

SHIPS OF WAR.

Peixoto Is to Have a Strong Fleet.

FOUR IN SIGHT NOW.

De Mello Must Look to His Laurels.

BIG GUNS AND AMMUNITION

And the Fastest Torpedo-Boat in the World.

EL CID WILL NOT GO ALONE.

Admiral Maurity Will Be Prepared to Meet His Old Friend on the Seas.

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—There is no longer the slightest doubt of the uses to which El Cid, the steamship which was purchased through Flint & Co. from C. P. Huntington, will be put.

The yacht is now at City Island, and workmen are busy on her night and day converting her into a torpedo-boat. The work will probably be finished in two days.

The Feisen has made seven miles at the rate of 31.57 miles an hour. She cost \$30,000. Mr. Gardner refused to tell what was paid for her by Flint & Co.

Admiral Maurity was aboard El Cid today looking at her and sizing up her capabilities as a war vessel, and later in the day a reporter found Dr. Salvador de Mendonca, Brazilian Minister to this country, on board.

He was making suggestions as to what should be done to the steamship. It was learned that El Cid would be fitted up as a fast cruiser as one of a fleet of four powerful war vessels to be commanded by Admiral Maurity.

The Government of Brazil, in addition to El Cid, will have three new vessels, two of which will be ironclads of the latest and most effective type.

One of these ironclads is being turned out by the Armstrongs in England and the Recheua is now at Toulon, where she is being fitted out. There also is the cruiser Benjamin Constant, which has been bought for Brazil.

Admiral Maurity left for Chicago at 3 o'clock this afternoon. He is so much occupied with the Brazilian exhibit at the exposition that he has only been able to give four days to the details necessary for the purchase and fitting out of El Cid.

For this reason the Brazilian Minister, Dr. Mendonca, has been compelled to call upon gentlemen who are experts in naval architecture to superintend the fitting out of the ship, and to take charge of the metamorphosis that is now turning her a peaceful freighter into a cruiser.

In addition to the armament already described, El Cid will be fitted with Howell torpedoes, which have been adopted by the United States Government.

A telegram from Providence to-night stated that the Hotchkiss Ordnance Company was getting several torpedoes ready, presumably for the use of El Cid. The officers of the company, however, refused to say anything about what the destination of the torpedoes was.

It is not known how long it will take to fit out El Cid, but no attempt will be made to armor any part of her. The Brazilian Government has need of a fleet at once, and it is expected that the three men-of-war will sail very shortly.

The big armored cruiser New York has received orders to prepare to proceed to Brazil at once.

It is announced that the successor of Acting Rear-Admiral Stanton will sail for Rio de Janeiro on the New York, but who this officer will be is not yet known.

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There is every reason to believe, though, that Commodore Richard Meade has been selected.

The sister ship of El Cid, El Rio, has not yet arrived in port, but when she does final arrangements for her purchase will be completed and she will join El Cid as a cruiser of the Brazilian Government.

The Herald's Rio de Janeiro dispatch says: President Peixoto has issued the following statement: The rebel vessels are imprisoned in the bay of Rio de Janeiro. Further more, there is ample proof that the bombardment of the ships from the Government forts has done serious damage.

Two men-of-war have been rendered useless and three injured and the armed cruisers damaged so much that they are powerless. The Government is daily taking measures toward isolating the various refractory elements in Bahia.

All attempts to land forces up to this time have failed, the rebels being repulsed with great loss. The general political situation is good, and there is no public manifestation in favor of the rebels.

In the Federal States the garrisons are giving energetic assistance to the Government, the sole exception being Bahia, where is situated the city of Desterro, in which the rebels have organized a government without moral or material elements and composed of members of whom scarcely two dare set foot on the continent.

All other States, however, have remained faithful to the Federal Government.

The Herald's Montevideo dispatch says: The Revolutionary Provisional Government has declared Santa Catarina a free port. From Rio Grande the report comes that the city of Santa Ana will probably be in possession of the revolutionists in a few days.

It is asserted that Fort Santa Cruz is perfectly neutral, but it is generally believed the garrison will declare for Admiral de Mello. A report has been received that the Riachuelo has sailed from Toulon and will join De Mello on her arrival.

STANTON'S EXCUSE.

He Saluted the Brazilian Flag Which De Mello Flew.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—Secretary Herbert today gave out the following statement and telegram in regard to the Stanton-Mello incident: "Inasmuch as there seems to be an impression that the President has acted in the matter of removing Admiral Stanton without hearing from him, it is fair to state that before the order was issued Secretary Herbert sent a telegram of inquiry and received the following reply, dated Rio Janeiro, October 25: 'Secretary of the Navy, Washington: Before anchoring saluted the flag of Brazil with twenty-one guns. The salute was returned by the Government fort. After anchoring received a visit from an aide-de-camp of Admiral de Mello, flying the Brazilian flag. Returned said visit and saluted the Brazilian admiral afloat. The salute was returned by the same. No call received from any Brazilian official from shore. Next day called upon the Brazilian admiral. The visit was returned. De Mello is the only Brazilian admiral afloat.' This was signed Stanton."

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.—The armored cruiser New York, now at Brooklyn Navy-yard, has been ordered to be ready within twenty-four hours to put to sea. It is understood that the New York has been ordered to Rio Janeiro in order to protect American interests and to settle any unpleasantness caused by Admiral Stanton exchanging courtesies with Admiral de Mello.

IRWIN AND SKERRETT.

The Admirals to Change Places on the Asiatic Station.

VALLEJO, Oct. 28.—Considerable interest is manifested over the report of the changes soon to be made in the commanders-in-chief of the Pacific and Asiatic squadrons.

Rear-Admiral John Irwin, U. S. N., has been detached from command of the Asiatic squadron and is now on the steamer China with his family on his way to Honolulu.

As soon as the mail steamer reaches the islands Admiral Irwin will go on board of the United States cruiser Philadelphia and relieve Rear Admiral Joseph S. Skerrett, U. S. N., of his command and hoist his own flag.

Admiral Skerrett is ordered to take the Mail steamer China and come to San Francisco, where he will arrive about the 13th of November, at which time the Mail steamer is due.

Admiral Skerrett will be accompanied by his family, and will remain in the city until the China is ready for her return trip to the Orient, when he will take passage for his new command on the Asiatic station, and hoist his flag on his arrival probably on the Lancaster. If she has not already been relieved by the Baltimore, now on her way out to the station as flagship of the American squadron.

The two commanders have made themselves deservedly popular in the commands and in the stations which they will leave in each other's keeping.

COAST GOSSIP. Hart Will Move in the Oakland Water-Front Matter.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28.—Representative Caminetti leaves for California to-morrow. Attorney-General Hart of California is here.

On Monday he will file in the United States Supreme Court a complaint against the Southern Pacific Railroad Company to recover the Oakland water front property.

E. D. Murphy of San Francisco is in the city.

William J. Abbott of San Francisco has filed his application at the Treasury Department for appointment as Assistant Inspector of Hulls.

J. F. Treat has been appointed Postmaster at San Andreas, Calaveras County, vice H. G. Allen, removed.

Leave of absence has been granted Lieutenant-Colonel Johnson V. D. Middleton, deputy surgeon-general of the Department of California, is extended fifteen days.

Pensions: California—Original, John E. Whipple of Madison, E. W. Bladed of Oakland, William Hyndes of Plymouth, Jeremiah McKenn of Fresno, Thomas Brown of Youngville, Homer W. Tracy of Bakersfield.

Original widow—Fliza Boyd of San Francisco.

ONE-SIDED, BUT EXCITING.

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