

BOLD ROBBER'S COUP. ROBS TRAIN AT HIS EASE.

Receives and Puts Off Mail and Escapes at Terminal.

Spokane, Wash., March 15.—In the guise of a postoffice inspector a bandit obtained admittance to the postal car on the Great Northern...

Just before the train entered the yards at Spokane the bandit leaped from the car and with his booty in a small satchel, which he carried when he entered the coach at Bonner's Ferry...

Draper's bloodhounds were taken along the right-of-way of the Great Northern and picked up the scent within the city limits, less than a mile from the Great Northern station...

Benjamin Stumpf and John W. Nystun, the small clerks, told of their experience to-night. Locked in a closet hardly two feet square, Nystun almost suffocated after the train had pulled into Sand Point, thirty-four miles west of Bonner's Ferry...

BANDITS CAPTURE POSSE.

Kansas Bank Robbers Tap Wires to Learn of Pursuit.

Ochelata, Okla., March 15.—Eight miles southwest of Ochelata to-night the three bandits who robbed the bank of Tiro, Kan., on Friday captured three of a posse of six men who had gone out from Ochelata to capture them.

The posse was divided into two sections of three men each and came sauntering down a lane toward Candy Creek. Suddenly three rifles flashed the first section and they heard a command to "Throw up your hands!" They did so at once. The men riding a short distance behind fled back, leaving their companions at the mercy of the bandits...

TRANSANDINE TUNNEL WORK.

Chilian Section Opened on Line from Arica to La Paz.

Santiago de Chile, March 15.—The Minister of Public Works and a committee of American engineers attended the ceremonies to-day of opening the Chilian section of the transandine tunnel, in connection with the railway from Arica, Chile, to La Paz, Bolivia. The tunnel will be the highest in the world.

ENGINE KILLS GIRL SAVING FRIENDS.

Companions Warned in Time Escape From Death on Erie Road.

Hankensack, N. J., March 15.—Miss Addie Elling, the adopted daughter of George Elling, of North York, N. J., was struck and instantly killed by a switch engine near that place at 7 this evening. The young woman and two companions were walking toward the Northern Railroad station on the eastbound track. The switch engine was traveling west on the eastbound track, but the young people seemed unaware of their danger. Miss Elling shouted to the others to jump, but Miss Elling herself could not save herself.

FOUR MEN FOUND UNCONSCIOUS.

Two of Them in Critical Condition—Attacked at Night in Brooklyn.

Patrolman Downs, of the 143d Precinct, Brooklyn, found four persons lying in the middle of the street unconscious about six o'clock on 43d street and Fifth avenue to First avenue early yesterday morning. They were removed to the Norwegian Hospital. When they were revived they said they were Andy Wilson, of No. 529 Third avenue; Frank Bradley, of No. 61 41st street; Charles Anderson, of No. 241 41st street, and Hans Jorgensen, of No. 9 41st street.

TENNESSEE CAPITALIST A SUICIDE.

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 15.—James Johnson, a capitalist and politician of this city, committed suicide to-night by cutting his throat on an Alabama Great Southern train between this city and Birmingham.

SENATOR WILLIAM P. WHYTE ILL.

Baltimore, March 15.—United States Senator William Pinkney Whyte is ill at his home in this city, suffering from erysipelas and bladder disorder. His physicians say that while his condition is not critical it is somewhat alarming. Senator Whyte was taken ill in Washington on Thursday and has since grown worse. His advanced age—he is eighty-two years old—is against his chances of improvement.

CHAOS IN HAYTI.

Bloody Street Fights and Rumors of Executions.

London, March 16.—A dispatch has been received here from Port-au-Prince, Hayti, to the effect that serious disturbances have occurred at that place. Several persons are reported killed in street fights and many arrests of prominent men have been made. Rumors of several summary executions, the dispatch says, are in circulation, but at the hour of filing the dispatch these had not been confirmed.

PAPER URGES MURDER.

Paterson Organ Wants Police Killed and City Burned.

Paterson, N. J., March 15 (Special).—An article published in "La Question Sociale," an anarchist organ, has been brought to the attention of the city and county authorities, and Prosecutor Emley will determine what legal steps can be taken. Although the anarchist element was driven out of Paterson years ago, the publication of "La Question Sociale" has been continued here. It is printed in Italian, and sent through the mails to every state in the Union, few copies being distributed locally. A translation of the article the authorities have under consideration follows:

We want everybody to be with us. We invite everybody to get together and arm themselves. We want to see a revolution in the house which will only cut onions. It will be a good thing for everybody to have a gun. Who are the enemies? The first thing to do is to break into the armory and seize the rifles and ammunition. Then all the people will be with us as soon as they see this. The first thing to do is to get hold of the police station, and when the police see that they are not strong enough, the chief of police will ask for soldiers.

Prosecutor Emley said to-day that if there was any state law under which he could proceed he would see that it was promptly and vigorously applied, but without going deep into the subject he doubted whether the laws were broad enough to warrant him taking action in the circumstances. Officers of the federal authorities will also be called to the subject. Comparatively few have been aware that "La Question Sociale" was still published here, as not more than half a dozen copies of the paper are distributed in Paterson. The paper, it is said, has its largest circulation in Vermont and Virginia.

DRIVING OUT MEXICANS.

Cavalry Sent to Oust Squatters on American Syndicate's Land.

Mexico City, March 15.—A squadron of cavalry has been sent to La Mula ranch, near the Texas border, in the state of Chihuahua, to quell natives who object to being dispossessed from the ranch by representatives of an American syndicate, headed by James R. Keene and William H. Hearst, of New York, which recently bought the property. The Mexican squatters and their forefathers have lived upon the ranch for more than a hundred years. Messrs. Keene and Hearst have been prospecting for oil in that section for some time. They are said to have found several good wells. The ranch embraces 200,000 acres.

PEARLS VALUED AT \$8,000 SEIZED.

Customs Inspector Sees Mysterious Package in Passenger's Pocket.

Timothy Donohue, the veteran special inspector of the customs service, who in the last thirty years has taken thousands of dollars' worth of jewelry and furs from the persons of returning travelers, found a case of pearls valued at \$8,000 in the pocket of G. B. Umsted, a passenger on the American liner New York, which arrived yesterday from Southampton.

Inspector Donohue saw something that looked like a package in a pocket of Mr. Umsted's overcoat, and decided to search him. As Donohue does not wear the uniform of a customs inspector Mr. Umsted grew indignant. Before he could protest Donohue said: "You have some things on your person that I would like to see. You may be all right, but it won't do any harm for me to search you." Donohue works quickly, and within three minutes he had examined everything in Mr. Umsted's pockets. The pearls made the veteran inspector smile as he opened the small leather case and he remarked: "I suppose you have declared these." Mr. Umsted said he had not, whereupon Donohue called Alexander McKeon, the acting deputy surveyor, who took them. Appraised roughly on the spot, they were said to be worth more than \$8,000. Mr. Umsted, who was much chagrined, explained that he left this port in January and took the pearls to France, in the hope of selling them there. He said he found the French market poor and decided to bring them back with him. Before leaving Cherbourg he obtained a consular certificate saying that the pearls were American and would be exempt from duty when he arrived at New York. The acting deputy surveyor sent the pearls to the Appraiser's Store, where it will be decided whether they are American.

C. N. O. & T. P. ROAD CLOSES SHOPS.

Thousand Men Thrown Out of Work Following Wage Appeal to Washington.

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 15.—It was announced here to-day that, effective to-day, about 75 per cent of the shop men employed by the Cincinnati, New Orleans & Texas Pacific Railroad would be laid off indefinitely. The shops affected are at Ludlow and Somerset, Ky.; Oakdale and Chattanooga, Tenn., and Birmingham, Ala. More than a thousand men are affected. The union shop employees of its system were recently asked to accept a 10 per cent reduction in wages until financial conditions were restored. The union refused and carried the question to the Interstate Commerce Commission at Washington. The reduction is said to be the result of this action.

DOG BIT FOURTEEN; TWO DEAD.

Baltimore, March 15.—Two boys, Frank Rowles, aged ten, and Jacob Szogovitch, nine, died from hydrophobia in the last twenty-four hours. They were among fourteen persons bitten by a pet collie which attacked a crowd of school children and others on the street about a month ago. The boys who died, as well as the others bitten, received the Pasteur treatment.

BLOODHOUNDS GET MAN.

TRAILED ACROSS JERSEY. Prisoner's Unwillingness to Surrender Calls Out All Officials.

Seabright, N. J., March 15.—Bloodhounds captured a prisoner to-day who was locked up here after a chase across country. The dogs picked up the trail within a few minutes after it was made in Rumson and came straight here, out onto the pier and aboard a schooner lying along side. The man arrested, Phillip Roher, was the one man aboard whom the dogs indicated.

For more than a year this part of the state has been bothered by fires in barns and unoccupied or untenanted buildings, and by robberies of hen roosts and such petty crimes. Only two weeks ago the barn of Cornelius N. Bliss, in weeks ago the barn of Cornelius N. Bliss, in Rumson, was burned. Most of the fires have been in Rumson and neighborhood, although there have been some in other nearby places.

For a long time it has been noticed that the fires have been discovered, almost without exception, at about 6:30 o'clock in the evening. The setting of a fire after 7 o'clock was exceptional. The whole countryside has been alive to the chance of catching the firebug and robber. This evening Henry Richards, who has charge of the farm of C. D. Halsey, a broker, of the Mills Building, New York, was milking. Miss Reese, daughter of the caretaker of the Halsey summer home, was standing in the door of the cow barn and saw a man trying to approach the barn unseemly. She called Richards's attention to him and they watched him until Richards considered it dangerous to let him approach nearer. The farmer called to him to halt, but the man, who carried either a box or a square basket, fled, and was soon lost in the darkness.

Richards at once telephoned to Mayor McMahon. The Mayor aroused the marshals and telephoned to Marshal Spedecker, at Atlantic Highlands, to bring over a brace of bloodhounds. Spedecker had been anxious to try the dogs for some time, but until now there had been a discouraging wave of morality all around.

He came with his dogs in a fast automobile. The dogs were taken to the spot where the man was halted by Richards's outcry. No one else had been there. They took up the scent at once and followed the track the man took, according to Richards and the girl.

With a party of twenty or more following, the dogs came straight from Ridge Road, Rumson, to this place. When they reached the pier where the coal schooner Buena Vista lay alongside Captain Wilson ran out the plank. Phillip Roher came on deck just then and defied any one to come aboard. He told Mayor McMahon and the marshals and deputies who had gathered that only a United States Marshal could touch him. Roher is a husky fellow, and as none of the officials cared to take a chance on exceeding their authority, he stayed on deck. Mayor Packer was summoned and called into consultation. County Judge Foster was called, too, to give his opinion. Richards then swore to a complaint before Mayor Packer. The Mayor issued a warrant which he gave to Marshal George W. Haven, of Seabright. Haven called on two Bloodhounds and then went on board. Roher went below and took up a strategic post behind a closed door. The attacking party called up their reserves and Roher then surrendered and was locked up in the borough jail. He will be arraigned before Mayor Packer in the morning.

Judge Foster when he learned who had been arrested said Roher had been convicted twice before him of chicken stealing and one for killing a cow and selling the meat when improper to do so.

MR. TAFT HERE TO SPEAK.

May Meet Governor Hughes at Dinner Tomorrow Night.

Secretary Taft arrived in the city last night from Washington and went to the home of Henry W. Rogers, at No. 36 West 48th street, to spend the night. He will go to New Haven this morning to attend a meeting of the Yale Corporation, returning here in time to speak to-night at the meeting of the Brooklyn Armstrong Association in Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, at which Dr. Booker T. Washington will be speaker. He will attend a private dinner given by Grosvenor H. Backus, President of the Brooklyn Armstrong Association, at the Hamilton Club before the meeting.

To-morrow night Secretary Taft expects to attend the dinner of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, at Delmonico's. It is possible that he will meet Governor Hughes there, as the latter is expected to be present, although he also has to attend the dinner of the St. Patrick's Society in the Pouch Gallery, Brooklyn.

When he was asked if he would say anything last night about the political situation Mr. Taft said: "No; I guess you might be able to tell me something along those lines." The Secretary said he expected to return to Washington on Wednesday.

ANOTHER PARKER BUILDING VICTIM.

On the debris strewn planking of the smoke blackened Parker Building a Catholic priest administered yesterday the last rites to another victim of the fire, which had already cost three lives. Andrew McDillis, forty years old, of No. 331 East 53d street, was cleaning up the debris on the seventh floor, when he fell into the open elevator shaft, bounced against the walls and hung suspended. Imply on some irregular planking at the sixth story, Parker Building, was rescued by Dr. W. J. Simmons, of Bellevue, said he had fractured his skull, from which he would probably die. He was hurried to the hospital unconscious.

FIRE AT MINE CAUSES \$150,000 LOSS.

Trinidad, Col., March 15.—Fire, supposed to have been caused by crossed electric wires, to-day destroyed the coke washer, the tipple, the engine house and the laboratory of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company's mine at Sopris, causing \$150,000 damage, and throwing three hundred men out of employment.

SHARON STEEL MILLS RESUME.

Sharon, Penn., March 15.—Announcement was made to-day that the entire plant of the Sharon Steel Hoop Company will resume operations next Tuesday. The open hearth, the blooming mill and the eight, nine and ten inch billet mills will also start. About a thousand men are affected.

A RIOT AT PARIS CYCLE RACES.

Paris, March 15.—The spectators at the cycle races at the Galerie des Machines to-night, enraged over the decision of the umpires, wrecked and set fire to the grandstands. Three hundred police reserves had to be called out before order was restored.

WHY PATROLMEN SLEEP ON THEIR BEAT.

Marlboro, Mass., March 15.—When a patrolman sleeps on his beat he is not to be blamed any more. It is not laziness, nor shirking, nor any of these things. Physicians proved that E. W. Curtis, former city marshal, had the habit of sleeping too much on his beat. Yesterday he died and to-day an autopsy was performed. It showed a cancer of the pancreas. That in nearly every case, say the physicians, is the cause of excessive sleeping.

JAPAN NEEDS MONEY.

FOREIGN AID POSSIBLE. Government Control of Railways May Be Abandoned.

Tokio, March 15.—The government of Japan, finding that the self-imposed burden of government control of railroads is likely to prove too heavy, is now engaged in considering plans to relieve itself and at the same time build up the industries of the country, providing additional exports for its subsidized steamship lines and increasing its own income by the revenues derivable from increased production. Nothing presents so difficult a problem at the present time as that of high finance in Japan.

The tremendous outlay on the army and navy has been and continues to be the point on which statesmen, politicians and financiers are quarrelling. With 60 per cent of its appropriation given to the three divisions—finance, army and navy—little is left for the so greatly needed improvement of railroads, and in the present condition of the country the four hundred millions which must be paid to the oil railroad companies will strain the ingenuity of the financiers who have undertaken the reorganization.

Meanwhile little can be done to extend trackage throughout the sections of Japan where it is needed for development and to improve and equip the present lines so as to enable them to meet the demands of traffic. It is realized by commercial men who opposed government ownership of the railroads at the time the question came up and by those who favored the movement, but have since changed their views, that without a network of railroads in the island it is impossible to develop its resources, and that consequently it is impossible for the government to adjust its finances so that in future years its income may meet its necessary and legitimate expenditures.

PLAN TO LEASE LINES TO SYNDICATE.

Financiers, engineers and railroad men from foreign countries have been in conference for the last month and more with leading men in Japan. It is understood that the proposal now finding favor is that the railroads of Japan should be leased for a period of years to a private company or syndicate which would remove from the Japanese government the financial burden and responsibility which it has undertaken, and would pay to the government a certain percentage of profits and undertake improvements and extensions under a given schedule. This plan may be said to have assumed a somewhat concrete form, and European financiers have expressed their willingness under certain conditions to undertake the work. It is pointed out that when the government of Italy assumed control of the railroads, many years ago, it discovered, like Japan, that the undertaking was likely to hamper the normal movement of the country's finances, and a plan somewhat similar to that now under consideration here was adopted with great success. It is doubtful, however, if anything more definite along these lines will be made public until after the coming general election.

The influence which has prompted Japan to take into consideration this question of the future management of the railroads is said to be the fact that, in view of the financial necessities of the coming twelve months, Japanese believed that a foreign loan was inevitable, and the foreign markets were sounded. It then developed that Europe and America regarded the naval and military policies of Japan, which, it was thought, indicated expectation of trouble, as fatal to Japan's credit as a borrower of large amounts in the foreign field. In other words, Japan was told that money would not be forthcoming to build up an army and navy beyond such standard as it was reasonable to expect Japan to maintain, and that the financial world would prefer to see Japan earnestly developing her resources for the betterment of her people rather than taxing those people for an army and navy which might be used for aggression.

POWERS DESIRE A GUARANTEE.

The reply of the Japanese government to this seems to have been that the future financial programme contemplated a large reduction of expenditures on the army and navy, but those who were in a position to lend money apparently rejoined that they would prefer a guarantee regarding the expenditure of the money loaned, and added that, in common with so many people in Japan, they thought the government ownership of railroads as great a mistake as too rapid and ambitious plans for army and navy development.

The proposal, therefore, which the government of Japan is now considering is that a syndicate of European financiers assist Japan in working out the financial problem of the future, provided the Japanese government agrees that this financial relief shall be applied to the improvement of her railroad systems and for internal developments.

The scheme is a large one, but there is a belief that the syndicate is serious in making the proposal, and believes that only under such a plan can foreign capital be induced to regard favorably the investment of money in Japanese securities.

RUSSIAN PRISONS OVERCROWDED.

Douma Asked to Vote \$1,000,000 to Enlarge the Buildings.

St. Petersburg, March 15.—M. Chtcheglovitoff, the Minister of Justice, has asked the Douma for \$1,000,000 for the enlargement of the Russian prisons, which are overcrowded. The official figures show that there has been an increase in the number of prisoners of 111 per cent since 1906. In January, 1908, the number was 135,537 and in February, 165,538. Thirteen thousand of these were political prisoners.

A COLLECTION OF BOTTLED FLEAS.

Boston, March 15.—Orders have been received by the immigration officials at Long Wharf to capture and bottle up every flea they can catch on immigrants for microscopic examination later. Every flea is to have a separate bottle, the vial to be labelled with the name of the flea's host, the host's home, and the name of the captor.

LINCOLN'S PRIVATE OPERATOR KILLED.

Binghamton, N. Y., March 15.—Dewitt Fuller, of Hancock, who it is said, was private telegraph operator for President Lincoln during the Civil War, was killed on the Erie tracks at Narrowsburg on Friday afternoon. Mr. Fuller was about seventy years old. He was employed by the Erie as a telegraph repair man. He had been in the service of the road for about forty years. He was riding his track velocipede when he was struck by a passenger train.

3,000 MEN RETURN TO WORK.

Youngstown, Ohio, March 15.—For the first time in seven months all the mills in the Mahoning Valley will be in full operation to-morrow morning. Every man who was employed by the Erie as a telegraph repair man. He had been in the service of the road for about forty years. He was riding his track velocipede when he was struck by a passenger train.

TERMS WITH JAPAN.

Tokio Highly Pleased with U. S. Reply on Immigration.

Tokio, March 15.—The final reply from Washington regarding the immigration question has greatly pleased Japan.

BOMBS IN BARCELONA.

Explosion in Central Market Place Injures Woman.

Barcelona, March 15.—A bomb exploded in the central market place here to-day, severely injuring a woman. Another bomb was found nearby. It was taken to a laboratory for analysis.

WILLSON OFFERS REWARD.

Calls Upon All Kentuckians to Defend Homes and Property.

Frankfort, Ky., March 15.—Governor Willson to-night offered \$500 reward to any person who will give him any advance information of a night raid in the burley tobacco district. He also offered \$500 reward for the arrest and conviction of any two or more persons banding together to intimidate tobacco growers or destroy their property.

He says the reward is particularly offered to secure the punishment of the bandits who poisoned the cattle of R. M. Squire, of Fayette County, and burned barns and shot into houses in Woodford county last week. He calls upon all Kentuckians to defend their homes, liberty and property.

THREE DIE IN SQUALL.

Father, Son and Friend Drowned in Sound During Thunderstorm.

Stratford, Conn., March 15.—By the overturning of a rowboat off Lordship Park during a sudden thunderstorm this afternoon, Peter and Wilford La Croix, father and son, fifty and sixteen years old, respectively, and Henry W. Ellison, also fifty years old, all of Bridgeport, were drowned.

Their bodies were washed ashore, where they were found several hours afterward.

LOUISIANA RACE FIGHTS.

Conflict at Lumber Camp—Many Arrests in New Orleans.

New Orleans, March 15.—Another serious outbreak is reported from the lumber camps in Grant Parish, where friction was recently brought about by negroes accepting a cut in wages, the whites standing up against the reduction. A number of persons are reported to have been shot and a special train is carrying the wounded away.

Following a murder and several attempts at highway robbery by negro desperadoes here yesterday the police to-night raided many of the dives and saloons frequented by members of that race. At one saloon alone 165 negroes were placed under arrest.

In a raid on a Fulton street house Robert Johnson, a negro, knocked down a detective and started to run. He was fired on by Special Officer Wolf and fatally wounded.

The series of hold-ups, robberies and murders perpetrated by negroes during the last few weeks, culminating in the hold-up and murder by James Williams and Robert Bonner, negroes, last night, has led the police to adopt strenuous measures. During the last twenty-four hours several hundred negroes have been arrested.

CRAZED BY LIGHTNING.

Nurse, Widow of Man Killed by Bolt, Goes Insane in Storm.

Driven insane by the thunderstorm last evening Mrs. Lizzie Dickson, a nurse employed in the home of Mrs. Isaac Schuchard, at No. 60 West 115th street, tried to jump from a window on the third floor after she had partially wrecked the apartment. Mrs. Dickson was with her husband last June when he was killed by a lightning bolt at Fishkill, N. Y. She was injured by the shock and ever since has been subject to fainting spells.

When she saw the lightning yesterday afternoon she tore pieces from the walls, broke some furniture and was restrained by members of the Schuchard family from hurling herself from the window. She was removed to the observation ward at Bellevue.

LIGHTNING DAMAGE IN GREENWICH.

Greenwich, Conn., March 15.—In a heavy thunderstorm which swept the town this afternoon a bolt of lightning hit a cornice on St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church and hurled it to the middle of the street, a hundred feet away. The Rev. Richard Morrissey, curate of the parish, who was standing on the veranda of the parish house a few yards away, was temporarily blinded by the flash, but was able to officiate at vesper a few hours later. At almost the same instant a second bolt struck a great elm tree which stands in front of the Brush factory and split it from top to root. Another tree, standing in front of the News Building, was split by a third bolt.

DAMAGE BY LIGHTNING IN BAY STATE.

Boston, March 15.—Two powder magazines in South Acton, belonging to the American Powder Company, were exploded by lightning during a severe thunderstorm to-night. The buildings were in an isolated spot, and no one was near them, and the damage was confined mainly to the loss of the powder. A house in Wakefield and one in Malden were also struck and set afire during the shower.

CONVICT BROUGHT TO BAY KILLED.

Bismarck, N. D., March 15.—Joseph Bassella, who tunneled out of the state penitentiary Thursday night, was shot and killed by Sheriff Beck of McLean County late yesterday afternoon, after being brought to bay in the bushes near the Missouri River, sixty miles from here. He refused to surrender. Alfred Woolen, the convict who escaped with Bassella, was recaptured.

The two convicts made a tunnel 18 inches in diameter and 44 feet long. In order to pass beneath the prison wall they sunk their tunnel 7 feet beneath the surface. They concealed the earth from the excavation beneath the floor of their cell, which was of wooden planks two inches thick.

SON-IN-LAW SHOTS BANKER.

Liberty, Tex., March 15.—A telegram was received here to-day saying that Dr. J. A. Lovett, a wealthy banker of Liberty, who was also president of the bank at Smyley, had been shot and seriously wounded at Smyley, by J. G. Beavers, his son-in-law, who was until recently cashier of the Smyley bank. The cause of the shooting is not known.

A GREAT FIRE AT LYONS.

Lyons, March 15.—Fire broke out to-night in a biscuit factory here and rapidly spread to a large surrounding houses. At a late hour buildings covering twenty-two acres were blazing fiercely.

FLEET AT THE TARGETS.

PRACTICE BEGINS TO-DAY. Hard Task Set for Gunners of Admiral Evans's Ships.

San Diego, Cal., March 15.—The American battleship fleet now at anchor in Magdalena Bay will begin the serious work of record target practice to-morrow morning, according to official wireless dispatches received here, and for the next two or three weeks the usually quiet waters of this harbor will splash and dance under the rain of shot and shell, and the real work of the cruise to all outside the engine holds and chart rooms will be under way.

The fleet is anchored in the north end of the bay, which is the most sheltered part of this natural haven of the sea. Looking to the south there is a broad expanse of water nearly twenty miles long, while the width of the bay at the entrance is nearly twelve miles. The targets will be set and ranges established at the lower end of the bay, where it narrows to an island-parted channel leading to Alameda Bay, another land-locked harbor whose natural advantages would stand out strikingly in the search for a naval base in any other part of the world than in close proximity to Magdalena.

The ranges, which are to be set first at 1,000 yards, will be next extended to 2,000 yards, and then to a maximum of 3,000 yards for the smaller target, which is 12 by 21 feet in size. For the great turret guns—the 12 and 13 inch rifles—the ranges are lengthened from 6,000 to 9,000 yards, and the targets are increased to 20 by 60 feet. As one ordnance officer on the battleships expressed it, it is absolutely essential that the gunners should be able to see the target before they can train the sights upon it. At 9,000 yards the white canvas object to be shot at appears as only a tiny speck upon the water.

RECORDS TO BEAT.

The gunners of the Atlantic fleet are conscious of the fact that they have a hard task before them to equal or surpass the records recently made at Magdalena Bay by the armored cruisers of the Pacific fleet, under command of Rear Admirals Dayton and Schere. These ships alternately have been at the practice grounds in the Mexican bay for the last two months, and six of them have completed their work. The Maryland outdistanced all of her competitors among the armored cruisers of the station, with a percentage of 78.89 hits out of a possible 100 with all classes of guns. The Tennessee came next, with a percentage of 68.24 hits, the Colorado being third with 63.68, the Pennsylvania fourth with 57.80, the West Virginia fifth with 55.70 and the Washington last with 55.50. The seemingly low score of the Washington was expected, as she is a brand new ship, with new guns and new crew, but it seemed to make all the more important the splendid record of the Tennessee. Admiral Schere's flagship, which is just as new as the Washington, and which went to the targets under the same conditions as to green pieces and gunners.

The Tennessee and the Washington also for the first time used 10-inch turret rifles, a new weapon for American cruisers, which were put on board the vessels in response to the demand of ordnance officers for heavier guns than the 8-inch rifles of the West Virginia class. The heavier guns and turrets added nearly a thousand tons to the weight of the Tennessee and the Washington over the West Virginia, and caused a thinning of the main armor belt from 6 to 5 inches. The turret protection was increased, however, from 6 1/2 to 9 inches. All of the big armored cruisers are ranked with the battleships in summing up their target records, and for this reason their scores are of unusual interest at this time, when the world jirding fleet is about to begin its target work.

SYSTEM OF SCORING.

There is a system of scoring, however, even among the battleships, when it comes to classifying the work of the gunners for promotion and prize money distribution. Some of the ships, for instance, have 12-inch guns of 40 calibre, while others have the same diameter of rifle, but of 45 calibre. In naval pieces the calibre means the length of the rifle, which, as it increases, permits of heavier shells and powder charges and calls for more accurate shooting. For this reason hits with a 45 calibre rifle do not call for as high an allowance of points as hits with the lower powered guns of the same class.

The 13-inch rifles, which are still retained on the Kentucky, the Kearsarge, the Alabama and the Illinois, the oldest vessels of Admiral Evans's fleet, are expected to do even more accurate work than 12-inch rifles at the same range and target, and the points allowed for their hits are even lower. There is a strong feeling among the ordnance officers, of which there is one assigned to each of the armored vessels of the navy, that the 13-inch guns will be universally favored again, and they will welcome the return to the heavier rifle, with its 1,120-pound projectile, as against the 870-pound weight of the 1