

PEARL HARBOR DEFENSE GUNS TESTED AND FOUND READY FOR GRIM BUSINESS

Shells From Great Rifles Screamed Across the Channel.

General Macomb Testified to Excellence of Engineering.

(From Sunday's Advertiser.)
A shot which will be heard around the world was fired across the entrance to Pearl Harbor channel yesterday forenoon from one of the largest guns of the American army, a shot which Uncle Sam metaphorically fired across the bows of the fleets of all nations to notify them that he is ready to defend the Hawaiian Islands and has the implements of war with which to prevent any hostile invasion. After thirteen years under the American flag, Honolulu was yesterday declared by the war department to be able to defend herself against the attacks of hostile fleets for with the cross fire of the two great 12-inch rifles of Fort Kamehameha with the great mortars of Diamond Head, few ships may now venture within their range.

There was a dramatic element in the discharge of this first 12-inch gun of the great battery named in honor of Kamehameha the Great, the Napoleon of the Pacific, for the first projectile was fired directly across the entrance to Pearl Harbor and far out to sea, where a column of water nearly a hundred feet in height was thrown up where it plunged beneath the waves. Over the dredgers, which are burrowing out a channel, deep enough to float in the superdreadnoughts of the American navy, the projectile screamed its way from the muzzle of the monster rifle, and as the water flew out the roar of the back-rush of air returned to the watchers on the platforms of the great battery, while the great gun settled down in its steel cradle, ready for whatever further demands might be made upon it.

Ready to Defend Harbor.

This was the army's demonstration that it is ready to defend the great naval station of Pearl Harbor, now under development to be the greatest naval station under the American flag, where almost the entire fleet of warships may lie at anchor, and where in the great drydock now building, crippled ships may be repaired and prepared to rejoin the battle line.

Success marked the testing of the great 12-inch guns and not a defect was uncovered in the vast mechanism of guns or carriages.

Instead of the terrific report which many expected would come from the 57-ton monsters, they gave only a deep roar, a basso profundo, not half so ear-splitting as the six-inch guns upon warships or the small caliber saluting guns of the Honolulu naval station. While ears were protected by cotton wads, there was really little necessity for their use.

Prepared for Actual Use.

The United States is now prepared to make use of the big guns for actual use, should any such contingency arise. The tests themselves are in readiness. The tests demanded by the war department before they can be turned over to the coast artillery corps—which is to man them, have been made and the reports will be favorable. The great emplacements are still in course of construction but on the highroad to completion. These represent the highest type of modern fortification, the works being constructed almost exclusively of cement and concrete reinforced by steel rods. With sand embanked on the seaside face the great guns are amply protected, and it would be a rare shot from the sea which could ever strike them.

Capt. W. P. Platt, ordnance department, U. S. A., who was sent here to make the tests and to "proof" them, superintended the work of firing. In this he was assisted by Captain Wilbur, Coast Artillery Corps, of Fort Ruger, ordnance officer for the district of Hawaii, assisted by two sergeants and a file of privates. General Macomb, U. S. A., commander of the district of Hawaii, his aid, Lieutenant Andrews, Eighth Cavalry; Lieutenant Colonel Biddle, Maj. E. E. Winslow, Engineer Corps; Major Timberlake, Artillery Corps; Maj. Ernest Smith, Pay Corps; Captain Chapman, Twentieth Infantry; Governor Frenn, Secretary of the Territory Mott-Smith and a number of officers of the coast artillery and infantry, were present to witness the tests.

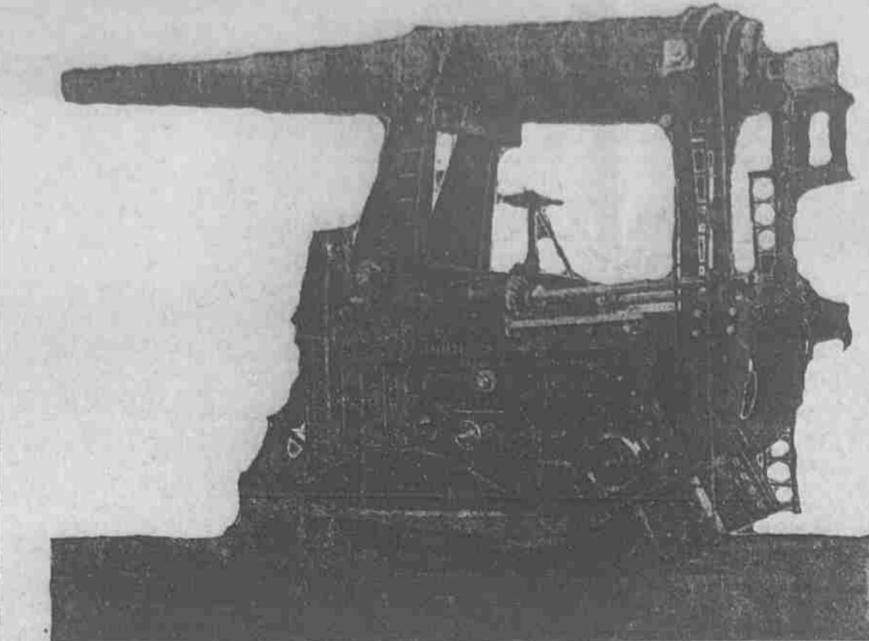
A Living Gun Swab.

The first gun tested was the one nearest the Pearl Harbor channel. It was operated in various ways to test the carriage mechanism, and was thoroughly swabbed. And then the reason why the coast artillery has an occasional small man was made plain. When the gun was swabbed the smallest artilleryman was lifted by his comrades and thrust head foremost into the breech and shoved far up the rifle barrel. He was gradually pulled out by the feet and when he emerged he had in his hands a swabbing cloth. The duty of these small artillerymen is to polish the interior of the gun.

The breech was closed and the primer tested. At this juncture a few infantry privates from Fort Shafter happened to be loitering on the esplanade directly in front of the muzzle. One was reading a thrilling story in the Argosy. The lanyard was pulled by Captain Wilbur and a pingpong report sounded. The infantryman leaped as if he had been blown from the mouth of the cannon—Sepoy-fashion—but he will now have the honor to record in his career that he was the first man shot at by the big Pearl Harbor gun.

No Romance There.

Captain Platt adjusted the mechanism.



TYPE OF GREAT GUN TESTED AT PEARL HARBOR

ism. He was not clad in the spick and span uniform in which an officer is generally supposed to encase himself. He was there for business and was dealing with mechanism which was slippery with oil and grease and his hands looked like those of a foundryman. Captain Wilbur looked equally unromantic for his hands and arms were grimy. The artillerymen wore blue dungarees. The breech was opened and the ear with its 1040-pound projectile was wheeled to the opening. A squad of men manned the great rammer, the projectile was shoved into the breech, and then followed three bags of powder, a three-quarter discharge, each bag filled with smokeless powder, not the black grained powder of earlier days, but powder which looked like two-inch lengths of split macaroni. The bags were thrust home, the breech closed and the lanyard attached to the primer.

Meanwhile, the spectators, army men as well as civilians, scattered to the far battlements and many wadded their ears with cotton. "Stand on your toes, open your mouth, and put your fingers on your ears," was the suggestion of an army officer. The workmen on the emplacements left the dark interior rooms under the broad platforms and many retreated to the fringe of kiawe trees. Captain Platt took a last look through the telescope, saw the sea was clear, and gave the order to fire. The great gun roared deep, discolored smoke shot from the muzzle, the piece settled back on its haunches, as it were, while all eyes were strained toward the open sea.

A Scream and a Roar.

"Ah," and everybody exclaimed as a column of water shot up from the sea far beyond the entrance to Pearl Harbor, remaining in the air for a few seconds, as if suspended. The scream of the projectile was heard until the water shot up, then came back a dull sullen roar as of a train running across a bridge, and then a far plunk, the sound of impact being the echo made by the great projectile as it hit the water.

The first test had been successful. Two hundred and sixty-two pounds of powder had been used and the projectile had been shot to seaward about 4000 yards. The powder pressure in the rifle was 33,000 pounds to the square inch. And that shot demonstrated that Uncle Sam has at last created a barrier to the entrance to Pearl Harbor.

Then came another projectile with four bags of powder, the charge amounting to 275 pounds and the shell this time went six thousand yards, or more than three miles. The first gun done its work perfectly, and the emplacements had hardly been tested.

Then the second gun was tested. The first and second charges were used, the projectile being fired diagonally away from the fortification and practically half way between Pearl Harbor entrance and Honolulu harbor.

Lamp Chimneys Jostled.

When the first gun was fired the air shock created a little havoc among some of the wooden trestlework immediately before the emplacement and a few timbers were wrenched apart, while an old wooden tool box was split open. A workman looked for his lunch bag there and found that the top of the pall within it had been pulled off. Down in the casements of the fortification four lamp chimneys which were on a shelf had tumbled off, and that was all the damage in the entire fortification. The result of the test on the great emplacements was a triumph for the great works which have been constructed under the direction of Major Winslow of the corps of engineers.

It was explained that one of the reasons why the guns did not give back the concussion expected, immediately in the vicinity of the breeches, was because the platforms have been made wide and extend far back, and are also open at the back.

General Macomb expressed himself well pleased with the tests.

Barracks and Men Next.

Just when these guns will be manned by coast artillery forces is problematical. There is a heavy demand on this term of the service for officers and men, but it is known that the war department is anxious to give Oahu its full quota. At present there are no barracks for men, but these may be up within nine or ten months.

Half a mile away from the 12-inch gun battery, which has been named after Selfridge, in honor of the young lieutenant who lost his life while experimenting in aviation, is a mortar battery under construction to be equipped with 12-inch mortars. This will be one of the most powerful batteries of the kind in the world.

BRINGING FIFTY THOUSAND UNIFORMS BACK TO MAINLAND FROM PHILIPPINES

(Special Cable to The Advertiser.)
MANILA, March 18.—Fifty thousand uniforms, which have been in stock here in the quartermaster's department as reserve, were taken aboard the army transport Sheridan and are now on the way to San Francisco. The order to take on the uniforms came in an imperative cable from the secretary of war. It is understood here that the uniforms are to be used by the army in connection with the Mexican movement. They are service uniforms, designed for the tropics.

REMARKABLE FEAT OF HAWAII COUNTY

SPENDS TWO DOLLARS ON ROADS WHERE IT ONLY RECEIVED A SOLITARY SIMOLEON.

Hawaii county has made a grand success in county government as was evidenced in its report made to the legislature and received by that body yesterday. As a matter of real, hard figure-supported fact, and unfortunately in this case, figures do not lie, Hawaii county has picked two dollars where only one dollar grew, just to make roads with.

Stripped of poetical license, the big island has overdrafted itself \$57,396.99 by its own confession and the legislators are now looking at that \$600,000 Hawaii county bonding bill with an increased interest and understanding.

All the overdrafts were on the special road deposit tax and not one district escaped. So enthusiastic were the county fathers who ruled the destinies of the county from 1909 to the end of 1910 that in their attempt to startle the world they merely succeeded in making an impression on the exchequer without any evident impression, so it seems, on the road system.

The Puna district of the big island is one of the choice illustrations of county management in the past. Here the supervisors, out of the \$9585.91 in the Puna road fund spent the sum of \$25,516.47, a feat of financial ledgerdom which has not so far been surpassed in these Hawaiian Islands.

Hamakua district is in the hole over \$9000 as is South Hilo and there are several other districts short from seven to eight thousand. The road fund report of each district is as follows: South Hilo, \$9776.84; North Hilo, \$8992.65; Hamakua, \$9167.01; Puna, \$15,830.59; South Kohala, \$924.50; North Kohala, \$7974.30; North Kona, \$2120.06; South Kona, \$731.98; Kau, \$8176.54.

CLOSE WATCH FOR OPIUM SHIPMENTS

ALL LOCAL VESSELS WILL BE WATCHED FOR CONTRABAND SHIPMENTS.

The discovery of 110 tins of opium aboard the Lurline, brought here as freight and consigned to a traveling man from San Francisco, has convinced federal authorities that there are large possibilities for using local steamers for bringing opium into Honolulu, and that this can be done by falsifying manifests. The discovery of N. Scharlin's scheme for smuggling opium, may be one of many shipments of like character, and in such cases a discovery would mean perjury on the part of the shipper.

The present case is to be taken up with the United States authorities in San Francisco and the law governing the swearing of shipments by manifests will be given a test in the courts. United States District Attorney Brackens will cooperate with the San Francisco officials in the Scharlin case. The opium now on hand will eventually be used as evidence in the San Francisco case.

SAN ANTONIO BUZZING WITH REPORTS THAT BIG THINGS WILL SOON BE HAPPENING

Clearing Railroad Yards and Preparing for Quick Despatch of Troop Trains-- Militia on War Footing.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 19.—The air here is electrified with rumors of important developments to take place at once in connection with the mobilization of the American army and the Mexican revolution.

Yesterday was one of activity among the troops, following the orders of the war department that the regiments must stand prepared to take the field on two hours' notice.

Great activity prevailed also in the various railroad yards, which are being cleared of commercial freights. Runways are being hastily constructed alongside the tracks, so that the loading of a number of troop trains may be effected simultaneously.

Militia on War Footing.

PORTLAND, Oregon, March 19.—Adjutant-General Fisher, commander-in-chief of the National Guard of Oregon, received instructions yesterday from the secretary of war to take steps to place the state militia on a war footing. This means that recruiting for the guard will have to commence actively to bring the regiments up to full strength. The war footing calls for one hundred and three men to a company, while the average enlisted strength at present is fifty-eight.

Fighting Away in Chihuahua.

PRESIDIO, Texas, March 19.—Some lively fighting marked the proceedings yesterday in the siege of Guinaga, with the defenders the heavier losers. The federals lost eleven killed in the trenches, with a number of wounded, while the death list of the insurgents shows only two as a result of yesterday's fight.

Planning Attack on Casas Grandes.

COLONIA MANUEL DURLAN, Mexico, March 19.—This town was last night surrounded by a strong detachment of insurgents. It is rumored that Provisional President Madero is personally in command and that he is preparing for a second attack upon Casas Grandes.

Americans Want Peace.

CHIHUAHUA, March 18.—Seven hundred Americans living here have petitioned President Diaz to grant the concessions demanded by the rebels and thus end the war quickly.

Executed by Rebels.

MEXICALI, March 18.—The rebels have executed two alleged spies by shooting them.

Holiday Out Short.

AUGUSTA, Georgia, March 19.—President Taft, who had come here to rest until the convening of congress in special session, has announced that his vacation has ended and that he will leave for Washington this morning.

WRESTLE IN VAIN WITH NEW BILL

HOUSE "SCRAPS" OVER "SCRAP" OF MAYOR AND BOARD—GIVES IT UP.

(From Sunday's Advertiser.)

With a grim determination to settle the question of how to govern Honolulu, the house yesterday resolved itself into the committee of the whole, under the chairmanship of Representative Archer, appointed by Speaker Holstein, and then struggled desperately for a time and gave it up, returning a report to the legislature of "progress."

The bill acted upon, so far as action went, was the substitute amendments to the city and county act in place of bills Nos. 113, 115 and 120, known as the commission forms, and was introduced by the judiciary committee, of which A. L. Castle is chairman. About the only difference it makes in the present law is to carefully eliminate all power from the mayor and center it in the board of supervisors, in which the mayor does not even have a vote.

A preliminary motion was made that the committee—as a whole—be permitted to remove their coats and smoke up. It was carried unanimously and a general shedding of outer garments followed.

Bulletin Influence.

"In view of the editorial in the Bulletin yesterday against this measure, I move the adoption of section one."

There was a short discussion and the motion carried.

In the discussion which followed a motion to approve of section two, Castle stated that the advertising bills of the county were "outrageous." The section provides for the advertising of the ordinances passed by the supervisors for three days instead of ten days.

Keliini submitted an amendment to make the publication three days, but that the bills do not take effect for ten days after approval. He explained this was to give a chance to opponents of an ordinance to be heard.

Castle defended the section, saying that there were three days of publication provided for, to be followed by three days more before the ordinances became effective.

Its "Only Excuse."

The motion to amend was lost and then the action on section three, which was declared to be the "only excuse for the bill," was started, but never completed.

This section is the particular one which makes a figurehead of the mayor. There was a lot of discussion over this section, mostly by members from other islands, a fact to which the chairman called attention, and was told that all the discussion was to get the Honolulu members started, but they refused to "start."

Speaker Holstein also took part in the discussion and stated that it would be well for all the members to know just what was wanted by the Honolulu people.

"Why? Why? Why?"

"Let us understand why we are asked to take away all power from the mayor; why is it necessary? who is asking for it? and is it because we have a Democratic mayor? Two years from now the legislature may be asked to renege the section if a Republican mayor is elected."

Representative Alfonso also wanted

to know. He said all the islands were interested as in case they desired to adopt a similar form of government to Honolulu's it must be satisfactory.

Representative Marcellino of the fourth district was the spokesman for the Oahu members. He stated very frankly that the purpose of the section was to do away with the "scrap" in the board of supervisors, whether one party was in the majority or the other. He explained how the mayor has the appointments and the board has the appropriating power, so that when there is a deadlock the public work goes backward, and he called special attention to the road work, or rather lack of it, under the present circumstances.

Too Much "Balance."

Rice, Sheldon and Keliini all took part in the discussion following, comparing the mayor and supervisors with the Governor and senate, thus establishing a balance of power.

"That's the trouble. The power is now so well balanced that we can't get ahead with our work," remarked Castle.

Then Rice of Kauai moved that the committee report progress. This was adopted and when the legislature reconvened a few minutes later Chairman Archer solemnly reported "progress."

BANKER MOFFAT DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, March 18.—David H. Moffat, a prominent railroad man of Colorado, died here today. Moffat built largely at his own expense the Florence & Cripple Creek railroad, thus developing the famous Cripple Creek mines. He had extensive banking interests also.

Years ago Banker Moffat figured as a principal in a sensational effort of a crank to extort money from him. The crank appeared at the bank with a valise saying he had dynamite and would kill the banker if he did not turn over a large sum to him. The money was delivered.

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EXPECTED TROOPS SOON TO BE HERE

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18.—Two battalions of the Second Infantry will sail for Honolulu Tuesday on the transport Crook. The third battalion will follow on June 5. Two batteries of field artillery will go on July 5 to strengthen the Honolulu garrison.

CAN NOT STAND FOR JUTE.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18.—Abe Ruef has again applied to the supreme court for a rehearing.

Jack Phillips, for several years book-keeper at Pahoa, is due to return to Honolulu on March 28, after having spent a vacation at his home in New Zealand.

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