

# THE WORLD'S GREATEST NAVAL TRAINING STATION

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BY HOWARD S. COLTER



**C** HICAGO.—Three thousand embryo jackies daily maneuvering on the lake front on the north shore. Half a hundred officers, commissioned and non-commissioned, engaged in transforming raw recruits into full-fledged sailors and men. Half a dozen trim gunboats and practice vessels stationed in the vicinity of the good-

stead city that Uncle Sam has been silently engaged in building in the last five years.

That is what another year will bring forth up at Lake Bluff, when the greatest naval training station in the world will be opened and ready for business, if all continues to go well.

It will be completed July 1, 1910, and the total outlay up to that time will approximate \$3,500,000. Of this \$2,500,000 is the cost of 39 buildings, \$250,000 the cost of 182 acres of



TORPEDO PRACTICE



CADETS



HOW THE NEW BARRACKS WILL LOOK

ground, \$500,000 the cost of equipment and furnishings, and \$250,000 the maintenance cost during the course of construction.

The first legislation for the station was passed by congress in 1902, authorizing the appointment of a board to secure a site on the great lakes. Lake Bluff was selected, and then in 1904 the work was begun. Included in cost of buildings are six miles of road at \$50,000, five miles of walks \$30,000, sea wall and harbor \$150,000, and walls and fences totaling \$40,000. The total cubic contents of the buildings will be 12,000,000 feet.

The approximate cost of the buildings follows: Administration building, \$200,000; instruction building, \$400,000; drill hall, \$200,000; four dormitories, \$500,000; mess hall, \$130,000; power house, \$115,000; guard house, \$30,000; receiving building, \$25,000; six receiving dormitories and one receiving gallery, \$200,000; general store, \$70,000; boat house, \$50,000; stables, \$25,000; brig (prison), \$25,000; commandant's house, \$30,000; ten officers' houses, \$133,000; five hospital buildings, including medical officers' houses, \$313,000.

Since the United States took its place in the ranks of the world powers following the Spanish-American war the navy has been growing at a rapid rate. The completion of each battleship meant the employment of at least 500 additional seamen, and occasionally it was necessary to resort to strong measures to get sufficient recruits.

The heads of the navy department took the problem in hand, and, recognizing that the great-lake district had in the past furnished a large number of seamen to the navy, it was decided to establish a vast naval station at the most favorable site that could be obtained. Accordingly, after a dozen sites had been submitted and examined, the Lake Bluff site was selected as the most centrally located and as possessing more natural advantages than any other.

The site of the new institution is about an hour and a half's ride by railroad train from the center of this city and a little more by electric line. The ride is through the aristocratic suburbs of Evanston, Lake Forest, Highland Park, Wilmette and Winnetka. The station is located about a mile and a half beyond the station of Lake Bluff and is marked by a trim little depot of the electric line. You are first apprised of the fact that Uncle Sam is engaged upon some project from the signs which plentifully adorn the boundaries of the reservation warning the passerby that he is in the vicinity of government property, and that he should keep off.

The larger buildings of the station are so completely hidden by trees that the general public passing by on the trains on the way to Milwaukee or Waukegan would have no idea of the extent of the institution were it not for the tower of the administration building, which rears itself from the lake front. The hills and intervening trees of the neighborhood almost completely screen the large buildings from view.

Extending from the fence which separates the main enclosure from the main thoroughfare are the smaller brick buildings in which will be housed the applicants for admission to the station pending the time when their qualifications and general health are examined into.

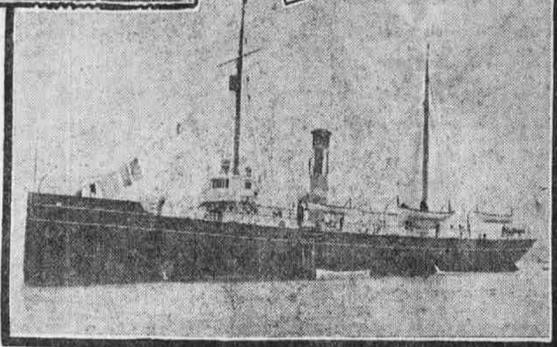
There are some half a dozen neat two-story brick buildings, admirably lighted and finished, in which the recruit will be housed as comfortably as at any average Chicago hotel. They extend in a row toward the lake front, where the larger buildings are located, in which will be housed the regularly admitted members of the institution.

The first structure which one approaches at the main entrance of the grounds is the general office building, which is occupied by the government inspectors, contractors and engineers in charge of the work. This is a compact two-story structure and is situated in proximity to the electric trolley line, which was built into the grounds to facilitate the transportation of the construction materials.

All last summer and fall more than 2,000 men were engaged upon the great-lake naval station, as it is designated in the official reports of the secretary of the navy.

The result of their efforts is seen in the practical completion of the 24 buildings of which the station is now composed, and this spring and summer will see the completion of several more large structures.

Proceeding toward the lake from the inspectors' offices one gradually descends a deep ravine bordered on each side by large trees. Nature has been exceedingly generous to the neighborhood about Lake Bluff, and it is doubtful if a more picturesque region anywhere about Chicago could have been chosen. At the bottom of the



A TRAINING CRAFT

ravine runs a boisterous stream of water, which is pretty well swollen in the spring of the year, but which is nearly dry during the summer.

At the bottom of the ravine one would have a hard time to imagine himself in the center of so large a government institution. But following it toward the lake, you are brought to the point where the ship basin begins. A sort of landlocked harbor has been dug out, in which several good-sized gunboats could be sheltered in safety during the worst storms on the lake. A large and well-equipped boathouse has been built at the point where the basin connects with Lake Michigan, and there are abundant facilities for the housing of cutters and other craft which will be used by the embryo sailors in their practice maneuvers.

An artistic bridge has been constructed across the ravine about 50 feet above the stream of water, which connects with a road running directly into the center of the reservation. The high bluffs on each side of the basin give a stately effect to the general view of the reservation from the lake. At the top of the highest bluff, overlooking the lake and commanding the widest view of the entire surrounding country, is the administration building, a handsome structure built of pressed brick. In the center is a high tower with windows at various stages. At one side of the administration building are three smaller buildings, which will probably be used for officers' or instructors' dwellings.

The main instruction buildings, lecture halls and dormitories for the regular members of the institution are in close proximity to the administration building. The larger of these have been completed and are practically ready for occupancy. It would be possible for the institution to be opened this fall, so great has the progress been made upon it, but it is likely that the formal opening will not take place until July 1, 1910, when Rear Admiral Albert E. Ross, who has been in charge of the construction since its inception, says it will be completed.

It is planned to care for between 2,000 and 3,000 recruits for the navy at the new training station, and many more than this number could be taken care of in an emergency. Several thousand well-drilled sailors can be turned out each year, and the result will be a greatly increased efficiency among the rank and file composing the United States navy.

Bids were recently opened in Washington for new work on the Naval institute which will aggregate half a million dollars. James Corse of Racine was awarded the contract for the construction of the officers' houses, which include a commandant's house for \$30,000 and six junior officers' houses at \$78,000.

The principal work of the coming year, however, will be on the medical department buildings, which will involve an expenditure of \$313,000, and will be the finest of their kind in the west. They include a hospital which will cost \$234,000; senior medical officers' house, \$24,000; junior medical officers' houses, \$38,000, and hospital laundry, \$17,000. The Noel Construction Company of Baltimore was awarded this last important contract.

Before the station is completed the gunboat Nashville will have arrived in Chicago, which will be utilized as a training vessel for the Illinois naval militia. Great preparations are being made for the reception of the Nashville, but it is likely that the vessel may be used in connection with the new station when it is completed.

The ancient man-of-war Wolverine, formerly the Michigan, the oldest iron vessel in the United States



PISTOL DRILL BY CADETS

navy, as well as the first vessel of its kind to be used on the great lakes, will also probably be seen more frequently in the vicinity of Chicago than formerly. But just what the plans of the navy department are for the equipment of the station with practice vessels are a secret at present, and it is unlikely that their plans will be made known for some time to come.

It was the work of the Illinois naval militia dur-

Presidents of the United States, senators, representatives, justices of the highest courts, and even foreign ambassadors, have poured forth their eloquence at liberty's cradle. The municipal authorities of the city of Philadelphia are careful to see to it that some distinguished man is always on hand as orator of the day.

The pomp of military circumstances has sometimes been called upon to lend prestige to the occasion, and the best musicians in the land have been proud to play patriotic airs in the shadow of the steeple where hung the bell that rang out independence.

The first reading of the declaration was that by Charles Thomson, the secretary of congress, when he announced the completed paper to the men who had framed it. Thomson did not, however, read the declaration from the balcony of independence hall to the people crowded outside to hear for the first time in what terms the colonists should tell King George that his control of the thirteen colonies was at an end.

That privilege was reserved for John Nixon, a prominent member of the committee of safety. In honor of the occasion delegates to the congress filed out in the July sunshine to listen to the sacred words.

Nixon has been described as a master elocutionist with a voice so clear and distinct that it was heard clear to Fifth street, one square distant. He took his place on the balcony, which was then the favorite rostrum of the day. Crowds had assembled to hear him, gathered by the ringing of the liberty bell. It was a memorable celebration, and the first in the history of the nation.

Later, long years after, Edwin Forrest, the most noted of American actors, whose love for patriotism and the institutions of his country was deeper even than his regard for the stage, stood on the same spot, and on a Fourth of July morning read the words of Jefferson as no man has read them before or since. A great crowd was present, perhaps the largest ever assembled, and the actor during and after the reading was cheered again and again.

After the evacuation congress returned from New York July 2, 1776, a grand celebration of the recurrence of the promulgation of the declaration was held, in which nearly the entire population of Philadelphia joined. Chevalier Conrad Alexandre Gerard of France, the first minister accredited to the United States from any power, was an interested spectator.

Chief Justice John Marshall spoke in the state house yard at one of the celebrations in the early part of his tenure of office, and later Daniel Webster delivered a notable address there.

During the centennial in Philadelphia there was naturally a notable demonstration, and no less a person than Dom Pedro, emperor of Brazil, sat among those who cheered the sentiments that had sounded the downfall of monarchy in this country, and were finally to take his throne from the ruler of Brazil.

In later years another representative of a foreign country was the central figure at independence square. Wu Ting-fang, Chinese minister, spoke there with fine eloquence, and made one of the best speeches credited to him in his many felicitous utterances in this country.

The anomaly that he was the envoy of one of the most absolute of monarchies did not prevent the celestial from painting in most graphic phrase what the venerable building stood for.

During his first administration, Grover Cleveland, president of the United States, came to Philadelphia one Fourth of July, and standing on a platform raised in the square, appealed to the young manhood of America that the great lessons of 1776 be not ignored.

Samuel J. Randall, Judge Kelley, Gen. Grant, Lewis Cassiday, have also figured prominently in Fourth of July celebrations there.

During the administration of Mayor Warwick, himself an orator of genuine gifts, every year was made the occasion of notable demonstrations, to which were invited men of national fame.

One of the most commendable features about all these affairs has been the prominence given to children. In fact, they might almost be called Children's-day events. It has been the wise thought of the men in charge that no better use could be made of the nation's natal day than by impressing on the younger mind the great truths that had their best development with independence hall.



ON DECK

ing the Spanish-American war that first called attention to the possibilities of the middle west as a recruiting station for sailors. The naval militia of the several states was assigned to the vessels of the navy and the many auxiliary cruisers that the emergencies of the war called into service, and acquitted themselves like veterans. Many of them showed ability that afterward enabled them to obtain commissions in the navy that were then open to enlisted men.

The sudden impetus which the war gave the navy made it necessary to increase the enlistments with all possible rapidity, and stations were opened at many different points in the country. It was found that the young men of the middle west responded with greater alacrity to the call of the recruiting officer than did those of the east. At the present time the Chicago naval recruiting office is the second in size in point of the number of enlistments in the country.

The Chicago recruiting office averages about 20 enlistments a week, this being about 20 per cent. of the applications. The requirements for enlistment are exceptionally rigid, and a large number of those who apply never reach the examining physician, being rejected as unfit at sight. However, those who are accepted are sure of a thorough training and a living which is theirs as long as they live up to the requirements of the naval regulations, while the chances for advancement are considerable more than they have been in years gone by.

## Independence Day is Near

Good fortune and solicitous care combined have preserved to Americans the most sacred building in the United States, Independence hall.

It is possible to hold Fourth of July celebrations in the shadow of the very structure which saw the birth and signing of the declaration of independence, the most potent doctrine for freedom in the history of the world.

The nation has not ignored the chance.

There are many patriotic Americans who make it a duty on July 4 to journey to Philadelphia, a pilgrimage to the shrine of liberty, there to raise their voices in thanks and rejoicing for the great deed that was there accomplished.

Since that day, now distant 130 years, when Charles Thomson, rising in his chair, read for the first time the final draft of that momentous document which Thomas

Jefferson wrote, but which underwent many changes before meeting with the final approval of the delegates to the continental congress, not an independence day has been permitted to pass without a proper celebration in the public square back of Independence hall.

Farmer Hayrick—The city is mighty wicked.

Farmer Corncrib—Yes, even the trees are behind bars.

Lewis' Single Binder, the famous straight 5c cigar—annual sale 9,000,000.

Or, They Should.

Shakespeare: Welcome ever smiles, and farewell goes out sighing.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup.

For children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures whooping cough, croup, and all the other ailments of infancy.

Your country manufactured 25,000 pianos.



NERVE.  
"Excuse me, can I speak to your typewriter a moment?"  
"You cannot; she's engaged."  
"That's all right; I'm the fellow she's engaged to."

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A Natural Mistake.  
"I thought you said that you were home early last night and didn't drink a drop."  
"So I was, my dear."  
"Well, it doesn't look like it. This morning I found your dirty rubbers in the fireless cooker."  
"Great Scott! I thought that was the shoe box."

A Resourceful Mind.  
What would happen if a comet should manage to hit this whirling sphere of ours? asked the imaginative man.  
"I don't know," answered Mr. Fanson, "but I'd be in favor of offering it an engagement on our home team."

Evidence.  
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## NATURE THE GREAT CHEMIST

Always Performing Feats Which Highest Exactitude of Science Cannot Rival.

The burning leaves of spring time illustrate nature as a chemist who performs feats which the highest exactitude of science cannot hope to rival. In a leaf the living matter is the chemist, and the cell is his laboratory. By daylight the leaf chemist is absorbing

leaf chemist will elaborate the sugars and starches which the plant world affords. As sugar, the products will pass from the leaf to be stored up, as in the case of the potato, for example, so as to afford a storehouse of food whereon the plant may draw for its sustenance, and for the development of its leaves and flowers when occasion comes. All the vegetable essences and acids, the scents and gums, the juices which yield India rubber, the favoring of fruits, and even the color of the flowers, are similarly the

product of a constructive chemistry which beats man's best efforts to imitate. Man follows nature, but at a distance.

In the Fertile Azores.  
Ponta Delgada, with a population of 22,000, is the largest city in the Azores Islands. The climate is very even, and European and tropical plants thrive to perfection. The productivity of the soil is remarkable. Oranges, lemons, pineapples, figs and other fruits are cultivated with great success.

Bits from the Far East.  
It has been discovered by the ministry of civil office that there are some 80,000 dismissed or degraded officials who are entitled to reinstatement by special grace on the occasion of the new reign, and these officials are availing themselves to pour in their requests to be restored to their ranks.

As Mongolia is rich in minerals and foreigners have been casting longing glances on it, the ministry of agriculture, industry and commerce contem-

plates forming a joint-stock mining company from subscriptions of Chinese merchants in China and abroad, so as to retain profitable enterprises in Chinese hands.

H. E. Na Tung applied for permission to resign from the grand council on occasion of mourning for his mother, but will only give 100 days leave of absence.

Chao Ping-chun, vice-president of the ministry of interior, has been ordered to retire owing to his opium habits.—North China Daily News.

the carbonic acid gas from the air. Then it is decomposing this gas into its component elements—carbon and oxygen. The carbon it is retaining as part of the plant's food, to enter into combination with water; and the oxygen it sets free into the atmosphere. By night this process ceases, for light is an essential feature in the operation.

Out of the carbon and the water the