

CRUISE IS HELD NAVAL TRIUMPH

Secretary Metcalf in Report Pats Administration on Back on Its Success.

HELPS DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

Criticism of Type of New Warships Declared to be Groundless—Wants More Vessels.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Secretary Metcalf of the navy department, in his annual report, discusses as the most notable naval event of the past year, the voyage of the battleship fleet, which "has proven an epoch-making cruise."

Late in the spring of 1907 it was decided to send the Atlantic fleet on a practice cruise of the Pacific. When the purpose of giving this assemblage of 16 battleships such a practice cruise, under severe conditions, was announced, he states, criticism from high technical quarters was heard. The undertaking, it was said, was too monumental; dangers more than multiplied with numbers in such a case; battleships should not be sent around the globe on any ordinary occasion; the skeletons of some of them would doubtless be left in the Straits of Magellan; and, if the ships should round South America, they would, one by one, arrive with machineries loose and unworkable, and with crews reflecting the condition of the material.

Made Own Repairs. The facts are, Secretary Metcalf says, that the ships maintained sched-

ule time, and have practically taken care of their own repairs on this cruise. The repairs list sent in at the naval station, Cavite, P. I., have just been received, and are significant. They show that after the voyage to the distant borders of the Pacific, the needed repairs are negligible. The performance of the Oregon in 1898 has, it seems, been substantially repeated.

This cruise, as yet hardly half over, he declares has given us an opportunity to get better acquainted with the republics to the south of us, with our own island possessions, with the new and vigorous branch of the British empire in Australia, and particularly with Japan; and has given to those countries a better opportunity to get acquainted with us. It has been everywhere understood and accepted, as it was intended, as the reaching out of a strong hand in friendly greeting on the part of America, and the cordial hospitality extended to our fleet will be long remembered, and have powerfully influenced feeling in this country. Between the United States and every country visited there is a feeling of deeper interest and friendship than existed before the fleet sailed.

Design of Ships Approved. Passing to recent criticisms of the new and larger battleships now building, the secretary says that at the conference, convened and opened by the president at Newport, the general matter of design of these ships was approved, after 42 days' consideration, by this assemblage of the best authorities available in the navy, consisting of about 60 officers, all but 7 of whom were line officers of the seagoing branch of the service.

Marksmanship he says has improved on the practice cruise. With respect to the assertion that our 12-inch guns are inferior to those of other powers, the facts are found to be that the actual muzzle energy of these 12-inch guns, which form the main armament of our 8 latest battleships in commission, is somewhat greater than that

FOREIGN COUNTRIES BOUGHT LIBERALLY

Banner Year Was 1908 for Sale of Manufactured Articles By the United States.

Washington, Dec. 11.—More manufacturers were exported from the United States in the fiscal year of 1908 than in any preceding year, aggregating in value three quarters of a billion dollars, according to the annual report of the chief of the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. The report shows 49 per cent of our manufactured exports went to Europe during 1908, copper leading in value.

of any gun afloat in any other navy. As the officer in command of the American fleet now in the far east holds the rank of rear admiral only, he is in a position of subordination to foreign naval officers. This is true because foreign powers have, on important naval stations, representatives of the rank of vice admiral.

The secretary urges that the navy should, without delay, be provided with two vice admirals.

It is desirable, the secretary states, to lengthen the dry dock authorized by congress to be constructed at Pearl harbor, Hawaii, from 850 to 1,140 feet, to render it capable of accommodating two or more vessels at once.

Wants More Vessels. The secretary recommends that congress authorize at its approaching session the construction of 4 battleships, 4 scout cruisers, 10 destroyers, 4 submarines, 3 colliers, 1 repair ship, 1 ammunition ship, 2 mine-laying ships—these two ships to be converted from cruisers now on the navy list.

HIS WEAK SPOT.

The Thought That Made the Nervy Man Lose His Composure.

"Speaking of nerve," said a Massachusetts congressman, "there generally is a weak spot in the most colossal variety. If it only can be found. In this connection I remember my grandfather used to tell a good story.

"Some forty or fifty years ago a long-shoreman's eating place in Boston was the resort also of truckmen and other teamsters whose business brought them out early in the morning.

"One gray November morning about 5 o'clock a stranger entered this place and took his seat among the habitués. He ordered a substantial breakfast and ate it slowly and with evident enjoyment. Then he took his hat down from the peg on the wall and started to go. As he got abreast of the cashier's desk, behind which stood the proprietor, he slowed up.

"'Much obliged,' he said genially. 'So long!'

"The proprietor had a good many rough customers to deal with, and his pistol was handy. In a second it was out and the man covered. Then he demanded the price of the breakfast.

"The man, apparently unmoved, looked at the shooting from curiosity. It was a queer, clumsy affair of ancient date, and it was evident that he had never seen its like before. Suddenly his expression of curiosity changed to one of apprehension, even terror, and he drew back a step.

"'Is—that—a stomach pump?' he faltered.

"This story has a happy ending," the congressman concluded. "The man kept his breakfast."—Boston Post.

Chinese Torture. The ingenuity of the Chinese in devising punishment for offenders surpasses that of the most cruel people of the middle ages. Some time ago a boy was kidnapped from a village about thirty miles from Chinkiang and brought to that city to be sold. The kidnappers were arrested and returned to the village, where the people dug a hole in the ground, like a grave, about three feet deep, covered the bottom and sides with unslaked lime, placed the offender, with his hands and feet tied, upon the lime and covered his body with the same material. Then they filled the hole full of water, and as the lime slacked he was roasted alive and his body consumed.

The Good Old Days. The richest man in King Charles II's England could not get so good a dinner as tens of thousands will sit down to today. Cattle were of a far poorer breed, vegetables were few and bad and the commonest conveniences of the table were unknown. Fish knives, for instance, are hardly considered an extravagant luxury, but Mr. Gladstone could remember when they were not to be found on any table.—London Telegraph.

Meals and Brains. We give too much thought to our meals, for instance. They need contriving, and it is pleasant to have them set temptingly upon a table on which fresh flowers are arranged and to eat them in a room wherein there is not a speck of dust, but it is not right that our bodies should be fed at the expense of our souls or that the dust should be taken from every ledge in our house and left to gather thickly in our brains.—Reader Magazine.

Frank About It. Shoe Store Salesman—What size would you like, madam? Miss Larjun—I'd like a No. 2, but there's no use talking about that. You may as well show me your No. 5's.—London Telegraph.

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