

NEPTUNE REX! AHoy!

Landlubbers Get Sea Legs While Crossing the Line.

INITIATION ON BATTLE SHIP

Ocean Monarch and His Gay Spouse Pick the Ship Which Once Carried President Roosevelt for Their Visit.

ON BOARD U. S. S. LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES BATTLE FLEET.

Rio Janeiro, Jan. 14.—Neptune Rex! Long live the King!

Neptune, the only king who never dies, had the biggest job of his career since men began to sail the seas on Monday, January 6, in the year of our Lord 1808, and the year of 4,000 or 5,000, and something since Noah set up a sea calendar and headed for Mount Ararat. More than 14,000 officers and men of the United States navy, practically one half of its membership, crossed the equator at 37 degrees, 11 minutes West longitude, and of those, fully 12,500 had to be initiated into the solemn mysteries of the Ancient Order of the Deep.

It was the proudest day that Neptune Rex ever experienced. He said so himself, and he put on great airs and strutted about with the dignity and pomp that befit his majestic role as he declared that he was the only king by all the mermaids, sea serpents, whales, sharks, dolphins, skates, eels, suckers, lobsters, crabs, pollywogs, and jelly-fish, who could ever take possession of the United States navy.

To get right down to business, let it be said at once that it was a spectacle worth traveling tens of thousands of miles to see. It was the most elaborate, palatial, taking, well planned, rip smothering initiation of the kind ever produced. For it is known that Neptune does not recognize as thirty degree members of his domain any one who has not crossed the line on a war ship. All the landlubbers on these ships got the thirty-third degree all right.

Neptune, not having the attribute of omnipresence, was able to visit only one of the ships of this fleet. That ship was the Louisiana. Of course, every other ship will make the claim that he visited that vessel, but the fact is that he honored the Louisiana alone with his personal presence, and had to send representatives to the other ships. He said he came to the Louisiana because he had heard she was the most famous ship of the fleet. President Roosevelt having made a trip close to his royal domain in her. He therefore selected her for his visit, and he ordered that a special honorary certificate of membership in his realm be sent to the President and Mrs. Roosevelt. This is being prepared, and it will be forwarded duly to the White House, to be framed and hung above the loving cup which the members of the Louisiana's crew sent to Mrs. Roosevelt a year ago.

Proclamations from Neptune. As has been foreshadowed already in this correspondence, the preparations for Neptune's visit began formally on December 29, three days out from Hampton Roads, when "Fare Top," the Official Representative of his Majesty Neptune Rex, received a wireless message to organize the members of the royal domain on the ship and prepare for the initiation ceremonies. Thereafter every day while the ship was at sea mysterious proclamations were posted at the scuttle butt (the drinking tank) telling the landlubbers, pollywogs, and sea lawyers of the terrible things that would happen to them when they crossed the line. Dire penalties were provided for those who would try to hide and long extracts from the Revised Statutes were posted prescribing the punishments to be inflicted upon the willing and the unwilling. There was decided uneasiness among the youngsters on board—and it should be remembered that most of the crew of the ship are just above or below twenty-one, having come almost green to the vessel from the training station at Newport—when a proclamation was posted containing this notification to Fore Top:

"There has been ordered supplied to you upon arrival at Port of Spain, Trinidad, 750 gallons of coal tar, 50 gallons of varnish, 400 pounds of sulphur, 4 sets of razors complete, 18 brushes, 4 sets of fine rib saws, 4 surgical knives, 2 large meat axes, and 15 pairs of handcutters."

Orders were also given for sharpening the claws and appetites of the royal bears, and warnings issued lest any one of the uninitiated should speak disrespectfully of Neptune's subjects. A day or so later came orders prescribing the height of the ducking chairs. These chairs were to be so high that four flipflaps would be turned by the victims before hitting the water in the royal tanks. Six powerful electrical batteries were also ordered for use. The bears were not to have any food for fifty-seven hours preceding the crossing of the line.

General Order No. 7, of Fore Top, told the barbers to mix mudilage with the printer's ink and to prepare the oven, and the officers and crew were now in broad grins as they greeted your correspondent, and informed him that he was going to get his all right. Then came "brainstorms" from his majesty, telling how the policemen were to act, ordering that their "eins be stuffed with grate bars" and such, and providing how the hair should be clipped. Forthwith it was remarkable how dozens of men rushed to the ship's real barbers and had their hair clipped close.

"I ain't goin' to have none of that coal tar, and grease in mine," said a frightened signal boy. A windfall was made to supply air to the officers' quarters, and the messenger boy of the executive officer came to him and asked him if it was true that the members of the crew were to be shot down that canvas tube.

Official Cognizance Given. That afternoon Capt. Wainwright and his executive officer, Mr. Eberle, being sticklers for the preservation of as many of the old-time naval and sea traditions in modern war ships as possible, took off-

CERTIFICATES FROM NEPTUNE REX.

DOMAIN OF NEPTUNUS REX. RULER OF THE RAGING MAIN.

To all Sailors, wherever ye may be, and to all Mermaids, Sea Serpents, Whales, Sharks, Porpoises, Dolphins, Skates, Eels, Suckers, Lobsters, Crabs, Pollywogs, and other living things of the sea.

GREETING: Know ye that on this 6th day of January, 1908, in latitude 00.000 and longitude 37 degrees, 11 minutes west, there appeared within the limits of Our Royal Domain the U. S. S. Louisiana, bound southward for the Straits of Magellan and Pacific ports.

BE IT REMEMBERED

That the Vessel and Officers and Crew thereof have been inspected and passed on by Ourselves and Our Royal Staff.

AND BE IT KNOWN: By all ye Sailors, Marines, Landlubbers and others who may be honored by his Presence that

JOHN DOE

Having been found worthy to be numbered as one of OUR TRUSTY SHELLBACKS, has been gathered to our fold and duly initiated into the

SOLEMN MYSTERIES OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF THE DEEP.

BE IT FURTHER UNDERSTOOD: That by virtue of the power invested in me I do hereby command all my subjects to show due honor and respect to him whenever he may enter our Realm.

DISOBEY THIS ORDER UNDER PENALTY OF OUR ROYAL DISPLEASURE.

Given under our hand and seal this sixth day of January, 1908.

DAVEY JONES, His Majesty's Scribe. (Seal of the Louisiana.)

Notice of what was going on, and this order was published to the ship:

U. S. S. Louisiana. At Sea, Lat. 1-20 N., Long. 28-10 W. January 5, 1908.

Order.

1. Official notification has been received that his majesty, Neptune Rex, will visit this ship in state at 9 a. m. on the 6th day of January, 1908.

2. His majesty will be received with due ceremony at the time appointed. At 8:45 a. m. the divisions will be called to quarters, after which "all hands will be called to muster" to receive his majesty in a manner befitting his high rank. The muster and eight boys muster on the side. When his majesty reaches the quarterdeck the officers and crew will salute, the band will play a march, and the royal standard of Neptune will be hoisted at the mast.

3. After the official reception the royal ceremonies of initiation will begin.

4. All ceremonies will be conducted in an orderly manner, in keeping with the time-honored traditions of the naval service.

E. W. EBERLE, Lieut. Commander, U. S. Navy, Executive Officer.

Approved: R. WAINWRIGHT, Captain, U. S. Navy, Commanding.

Call of Neptune's Secretary.

Of the 500-odd persons on the Louisiana only about 100 had ever crossed the line. The proportion was about the same on all the other ships of the fleet, so it is a safe estimate that 1,500 men were awaiting the arrival of Neptune.

The next morning everybody was up bright and early. Word was sent throughout the ship to wear no uniforms at quarters. Quarters was sounded and the men assembled at their usual stations. The officers emerged one by one from the superstructure and reported to the executive officer that their divisions were all present or accounted for. Then came the general muster to receive Neptune at the quarterdeck. All hands were marched off and the officers took their proper stations with a large space vacant about the captain and a passageway from the superstructure. Miss Sally Ann, the Trinidad monkey, was allowed to come along to see the fun. She perched on one of the 12-inch guns and flitted her tail about like an angry cat. A wait of several minutes followed after Mr. Eberle had gone forward to receive Neptune. This was due, it was reported afterward unofficially, to getting Amphitrite, Neptune's wife, up the gangways with all her toggery in good condition. Not being crowded to the front of the bridge, and the entrance to the ship using the standard meter to get the proper distance in formation had the hardest day of his life trying to keep his eye on the flag ship.

"Pass 'em up quick," shouted Neptune. "By Jove, you're diagnose the case as 'Fatty'! Give 'em a dose of the shibboleth, sire," and the usual remedy would be prescribed. Over he went into the tank. Dr. Flip would then announce a case:

"Palpitation of the hair, sire. You can see for yourself he's ducking."

"Let him have the prescribed treatment," was the order.

Dr. Flip then announced a case of "foldlers in the right ear, sire."

"Soak it to him good," was the command.

Case of "Tickleulerosus." Dr. Flip then had a case of "tickleulerosus." Similar treatment. All diseases looked alike to Neptune.

"Bunions!" was the next report of Dr. Flip.

"Poultice his hair good. It draws 'em up. Then saw off his leg at the knee," was the remedy prescribed for the bunion ailment. Dr. Flip brought out the saws with vile looking teeth. The two doctors sawed away.

"By cracky! sire, I can't cut it off," reported Dr. Flip.

"Give him an extra dousing," ordered his majesty.

Dr. Flip next reported a case of tooth-ache.

"What do the revised statutes say?" asked Neptune.

"Beg pardon," said Dr. Flip, "that is in the pharmacopoeia."

"Well, what does the farm—whatever it is—say?" roared Neptune.

"Give him a dose of the shibboleth, sire," said Dr. Flip. The victim got the gargle treatment.

"Mullygrubs in his back, sire," was the next from Dr. Flip. A lambasting with stuffed clubs was the extra treatment for that, in addition to the ducking.

Then came a strange case, that of a youngster who spends his spare time on board studying mathematics in the hope of getting higher in the service. Dr. Flip went over him with great care. He got out bottles, and pills, and saws, and bandages, and plasters. The crowd could see that it was a most serious case.

Dr. Flip was called in consultation. The books were produced, and the symptoms were pondered over with many grave stances of the head. At last Dr. Flip made the right diagnosis.

"It's got the hypotenuse rampant," he shouted. "My, my! I am astonished that a surgeon of the established reputation of Dr. Wentworth, of the United States navy, should let an ailment of this nature that we have here to-day escape 'im," shouted Dr. Flip.

Sally Ann and a "Goney Bird." Long before the initiation was over the policemen had roused the excitement of Sally Ann, who was perched in the rigging over the bridge, watching the strange performance, as they ran about the ship chasing the culprits who tried to escape. Each succeeding arrest stirred her up more and more, and she shrieked out her grief in unparalytic yells. One of the bluejackets had to gather her in his arms and stroke her head and talk soothingly to her before she would be comforted.

Another thing that pleased Neptune and the bluejackets was the appearance of an enormous bull, a "goney bird," they called it, that hovered over the initiation ceremonies for more than an hour, turning and twisting its head and giving out

strange calls. Where the bird came from no one saw. The ship was 200 miles out to sea. No other bird of the kind was in sight. It was the sailor's omen of good luck. When the bird alighted in the rigging it was the signal to hoist the matter of good luck, and then the bird flew off to the other ships and watched the ceremonies there.

All Rounded Up. So hour after hour the initiation went on, until the last man had been rounded up and Neptune pronounced the day's work well done. He sent this signal to Admiral Evans:

The Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Atlantic Fleet.

I have to inform the Commander-in-Chief that I have completed the ceremonies on board the good ship Louisiana, will haul down my standard and take my departure. The Commander-in-Chief will accept my best wishes for himself, officers and men of the United States Atlantic fleet for a most pleasant voyage, and may all the royal subjects meet again.

NEPTUNUS REX, Ruler of the Royal Domain.

Neptune then retreated into the fo'c'sle for refreshment and remained there until darkness came. Then a barrel filled with oakum and oil and far was set on fire and put adrift. It sailed away in the night. I was "Neptune's host," and he was going back to his royal domains.

After he had gone, certificates, duly signed and embellished with mermaids and sea urchins and starfish and ropes, with an octopus for a background and a picture of Neptune rising from the sea to the top of the ship's mast, affixed to his of red, white, and blue ribbon, were presented to all hands. Never again will a man who can show one of them have to take a dousing and lathering with such a medicinal treatment on crossing the line.

Alms, Peru, Feb. 2.—The United States steamer Chicago, which had been lying at Callao since January 31, started for the south at 4:35 p. m. yesterday, to meet Admiral Evans' fleet.

PAY HIGH TRIBUTE

Indianians Hold Reception for Vice President.

SHAKES FIVE HUNDRED HANDS

Brilliant Function at Arlington Last Night, Attended by Members of State Society of Washington and Friends—Entertainment Includes Music, Recitation, and Dancing.

Vice President Fairbanks and the entire Indiana Congressional delegation attended a brilliant reception at the Arlington last evening, given in their honor by the Indiana Society of Washington.

About 500 members of the society and their friends were in the line that extended through the hotel parlors after the manner of White House functions of similar character.

Music and Dancing.

Practically the full strength of the society was present to greet the political leaders of the Hoosier State, and the affair was the most brilliant in the annals of the organization. After the guests had shaken hands with those in the receiving line they passed into the ball-room, where they listened to a programme of music, and later danced until after midnight.

The receiving line was headed by A. L. Lawshe, president of the society, beside whom stood the Vice President and the entire State delegation of Senators and Representatives, and their wives. Mrs. John P. McGraw made the introductions. Mrs. McGraw was assisted by a special reception committee composed of Mrs. Jerry Matthews, Miss Bertha F. Wolf, Miss Cora Curry, Miss Alice M. Sanger, and Miss Jessie Springs.

The ball-room was decorated with American flags. Rows of chairs had been placed the length of the room, which was filled to the doors. The Vice President and the Congressional delegation occupied front seats during the rendition of the programme. Mrs. Fairbanks and her daughter, Mrs. Timmons, arrived later.

Programme of Entertainment.

The following programme was presented: Overture, Marine Band Orchestra; contralto solo, "Remember," Hawley, Miss Emma Houston; recitation, selected, Mrs. E. J. Potts; violin solo, "Legend," Wieniawski, Mrs. Rose Maxwell Dickley; larynx solo, "Song of the Turnkey," de Koven, Mrs. J. J. DeLoach; piano solo, "Night, Sweet Night," Popp, William de Luca; soprano solo, "Nymph and Faun," Bamberg, Mrs. Edith Stone; recitation, selected, Mrs. E. J. Potts; violin solo, "Legend," Wieniawski, Mrs. Rose Maxwell Dickley; larynx solo, "Song of the Turnkey," de Koven, Mrs. J. J. DeLoach; piano solo, "Night, Sweet Night," Popp, William de Luca; soprano solo, "Nymph and Faun," Bamberg, Mrs. Edith Stone; recitation, selected, Mrs. E. J. Potts; violin solo, "Legend," Wieniawski, Mrs. Rose Maxwell Dickley; larynx solo, "Song of the Turnkey," de Koven, Mrs. J. J. DeLoach; piano solo, "Night, Sweet Night," Popp, William de Luca; soprano solo, "Nymph and Faun," Bamberg, Mrs. Edith Stone.

At the conclusion of the last number, the guests passed into the anteroom and refreshments were served. The ball-room was cleared for the dancers. The music was furnished by a section of the United States Marine Band Orchestra.

DYNAMITE IN COAL.

Explosive Found on Navy Collier Fortuna—Probably Inadvertence.

Capt. Charles W. Bartlett, commanding officer of the battle ship Ohio, reports by mail to the Navy Department the while taking coal from the chartered collier Fortuna at Port of Spain, Trinidad, a stick of dynamite about five inches in length was found.

The Fortuna had a cargo of New River coal supplied by the Berwyn White Coal Mining Company, at Newport News, Va. This is the second time that dynamite has been found in coal furnished United States men-of-war.

Navy Department officials say the dynamite was evidently a stick used in mining the coal and escaped the observation of the miners and persons who subsequently handled the coal while loading it into the collier.

AVOID EYES OF POLICE.

While Officers Search, More False Alarms Are Turned In.

In less than two hours' time last night the fire department was called up to the southeast section of the city, on three false alarms. The person or persons responsible for the calls were not apprehended.

At 6:30, fire alarm box 32, at Thirteenth and K streets, was sounded. When the engines arrived they were unable to discover any need for their services. An unusual amount of smoke that was coming from a chimney of a house, however, was given as the cause of the alarm. The engine had just returned to their quarters when box 32, at Eleventh and I streets, three blocks distant from the first box, was sounded at 6:50. Again the firemen were unable to discover any fire.

The reserve police from the Fifth precinct were called to the scene and efforts were made to locate the person who was sounding the alarms.

When the policemen were still in the neighborhood, some one called up to the box again and under their very eyes, turned in another alarm, at 8:18. Although several arrests had been made, the police at a late hour last night, had succeeded in locating the false alarmist.

HEART MENDED; MAY LIVE.

Stitches Taken in Cardiac Organ of Negro Wounded with Knife.

Despite the serious nature of the unusual operation which he underwent on Sunday, Richard Denton, colored, of 467 School street southwest, who is at the Emergency Hospital suffering from a stab wound in the heart, was reported by the hospital physicians last night to be improving.

Denton was stabbed by another negro named John Woods during a friendly tussle in a barroom at 207 Second street southwest, Saturday night.

Realizing that unless the internal hemorrhage was checked death would result, Dr. George T. Vaughn opened the man's chest and took five stitches in his heart. The operation, which the second one of that nature which had been performed by Dr. Vaughn.

There have been only ten such operations in the United States. Medical records of the world show that only 24 similar operations have been performed.

Yesterday's Receipts \$4,600,551. The Treasury Department, yesterday, received payment of approximately \$2,600,000 on account of the old indebtedness of the Central Pacific Railroad.

This payment, together with customs receipts, which were up to the average, and internal revenue collections, amounted to \$1,224,374, made the total receipts of the government for the day, \$4,600,551. The Treasury deficit for the current fiscal year, a little more than seven months of which have elapsed, now stands at \$17,233,422.

Earthquake Tremors Recorded.

The Weather Bureau, yesterday, reported the registering of an earthquake on the local instruments Saturday, at 6:16 p. m. It is stated that perceptible tremors were recorded for nearly an hour. The distance of the origin from Washington is estimated at about 3,500 miles.

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Acchite STORE HOURS, 8 TO 5:30. SATURDAYS CLOSED AT 9 P. M. 513-515-517 Seventh Street N. W. WHERE YOU CAN HAVE IT CHARGED.

The Discount Sale of Furniture and Carpets.



The important point to keep in mind is this: This sale embraces ENTIRE STOCKS, and not an undesirable lot of goods set apart for closing out, such as make up sales in all other stores. 25% off all furniture; 15% off all floor coverings.

Table with columns: DRESSERS, REGULAR PRICE, SALE PRICE. Items include Golden Oak, Oak, Bird's-eye Maple, Mahogany finish, Mahogany finish.

Table with columns: SIDEBOARDS, REGULAR PRICE, SALE PRICE. Items include Quartered Oak, American Quartered Oak.

No Discount on Bedding, Springs, and Kitchen Cabinets.

FLOCK HONORS REV. BAILEY

Members of Western Presbyterian Church Say Farewell.

Present Purse to Pastor, Who Sails Soon for Trip to the Orient.

A reception was given last night at the Western Presbyterian Church, H. near Nineteenth street, northwest, to Rev. George Bailey, the pastor, as a farewell before he sails for the Orient.

The Ladies' Aid Society of the church gave the reception, and more than 100 persons were present. Mrs. Adelia Webster, president of the Ladies' Aid Society, managed the programme, which included music and a supper.

Dr. Bailey leaves Washington to-morrow morning for New York, where he sails for Cadiz on Thursday, accompanied by James B. Lambie, president of the board of trustees of the Western Presbyterian Church.

The congregation last night presented Dr. Bailey with a substantial purse. When the reception last night was at his height, Dr. MacLeod arrived, accompanied by Rev. M. McQueen, of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, who was one of the callers at the White House yesterday. A supper was served by the members of the Ladies' Aid Society, assisted by Mrs. H. C. Colburn, under the direction of W. J. Simpson, one of the elders of the church.

Dr. Bailey's wife will not accompany him.

WEATHER CONDITIONS.

C. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Weather Bureau. Washington, D. C., Feb. 3, 1908, 8 P. M.

High pressure, with generally clear weather, prevails over the Rocky Mountains, except along the foothills where pressure is comparatively low. West of the mountains low pressure is general, with snow and rain over nearly the entire district. There is no precipitation of consequence on the East, except rather heavy snows along the Great Lakes in Western New York.

It will be warmer Tuesday between the Mississippi River and the Rocky Mountains and in the South, and warmer Wednesday from the Upper Ohio Valley and the Lake region eastward.

The winds along the New England coast will be light to fresh westerly; on the Middle Atlantic coast, light to fresh west to northwest; on the South Atlantic coast, light westerly, becoming variable on the East Gulf coast, light to fresh east to southeast; on the West Gulf coast, fresh east to south, and on Lake Michigan, light to fresh easterly