

GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS

The Famous Siege of Charleston Mimicked by the New Navy.

WAR ON THE BLOCKADE RUNNERS

Stirring Scenes of the Great Naval Attack Graphically Described by a Participant—Admiral Erben's Recollections.

Rear Admiral Bunce is under orders to take his whole fleet south and to "go through the motions" of blockading the harbor of Charleston, S. C. Whatever may be the purpose and result of the operations now undertaken in these waters, the show of the chief port of the Palmetto state on the scene of the mimic blockade naturally recalls the time when the guns of Sumter and Moultrie were turned upon a fleet of real blockade runners and armored ships hostile to the garrisons of those forts.

Admiral Erben writes as follows: "The announcement that the North Atlantic fleet will go very soon to Charleston, S. C., for practical operations in attacking and defending that city has been a great stirring times and anxious days and nights from 1863 to 1865, the time of the siege of that port. Surely no better object lesson could be given the fleet than Charleston. Rear Admiral Bunce, the commander in chief, was, during the siege, a most active and energetic officer, being both lieutenant and commander of the fleet, and he is fortunate that an active participant should be in command of this fleet of instruction.

All through 1864 and 1865 Charleston had been the favorite blockade running port, being only 350 miles from Nassau, about 200 from Bermuda, and but little more from the coast of Cuba, the points of departure of blockade runners. The harbor, being wide at its mouth, with several channels leading to the city, gave these daring navigators, with their bit-or-miss cargo, a better chance than at any other port.

In spite of the very vigilant blockading fleet great numbers of vessels ran in and out. The only way to break this up was to capture the place itself. To this end the government had constructed a number of ironclad monitors of sufficiently light draught to cross the bar. During the winter of 1862-63 these vessels were completed and rendezvoused at Port Royal, S. C., where the expedition against Charleston was made ready. The monitor fleet consisted of the Weehawken, Captain John Rodgers; the Passaic, Captain Percival Drayton; the Montauk, Captain John L. Worden; the Nahant, Commander John Downes; the Nanuet, Commander D. M. Fairfax; the Catskill, Commander George W. Rodgers; and the Patuxent, Commander Daniel Ammen, of which I was lieutenant commander and executive officer.

These vessels carried mostly 15-inch guns each with a complement of 150 souls. Some crews were spent drilling the men at the guns, handling the heavy ammunition and handling the vessel themselves, as they were most efficient and experienced seamen to steer. Extra plates were bolted over the shell rooms and magazines, spare masts ready to be raised, and with hook ropes to catch torpedoes in fact, everything was done that ingenuity could suggest to make these vessels as invulnerable as possible.

The fleet left Port Royal for Charleston, S. C., crossing the bar on April 6, 1863. Off the bar the fleet was joined by the ironclad frigate New Ironsides, Captain Thomas Turner. She was a most formidable vessel, carrying a heavy battery of fourteen 11-inch guns and two heavy 24-inch howitzers, sixteen feet at the time. She became the flag ship of Rear Admiral Samuel F. DuRoi, commander in chief. Captain C. R. Rogers was his first captain.

The final making ready for battle occupied the rest of the day. The vessels were stripped of all unnecessary baggage, including, only one small boat being retained by each vessel. The finishing touch, and the last thing done, was to cover the decks, turrets and pilot houses with a thick coating of tallow for the purpose of glancing the shot, barrels of this having been furnished each vessel. Such a coating was never seen before on a man-of-war, and it is a question if it was of any use.

There were sent down from the north a number of heavy rafts, built of pine and heavily bolted together, about fifty feet long by twenty feet wide and two feet thick, fitted so as to look like the bows of the monitors (the men called them "torpedo rafts") and a number of hook ropes underneath, to catch any torpedoes coming in the way. These were to be lashed to the bows by chains. Only one vessel, the Weehawken, was ordered in action, as they caused bad or worse steering. The order of battle was line ahead, the monitors leading, the flag ship, the New Ironsides being in the middle and the Keokuk in the rear.

At half-past 12 the signal was made to get under way, any one of the hook ropes being cut and the rafts were towed in. It was soon found that the rafts impeded the speed of the Weehawken and that degree that Captain Rodgers cut it and it floated toward the shore of Morris Island. It did some little service, however, as the Confederates, taking it for some Yankee rafts, opened fire upon it for a time, thus taking a few guns off the fleet.

Closely the fleet proceeded, as it was most difficult to handle the vessels among these narrow passages, with strong, uncertain currents, with no leadsmen to give the soundings, with no compass to guide. The only thing we had to depend upon was the judgment of the commanding officers. It was impossible for the monitors to see anything ahead at times, as a range, for the smoke became so dense. The Weehawken came up with the flag ship, and the range flags from Fort Sumter and other forts. The garrison had been trained at battery firing upon this point. The minute the Weehawken reached this spot all the guns of the harbor that could be brought to bear upon her were fired.

Captain Rodgers states that fully 100 guns were fired at that moment. The noise from the discharge was terrific, as this was the first time that guns of such great caliber had been used in battle. The Weehawken and Passaic, the leading vessels, received this fire, and each was badly damaged. Torpedoes were around in almost every direction, one exploding under the overhang of the Weehawken, lifting the vessel a little, but doing no very great damage. Each commanding officer of a monitor opened fire when he considered himself in easy range, and soon the battle was general.

Obstruction were made out ahead. These were reefs of piles driven into the mud, raft booms and ropes to catch the screws of the monitors. These were floated by cables, which in turn were roped together. The obstructions caused the leading vessels to stop, thus bringing the other vessels together. SEVERELY POUNDED. The Patuxent was steaming slowly ahead when she brought up for a few moments upon something. The engines were reversed and she backed out during the time she was severely pounded. The bolts were broken, the heads of which went flying in every direction, injuring people and on one vessel killing the quartermaster at the wheel and wounding the pilot badly.

A mammoth electric torpedo, made of a steam boiler, eighteen feet long, three feet in diameter, filled with 2,000 pounds of powder, was planted in the main ship channel, near Fort Sumter. It was connected with the battery on shore at Fort Wagner, by an electric wire. There was a road along

WONDER OF THE CASCADES

Geologic Romance of Crater Lake, the Highest in the World.

AN IMPOSING BODY OF COLD WATER

A Scene of Noble Beauty, Ranking with America's Grandest Natural Wonders—Its Terrifying Birth.

Here in America ages ago the bottom dropped out of a volcanic mountain thousands of feet high and there has formed in the hole the most marvelous body of water on the western hemisphere. It is called Crater Lake. This lake is not the largest, but it is by far the most picturesque crater lake in the world, and it does possess the exclusive honor of being the largest big body of water at a great elevation. It lies on the altitudinous crest of the Cascade mountain range in southern Oregon, 6,230 feet above the level of the sea, surrounded by ragged, snow-capped mountain peaks and extinct volcanic cones, whose craters in "recent" geologic time, but many ages past as marked by man's life, belched forth fire and ashes and molten lava until a thousand square miles or more reared in one vast holocaust.

It was during the worst of this terrible period of seismic and volcanic activity, says the New York Herald, that the giant volcanoes built their towering craters, reaching heights like Mount Shasta, for example, 14,000 feet or more. They poured forth their summits devastating floods of liquid fire, which completely filled the river gorges, the deep and narrow canyons, the valleys and even the broad plains. The viscid grip with almost impenetrable lavas. Later ashes and cinders and boulders were hurled by the wind over the adjacent region, building wide, flat, and level of which protrude only the high mountains and the more profound freaks of nature, the volcanic cones.

Prof. J. S. Diller of the United States Geological survey is the authority on Crater Lake. He says that the relation of the scientific relation of the mighty catastrophe of nature, which has followed each other in rapid succession in this section, would thrill any man as much as human history. It is not on a scale so stupendous that they are almost beyond the measures of human appreciation.

MAJESTIC BREAK OF NATURE. Prof. Diller believes that Crater lake, as one of the most majestic topographic features of the earth, ranks well forward with the Grand Canyon, the Yosemite valley and Niagara falls, and he has already made an appeal, in a lecture to the people of Oregon, urging them to secure legislation to set aside a park in this country, including Crater lake, as a national park.

During the last summer this scientist accompanied the Mazamas society, a club of scientists and mountaineers in Portland, Ore., to Crater lake with a view of making a exhaustive survey of the various scientific problems involved as possible, and also to give, with befitting ceremonies, a name to this yet unchristened crater mountain.

The expedition was a most interesting and popular and scientific results. Conceive, if you can, a nearly circular body of water, with a diameter of about a mile, surrounded by a serrated and many-colored precipice forming a continuous ring, without a single outlet, and rising practically sheer from the water's edge. The walls, as much as five times that height in places; and then to this view add the superb background of lofty Mount Hood, with its glass-veined cones and snow-capped peaks, and the volcanic grandeur of the region; Mount Hood and an army of smaller outlying craters, and you have the first grand picture of Crater lake. It is a scene of painting never to be forgotten.

There are many startling details pertaining to this lake. For one thing, it is intensely blue, exceedingly transparent, and at points quite 2,000 feet in depth—deeper than any known body of fresh water in America. It is a fact that the water level, though it is conjectured that there must be some subterranean passageway for an outflow of water, for the calculated annual rain and snow-melting water exceeds considerably the evaporation from its surface. If this is not so, the lake must be a very recent one, for it is so fresh and potable, and not briny and bitter from concentration, like other enclosed lakes.

MYSTERY OF ITS MAKING. During the hot dry spell of summer the water quite rapidly sinks, the records showing as much as five or six inches in a week. In the long autumn months, however, high altitudes the almost ceaseless falling of snow and sleet and rain causes the waters to rise and submerge the few tiny beaches forming the shore. So fierce, indeed, are these blinding storms driven from the northwest that the snow accumulates in huge drifts hundreds of feet deep along the banks and without steam craters, not even completely disappearing during the short but intensely hot summers. The water supply is that the geologic structure makes it practically impossible for spring-springs outside of the crater rim to furnish any portion of the water, for the water, as it rose and flowed over the lip of the crater caused all the strata to incline away from the central cone. Five thousand feet through fissures from the surface and outside the rim does not find its way into the central pit.

The waters of the lake are most bewitching, and along some of the shallower margins, where small secondary craters have built themselves from the bottom, pebbles may be seen resting on the floor, covered by a hundred feet of azure blue water, and when the sunbeams strike the water, a rainbow light is reflected back from the reddish earth beneath, producing the most marvelous and fascinating variety of colors ranging from deep black blues and rich turquoises to pale blues blended with suggestions of delicate terra cotta upon the shore lines.

One agrees with Prof. Diller in his remark that "although there are thousands of craters in this country there is but one great pit, and that is Crater lake." There has at some time within the last half dozen centuries been a weak and sporadic attempt at volcanic activity within this huge dismantled crater, but no real building up from the bottom two or three small cinder cones, only one of which projects above the present level.

This little cinder cone of beautifully symmetrical proportions, a few hundred feet in height, with a crater rim of the same height, has a volcanic history which has been very appropriately named Wizard's island. What a horrible, boiling caldron must this tiny body of water have been if the little craters were built up through it! Indeed, Wizard's island would be a tame appellation if such an event really occurred. It must have been a phase of nature's most fearful workings such as might have offered suggestion to the horrible tales of Dante himself. Scientists, however, have not yet definitely determined whether or not these auxiliary craters were built before or after the eruption of the main crater.

SCIENTIFIC SPECULATION. The most sensational feature of the geologic history of this lake—its original formation—has been recently discussed. Here was once a volcanic mountain, whose crest probably rose about 15,000 feet above the sea, and whose interior was a seething, molten mass of lava, which from time to time, with fearful explosions, inundated the surrounding region. On some one day in the past it suddenly disappeared. Five thousand feet of its conical summit either went up in the air in the most tremendous pyrotechnic display ever known, or occurred on this continent, or else, with less terrific activity, it toppled inward and sank into the bowels of the earth—how or where? Treatment at home as well as your money. We guarantee to cure you. If you fail to cure, we will refund your money. Write us for our FREE LITERATURE. We are located at 1220 North 10th Street, Omaha, Neb. State Medical Co., Omaha, Neb.

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Stockholders' Meeting. Notice is hereby given that the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the South Platte Land company will be held at the office of the company in Lincoln, Neb., at 10:30 o'clock a. m., on the first Monday in March, 1897, being the third day of the month.

RAILWAY TIME CARD. LEAVES BURLINGTON, ILL. & MAISON STS., OMAHA. Omaha Union Depot, 10th & Mason Sts., Omaha. 6:30 a. m. Denver Express. 7:30 a. m. 10:30 a. m. Hills, Mont. & Puget Sound Ex. 1:30 p. m. Lincoln Local (ex. Sunday). 2:30 p. m. Lincoln Local (ex. Sunday). 11:30 a. m.

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DR. MCGREW'S SPECIALIST PRIVATE DISEASES. Weakness & Disorder of the Urinary System. Cured by the use of DR. MCGREW'S SPECIALIST PRIVATE DISEASES. It is a powerful tonic and restorative, and will cure all cases of weakness and disorder of the urinary system.

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The news of The Sunday Bee makes the same kind of comparison —

Table with columns for date (January 25th to 31st) and Total inches printed. Rows include The Sunday Bee, Sunday World-Herald, Sunday Lincoln Journal, and Sunday Sioux City Journal.

Here also —

Table with columns for date (January 25th to 31st) and Total inches printed. Rows include The Bee printed 35 columns more than the World-Herald, The Bee printed 50 columns more than the Lincoln Journal, and The Bee printed 27 columns more than the Sioux City Journal.

Take any day's papers and measure for yourself. This is a lesson on News Service—pure reading matter—for the week ending January 31, 1897.

If you want to read it all READ THE BEE.

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