

GENERAL BELL INSISTS ON DEFENSE OF PEARL HARBOR

Submarines and Torpedo-ers to Guard Us Pending the Mounting of Land Batteries.

(Mail Special to the Advertiser.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., February 18.—General J. Franklin Bell, the ranking head of the army in Washington and chief of the General Staff of that branch of the military service, appeared before the House Committee on Naval Affairs before the Navy bill was reported on a special confidential mission in explanation of the strategy of the Pacific ocean to which the Atlantic battleship fleet is going.

General Bell had with him a series of confidential charts showing the defenses existing and planned by the War Department for the proper protection of American interests and explained these fortifications in detail. Particular attention was devoted to the fortification of Pearl Harbor, as a naval base. The conference was a rather significant one and was not discussed in detail by members of the Naval committee after its conclusion.

Following a conference at the White House during which President Roosevelt conferred with the Democratic members of the House Committee on Naval Affairs and urged them to vote "as patriots" for a large increase of the navy at this time, the conference at the Capitol was looked upon as being all the more significant. The House Naval Committee does not deal with military affairs of the army and General Bell would not ordinarily appear before that committee. He has nothing to do with the naval estimates, but the committee wanted to hear from him as he is the chief authority in the country on the fortifications of the Pacific Coast, the Philippines and Hawaii and as chief of the General Staff is thoroughly familiar with the plans being worked out both for the development of the defenses of the Pacific as well as the confidential plans that are constantly being worked out in anticipation of future warlike contingencies.

General Bell was induced to appear before the committee only after he was assured that his visit would be treated as absolutely confidential. The request that he so appear was made by Representative Richmond Pearson Hobson, a member of the naval committee, who is in favor of a very large navy because he believes that war with Japan is inevitable. General Bell told Representative Hobson that he would appear before the committee and talk fully if guaranteed that his visit would be treated as confidential even to the extent of omitting the usual stenographic record of his remarks. This promise was made and the usual stenographer was absent when General Bell entered the conference with his great charts of the Pacific and its defenses.

When Delegate Kalaniana'ole was recently before the Naval committee he urged its members to invite Admiral Dewey or some member of the Naval Board to appear before the committee and state personally in an executive session some of their reasons for the urgency of the work at Pearl Harbor which they might not care to transmit to Congress in writing. In connection with this suggestion it developed that Congressman Hobson had ventured in advance to see Admiral Dewey and others who have studied the question, including General Bell. Admiral Dewey recommended Captain John E. Pillsbury, of the General Board, as the man to represent it, and General Bell said he would hold himself in readiness to appear if desired provided his statement would be treated confidentially.

General Bell used a Mercator map of the Pacific showing the distances from the Hawaiian Islands to surrounding points and explained that Hawaii was in the center of a circumference which is approximately from 2100 to 2400 miles that touches Alaska on north, Caroline Islands on southwest, Samoan Islands at the other southwest angle, Tahiti on southeast, San Francisco, Victoria and Seattle on northeast and Unalaska on north, therefore dominating the Pacific.

If there were no Hawaiian Islands the United States and Japan would be on the same basis in military operations. It would simply be a question of a five or six thousand-mile trip across and operating at that distance. If there were many such island groups in the Pacific the possession of any one would be relatively unimportant, but as there is practically the one single group in mid-Pacific commanding the situation the "effective possession" of Hawaii—the Naval committee was told—means that no hostile fleet from the Orient would dare pass that strong base to attack the California coast. If Hawaii is "captured"—that is, effectively occupied—by the American navy as an operating base it can defensively set out the line of attack 2000 miles from the coast. The naval committee was told that scouting cruisers operating from such an outpost—which is connected by cable with the United States—could be in constant communication, even with the present efficiency of wireless telegraphy, with Honolulu and through that with the mainland for the direction of operations for many hundred miles. Army transports today, operating beyond Honolulu to the Philippines have communicated for 800 miles.

If offensive operations were undertaken by the United States Pearl Harbor could become the coaling base for the entire fleet. The naval committee has been informed that unless the United States makes Pearl Harbor impregnable this outpost would be captured by Japan in the event of war and the advantage lost by the United States would go to Japan, which would then have the mid-Pacific outpost.

General Bell explained to the committee that the army is this year preparing to mount guns at the mouth of Pearl Harbor. The fortifications include a mortar station on the hill overlooking the harbor, a heavy rifle station at the mouth of the Honolulu channel, another one at Waikiki, and another one back of Diamond Head. It will take several years to develop a drydock at Hawaii. Meanwhile the plan is for the Navy Department to furnish submarines and torpedo boats for the coast defense of Hawaii.

The Naval committee has been frankly told that not one gun is mounted in the Hawaiian Islands, that an Oriental enemy can with one battleship take possession of Hawaii in half a day by landing troops and arms. The army is in advance of the navy in the little that has been done to protect Hawaii. Some emplacements are finished but no guns have yet been mounted. Some appropriations for guns have been made. Secretary Taft is urging very strongly this year that Congress provide for the entire plan of defense outlined by the Taft Board report. The estimate submitted for the emplacements which command the approach to Pearl Harbor is \$1,100,000. The total estimates for the army fortifications is about \$2,500,000. The House appropriations committee is being strongly urged to make these appropriations but the Naval committee is told that these fortifications will have their value greatly diminished unless something is done for a naval base.

ERNEST G. WALKER.

HOW DIPHThERIA IS CONTRACTED.

One often hears the expression, "My child caught a severe cold which developed into diphtheria," when the truth was that the cold had simply left the little one particularly susceptible to the wandering diphtheria germ. When Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is given it not only cures the cold, but greatly lessens the danger of diphtheria or any other germ disease being contracted. There is no danger, in giving this remedy, as it contains no opium or other harmful drug. For sale by Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaiian Islands.

WATER POWER ON THE LANDS

Arthur C. Alexander, commissioner in the partition suit of May K. Brown v. H. Holmes and others, relating to the land of Makaha, Waianae, Oahu, has rendered a detailed report. After discussing the land, the fishery, the water and the appurtenances, Mr. Alexander says:

"So far I have avoided the latent resources of the land. One riding over it is struck by its undeveloped possibilities, such as the increase and the conservation of the water supply, the raising of dry land crops like sisal and coconuts on the lower flats, the utilization of the elevation of the stream for the development of power, and the possible quarrying of sandstone and other stone for building purposes. A partition of the land would undoubtedly be prejudicial to the best and greatest development of these latent resources, and by no scheme of partition would it be possible to make an equitable distribution of them."

This summary and conclusion are as follows:

"Physical features alone considered, I believe that an equitable partition of the property included in the leasehold could be made on the basis of its present condition without prejudice to the parties at interest, provided that the improvements on the land were excepted from such partition by mutual agreement and some central authority were constituted for the control and distribution of the water supply. Unless the improvements on the land are excepted and some satisfactory arrangement is made for the mutual control of the water supply, an equitable partition of the property is not feasible."

"The question as to whether any subdivision requiring considerable expenditure for surveying and fencing is justifiable under the uncertain tenure of the parties at interest, I leave for your Honor to decide."

FEDERAL BUILDING SITE.

In the Territory's condemnation suit, Superintendent Campbell v. Mahuka and others, for land needed in the extension of Bishop street, H. E. Cooper, attorney for J. F. Hackfeld, trustee, Heinrich Wilhelm Ehlers and Paul J. F. Ehlers, has filed a motion that the trial of the cause, so far as these defendants are concerned, may be set for a day certain. This action is an essential part of the proceedings to establish the Mahuka site for the proposed Federal building.

PLEADS WRITTEN CONTRACT.

Julia H. Afong, by her attorneys, Holmes & Stanley and C. H. Olson, demurs to the petition of Abram Henry Afong in which he claims \$10,000 on a promise. She says the only legal contract shown in the petition is the agreement of compromise in the original Afong suit, which does not appear to contain the promise alleged in the petition.

GOOD PRICES FOR SOME CHINESE LOOT

NEW YORK, February 19.—The first day's sale of Mrs. E. H. Conger's collection of art objects at the American Art Galleries realized \$8057. The sale continues during the week. Mrs. Conger is the widow of E. H. Conger, late minister to China, and now resides in California. Her collection represents part of the loot of the Peking palaces, taken at the time of the Boxer uprising.

The curio bringing the largest price was a Chinese imperial bell, taken from the Temple of Agriculture, which went for \$500.

The Metropolitan Museum was prominent among the purchasers, buying, among other objects, elephant trappings from the imperial elephant stables of Emperor Chien Lung, for \$150; boxers' red silk cavalry flag, described as "Captured on the City Wall by United States Troops, August 14, 1900, when they entered the besieged city of Peking," went for \$22.50.

Two very old and rare temple gongs, cast iron, for use during Buddhistic service, sold for \$505 each.

THOUGHT THEY SAW A WARSHIP SQUADRON

A party composed of Bookkeeper Campbell of Kahuku plantation, Mr. Scott of the Honolulu Iron Works, Henry Davis of Honolulu, Ed. Hoare and Mr. Ginnace were at Makua last evening about sunrise and thought they saw a squadron of six ships directly off that place, on the far horizon. Mr. Davis telephoned the fact to his son, saying there was uncertainty as to cloud effects but that all the party saw what seemed to be ships. When the Advertiser learned of this it called on Captain Carter of the navy, who got in touch with the Makua party and questioned it closely, reaching the conclusion that clouds were to blame. Captain Carter says that sundown clouds are often mistaken for ships.

HONOLULU HARBOR INCREASED AREA

The work of enlarging Honolulu Harbor, upon which the War Department has entered in pursuance of the \$400,000 contract authorized by Congress, is now in full swing. Two dredgers are at work. A floating drill, by means of which the heavy corall of the bottom of the harbor is blasted and broken up, is in active operation, and an island to be known as Sand Island and which will occupy an area of something like two hundred acres is being built up.

The general plan of the harbor improvement is to cut off the old point where the lighthouse stood for so many years, and to greatly widen the harbor from the channel entrance, Ewa. The harbor has always been narrow at the point where the channel enters it, so that large steamers lying at wharves in the part of the harbor Waikiki of the foot of Fort street, always had difficulty in turning around to go out. This narrowness also affected vessel berthing at the other end of the harbor, but not so much, and for two vessels to attempt to pass in this part of the harbor was dangerous.

The work now in progress is at the old lighthouse point and the portion of the harbor in that vicinity. The suction dredger Reclamation is at work between where the old lighthouse stood and where the foundations have been built for the new lighthouse, or as it is officially designated, the front range light of Honolulu harbor. From this dredge the material brought up from the bottom is forced through a long line of pipe about a foot in diameter, which passes across the island which is in process of formation, or rather of enlargement, and empties on the seaward side of the island, the solid material dropping to add to the accretions to the island, while the water in which it is carried runs off to mingle again with the water of the ocean.

The deep dredging and the dredging of the hard material is being done by the dredger Governor. For this work both the "arm" and the "legs" of the Governor had to be lengthened, the arm so that the dipper part of the dredge could reach down to the required depth, and the "legs" so that the dredger could stand in the required depth while it did its work.

The material brought up by the dredger Governor is emptied into cars on a scow or lighter brought alongside the dredger. When these cars are loaded the scow is towed to a landing on the island which has been fitted for this purpose. There the cars are landed and hauled by a locomotive over movable track and the contents of the car are dumped—always on the seaward side of the track. As the island is built out seaward in this way the track is moved constantly in the same direction.

The arrangements for the landing of the cars from the scows or lighters to the island is quite an ingenious and effective arrangement. The track comes to the water's edge. There an "apron" is built, one end of it resting on the island, and the other supported by counterweight and so adjusted that it can be raised or lowered to adjust the height to the stage of the tide or the varying draught of the scow.

When a scow with its ten loaded cars is brought up to this landing the apron is let down until its surface is even with the surface of the scow. The track on the scow thus meets the track on the apron, and the locomotive couples on and draws the cars right off the scow and out to where their contents are to be dumped.

The drill which is used in the work of blasting consists essentially of a large scow on which is built a large frame and roofed over and partly enclosed. Along one of the longer sides of the scow there is a row of drills. These are operated by stationary engines on the scow. The scow is moored by ropes from both sides, which operate over winches, and thus the whole affair can be brought to any required position and held there while the drilling goes on. When all the drills have been driven to the required depth blasts of dynamite or giant powder are placed in each hole drilled. Wires are connected with them. Then the drill scow is moved off to a safe distance by means of its winches and mooring ropes, and the row of blasts is set off simultaneously by electricity. A view of one of these blasts at close range is interesting. Very little rock is thrown up to the surface of the water or above it, the water acting as a cushion to prevent this. But the water itself is thrown up in miniature geysers, and for several seconds after the blast is exploded the water directly above it is a boiling mass with a level fully a foot above the general level of the water in the harbor.

After this subsides, the drill scow is moved back into position, and a new row of holes is drilled a regular distance back from the last row. Thus the bottom is blasted loose in regular sections ready for the big dipper dredger Governor to bring the broken fragments to the surface.

In the illustrations herewith, which are from photographs taken by the Advertiser artist a few days ago, the suction dredger Reclamation is shown at work in the foreground, and beyond it the new temporary lighthouse, partly hidden in the picture by a part of the frame work of the dredger, and the lighthouse-keeper's house which has been moved from the position it had occupied since 1894, to the new island in course of creation. The photograph was actually taken from the point where the old lighthouse stood, looking seaward. This of itself will give some idea of the enlargement of the harbor at this point.

LETTERS COME FOR LOST SAILORS

Two letters were received by United States Shipping Commissioner Almy yesterday, which recall in mournful and pathetic way the tragedy of the American ship Eclipse and the terrible sixteen days at sea in an open boat experienced by her crew. These letters were addressed to Stanley Ennis and Isidore Madec, two of the three who died from their sufferings from hunger, thirst and disappointment in the leaky boat that had been their home for thirteen awful days.

The letter to Ennis was postmarked at New Bedford, Mass., and was addressed to him at San Francisco, care of the ship Eclipse. It was postmarked November 23, 1907, which was about a month after the Eclipse sailed from Newcastle, New South Wales.

The letter to Madec was postmarked "Carnac-Morbihan," France, in December, and it likewise was addressed to Madec at San Francisco, care of the ship Eclipse. Evidently the writer of each letter had received word from them that they had shipped on the Eclipse for San Francisco and these letters were written to meet them at San Francisco on their arrival there.

Of course, there is nothing on the outside of the envelopes to show from whom the letters are. But it is clear from the fact of the letters itself that each had friends or relatives who were interested in him.

The letters will be returned to the dead letter office, and from there to the writers, if there is anything in them to indicate who the writers were. These letters, however, make more certain than it was before the homes of these two men, and their effects and the wages due them will be sent by the Shipping Commissioner to the friends or relatives whom they have left behind them.

The letters will be returned to the dead letter office, and from there to the writers, if there is anything in them to indicate who the writers were. These letters, however, make more certain than it was before the homes of these two men, and their effects and the wages due them will be sent by the Shipping Commissioner to the friends or relatives whom they have left behind them.

THE CHINESE CONSUL AS EXPERT WITNESS

Chang Tso Fan, the Chinese consul, was called in the trial of Lee Sa Kee, as an expert witness on behalf of the United States. He gave evidence similar to that which he gave in the Dai Fook case some time ago, relative to the marriage and family customs of his nation. Judge Dole, in the case just mentioned, ruled that a marriage in the Chinese manner was valid whether a license had been issued for it or not. Lee Sa Kee's case turns on the same point.

The prosecution is still on, the court standing adjourned until 9:30 Monday morning. Thus far the trial has occupied four days.

The basketball championship of the American Amateur League will be played for in San Francisco today.

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE ENDORSES CHAS. T. WILDER

The endorsement asked by Treasurer A. J. Campbell for C. T. Wilder, nominee for the post of Assessor to succeed Jas. Holt, over which the members of the executive committee of the Central Republican Committee has been quarreling for the past week, was voted by that body yesterday afternoon on the casting vote of A. G. M. Robertson, the chairman. The vote stood four to four, Lane, Kanaha, Crawford and Abia refusing to change their position and accept the explanations that Wilder was really and at heart a good Republican, while opposed to them were Farrington, Krueger and Savidge, who realized that to save their faces the committee had better swallow their medicine and say they liked it. G. W. B. King, holding the proxy of Arthur Rice, was also in favor of sustaining the Governor and voted his proxy accordingly. This left the casting vote to the chair, with the result that the way is paved for the announcement of Wilder's appointment.

CAPTAIN CORWIN P. REES TO SUCCEED ADMIRAL VERY

Portsmouth, N. H., Times.—The regret is general that Captain Corwin P. Rees, U. S. N., who has been the popular, courteous and efficient executive officer at this station since February 16th, 1906, is about to conclude his tour of duty here having received preparatory orders to sail from San Francisco on April 14th for Honolulu, to relieve Rear Admiral S. W. Very, U. S. N., commandant of the naval station in the Hawaiian Islands. Captain Rees, as executive officer at this station, has done more to ornament and make clean and tidy this yard than all the officers occupying the same position that have preceded him. The esplanade in front of the administration building, which when he came here was little else than a dusty, wind-swept desert, with jagged ledges protruding through the thin crust of earth, is now covered with handsome well kept lawns, traversed with walks and edged with cobbles stones. All the thoroughfares and walks about the reservation have been regraded and made smooth, trees have been set out, waste places made clean, sloughs filled up and

PARADE BEAT NICE CARNIVAL

"I have seen fetes and floral festivals all over the world, in Nice, on the Riviera, in the South and on the Coast, but nowhere did I ever see such a display including so many original features and so much dissimilarity of beauty as that of your Floral parade here."

R. K. Bonine, the moving picture man, who came here for the purpose of enlarging his collection of Hawaiian scenes and particularly to obtain views of the Washington's Birthday floral celebration, was the speaker. He is enthusiastic over the parade and over the splendid pictures he was able to get, the day having been an ideal one from the photographer's standpoint. These pictures he has already developed and will print positives off the rolls of film in order to include some of them in the next moving picture entertainment he will give here very shortly.

In all, of the parade, he has obtained over eight hundred feet of film and in addition has scores of stereoscopic views of the best floats. Of these he expects to sell a very large number of copies, especially for the use of lecturers. A large number will also be sent to Europe for distribution.

"What struck me as particularly good about the whole parade," he said, "was the fact that it was not stereotyped, one car so much like every other in line, as is the case so often with such affairs. In fact there were no two cars nor floats in the parade on Saturday that were decorated on the same idea. Flowers you can see anywhere but such original floats as that of Kamehameha, the native canoe, the Chinese dragon boat, the Japanese cars and a large number of others were away out of the common and all splendid. The horseback features, too, were fine. That pageant from Punahou, for instance, was as pretty and as elaborate as some of the historic pageants being given in the old English cities, about which the illustrated papers are making so much. The pa-u riders also gave the parade a distinctive touch. Altogether it was splendid, much better than I had expected to see."

"I expect to place a good many of my pictures with men who will exhibit them to that part of the public that has money to travel. I have received word from E. Burton Holmes, the celebrated lecturer, for instance, that he will be here on the Korea on Monday and wants to have copies of all my Hawaiian stuff. He lectures to the best people of America and in his hands these views will have a big promotion value."

"I expect to place a good many of my pictures with men who will exhibit them to that part of the public that has money to travel. I have received word from E. Burton Holmes, the celebrated lecturer, for instance, that he will be here on the Korea on Monday and wants to have copies of all my Hawaiian stuff. He lectures to the best people of America and in his hands these views will have a big promotion value."

"I expect to place a good many of my pictures with men who will exhibit them to that part of the public that has money to travel. I have received word from E. Burton Holmes, the celebrated lecturer, for instance, that he will be here on the Korea on Monday and wants to have copies of all my Hawaiian stuff. He lectures to the best people of America and in his hands these views will have a big promotion value."