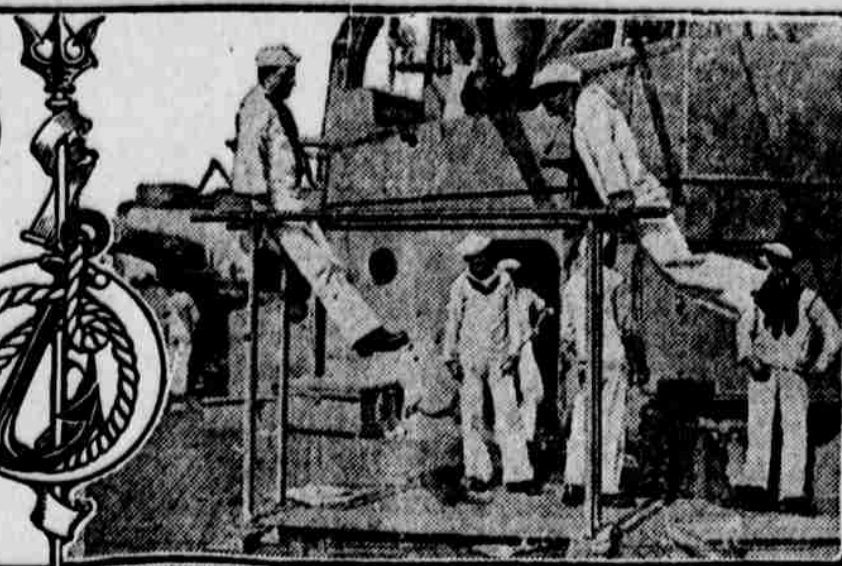


BLUEJACKETS ARE EXPERT ATHLETES



JACK at play is quite as characteristic a fellow as when back of a 12-inch gun sending a little pleasantry to a hostile foe. Not that he takes his pleasure seriously; quite the contrary, but he does put the same vim into it whether, in the memorable words of Fighting Bob Evans, "it's a frolic or a fight."
"Whatever he does," the fleet athletic officer, Lieut. S. C. Hooper, remarks in summing up the situation, "he does right."
It is this determination to be satisfied with nothing short of the best that makes the American sailor such a power to be reckoned with, whether afloat or ashore, at work or at play. In athletics alone the American sailor is an expert, though many are not aware of the fact, and a football team made up of jacksies is quite the equal in physique and prowess of the average college outfit. No nation in the world has developed athletics in the navy to the extent we have done, and so important does Uncle Sam consider the development of sports among the enlisted men that now every ship has its specially appointed athletic officer to direct recreational amusement; to encourage it there is no need.

In contests with sailors of other nations in foreign ports, whether on the China station, in the Philippines or elsewhere, the American sailor emerges triumphant. But Jack has to have the equipment to begin with. He must have the spiked shoes for baseball and the up-to-date outfit that goes with each sport, but given that he is then ready to bestow his whole attention on getting there, and that he succeeds beautifully every athletic officer aboard ship will convince you. With great pride they will tell you how the men under their command compare professionally with college athletes not only in football but in wrestling, rowing, boxing or any other sport.

So to further this specialty there is in the navy a regularly organized fleet athletic committee composed of five officers. Lieut. S. C. Hooper of the flagship Connecticut is at the head of it. This committee exercises a general oversight over all sports and arranges dates for regattas and sporting events. Outside the daily participation in sports, there are four distinct seasons when Jack is put on his mettle so far as athletics go. They are when the games are pulled off at Guantanamo, Newport, Bar Harbor and Boston, when the fleet is together. At such times interest ashore is quite as great as aboard ship.

If rooters for college games think themselves the acme of infectious enthusiasm it is because they haven't seen a navy contest. It takes a bunch of jacksies, effervescing with the excitement of an intership contest, to give the former cards and spades in emotional pyrotechnics, for the games are always vigorously contested, the various ship's crews being represented on the side lines, howling encouragement in their own peculiar fashion.

As a rule competition in the events is eliminative, the ships first contesting by divisions in championships playing each other for fleet championship.

For the last two years the Connecticut team has won the football trophy—a wooden football, gilded.

It is when the fleet is in southern waters for aerial target practice that baseball is particularly enjoyed.

"Then," says Lieutenant Hooper, "baseball parties are landed each day and the games are as hotly contested as those of the major leagues. The men are as rabid fans as those ashore and keep as sharp tabs on the official scores as any landsman. Each evening about 8 o'clock the scores of the various games in the National and American leagues are sent from the flagship by radio."

"When it comes to the boat races," says the chief athletic officer, "the sailor is naturally in his element and the races are highly spectacular. The course is usually between the line of ships and as the boats skim over the waters all the men 'man the rails' and cheer their favorite team to the echo."

For this competition the regular twelve-oared service cutter of the navy is used, that is, unless, as sometimes happens, the men of a special ship get together and buy one of their own. Such a craft is generally termed a "tailor-made" boat because of its superior style and finish. The Battenberg cup, presented by Prince Louis for the crew races, is most desired and all efforts are bent at winning it. A large number of other cups have at various times been put up for competition, among them one by August Belmont. Money prizes are sometimes offered, too, and a ship will sometimes win as much as \$5,000 in purses. One year the Indiana won that sum, and the Maine \$2,500 in a special event, a three-mile race, which was pulled off in 26 minutes. On the same occasion the marines on the Indiana won a purse of \$3,000 besides the Dutch challenge cup.

In Guantanamo also occurs the final bouts to determine the fleet championships in boxing. For this the men train as industriously as though they were really the "white hopes" of the professional class, and in spite of the fact that their



ingly done and the American sailors beat the Britishers at their own game.

One of the newest amusements provided for the sailors is the moving picture show, and this they enjoy hugely. The films are rented for the most part, though the navy recently bought a set which Mr. Edison took depicting the life of the sailor. This is very popular. How often exhibitions are given depends on the weather and where the ship happens to be. If in port where the men can get ashore, there is little need of special recreation. But if on a cruise or the weather is bad, then the "movies" are given two or three exhibitions a week. Apropos of this feature Capt. H. B. Wilson of the North Dakota is considering a plan to introduce the Kinemacolor pictures soon.

Another innovation which Captain Wilson is also responsible for, according to Paymaster Bowne, is the setting aside of one of the gun compartments on the ship as a reading and writing room for the sailors. Though small, it is a great boon to them, for now they can write comfortably at a desk instead of on their ditty boxes. Moreover, there are provided between thirty and forty magazines with two or three copies each of the daily papers, so the sailors, when at leisure, can pass the time reading if they so elect.

"The sailors like dancing," adds Paymaster Bowne, "and though they may not always take advantage of the band concerts given every noon and night, if a popular air like 'Great Big Beautiful Doll' or something that especially appeals strikes up, the impulse will move them to take a turn around the deck.

Personally Jack has a love of betting. Gambling amounts to a passion with him and at the big athletic events a considerable sum of money is apt to change hands. But Jack doesn't confine himself to big events, for as one sailor says, he bets at the drop of a hat.

He carries his propensity for wagering to the possible destination of the ship, whether he will have salt or fresh water in which to wash his hammock, and a thousand and one things beside. You see one of Jack's duties is to give his hammock a thorough scrubbing once a fortnight, and sometimes when the vaporizers that turn salt water into fresh fall to work he has to use salt water for the purpose.

Every minute of Jack's day has a corresponding occupation for him, and from reveille, when the bugle's "I can't get 'em up" penetrates to every part of the big battleship, until taps is sounded the sailor's life is a busy one. First of all Jack arises at 5:30. His first duty is to turn to and wash down decks and slick up things generally. Mess gear comes at 7:15, which interpreted means letting down the tables for breakfast. Then comes "pipe down" for mess. This is a long drawn note on the boat's whistle.

Mess lasts half an hour usually and then follows the call for colors, quarters, prayer and drill, and before he knows it Jack's morning is gone and it is a quarter to twelve, when dinner time has arrived.

"Stand by, scrub and wash clothes," is the next order from the boat's end, and this comes at ten minutes past one. This arduous duty over, there is drill until 4:30, when the boat's end calls "Pipe down clothes if dry," for meanwhile Jack's clothes are swinging on the line. Now the "smoking lamp" is lit and for a while Jack is lost in contemplation of the delicious weed.

"Lighting the smoking lamp" is one of the picturesque customs that have come down from the old navy and at this time the men are privileged to enjoy their pipes and cigars. In earlier years the smoking lamp, an ordinary copper affair, was brought up from below decks at stated intervals during the day, and it was the signal to "smoke up," but while in more recent years the actual operation has been abandoned the term remains



SETTING UP EXERCISES



SECRETARY MEYER THROWING BALL TO OTHER GAME AT ANNAPOLIS

GETS POWER PLANT

\$4,000,000 TO BE EXPENDED ON LOUP RIVER.

GOSSIP FROM STATE CAPITAL

Items of Interest Gathered from Reliable Sources and Presented in Condensed Form to Our Readers.

Under the decision of the state board of irrigation, Governor Aldrich dissenting, H. E. Babcock, backed by the interests of Doherty, the New York law magnate, can commence the construction of a \$4,000,000 power plant on the Loup river with the point of diversion at Genoa on the Loup river, and C. T. Boggs of Lincoln, backed by Mr. Moore of Detroit, can commence the work of construction of a \$4,000,000 power plant, with the point of diversion of water on the Loup river just above Columbus, and L. D. Richards of Fremont, backed by Kountze Bros., capitalists of Omaha and New York, can commence the building of a \$3,000,000 power plant at Fremont.

Nebraska School Figures.

It cost \$4 millions of dollars to run the schools of Nebraska during the year which ended on July 8, as disclosed by the computations made in the office of the state superintendent. Nearly 11,000 teachers were employed and the item of wages alone represented an outlay aggregating more than \$5,000,000. County superintendents received \$114,900 in salaries. There are upwards of 7,000 school districts in Nebraska, and 7,365 school buildings. The total value of all school property in the state is almost \$19,000,000. It is encumbered by bonded indebtedness in the amount of \$5,000,000 and by other indebtedness of \$600,000. The schools of the state last year accommodated an enrollment of over 284,000 pupils between the ages of 5 and 21.

Nebraska a Great Apple State.

Secretary C. G. Marshall of the State Horticultural society has completed a tabulation of the apple crop for 1912, the figures being secured from returns of county assessors and from reports made by the orchardists directly to the State Horticultural society. According to this report, the apple crop of Nebraska amounts to \$7,378,859, being almost twice as much as the potato crop, which is estimated at \$4,836,255. The apple crop is worth almost one million dollars more than the combined crops of spring wheat, barley, speltz and rye, and is exceeded in value only by corn, winter wheat, oats, hay and alfalfa.

This puts Nebraska fairly in the apple belt and entitles her orchard possibilities to recognition not only by the resident, but by the prospective investor.

Herd to Stay in State.

J. W. Gilbert of Friend will rely no more on the state of Nebraska to aid him in preserving some of the rare big game which once roamed the western plains and mountains. He has given his herds to the American Bison association, which in turn has provided that they shall be kept within the state of Nebraska. Thus Mr. Gilbert has not lost all of his; original plan that a game preserve should be maintained within the state.

May Send Patients to Beatrice.

To fit up three wards now vacant at the Beatrice institute for feeble-minded and use them for the reception of insane patients, who cannot be accommodated at the Lincoln state hospital is a project which the board of public properties may carry out. The plan will not be adopted, however, until the superintendents of the insane hospitals and the Beatrice institution have been interviewed as to its feasibility.

Paid \$10 Hunting License.

The state game warden's office has succeeded in collecting from E. E. Johnson of Des Moines, Ia., the sum of \$10 in payment for a non-resident hunting and fishing license for the current year. Johnson was in this state on a duck shooting expedition during October. He took out a resident's license, costing \$1.

Governor Located for Practice.

Governor Aldrich and his secretary, L. B. Fuller, who will practice law together in Lincoln, have engaged office rooms in a downtown building and will open up immediately after retiring from office the first week in January.

Dr. Thomas, principal of the Kearney normal school, will ask the legislature to appropriate a total of \$169,200 for the support of that institution for the next two years. Two years ago the legislature gave \$127,440.

Platinum Thief Arrested.

No doubt now remains that the man arrested in Baltimore and held for trial at Pottsville, Pa., on the charge of stealing valuable platinum vessels from a manufacturing plant at New Bethlehem, Pa., is the same person who obtained similar goods to the value of \$250 or more from the laboratory of the Nebraska state chemist three months ago. Pictures of the thief have been received by Chemist Redfern, who says positively that he is the man.

Whenever You Use Your Back

It's a sign of sick kidneys, especially if the kidney action is disordered. Too passages scanty or too frequent or off-color. Do not neglect any little kidney ail for the slight troubles run into Dropsy, Gravel, Stone or Bright's disease.

Use Doan's Kidney Pills. This good remedy cures bad kidneys.

A CHICAGO CASE.
T. H. Williams, 609 East Elm St., Chicago, Ill., says: "I had such severe pains through my kidneys I could not straighten up. My limbs became so numb I could hardly walk. I used many remedies but found no benefit until I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills. They cured me completely and I have had no trouble since."

Get Doan's at Any Drug Store, 50c a Box. **DOAN'S KIDNEY PILLS** FOSTER-MILBURN CO., Buffalo, New York

Some people fail to win because others do not lose.

YOU CAN CURE CATARRH

By using Cole's Cathartic, it is a most effective remedy. All druggists, 25 and 50c. Adv.

It is difficult for a woman to enact the dual role of soul mate and help mate.

Constipation causes and seriously aggravates many diseases. It is thoroughly cured by Dr. Pierce's Pellets. Tlay sugar-coated granules. Adv.

The Reason.

"Mine is a sunny lot," he moaned. He moaned about it because his lot was so sunny he couldn't sell it.

Her Ideal.

"What is your idea of an ideal husband, Mrs. Muchwed?" "One who will begin paying you all money without waiting for the judge to name the amount."

Creditors.

"Bliggins says he owes everything to his wife." "That isn't true," replied Bliggins' father-in-law. "His wife quit lending him anything years ago and then he started in owing me."—Washington Star.

Old Landmark Gone.

The Blaine schoolhouse in Mars Hill up on the hill, the one James G. Blaine honored years ago by giving a bell, which still hangs in the belfry, is no more. It has been converted into a storeroom and moved to another site. A good many bright boys and girls, now old men and women, graduated from this historical building, and no doubt there is a feeling of sorrow as the old schoolhouse leaves the foundation, it was built upon years and years ago.—Kennebec (Me.) Journal.

They Presented Arms.

Two very charming young ladies were chatting in a trolley the other evening.

"So you've been down to the camp?" said one. "Yes; and it's splendid down there." "Did the soldiers have their arms with them?" "Of course they did. You don't suppose they would leave them at home, do you?" "I shouldn't like to be there when they were firing. I hate firing." "Why, silly, they don't fire." "Don't they? What do they do with their arms, then?" "Why, they put them round you, of course, and it's ever so nice."

A DOCTOR'S SLEEP

Found He Had to Leave Off Coffee.

Many persons do not realize that a bad stomach will cause insomnia. Coffee and tea drinking being such an ancient and respectable form of habit, few realize that the drug—caffeine—contained in coffee and tea, is one of the principal causes of dyspepsia and nervous troubles.

Without their usual portion of coffee or tea, the caffeine tapers are nervous, irritable and fretful. That's the way with a whisky drinker. He has got to have his dram "to settle his nerves"—habit.

To leave off coffee or tea is an easy matter if you want to try it, because Postum gives a gentle but natural support to the nerves and does not contain any drug—nothing but food.

Physicians know this to be true, as one from Ga. writes: "I have cured myself of a long-standing case of Nervous Dyspepsia by leaving off coffee and using Postum," says the doctor.

"I also enjoy refreshing sleep, to which I've been an utter stranger for 20 years.

"In treating dyspepsia in its various types, I find little trouble when I can induce patients to quit coffee and adopt Postum."

The Dr. is right and "there's a reason." Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pkgs.

Postum now comes in concentrated, powder form called Instant Postum. It is prepared by stirring a level teaspoonful in a cup of hot water, adding sugar to taste, and enough cream to bring the color to golden brown.

Instant Postum is convenient; there's no waste; and the flavor is always uniform. Sold by grocers—50-cup tin 30 cts., 100-cup tin 50 cts. A 5-cup trial tin mailed for grocer's name and 2-cent stamp for postage. Postum Cereal Co., Ltd., Battle Creek, Mich.—Adv.