

NAVY TO STAGE BIG MANEUVERS

Combined Fleets to Meet at Panama for Training in Strategic Problems.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Details of a plan of operation for 1924, comprising what was described as "the greatest scope of activity by the American navy since the World war," were revealed about the flagship Seattle by Admiral Robert L. Coontz, commander-in-chief of the United States fleet now at San Pedro. The plan centers around a Caribbean cruise on which more than 150 warships of the combined fleets based on Vazquez sound, Porto Rico, will be engaged for more than three months in a comprehensive program of strategic problems, tactical exercises and battle maneuvers.

The United States battle fleet, in command of Admiral Samuel S. Robinson, will leave San Pedro January 4 next for the first rendezvous at Panama. It will be accompanied by the fleet base force under Rear-Admiral John V. Chase, both forces reaching Balboa January 16, after carrying out two battle programs on the way.

To Attack Canal Defenses.

Destroyers, submarines and aircraft will accompany the fleet on the 3,000-mile voyage to the Panama canal, operating directly with the dreadnaughts.

The scouting fleet operating in the Atlantic, in command of Vice-Admiral H. A. McCully, will leave Hampton Roads for the canal January 4. The east coast dreadnaughts, destroyers and submarines will be accompanied by the control force under Rear-Admiral Montgomery M. Taylor. This fleet is due to reach Colon January 14.

The first big strategic problem of the cruise will be staged at Panama. The scouting fleet and control force, assembled at the eastern entrance to the canal, will defend it against the "onslaught" of the great armada of dreadnaughts, aircraft, destroyers and submarines sweeping in from the Pacific.

"Liberty Cruise" Planned.

The entire United States fleet will then assemble off the Colon breakwater and there will follow weeks of fueling, machinery overhauling and liberty for the 35,000 men.

The combined fleets, under the direct command of Admiral Coontz, will leave Colon January 23 for Vazquez sound, arriving about January 29. Then will follow another strategic problem, battle conferences, more fueling and inspection of machinery.

Tactical exercises, with the fleets engaged under what will approximate battle conditions, will take place between February 11 and March 3.

On the latter date the fleet will start on a two weeks "liberty cruise," visiting every port in the West Indies and along the gulf and South Atlantic states. This will be the first time in four years that the dreadnaughts of the battle fleet will be in Atlantic waters.

Tactical exercises and maneuvers will be resumed March 17 and continue into April. Early in that month also, athletes of the navy, 12,000 in number, it is stated, will hold their annual all-fleet competitions.

Battle to Be Staged.

On April 14 the combined forces will stand out from Culebra bay, breaking up into two "hostile" forces for battle maneuvers to continue throughout the run to Colon.

Upon completion of the problem the scouting fleet and control forces will proceed to Guantanamo, Cuba, arriving April 21.

The battle fleet and the base force will reach the Panama canal April 19, and leave Balboa for the homeward voyage up the west coast April 25. The east coast forces will leave Guantanamo May 1 for Hampton Roads and New York. The Pacific forces will return to San Pedro May 5, the same date those in the Atlantic reach their bases. Several new and powerful vessels will be added to the forces on the west coast. It is announced.

The battle fleet will engage in gunnery practice on the drill grounds off San Pedro until late in June, when it will visit San Francisco and the Puget sound.

New Logging Record Set by Big Michigan Mill

Iron Mountain, Mich.—A new record for logging and manufacturing lumber in the upper peninsula was set by the J. W. Wells Lumber company for the fiscal year ending September 1, when 50,000,000 feet of timber was logged, 42,000,000 of which was made into lumber. The other 10,000,000 was sold to an automobile plant here.

It required 10,000 cars to handle the output. The freight charges on the logs to the sawmills amounted to \$250,000.

In making this great record 1,200 men and 200 horses were employed. Equipment used included five locomotives, three steam loaders, steam skidders, tractors, several gasoline log loaders and other mechanical contrivances. The company's big sawmill at Menominee was run night and day for 12 months.

Soft for Maude.

Maude, Ohio.—Maude, a thirty-year-old mare belonging to Sam K. Robinson, of near Tipppecanoe City, is dead. During her entire life, it is said that she had been hitched to a wagon but once. She has spent the past 27 years on pasture in absolute idleness.

VANDERBILT KIN GETS JOB DRIVING TAXICAB

Francis O. French Quits Wall Street for Steady Income.

New York.—Francis O. French, oldest son of Anson Tuck French and cousin of William H. Vanderbilt, started work recently driving a taxicab. Julia French, who astonished Newport society in 1911 when she eloped with the family chauffeur, Jack Geraghty, son of a Newport cabman, is a sister of the new taxi driver.

When French went to the cab company looking for a job, he said that he wanted employment until he could get back on his feet financially. He said he was living in a furnished room at 18 West Seventy-second street although his family has houses in New York, Tuxedo, Newport and Paris.

After having applied in vain for a job at banks, brokerage houses, hotels and other places, French went to the taxicab company and, like the hundreds of other applicants, was asked to demonstrate his ability to drive a cab.

Thomas Fernin, assistant manager of the traffic department, said that French "went down the line" and at every turn showed his skill.

If French has day work he will receive 35 per cent of what he makes up to \$50 a week and if he works at night he will receive the same percentage of receipts up to \$40.

French was quoted as having said that he worked in the financial district for ten years and that he is no better off than when he began; that one year a man might make a cleanup in Wall street and the next year find himself ruined; that there is slack business there now and that he is anxious to establish himself with a fixed income so he will know just where he stands.

French calls for his mail at the Knickerbocker and Tuxedo clubs. He was graduated with an A. B. degree from Harvard in 1912, and had desk room in a brokerage house at 26 Exchange place until a year ago.

28-Year-Old Kentuckian Marries Woman of 63

Washington G. H., Ohio.—Youth married age here, the groom being twenty-seven years old and the grandmother bride sixty-three years of age. They are Mr. and Mrs. Bryson Gibson. The bride was Mrs. Rachel Elizabeth Carman, whose husband was killed in an accident in Greenfield four years ago. She has eight sons and daughters, all married.

When the couple, who have been making their home with Mrs. Howard Reed, the bride's daughter, on a farm near this city since coming from Pike county a few months ago, appeared at the probate judge's office, the license was issued. Then Rev. E. B. Alexander of Grace M. E. church was summoned and, after closely questioning the pair, he performed the ceremony in the presence of a few spectators, including the bride's daughter, apparently forty years of age.

The groom is a Kentuckian, but ten years he has lived in Pike county, Ohio, and the bride also came from Pike county.

The honeymoon of this strangely-mated couple will be spent at the home of the bride's daughter, and within a short time all will move to Fruitdale, in Ross county, where the men will work on adjoining farms.

According to the son-in-law, Howard Reed, the couple first met a short time ago at his home and developed a marked liking for each other.

Airdrome in London Is Like Busy Rail Depot

London.—London's great airport at Croydon is very like a main-line railway station.

There is a level crossing near the entrance where a flagman holds up the road traffic while big Handley-Page and other planes roar across the roadway prior to leaving earth for Paris, Rotterdam, Cologne or Hamburg. Once past the flagman, the visitor comes to a compact village in which headquarters of various air services are situated round an up-to-date hotel, adjacent to a post office, meteorological headquarters and customs establishment.

Enormous charts are set up on which the progress of various services are flagged by an official who is in constant wireless touch with planes on their way to and from various capitals.

On the ground there is a rush of porters and interpreters to meet incoming and outgoing planes.

Hour-Old Infant Takes Air Trip

Norfolk, Va.—Brought here in a seaplane within an hour after his birth, baby O'Neil, son of Mr. and Mrs. John O'Neil, of Cape Hatteras Village, N. C., was reported by nurses at Protestant hospital, to be "a robust, lusty youngster."

A radio message to the naval air station here sent Lieutenant Varini and Dr. A. C. Smith, in the F-5-L, speeding down the Carolina coast. But the stork won the race. Mrs. O'Neil and the new baby and Mr. O'Neil came to Norfolk, 130 miles distant. The mother and child were taken to the hospital.

PAY WIDOWS OF "VETS" OF 1812

U. S. Still Gives Pensions to Widows of Men Who Fought 111 Years Ago.

Washington. How long a pension list persists after war is over is shown in a striking manner by the rolls of the government for the War of 1812 and for the Mexican war. There is not a widow of the War of 1812 alive, yet it cost the government \$18,010 for pensioners of that war during the past year.

On June 30 last there were 78 widows and one dependent daughter of veterans of 1812 on the pension list. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the close of the Mexican war was celebrated on May 30 last, and yet during the fiscal year 1923 there were 61 widows and 1,636 widows of veterans who fought in that war receiving \$777,847 in pensions from the government.

It is a curious fact that not one of the pensioners of the War of 1812 was born when the war was concluded. The oldest is one hundred and four years old, while the youngest is sixty-three. One other is over the one hundred mark. The rest range between eighty and one hundred years. The explanation is that the veterans married women much younger than themselves. In the case of the widow pensioner sixty-three years old her husband must have been from forty-five to fifty-five years older.

Mexican "Vets" Over Ninety.

All of the veterans of the Mexican war are over ninety years of age, the oldest being Urbain Chaudier of San Francisco, who passed the one hundredth milestone on June 4, 1923. A unique Mexican war case is that of William Brown of Camden, N. J., who at the tender age of eight years enlisted in the marine corps and fought throughout the war.

War is a costly business, not only from the point of view of actual fighting expenses but also that of paying pensions to the old and disabled veterans and their dependent widows and children, officials of the bureau of pensions assert. Back in 1877 there were 232,104 persons on the pension rolls of the government, involving an annual disbursement of \$29,382,821.72. This was when the largest number of War of 1812 and Mexican war pensioners were on the rolls. A few years later Civil war veterans began to take advantage of the pension privilege and the expense jumped much higher.

Pensions Total \$263,012,500.

While there are no separate figures available as to just what the disbursements were to War of 1812 and Mexican war pensioners for those years, it is known that they figured very heavily in the total. In 1886 the pension disbursement amounted to \$85,171,087.12 with 345,135 persons on the rolls. From then on it gradually increased until 1919, when the cost was \$222,159,232 with 624,427 persons on the rolls. For 1923 the total amount of pensions paid out was \$263,012,500. Most of this amount, of course, was paid to Civil war and Spanish war pensioners, less than \$1,000,000 of it going to pensioners of the War of 1812 and Mexican war.

There are no longer any soldiers who actually fought in the War of 1812 on the pension rolls, the last one being Hiram Cronk, who died in Ava, N. Y., in 1905, at the age of one hundred and five. The last soldier pensioner of the Revolutionary war was Daniel F. Bakeman, who died at Freedom, N. Y., in 1900, at the age of one hundred and nine years, while the last pensioner of the Revolutionary war was Esther S. Damon, widow of Noah Damon, who died at Plymouth Union, Vt., in 1908, at the age of ninety-six years.

35,000 Widows Pensioned.

All told, approximately 35,000 widows of soldiers of the War of 1812 were granted service pensions, the high water mark being reached in 1879, when there were 18,177 on the rolls.

The original 35,000 widows of soldiers of the War of 1812 who were granted pensions had shrunk to only 40 on June 30. Since that time death has claimed one of them, reducing the figure to 39. Of the many thousands of veterans and widows of veterans of the Mexican war who were granted pensions only 49 veterans and 1,636 widows of veterans remain. An idea of how fast the number is decreasing can be gained by the figures for the last fiscal year. On June 30, 1922, there were 49 pensioners of the War of 1812, compared to only 40 one year later. On June 30, 1922, there were 1,951 Mexican war pensioners on the rolls, compared to only 1,635 one year later.

The amount paid to pensioners of the War of 1812 ranges anywhere from \$10 to \$100 a month. But most of them receive not over \$50 a month. It all depends on the extent of their disability, and the amount necessary to insure them proper medical attention.

German Art Thieves Busy.

Munich.—Burglars recently rifled the villa of the late Franz von Lenbach, painter of the well-known Bismarck pictures who has been dead for 20 years, and stole a number of valuable masterpieces. These included a picture by Franz Hals called "The Laughing Boys," two pictures by Teniers, an original sketch by Rubens, and a number of paintings by Lucas Cranach and other celebrated artists.

RED CROSS SUNDAY MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE RED CROSS ROLL CALL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 8.—In the churches throughout the land worshippers of every faith will observe on Sunday the annual Red Cross Roll Call Drive for enrollment in the Red Cross. In many special services will be held in connection with the work of the Red Cross.

Germany threatened the country, the number of members will begin immediately after the morning services in the congregation of the Red Cross that 5,000,000 members will begin to review their allegiance to the Red Cross. On Thanksgiving day, November 29, the anniversary of the Red Cross will be observed by the Churches of the United States.

"Sunday is Armistice Day. It is fitting that in connection of the United States, in their homes, in the churches, wherever they may foregather recall that day five years ago which marked the end of the greatest conflict the world has ever known.

It is equally fitting that the American people should use this day to dedicate themselves to service in

that Great Legion of Mercy which did so much to alleviate the sufferings of war—the American Red Cross. Service can pay no greater tribute to the men who went to the front of our liberty than to ally themselves with the organization that saved them.

The Red Cross was the organization which did not let down the spirit of the American people in the summer, much of its work had been done. This mighty organization will never cease its efforts with year continued help it will not let down the spirit of the American people.

There are thousands of men who were the country's heroes during the war who with their families are in need of comfort and help today even more than they did while the war was in progress. They will be first in need of this help for several years to come. The Red Cross has the only means through which most of us can express our loyalty to and sympathy for the men who are suffering today because they fought for us five years ago.

"The American Red Cross invites all to share in its inspiring responsibilities. It needs strength in numbers in order to be truly American it must

have your membership—your ever loyal support. Its record for the past years has been so good, by the better one of our men, that with it to be counted on for our great army, enlisted under the banner of the American Red Cross.

When the roll call is called on Sunday and you are given the water duty to enroll your membership in the Red Cross, let your answer be "Yes." It is the only answer that will help our country.

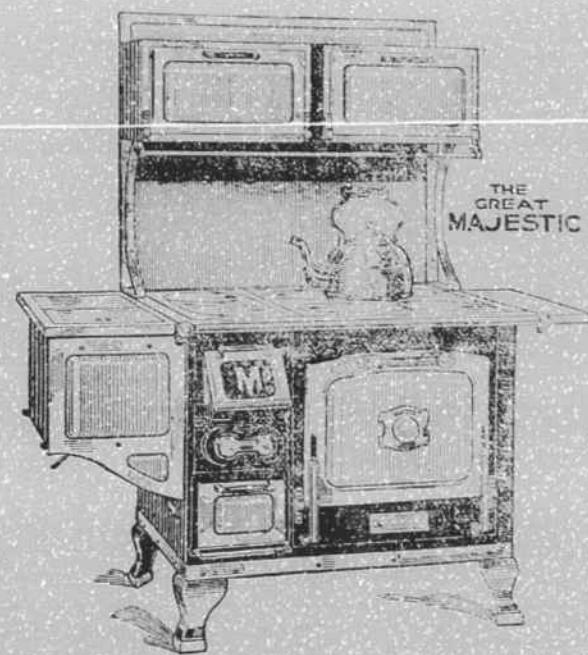
Wife Seeks Divorce From Silent Husband

Spokane, Wash.—Because her husband has been on a "silence strike" for twenty years, Mrs. Nettie F. Hamberly, of this city, is suing for a divorce. Mr. and Mrs. Hamberly were married in 1890 and have ten children. For the last nine of a century all their conversation has been carried on through the children, the wife declared.

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