The Fist of the Nation

Our Fleet a Homogeneous Unit Prepared for Any Command

Frederick Palmer in Collins'

America's most important weapon, the Navy, is the last to have been considered in the preparation for war. Until recently it was our practice to employ the fleet as an auxiliary to the Army. The policy in recent years has been to prepare the fleet as a fighting force and to do so efficiently. The first step in this direction was the building of a fleet of modern steamers. The second was the establishment of a system of gunnery schools. The third was the organization of a fleet of gunboats. The fourth was the building of a fleet of armored cruisers. The fifth was the building of a fleet of battleships. The sixth was the building of a fleet of destroyers.

The development of this fleet has been rapid, and it is now the most powerful in the world. It is equipped with the latest Navy officers and men, and it has been trained in the latest Navy schools. It is now ready for action, and it will go into action with a will.

In the face of the growing power of the fleet, the Army must be prepared to meet the situation. It must be prepared to fight a war, and it must be prepared to do so efficiently.

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