs of the west will have exhibits on the grounds some of them serving the waters free. The managers shrewdly figure that if they can get people accustomed to mineral waters, they will largely profit by the change from alcoholic drinks.

The directors of the Exposition are exploiting the fact of the great fair being "dry" and scores of church, temperance, social and fraternal organizations have rallied to their support, commending the exposition for its action and expressing the intention of doing everything possible to advertise the fair and boost the attendance.

BOSTON MINISTERS WILL FORM PROTECTIVE UNION.

Object of Organization Is to Secure Increase in Salaries Now Inadequate.

BOSTON, Oct. 18.—Declaring that many Boston ministers are unable to support their families on the small salaries they receive and that several of them are forced to till the soil for a living, clergymen propose to form a union.

The proposed union is to be based on the same principles as those of organized labor and is intended to have the same sort of restrictive and protective features. There will be a clause covering a movement on the part of the clergy answering to the "strike" of the workmen and there will also be a functionary of the nature of the walking delegate.

GRAFTERS ARE SCORED IN RADER'S SERMON.

Pastor Says Bible Truth Here Has No More Weight Than a Feather.

SAN FRANCISCO, October 20.—"Men who are on the way to the pen-

itentiary or from it will smile at me when they learn that I have said that one of the things we need badly in San Francisco is a little of the old-fashioned Bible truth," declared Rev. William Rader, pastor of Calvary Presbyterian church, addressing a large congregation last night on the "Bible and San Francisco."

Continuing, Dr. Rader said: "But for some men who were in office San Francisco would not be in the plight that she is now in—the laughing stock of the United States. The Bible truth has no more weight in San Francisco than a feather. Political disasters and tragedies civic have occurred around us, because people have failed to regard the jurisprudence of the people

as the leading law of the land. If you want to know how without loopholes you will find it in the Bible."

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