

BIG U. S. FLEET FORCED TO PLAY SECOND FIDDLE

Officers at Vera Cruz Outranked by the British.

HAVE NO ADMIRAL IN NAVY

Mexico Situation Calls Attention to Policy by Which American Prestige is Sacrificed—Clash at Port Narrowly Averted.

Vera Cruz, Mexico.—Mobilizing the Atlantic fleet off Vera Cruz has disclosed an astounding situation in the American navy, says James B. Wood in Chicago Daily News. With the largest fleet this nation has ever assembled for active service, one of the largest any nation has ever had in one port, its commanding rear admiral is outranked because of seniority by the British rear admiral, whose entire command has been from one to three small cruisers, representing not one-twentieth of the strength of the American battleships.

In the event of any united action Rear Admiral Craddock of the royal navy would command. Unless there should be special agreement between the British and United States governments the entire American naval forces would be under his orders.

Washington—by which is meant congress and the national administration, this and preceding ones—is responsible for the situation. With all its claims as a world power, with a \$130,000,000



Rear Admiral Cameron McR. Winslow.

a year navy, including the largest superdreadnaughts of any nation, the American officers in foreign waters are usually outranked by those of other nations because America has neither admirals nor vice-admirals. Its highest rank is rear admiral, except the grade of admiral of the navy, which is held by George Dewey. His duties are seldom on sea, and the rank goes out when he goes.

In Mexico's waters the situation already has threatened serious consequences. Rear Admiral Craddock and Rear Admiral Fletcher were on the verge of friction at Vera Cruz, but the British government diplomatically advised Craddock to waive his rights of precedence.

Before the Mexican situation assumed its serious phases Great Britain, with customary alertness in affairs international, assured itself of having

the ranking officer among the navies of the world that might come here.

As soon as the United States Atlantic fleet started to assemble at Vera Cruz Admiral Craddock, in the West Indies, was ordered to proceed at all speed to this spot. As soon as he arrived on the cruiser Essex, flying a rear admiral's flag, he was the ranking officer in port. In case of any concerted move by the world powers he would have commanded, and Great Britain with its one cruiser—now the cruisers Berwick and Lancaster have joined the Essex—would have dominated the situation.

"Rather technical," says the layman. True, but in affairs of the sea and nations rules of precedence are strict. Consequences have been serious and far-reaching from a similar situation.

In the time of the Boxer uprising in China, when the allied powers landed their forces to restore order, it was believed that Captain McCalla, an American campaigner of long experience in China, would command. But Great Britain, with foresight in 1900, just as today, had hurried Vice-Admiral Seymour to the scene of action. He outranked the other officers. Great Britain wanted to dominate the situation. Vice-Admiral Seymour surprised everybody by going ashore and taking command himself. To the Chinese—from mandarin down to coolie—Great Britain was the ruling power. American naval officers on the Asiatic station say that the opinion formed then continues.

Among officers of the American navy whose duties take them on a continuous round of foreign capitals, there is constant embarrassment. Almost invariably the American trails after the British, German, Austrian, Italian, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian, Japanese, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Turkish, Argentine, Brazilian, Chilean, Peruvian, Chinese.

All outrank him. All have vice-admirals and most of them full grade admirals. Foreign war vessels which come into Vera Cruz today salute the British colors first, steaming silently past the rows of American ships, some of them as large as all three "limeys," as the Britishers are called.

Native Mexico sees. Mexico also pays respect to the British. If America had admirals or even vice-admirals in command of its imposing fleets, the situation might be reversed.

In the Atlantic fleet along the east coast of Mexico, centered at Vera Cruz, are six rear admirals. All are of equal rank, but hold precedence according to the date of their promotion. The commanding organization, according to precedence among the rear admirals consequently is:

Charles J. Badger, commander-in-chief Atlantic fleet, March 8, 1911.

Cameron McR. Winslow, commanding special service squadron, September 14, 1911.

Frank F. Fletcher, commanding first division, October 17, 1911.

Frank E. Beatty, commanding third division, April 27, 1912.

Clifford J. Boush, commanding second division, March 26, 1913.

Henry T. Mayo, commanding fourth division, June 15, 1913.

In any American commercial organization of the magnitude of the Atlantic fleet there would be an ascending order of ranks, the officers diminishing in number as the rank ascends. In almost any other navy there would be an admiral in command of such a large fleet and two or more vice-admirals and rear admirals in command of each division.

The men in a division of a fleet outnumber those in a brigade of the army. A single ship compares to a regiment in men. In armament it equals three or four regiments of artillery. The smallest battleship has between 600 and 700 men. The entire Twenty-eighth regiment of infantry here has only 550 men. A dreadnaught has between 1,100 and 1,200 men. The Seventh—the largest regiment here—has not 1,000. A battleship is a city in itself—homes and workshops in which the population must be drilled

and, when occasion requires, turned out to fight.

A division consists of five battleships—one of which usually is docked for repairs—and when in fleet organization a varying number of auxiliary cruisers, gunboats, destroyers, colliers and other craft. A fleet of five divisions would be much larger than an army division.

A captain in the navy ranks with a colonel in the army. A rear-admiral ranks with a major-general.

Rear Admiral Farragut after the Civil war was made an admiral. David Porter was made a vice-admiral and on Farragut's death succeeded to the full rank of admiral. The rank of admiral died with Porter.

Appointment of temporary admirals for command of fleets has been suggested. They would always be out



Rear Admiral Henry T. Mayo.

ranked by admirals of other nations because of length of service, as political pressure would be strong to pass the honor around as rapidly as possible.

The result is that the great American navy, which has been built up to hold the nation in a place as a world power, is always at a tactical disadvantage when its commanding officers are forced into back seats by the officers of other nations.

FORTUNE NOT TO CHANGE HIM

Pittsburgh Professor, Now Worth Millions, Won't Quit Work in the Schoolroom.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Prof. E. M. Wollank of the chair of languages at the Pittsburgh Normal, who may be the richest schoolmaster in the United States, will stay in the schoolroom and work, despite his wealth.

Professor Wollank and his son will soon get a \$25,000,000 estate in Berlin. The estate is that of a great-uncle whose will provided that it go to the male descendants of the Wollank line after a certain time. The time has expired and the professor and his son, who is a banker at Delhi, La., are the only heirs.

The possession of at least twelve and a half million dollars will not mean the retirement of the professor, he asserts. He intends to stay in the schoolroom until age retires him. He couldn't be happy elsewhere, he says.

DRILL BORES SQUARE HOLES

Land of Steady Habits Produces Mechanical Novelty Formerly Regarded as Impossible.

New Haven, Conn. — Bridgeport's prominence as a commercial and manufacturing center has brought it still another line of manufacture, which will be commenced in a short time, the manufacture of rotating drills to bore square holes.

A few years ago even scientists would have said that it was absolutely impossible for a rotating tool to bore a true square hole, yet it has been done by the simplest sort of mechanism, which can be attached to any lathe or milling machine.

To describe the drill and its process is somewhat difficult in language adapted to the lay mind not especially versed in mechanical motions. The principle involved is that of moving a triangular shaped drill or cutter in a square master guide, or cam. For boring different sized holes it is necessary only to change the drill, as the master guide is adjustable.



Dark Parks and Bashful Moon, Lovers Spoon

WASHINGTON.—At times Harry will be found with his head in Minnie's lap, with Minnie smoothing his damp brow and fanning him. Again, Frank and Florence may be more ardent, or the night may be cooler, and he will have his strong arm pressed protectingly around her shoulders.



In this arrangement Flo always rests her slightly tinted cheek on Frank's clean shirt just below the collar. Frank then has a blush coming to him when the boys ask him what happened to his shirt. Positions without number may be assumed by these spooning couples, some even preferring to walk along the shaded paths with their hands tightly clasped or their arms twined like ivy across each other's

shoulders. A fortunate investigator has reported that he has discovered a couple, Sally, weighing nearly 210 and Archer, size, two and six-eighths, which invariably assumes the position of Sally-on-the-lap-of-Archer.

Taken as a whole this class of spooners is an interesting one for the curiously inclined. We have them, and the police have not rid us of them, so why not study them from a zoological or anthropological point of view? Specimens might even be secured and mounted. A new fad! Let's start it.

Oh yes, stranger, those wide, cool, open green squares and triangles known as the parks of Washington are inhabited. In broad daylight we see nurses and tiny children enjoying the protecting shade, but at night—ah at night—we do not see the denizens of the park, who are enjoying the protecting darkness. How do we know there is any one there? We fall over them.

Can any one venture into Lafayette square or Franklin park or Lincoln park or any dark place provided with benches these summer evenings without feeling the presence of these amorous mortals?

Says Capital Policemen Always Have Manners

"OF COURSE, Pittsburgh may need a school of manners for her policemen as she does for some of her millionaires. Washington policemen have their manners before they get on the force."

Maj. Richard Sylvester smiled grimly as he read the dispatch from the Smoky city reciting the frantic attempts being made to civilize the police. Director of Public Safety C. S. Hubbard, the report said, is going to have classes where young cops will learn to be kind to dumb drinkers and ardent automobilists.

"How about a course like that here?" was suggested to the major. "Teach policemen to cut out the rough work with burglars and thugs and always speak gently to second-story workers."

The major pondered the idea for a moment. Then he branched off. "If we Washington policemen," said he, "were in the habit of maltreating citizens, this town would be in a furor inside of twenty-four hours. About every third person in Washington is a diplomatic attache or a public official."

"Can you imagine what would happen in this city if the police force developed the habit of clubbing military attaches and chiefs of government bureaus?"

The interviewer passed the buck. "You see," continued the major, "policemen in Washington have civility preached them before they get on the force. I believe that Washington policemen have more tact than the police of any other city in the country. If they use too much force—get too free with their clubs—they quickly appear before the trial board."



When Little Boy Met the "Man of Importance"

A MAN of importance—you can always spot him by his "air"—was favoring the White House neighborhood with his stately tread when a small boy stopped him. He was such a tiny boy as to still be wearing white kilts and a shiny red belt, and he talked with a baby lisp. In his outstretched hand lay a dead sparrow.



"Make him go—." The child said it as imperatively as if the important man were his very own daddy—"I picked him up and he won't go—Make him fly—far."

To be requested to make an exceedingly dead bird fly is too much to ask of any man of importance.

"Throw that thing back in the street. How do you suppose I can make it fly?" said the "Man of Importance."

"Wine him up. Wif a key—"

Perhaps he was an unfortunate man whose overimportance had hindered him from an acquaintance with little children and wound-up toys, for he merely flung the proposition aside and resumed his stately treading.

And perhaps—again—he would have been ashamed of himself if he had turned back and seen the tiny kid with the bird in his outstretched palm, and on his face the bewildered hurt at doubtless the first rebuff he had ever received in all the four years of his life.

Girls Boast Many Names

Father, Mother, Callers, Servants, All Have Own Designation for Chinese Young Women.

Detroit.—A Chinese girl does not start life with one name and bear it with her for the rest of her days, as does the member of a Christian family. A fond father will call his baby girl his "Moonbeam," while his son goes under the designation of a "Phoenix," says the Detroit Times. When she begins to run about her mother probably knows her as a "Little Sister." Callers address her as "Little Daughter of the House," and strangers and servants show their respect in the use of "Little Miss."

The Chinese word for an orchid is conveyed by Lan. Girls of many types are all compared to the Queen of Flowers, but they are equally diversified in tastes and occupations, so they are distinguished by words of two syllables, the latter of which is "lan." A Chinese proverb signifies "the words uttered from a heart full of sympathy

have the fragrance of the orchid." As the flower ranks so high in the opinion of the people, it would be difficult to find a sweeter name for a girl.

A "Shy Flower" or a "Sweet Blossom" is a favorite appellation, and the girls' families and friends know them by such fanciful words as Pure Heart, Peace and Modesty coupled with Industry, Faith, Truth or some of the other virtues expected of the women of that Eastern land. Truth, for instance, is sometimes taken as the basis of names, and, with an adjective, becomes a key to the character of the individual to whom it is given. Wangpan is a girl who does not possess a brother, but one who wishes she had one. If a son is born into the family her name is changed at once, and she becomes the girl who has a brother.

Woman Walks in Sleep.

Yonkers, N. Y.—While asleep, Mrs. Chester Parlow walked out of her home in a nightgown and was found half a mile away by her husband.

Fishing for Pastime and an Incidental Income

FISHING is a pastime and an incidental income, or rather, outgo, with a large number of the people of Washington. Every traveler along the sides of the rocky reaches of the river above Washington has probably noted the signs "Bait for Sale," "Boats for Hire" and other signs put up for the benefit (perhaps) of prospective fishermen.

There is a little industry, though, at Georgetown to which the writer means to call attention. As the city cars outbound reach the intersection of Thirty-sixth and Prospect streets, or Thirty-sixth street and Prospect avenue, or, at any rate, the point where soft drink signs are posted all over the old Southworth cottages, many small boys tempt passengers with masses of wriggling worms. These boys in piping tones are saying, "Fish worms," or "Feesh worms." They have their merchandise in a battered tin can and they hold it so that the mass of squirming worms wriggles partly in the can and partly in one of the hands of the boy. He is displaying his wares, and he wants to prove to you that the worms have plenty of wriggle in them. He has a tangled knot of them in one hand and he pleads with you to buy them. For five or ten cents he will let you have enough of them to feed all the fish that dally with your hooks. It may be that the fish esteem these worms; that they look on them as delicate morsels, and that their appetite is piqued and tempted by them; but there is no accounting for tastes.

Many fishermen pause at this transfer point to buy bait from the boys.

