

BATTLESHIP MEN ARE NOW AT WORK AND PLAY

Winter Practice of the First Squadron of Atlantic Fleet Means Constant Activity.

IT IS NO PLACE FOR LAGGARDS

But There is Time Found for Healthful Sports Both on Shore and Shipboard—Big Gun Target Firing for Records Will Follow About the Middle of Next Month.

(By Associated Press). GUANTANAMO, CUBA, January 25.—The first squadron of the Atlantic fleet, under the command of Rear Admiral R. D. Evans, who arrived here and the week end works the beginning of a period of the greatest activity that Guantanamo Bay has known since it became famous as a base for the American fleet to operate from.

The second day after arrival of the squadron marked the beginning of small army target practice on shore over the splendidly equipped ranges. The brigade of marines, consisting of the two battalions of the First Squadron, went into camp the next day on Deer Point, and it is expected they will remain there for at least a month, and perhaps six weeks. Eight hundred bluejackets from the First Squadron pitched their tents on Deer Point to eastward of the marines on January 13. They began landing at eight o'clock in the morning and had a camp cooked dinner at noon.

There are thus about thirteen hundred men from the eight battleships sleeping under canvas on Deer Point, and obtaining a healthful and valuable experience and enjoying it. The eight hundred blue jackets are made up of detachments of one hundred men from each of the eight battleships of the First Squadron. They will remain a week in camp, when they will reembark and be succeeded by eight more detachments of one hundred men each, so that in four weeks practically all of the seaman class of the crews of these battleships will have had a week's experience in an up to date camp.

While in camp they and the marines of the fleet will carry out their small arm target firing and boat and field gun practice and will be able to do it all in a careful and painstaking way, from which will derive the most beneficial instruction.

Battleships at Drill. In the meantime, beginning at daylight the battleships under the direct command of Rear Admiral Evans, go outside the bay daily for important tactical maneuvers. They will leave their moorings at daylight and return at dark. Thus two important parts of the work of the winter cruise are being carried on simultaneously, neither conflicting with the other and both developing the efficiency of the fleet as a whole.

When this part of the work is completed, which it is expected will be about February 15, the work of training and preparing for the spring record, target practice with large guns—the "gun layers test" as it is called in the British Navy—will be begun. By that time the seven other battleships of the fleet will begin to arrive, as will also the armored cruisers, Washington and Tennessee, and the protected cruiser, St. Louis.

It is expected that all these fifteen battleships and three cruisers will hold record target practice in March, and first part of April, on the target grounds to the westward of Cape Cruz, Cuba. This locality was tried last year, and was found most suitable in every particular.

The new ships, as they join the fleet, will probably go to Cape Cruz for preliminary practice, to which they are entitled, to settle their nerves, as it were, before they enter into the great competition which marks the record practice and the struggle for the battleship gunnery trophy.

The squadrons and divisions of the fleet will be reorganized soon after the new ones report to the commander-in-chief, and it is expected a magnificent fleet, with a fine record of winter's work behind, will sail from here for Hampton Roads about the middle of April, and arrive there in time to present a fine appearance at the opening of the Jamestown Exposition.

Arrival of the Destroyers. The destroyers Whipple, Worden, Truxtun, MacDonough and Hull, of the second torpedo flotilla, commanded by Lieutenant Commander E. A. Anderson, arrived here from Key West a few hours after the arrival of the battleships from Hampton Roads. While the camps on shore were being prepared and other preliminaries engaged in the commander in chief gave each of these destroyers a rigid inspection and found all to be in excellent condition and in a high state of efficiency. Much favorable comment relating to their condition, both in material and personnel, is heard. As soon as their inspections were completed they laid out a torpedo range at the mouth of the bay and are now starting upon their record torpedo practice.

Can't Locate Inklula Fire. NORFOLK, VA., Jan. 25.—All efforts to locate the position of the fire in the steamship Inklula had failed up to eleven o'clock tonight. The forward cargo is being taken aboard the barge Haggerty of the Merritt and Chapman Wrecking Company.

A ROMANTIC LEASE.

One Sweet Red Rose as the Rent For a Pennsylvania Farm.

The public is generally conversant with the annual custom of paying "one red rose" as ground rental in eastern Pennsylvania churches to the descendants of those who gave the ground for the edifices, but it is not generally known that hundreds of owners of farms are under a similar obligation, says the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

"Red rose rent" is yearly paid every second Sunday in June in the Lutheran church at Manheim, Lancaster county; in the Tulpehocken Reformed church, about sixteen miles west of Reading, and in several edifices in Lebanon county, while several congregations in Berks are entitled to observe the event, but do not.

Roses paid on these occasions to representatives of families whose ancestors made such provisions are treasured as priceless heirlooms, and at Manheim they have come from many states.

It is known to few that more than 100 years ago great tracts of farm land were sold around Reading with the same stipulation. It is estimated that at least 20,000 acres of land in Berks are subject because of a clause in the original deeds to an annual ground rent of one red rose.

Records of the Berks courthouse show that many years before Baron Stigel provided for the payment of red rose rent by the church at Manheim Caspar Wistar sold land containing the same clause.

Red rose rent is mentioned in connection with land in Tulpehocken, Marlon, Maxatawny, Oley and other townships. It dates back to 1738.

The Tulpehocken Reformed church is built on land that is subject to "one red rose" quit rent. The land was owned by Caspar Wistar, brass button manufacturer of Philadelphia. The red rose rent has been paid to the Philadelphia descendants of Caspar Wistar for some years. The most notable observance was in 1902, when thirty prominent Philadelphia Wistars attended the services and were paid 157 red roses in payment of arrears of rent.

John Page, described as "a gentleman from London," was another extensive real estate speculator in the early colonial period. He planned to establish a feudal barony along the Tulpehocken in 1735. Every deed of land sold by him contained the red rose clause.

HOW WARRIORS DIED.

Grant, who time and again stood untouched amid a hail of bullets, finally died of cancer.

William the Silent survived numerous conflicts and campaigns, only to be assassinated after he was victorious.

Napoleon, apparently bullet proof and believed by his followers to bear a charmed life, died almost alone of a cancer.

Cortes, the conqueror of Mexico, after half a lifetime of desperate fighting, died in Spain of typhoid fever, neglected and despised by those whom he had benefited.

Washington survived the perils of the wilderness, the dangers of Indian warfare, all the bullets and balls of a score of Revolutionary battles and the hardships of a seven years' campaign to be bled to death by his doctors.

Lord Clive, the English conqueror of India, a bold, active warrior, exposed to death in scores of desperate battles and by several plots, fell a victim after his return to England to the opium habit and committed suicide.

Sorrows of an Artist.

A first class journeyman tailor who is both sensitive and ambitious must have more than his share of sadness and heartache. The completeness with which he is ignored by those who are made happy by his workmanship cannot fail to cause him mental agony. The bosses know him and appreciate his work, and so do his fellow craftsmen, but that is all. Beyond them he is unknown, unthought of. His work goes out into the world to delight and to be admired, but it brings to him neither fame nor praise. He is no more thought of or considered by those who wear with pride a garment he made than the sheep is from whose back the wool was sheared that went to its making.—American Tailor and Cutter.

Figs and Dates.

It is a good plan to wash figs and dates before giving them to children, or, for that matter, to any one. Their sweetness attracts insects, and their stickiness makes them a perfect home for dust and its undesirable germs. Yet most people seem never to think of this at all. Washing will not impair the flavor. On the contrary, it makes them more agreeable to the sight and touch as well as to the taste.

Versatile.

"It was as much as I could do to keep from laughing when Miss Guschler remarked that her fiancé was 'so versatile.'" "Meaning Dumley? Well, he is rather versatile." "Nonsense! He's a regular idiot." "Yes, but he's so many different kinds of an idiot."—Philadelphia Press.

Toughening Up.

They told the youngster to soak his feet in a tub of salt water if he wanted to toughen them. He soaked his hands too. "It's pretty near time for me to get a licking," he explained. "Tomorrow I'm going to sit in it."—New York Sun.

WHEN MACAULAY SPOKE.

Then Flowed a Torrent of Oratory and Euphony.

What can be the matter? Doors open, members rush out; members are tearing past you from all points in one direction—toward the house. Then wigs and gowns appear. They tell you with happy faces their committees have adjourned, and then come a third class, the gentlemen of the press, hilarious. Why, what's the matter? Matter! Macaulay is up. You join the runners in a moment. It was an announcement one hadn't heard for years, and the passing of the word "Macaulay's up" emptied committee rooms now as before it emptied clubs; the old voice, the old manners and the old style—glorious speaking; well prepared, carefully elaborated, confessedly essayish, but spoken with perfect art and consummate management, the grand orator of a man of the world confiding his learning and his recollections and his logic to a party of gentlemen and just raising his voice enough to be heard through the room.

As the house filled he got prouder and more oratorical, and then he poured out his speech with rapidity, increasing after every sentence, till it became a torrent of the richest words, carrying his hearers with him into enthusiasm and yet not leaving them time to cheer. The great orator was trembling when he sat down. The excitement of a triumph overcame him, and he had scarcely the self-possession to acknowledge the eager praises which were offered by the ministers and others in his neighborhood.—From Whitty's "Parliamentary Retrospect."

ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

The Flogging Custom and the Way It is Regarded.

About corporal punishment in England two curious facts lie beyond dispute. One is that while the working class and the lower middle class dislike and resent it and will not in general allow their children to undergo it, the aristocracy tolerate it without complaint. The time is coming, one might assert paradoxically, when it will be impossible to flog anybody but the son of a peer. And the other fact is that public school boys have often felt a special affection for the masters who have punished them most.

In Westminster abbey stand side by side the tombs of a master and his pupil. The master was Dr. Busby, who was head master of Westminster school for so long a time as fifty-eight years. Nobody ever flogged so many boys as he. The pupil was the theologian, Dr. South. It is told—I am sure the story is true—that when South came as a small boy to Westminster Busby greeted him with the ominous words: "I see great talents in that sulky little boy, and my rod shall bring them out." If so, he was no doubt as good as his word. But when South lay upon his deathbed it was his last prayer to be buried at his old master's feet, and the master and the pupil now rest side by side.—Nineteenth Century.

West Indian Negroes.

The West Indian negro is a born poacher. He catches the quail by the cruel expedient of strewing finely powdered cayenne or bird pepper in the little dust pits where the birds "wash." The burning powder gets into the eyes of the birds, which, confused and helpless, are then easily caught. When he wants a wholesale supply of fish, he explodes a piece of dynamite, which was probably intended for the making of new government roads, over a hole in a mountain stream, and the fish are killed by the concussion. But his favorite resource is the bark of the dogwood tree. This he drops into a river hole, and the mullet, intoxicated, comes to the surface of the water. This singular property of the dogwood has caused it to be employed as a narcotic.—Pearson's.

Noted the Symptom.

A little girl went for the first time to church with her mother. All went well during the service, but the child grew uneasy during the sermon, which was a long one. The mother tried in every way to keep the little girl quiet, but in vain. Finally the child observed that the preacher had a pompous way of inflating his chest and lungs at a new paragraph or head. Just as the mother was assuring the child that the preacher would soon stop, he did—for another start—and the tired child burst out on her mother's assurance, "No, he won't; he's swelling up again."—Woman's National Daily.

Scandalous.

Mr. Moth—Glad to see you on your feet again, old man! What caused all the trouble?

His Neighbor—Why, I dined off a seemingly woolen overcoat, and it turned out to be the worst kind of shoddy. I tell you the extent to which food adulteration is carried on nowadays is nothing short of criminal.—Puck.

Flowers and Voice.

Mrs. Howells (reading)—A German scientist claims that the odor of flowers has a pernicious effect on the human voice. Howells—That's all rot. I used to buy flowers for you before we were married, and your voice wasn't nearly so sharp as it is now.

Approval.

"Do you think they approved of my sermon?" asked the newly appointed rector, hopeful that he had made a good impression on his parishioners. "Yes, I think so," replied his wife; "they were all nodding."

When Schumann was in love he wrote, "I wish I were a smile, that I might play about your cheeks."

HAMPTON, PHOEBUS and OLD POINT

JOHN T. WOOD WILL BE GIVEN FREEDOM

No Prose Qui Will be Entered in the Attempted Criminal Assault Case.

EVIDENCE IS NOT SUFFICIENT

Leonard Sheetz, Jr., Fined \$150 for Attempting to Break into J. T. Lee's Store, the Court Finding Him Guilty of Unlawfully Trespassing Upon the Property.

John T. Wood, the aged white man under indictment for attempting to criminally assault eleven-year-old Georgia Morris, will be given his freedom today.

Commonwealth's Attorney Burdette A. Lewis yesterday morning informed Judge Blackstone in the Circuit Court, that he intended to enter a noisome prose qui in the case when Wood is placed on trial for the second time this morning. Mr. Lewis said that the fact that eleven of the twelve jurors who tried Wood had come to the conclusion that the evidence was not sufficiently strong for a conviction and that he thought himself the evidence was insufficient, he thought the best thing to do was to enter the noisome prose qui. This would have the State additional expense of a trial that would likely result in the acquittal of the accused man. Judge Sidney J. Dudley, who represented the family of Mr. Morris, coincided with the commonwealth's attorney.

Wood, who is fifty-nine years old, has been incarcerated in the county jail since last September. He was arrested, tied up in rope and driven into the Newport News jail on the night that he is charged with attempting the assault upon the little girl. The case was heard at the November term of the court but the jury failed to agree upon a verdict. Eleven of the jurymen stood out for an acquittal, while one wanted to send Wood to the penitentiary for three years.

Leonard Sheetz's Fined \$150. In the Circuit Court yesterday Judge Blackstone imposed a fine of \$150 upon Leonard Sheetz, Jr., for unlawfully trespassing upon the property of J. T. Lee. Sheetz pleaded guilty to unlawful trespass.

When the case was taken up yesterday considerable argument was indulged in as to whether Sheetz could be tried upon the charge of burglary or unlawful trespass. He had been convicted by a jury of unlawful trespass and Judge Blackstone held that the jury had found him not guilty of a felony and therefore sustained F. S. Collier's contention that the only charge now was a misdemeanor.

Sheetz was found in the act of breaking into Mr. Lee's store by Police Officer Leslie Curtis. He was indicted upon the charge of burglary.

The fine will not be paid and Sheetz will remain in jail for a period of three months. By agreement he will be given the time from November 28th, thus making the three months expire on February 28.

When Sheetz was previously convicted the jury gave him twelve months in the county jail, but stated that it had found him guilty of unlawful trespass. Commonwealth's Attorney B. A. Lewis asked Judge Blackstone to set the verdict aside on the ground that the punishment was larger than the penalty, as the punishment for unlawful trespass was either a fine of \$500 or three months in jail.

Transport Sumner Expected.

The United States transport Sumner is expected to arrive in Hampton Roads today or tomorrow on her return from Cuba. Dr. J. Wilton Hope made the trip to Havana on this transport and he is expected to reach home this morning or by the latest tomorrow.

Mr. Benjamin to Sing.

Mr. Benjamin, a tenor singer of much sweetness, will be the soloist in the Hampton Baptist church tomorrow evening. Mr. Benjamin will also be heard in a concert under the auspices of the Odd Fellows on next Friday evening.

Four Candidates Initiated.

Ruth Rebecca Lodge of Odd Fellows in Phoebus initiated four young ladies into the mysteries of the order last Monday evening.



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