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BRAZIL PLANS WELCOME FOR BATTLESHIP FLEET

ADMIRAL EVANS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN HARBOR OF RIO JANEIRO TOMORROW—PRESIDENT PALMA WILL TENDER HIM A RECEPTION—MAGNIFICENT BANQUET WILL FOLLOW—FLEET WILL REMAIN 10 DAYS

RIO JANEIRO, Jan. 9.—Escorted by the Brazilian cruisers Barros and Tarandere and the gunboats Tamayo, Tynhira and Tiradentes, the battleship fleet of Admiral Evans is expected to arrive in the harbor of Rio Janeiro tomorrow and will be given a royal welcome by the government officials and the citizens of the Brazilian capital. Interest in the festivities to be given in honor of the American officers is widespread in the highest social and official circles of Rio, and the people are anxious to return the welcome extended to the Brazilian naval officers at Washington and Norfolk last summer.

President Palma will give a notable reception in honor of Admiral Evans, the other admirals and the battleship commanders. Ambassador Dudley will also be a guest of honor at the affair, which will be held in the presidential palace at Petropolis. The finance minister will give a ball in honor of the Americans on Fiscal Island. The minister of marine has arranged for two excursions, one to the summit of Corcovado, a mountain peak about two miles from Rio, where a promenade luncheon will be served while the guests view the magnificent vista presented by the city and harbor and surrounding country. The other trip will be to Tijuca park, where the Naval club will entertain.

A magnificent banquet, at which 600 covers will be laid, will be served in the Monroe pavilion, with Foreign Minister Branco as host and President Ruy Barbosa of the Brazilian senate as the principal speaker. Another banquet will also be given by the government in the grand salon of the marine arsenal at Yaura. Other dinners in honor of Admiral Evans and the other officers of the fleet will be given by the mayor of Rio Janeiro, by Dr. Jose Carlos Rodriguez, proprietor of the Journal of Commerce and by Ambassador Dudley. Admiral Alencar, the minister of marine, has an especially cordial feeling toward America and the American naval officers, and for weeks has given almost his entire time to plans and preparations for the arrival of the fleet.

Half a hundred rooms in the most magnificent hotel of Petropolis have been reserved for the use of the American officers during their stay in Rio, and the best of everything will be their for the asking. The sailors and men will have a good time, as well as the officers. They will be granted shore leave, about 3000 at a time, and several picnics and "feeds" will be given in their honor. There is admittedly some prejudice against Yankee bluejackets among a certain portion of the population of Rio, and fears have been entertained that the presence of so many of them on the streets will lead to disorder. These forebodings are scouted by the mayor and police chief, who declare their confidence in the law-abiding spirit of American sailors.

The arrival of the fleet in Rio will mark the completion of the second and longest lap of the voyage around South America. Rio is 3,100 miles from Port of Spain, where the fleet made its first stop. The American battleships will remain here 10 days, during which time they will be coaled for the trip to Puntas Arenas, a distance of 2,200 miles, arriving there on January 30. There will be little joy or jollity there, as the port is a desolate settlement beyond the bounds of civilization, harboring little more than 1000 souls, situated well inside the straits of Magellan, with Patagonia on one side and Terra del Fuego on the other. Puntas Arenas was formerly a Chilean convict station, and the surrounding country is inhabited mainly by Patagonian Indians.

Beautiful Rio will be the last opportunity the tars will have to step on civilized shores until the fleet reaches Callao, Peru, the middle of next month. Advice received here from Lima state that he Peruvians are bent on outdoing even Brazil's hospitable welcome. President Pardo will give a banquet to 300 of the American officers, and the minister of marine will give a ball in their honor to which 1200 of the leaders of Peruvian society have already been invited. Each officer of the fleet will also be given a souvenir in

the shape of a magnificent album containing photographs of Peruvian scenery. Rio Janeiro, where the officers and men will spend the next 10 days, now boasts of being the most beautiful city of the new world, and there are many American and foreign residents here who admit that the boast is true. Practically all of this work of beautification has been accomplished in the last decade, before which Rio was notorious as the pesthole of the universe. The city is over 350 years old, and until recent years maintained the same old style of Portuguese architecture and the same narrow, dark, ill-smelling streets. Now it is a strictly modern city, with broad beautiful thoroughfares, electric lighted and with one of the best sanitary systems in America.

WHEAT GROWERS IN CONVENTION

MANY PROBLEMS FOR GROWERS AND SHIPPERS WILL BE DISCUSSED, AMONG THEM SHIPPING IN BULK

PULLMAN, Wash., Jan. 9.—The wheat growers' convention will meet at the state college today, holding five sessions in all and closing on Friday. This evening Joseph E. Wing, one of the best known writers on agricultural topics in the country, and J. C. Lawrence of the state railway commission will be the principal speakers. Mr. Wing has recently completed a tour around the world, during which he investigated the agricultural methods of many countries.

Alexander Baillie of the Balfour-Guthrie company, Portland; M. J. Costello, general industrial agent of the Great Northern railway, W. R. Cunningham, Ritzville; Byron Hunter, with the United States bureau of plant industry; George R. Reese, with the United States bureau of entomology; S. M. Shafer, one of the most prominent millers of the state; E. T. Juvenal, Connell; Alonzo Wardall, Wenatchee, and J. W. Arrasmith of the state grain commission are expected to address the convention.

"This year the principal discussions will center around the wheat problem, and shipping in bulk," said Professor Elliott. "The problem of eliminating the grain sack and putting in elevators is now before the wheat growers of Washington, and we are going to thresh this question out and find what can be done. Then we will have considerable to say about the grade of grain, dry farming, and soil tillage."

POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

Indiana district delegates to the republican national convention will be chosen February 4.

The candidacy of Attorney General Herbert S. Hadley for the republican nomination for governor of Missouri in 1908 has been formally announced.

Governor Hoke Smith of Georgia has declined an invitation to visit Chicago to advocate the closing of saloons on Sunday in that city.

The prohibitionists of New York have decided to hold their state convention this year in Syracuse on the first two days of September.

It is reported that ex-Senator James H. Berry of Arkansas may be a candidate to succeed Senator J. P. Clark in the March primaries.

Governor Hughes of New York is slated as the Lincoln day orator at the annual banquet of the Young Men's Republican club of New Haven next month.

It is reported from Washington that Champ Clark of Missouri is an aspirant for the United States senate and that he is only awaiting the election of a democratic legislature

in that state to announce his candidacy.

Speaker Shurtleff of the Illinois house of representatives is expected soon to enter upon an active campaign for the republican gubernatorial nomination.

William J. Bryan is expected to deliver one of the most important addresses of the winter at the dollar dinner to be given in Lincoln next week.

United States Senator Jefferson Davis of Arkansas, whose maiden speech in the senate a short time ago attracted much attention, is to be the principal speaker next week at the meeting of the New York State Progressive league in Cooper Union.

Contests are already on in a number of states for the seats of the 31 senators whose terms will expire March 3, 1909. Primary elections or elections of legislatures this year will settle most of these contests, some of which promise to be exciting and spectacular in the extreme.

The balloting for a United States senator to succeed Senator Wetmore will begin in the Rhode Island general assembly next week. At the last assembly the necessary two-

thirds could not be obtained by either of the three candidates, and as a consequence Rhode Island now has but one representative in the senate. The withdrawal of Col. Colt has left Senator Wetmore unopposed in his own party, and his election is consequently assured.

Senator Charles W. Fulton of Oregon, whose term will expire a year from next March, has a fight on in the primaries of his own party. There are several candidates against him. If he wins in the primaries, the contest will go to the polls, and Governor George E. Chamberlain will be the democratic candidate. The contest promises to be one of the most interesting in the political annals of Oregon, and the preliminary steps in the fight are already under way.

Kentucky is near a senatorial election to succeed Senator James B. McCreary, whose term in the upper house will come to an end in March, 1909. Governor Beckham has all along been looked upon as the most likely successor to Senator McCreary. But despite the action of the primaries, the opposition to Governor Beckham is said to have grown so much of late that the outcome is not a certainty. The legislature is about to meet, and the election will soon be settled.



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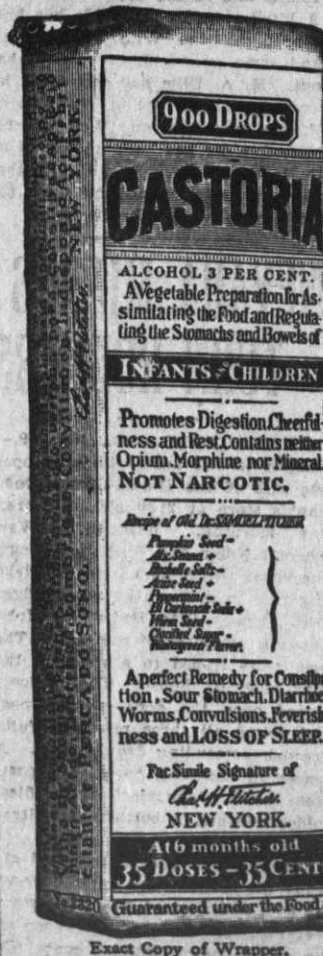
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