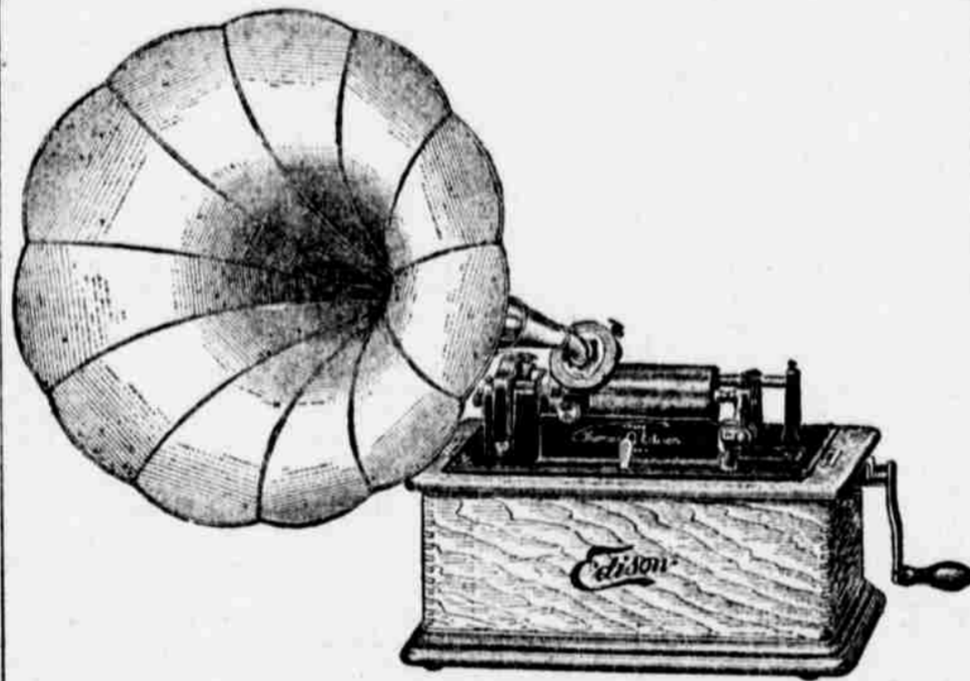


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DEFENDS THE NAVY

ADMIRAL CONVERSE HAS FAITH IN FIGHTING SHIPS.

Replying to Recent Criticisms, He Declares That Our Warships Are Not Inferior to Those in Foreign Services—Quantity Alone is Lacking.

Washington, Feb. 17.—By direction of the president, Secretary Metcalf has made public the report of Admiral Converse on the fighting ships of the American navy, called forth by many criticisms recently published in magazines and otherwise. This report was prepared primarily to satisfy the president as to the exact state of our naval ships compared with those of other navies and its publication is authorized with the design to reassure the American sailors as to the quality of the weapons with which they must go into battle.

Admiral Converse characterizes the criticisms as "prepared by persons whose knowledge of the subjects discussed was limited and incorrect." There, was, he says, ample justification for the adoption of the battleship designs which have been followed. "It is not claimed that mistakes have not been made," he adds, "or that our ships are without faults, but in view of the then state of the art of battleship building, this fact is not to be wondered at. It is remarkable that the mistakes were so few and that some were really serious. In this respect our record will compare favorably with that of foreign services."

Conclusion of Admiral Converse.
In the ninety-one pages which the admiral devotes to the defense of the navy, the subjects dealt with include battle drills, free board of American ships, heights of gun positions, torpedo defense guns, battleship armor, turret designs, ammunition hoists, in and out turning screws, and general notes. His emphatic conclusion is: "Our ships are not inferior to those in foreign services."

"We have," he says, "made compromises in our designs of battleships, because it is impossible to construct a perfect battleship; such compromises have, perhaps, detracted from the desired perfect ship in some respects, but at the same time have made it possible to improve upon some

other existing disadvantage, and, on the whole, the compromises, each and all, have tended toward a nearer approach to the desired perfect finality. Other nations have labored and will, like ourselves, continue to labor, under this same difficulty in endeavoring to approach as near as possible to that impossibility—a perfect battleship.

"The quality of the material of our navy is inferior to none; in quantity of vessels alone are we lacking. With an increase in number of ships, the American navy will have been supplied with the only feature necessary to make it second to none in all that tends toward fighting efficiency. And when the stress of actual combat, if such should ever unfortunately come, brings the only really practical test, our country need have no misgivings or fear but that our battleships will give an excellent account of themselves and prove themselves all that we have designed them for and know them to be."

AFFINITY PROMOTER CONVICTED

Marian Grey Found Guilty of Having Used Mails to Defraud.

Chicago, Feb. 17.—Marian Goodenough, who, as Marian Grey, conducted a matrimonial bureau in Elgin, Ill., was found guilty of having used the mails in perpetrating a fraud upon William Grable of Dearborn, Mo., by failing to secure for him as a wife a "wealthy and good looking widow," as promised in advertising matter sent out by her. The verdict was returned before Judge Landis in the United States district court after the jury had deliberated nearly twenty-four hours. The penalty to which Miss Goodenough is subjected to under the finding is eighteen months' imprisonment in a reformatory or a fine of \$500, or both. Arguments for a new trial will be heard on March 2. In the meantime Miss Goodenough will remain at liberty under the bond given after her indictment. The jury decided that the government prosecutors had not proven fraud in any other count of the indictment, Grable having been the only one of her "clients" who was shown to have secured a wife through the bureau of which she was the head. Grable paid \$5 for a membership in the "Searchlight Club," as the bureau was styled, and through this medium met and married a woman from Texas. Miss Goodenough showed little con-

cern when the verdict was announced, joining in laughter indulged in by those in the court room over the nature of the circumstances upon which it was based.

RECEIVERS ARE APPOINTED

Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company is Declared Insolvent.

New York, Feb. 17.—Receivers were appointed for the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance company upon the application of a policyholders' committee. The receivers are Charles J. Gould, William H. Russell and Archibald C. Haynes, president of the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance company. Each receiver was put under a bond of \$100,000. Insolvency and inability to meet its obligations were given in the court's order as the reason for the appointment of receivers.

"Jim Crow" Law in Oklahoma.
Oklahoma City, Okla., Feb. 17.—The "Jim Crow" law went into effect here on street cars and railroads alike.

Union Men Are Indicted.
New Orleans, Feb. 15.—Seventy-two men, representatives of all the classes of labor employed on the New Orleans river front, and who compose a union known as the dock and cotton council, were indicted by the United States grand jury on the charge of conspiring to restrain trade in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Auto Racers Fight Snow.
Syracuse, N. Y., Feb. 15.—The Thomas, American; Dion, French, and Zusi, Italian, cars of the New York-to-Paris race, soon after passing through Canastota, became stalled in a snow-drift and returned to Canastota, where they spent the night. They resumed the western trip this morning.

Saws Off Limb He Hits On.
Kewanee, Ill., Feb. 15.—August Tenspoed, while engaged in trimming trees in his yard, sawed off the branch on which he was sitting. From the twenty-five foot fall to the frozen ground, he suffered internal injuries from which he may not recover.

County Sues to Collect Tax.
Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 17.—The first suit ever brought to collect inheritance tax in Gage county was instituted in the county court by County Attorney Terry against the estate of the late Ford Lewis of Jerseyville, Ill., who died a few years ago. The estate is one of the largest in Nebraska.

CHILE SEES FLEET

THOUSANDS THROG VALPARAISO TO CHEER ARMADA.

Led by Home Boats, Americans Enter Harbor, Pass in Review Before President Montt on Training Ship Baquedano, and Leave for Callao, Peru.

Valparaiso, Chile, Feb. 15.—The great American fleet of sixteen battleships, under the command of Rear Admiral Evans, passed Valparaiso and continued on its voyage northward for Callao, Peru, the next stopping place. All Valparaiso and thousands of persons from every city in Chile witnessed the passing of the fleet. President Montt and other high officials of the republic came out from shore to greet the battleships and almost the entire Chilean navy exchanged salutes with them as they swung around Curumilla point and into Valparaiso bay in single file, headed by the Chilean cruiser Chacabuco and five Chilean torpedo boat destroyers.

Turning sharp around Curumilla point at 2:10 p. m., the Chacabuco and the five Chilean destroyers led the Connecticut and her fifteen sister ships into the view of the thousands who had awaited their appearance since dawn. The day was perfect and the spectacle of the fleet stretched in a great semicircle, as seen from the high hills around the bay, was magnificent. President Montt and other Chilean officials embarked on the training ship General Baquedano and took a position well out in the harbor. Around the Baquedano the fleet swung at a speed of four knots, firing the presidential salute as they passed in review. It was one hour's time after the head of the fleet entered the bay until the last ship passed the president's ship and turned to the open sea. Then the Baquedano lifted anchor and escorted the fleet well out of the bay and on its way north. It was a view such as has never before been seen in Valparaiso bay and one that will long be remembered by the people of Chile, who came miles to see it.

Shipping in the harbor and the prominent buildings in the city were dressed for the occasion, as the day was a holiday in honor of the fleet. The roofs of buildings along the circular road skirting the bay front were

black with spectators. The enthusiasm of the Chileans was almost boundless and they cheered lustily as the battleship fleet swung around the reviewing ship, their sides lined with jackies in immaculate white and the bands playing patriotic airs. The noise of the cheering was lost, however, in that of the saluting guns from the fort and the fleet. Altogether 1,200 shots were fired.

After the fleet had passed to the northward a banquet was served on board of the General Baquedano by President Montt in honor of the diplomatic corps and his other guests.

NEWS OF NEBRASKA.

OMAHA DETECTIVE MURDERED

Slain by Negro, Who is Himself Shot by Officers, but Lives.

Omaha, Feb. 17.—Detective Simon S. Drummy of the Omaha police force was shot and almost instantly killed by a negro known as William Jones, an ex-convict, in a pool room at 267 N street, South Omaha. The bullet struck the officer directly between the eyes.

The negro was shot just below the left shoulder by Detective Shields of South Omaha as he attempted to flee from the pool room, after firing a shot at Detective Mike Sullivan of Omaha, who had accompanied Drummy to South Omaha. The negro dropped even as his hand was on the door.

Jones, the murderer, was recently discharged from the Nebraska state penitentiary. He was sent up from Omaha eight years ago for highway robbery. He confesses to shooting Officer Lahey through the hand Friday night when that policeman attempted to arrest him in Omaha. He also owns up to the dark robbery at Cornblith's pawnshop several nights ago, when two negroes held up Lou Cornblith with one of his revolvers and escaped with two valuable guns.

Omaha, Feb. 18.—William Jones, the slayer of Detective Drummy, was taken from the South Omaha hospital to the penitentiary at Lincoln. This move was made at the urgent request of the hospital authorities, who said that the fact that Jones was in the hospital had a bad effect on the other patients, who were much wrought up by the talk of lynching and feared that they might be injured if such an attempt was made. Jones was so much improved that it was thought he could stand the trip to Lincoln.

FARMER DROPS OUT OF SIGHT

Supposed to Have Lost Reason While Nursing Dying Father.

West Point, Neb., Feb. 17.—Frank Gaster, a middle-aged farmer living on the old Demary farm, midway between West Point and Beemer, has mysteriously disappeared. After supper on Wednesday he left home, ostensibly to call on his brother-in-law and neighbor, Max Gehrhardt. Failing to return Thursday, it was ascertained he had not been at Gehrhardt's the preceding night. Organized search is being made, but without result up to this time.

The aged father of Mr. Gaster died some weeks ago, and during his illness Frank stayed at his bedside constantly, depriving himself of needed rest and sleep. He almost broke down physically in his zeal for his father's comfort. It may be the burden has unsettled his mind and he has wandered away.

Hardware Dealers' Convention.

Lincoln, Feb. 17.—The Hardware Dealers' association will meet in Omaha next year. The association elected the following officers: President, Dan Kavanaugh of Fairbury; first vice president, Robert McAllister of Grand Island; second vice president, F. W. Arndt of Blair; third vice president, W. C. Klie of Hubbard; members of executive committee to fill vacancy, Alex Myer of Hastings, M. A. Hargelroad of Holstein; secretary, J. Frank Barr; treasurer, H. J. Hall of Lincoln.

Slayer of Chinaman Convicted.

Omaha, Feb. 17.—Willis Almack, nineteen years old, was found guilty of murder in the first degree. His punishment was fixed at life imprisonment. Almack and two companions, employees of Ham Pak, a Chinese restaurant keeper, killed and robbed their employer on the night of July 11, 1907. Basil Mullin, one of Almack's companions, is now serving a life term for complicity in the crime.

Hammond Gets Collectorship.

Washington, Feb. 17.—"I am glad the Nebraska delegation got together," said President Roosevelt to Senator Burkett and Representatives Norris and Boyd when they presented him with a signed statement of the delegation selecting Ross L. Hammond of Fremont for internal revenue collector for the district of Nebraska as successor to Elmer B. H. Stephenson.

Tyson Dies While Insane.

Blair, Neb., Feb. 17.—George W. Tyson, the young farmer living ten miles north of Blair, who was bitten by a mad dog a year ago, and who went insane through worrying over the trouble, died at the St. Bernard hospital at Council Bluffs.