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U. S. NEGOTIATES FOR BIG STEAMER

Have Made Thorough Examination of Plan of Steamship Alcoa—May Purchase Vessel to Transport Horses and Artillery.

The United States Government has obtained plans of the huge steamer Alcoa. In this port, and will have the vessel under consideration for the moving of horses and field artillery whenever this should be found necessary says the S. F. Examiner.

With the same secrecy that attended the stopping of all work on the transport Logan last Friday, when it became apparent to the Washington authorities that the troopship might be needed to carry one or two regiments of soldiers to Nicaragua. Government agents have negotiated for the Alcoa, and it is now understood that the big steamer will be readily available at any time, with slight preparation, for the transportation of cavalry, horses and artillery.

There is no doubt that attention was directed to the Alcoa as a result of the imbroglio in Nicaragua, and that investigation showed that it would be the most available carrier for the purposes mentioned.

The mammoth steamer is capable of transporting 1000 horses and several companies of field artillery. In addition to several thousand tons of supplies and the necessary feed for the animals.

During the days following the invasion of the Philippines by troops from this country the German steamer Samoa, sister ship of the Alcoa, was under charter to the United States Government in transporting horses from here to the islands and was one of the largest and most satisfactory of the animal transports. In mere freight-carrying capacity the Alcoa is a giant, being able easily to transport 12,000 tons.

The Alcoa, the property of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, has a gross tonnage of 7,575 and net tonnage of 4,897. Her length is 455 feet, and breadth 58 feet. On account of her great size and the fact that the regular large carriers of the Mail line are able to carry all the freight offered, the Alcoa has been idle at an anchorage in the upper bay since January, 1907, except for a few months, when she was utilized as a store ship for coal. She has been kept in good trim, and if the Government should decide to send her to Corinto the Alcoa could be loaded and dispatched in less than a week.

The investigation into the suitability of the Alcoa for Government uses has been carried on so quietly that not even officials of the Pacific Mail Company, other than one or two of those high in authority, knew that Uncle Sam had the vessel under consideration. Matters have progressed so far, however, that it is virtually settled that the Alcoa will be called into immediate use if any vessels other than the warships are to be dispatched to Corinto.

Late yesterday afternoon Colonel Von Schroeder, superintendent of the army transport service received instructions to reload the Logan and get the troopship ready to sail for Manila on scheduled time next Monday. No instructions regarding the Crook and Buford have been received, and both these transports will be held in readiness for further orders. As the time drew near for the sailing of the Logan and affairs in Nicaragua did not demand her dispatch to that country by the United States, it was decided to send her out on the regular Manila schedule.

VALLEY CLUB AND IMPROVEMENTS

It was a routing meeting that the Mahoe Valley Improvement Club held last night, and at which fifteen new members were taken in.

Superintendent of Public Works Campbell was present and gave a long talk on the water problem of Honolulu, giving some facts and figures concerning consumption of water, not only in the city proper, but in the valley. He intimated that in about six months the valley would have a direct source of water, when the new high-life pump is installed, and would not be so restricted in the use of water as at present. Regarding the street car service the club is much encouraged with the prospective changes the Rapid Transit will make in regard to accommodating the residents of the valley.

The question of free rural mail delivery was again brought up, and the matter will be taken before the post office authorities at once.

A small boy named James Armstrong, was struck by the wheel of a big wagon yesterday and quite severely injured. The accident happened on Beretania avenue in front of Dr. Judd's office, into which the injured lad was taken. In trying to dodge a fast-approaching car and the wagon the boy seemed to get rattled and as a result was caught by the latter vehicle. No bones were broken but his thigh was severely cut.

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