

MR. ROOSEVELT'S TRIP
TO COVER TWO YEARSONE IN AFRICA, OTHER
IN EUROPE.Details of His Plans and Itinerary
for Hunting Expedition—To
Lecture Abroad.

The trip abroad which Theodore Roosevelt will begin soon after his retirement as the twenty-sixth President of the United States on March 4 next will occupy two years. During this time he will combine the rest and recreation won by more than twenty-five years of public service. As a faunal naturalist he will spend a year in Africa at the head of a scientific expedition fitted out by the Smithsonian Institution, and in which he will be accompanied by his son Kermit and three American naturalists, Major Edgar A. Mearns, J. Loring Allen and Edmund Heller. This expedition will make a collection of mammals, birds, reptiles, insects and botanical specimens of Central Africa, which will be deposited in the United States National Museum, at Washington. Mr. Roosevelt will spend the other year in visiting at least three of the big foreign capitals.

The party leaves New York City about the middle of March, going by the Mediterranean route to Gibraltar and Naples. At Naples the members of the expedition will board a steamer, of the German East African Line for Kilmindini Harbor, Mombasa Island. They will arrive at the East African port toward the end of April, proceed by the Uganda Railway to Nairobi, spend six months there, then continue by rail to Port Florence, Lake Victoria Nyanza, making a total distance of 684 miles by rail. The expedition will cross Uganda by caravan, and finally pass down the whole length of the Nile, reaching Khartoum about April, 1910. Much of the hunting and specimen collecting will be done in British East Africa, where the Uganda Railway will be used as a means of ready transportation from Nairobi, which will be the base of supplies.

WILL STAY A YEAR IN EUROPE.

At Khartoum it is expected the President and his son will be joined by Mrs. Roosevelt, who will accompany them on their trip to Europe. The naturalists of the party will proceed directly to the United States from Egypt. Mr. Roosevelt probably will remain in Continental Europe and Great Britain about one year, having accepted invitations to deliver the Romanes lecture at Oxford University, an address at the Sorbonne in Paris and a lecture before the students of the University of Berlin.

It has long been the desire of Mr. Roosevelt to make a hunting tour into the heart of Africa. He has made numerous trips in search of big game in every part of the United States where such animals make their abode. For years he has been an ardent hunter and a writer of hunting stories. Some of his books on the subject are "Hunting Trips of a Ranchman," written from his experiences while on a North Dakota ranch, where he spent two years raising cattle; "Ranch Life and Hunting Trails," "The Wilderness Hunter," "The Deer Family," and "Outdoor Pastimes of an American Hunter." In the latter volume he refers to the sport in these words:

"From the days of Nimrod to our own times have been mighty hunters before the Lord, and most warlike and masterful races have taken time to the chase, as chief among those rough pastimes which appeal naturally to men with plenty of red blood in their veins."

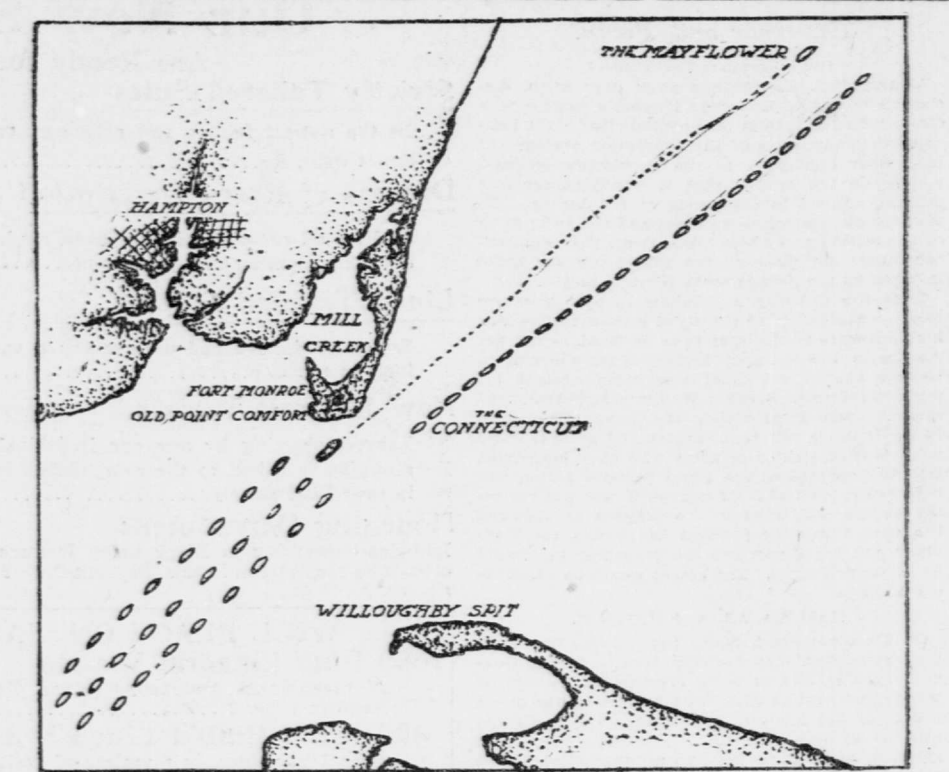
One might think Mr. Roosevelt desires to emulate the earlier among the great conquering kings of Egypt and Assyria, who, he says, hunted the elephant and the wild bull, as well as the lions, with which the country swarmed; and Tigris-Pileser I, who was overlord of Phoenicia, embarked on the Mediterranean and there killed a "sea monster," presumably a whale—a feat which, Mr. Roosevelt declares, "has been paralleled by no sport loving sovereign of modern times save by that stout hunter, the German Kaiser; although, I believe, the present English King, like several members of his family, had slain both elephants and tigers before he came to the throne."

THE HUNTER'S PARADISE.

Speaking of the great hunting grounds of the world, Mr. Roosevelt says that there remain only three in the present century. South Africa is the true hunter's paradise, in his opinion. If the happy hunting grounds are to be found anywhere in this world, he says, they lie between the Orange and the Zambesi, and extend northward here and there to the Nile countries and Somaliland. Nowhere else are there such multitudes of game, representing so many and such widely different kinds of animals of each size, such beauty and such infinite variety. "We should have to go back to the fauna of Pleistocene to find its equal." It is to this section of the world that he is now bound.

Having been in public life almost continually since he was graduated from Harvard University in 1880—serving the people in the capacity of Assemblyman in New York State, Civil Service Commissioner of the United States, president of the Police Board in New York City, Assistant Secretary of the Navy of the United States, colonel of the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry in the Spanish War, Governor of the United States, and finally as President of the nation, the highest gift of the people of the United States, Roosevelt feels that he has earned the right to put in a portion of his time in the sport which most appeals to him. He proposes to spend two years away from the United States for two reasons. Rest and recreation in hunting and scientific research are only the minor ones. He intends to put himself beyond the reach of those persons who, he believes, would inevitably seek, if he were within reach, to use his influence with the administration of President William H. Taft. Mr. Roosevelt is, of course, aware of the manner in which the charge has been circulated that Mr. Taft would be only a Roosevelt man as President, and whatever Mr. Taft, as President, might do, it would be ascribed to Mr. Roosevelt's influence. It is because of this situation that Mr. Roosevelt decided to take himself out of the country, where it would be impossible for any one to repeat any such charge against President Taft. Mr. Roosevelt has well selected a place where his seclusion in this respect is secure, for hardly could a more inaccessible locality be found. In this connection Mr. Roosevelt some months before the Republican National Convention had nominated Mr. Taft to the Presidency made a statement in which he said: "If Mr. Taft is nominated and elected President, which would be very gratifying, it would make impossible any criticism, if I were abroad, to the effect that I was dictating to him and being

Continued on fourth page.



MAP SHOWING HAMPTON ROADS, THE POSITION OF THE MAYFLOWER, FROM WHICH THE PRESIDENT WILL REVIEW THE FLEET, THE STEAMING COURSE OF THE BATTLESHIPS AND THEIR ANCHORAGES AFTER THE REVIEW.

SECRET SERVICE REPLY

THE PRESIDENT ANSWERS
HEMENWAY REPORT.In Letter to Senator Hale Mr.
Roosevelt Calls It Inaccurate
and Misleading.

Washington, Feb. 21.—President Roosevelt today added another stirring chapter to the Secret Service controversy, in a vigorous and long reply to the attacks made on this branch of the government in a report made recently by Senator Hemenway, of the Senate Committee on Appropriations. Senator Hemenway, in this report upholding the limitation in the scope of the Secret Service, asserted that it never had been the intention of Congress to build up a "spy" system, and with evident reference to this part of the report the President declared that if the limitation of the use of the Secret Service had been in force when the sensational land frauds occurred a few years ago, a Senator, a Representative and various men of wealth and high political influence, who at that time were convicted, would all have escaped punishment. The President's letter is addressed to Acting Chairman Hale of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Characterizing as "inaccurate and misleading" in various important respects both Senator Hemenway's report and the debate which it aroused in the Senate, the President presented a mass of facts and figures in defense of the Secret Service during the seven years of his administration. Some of the President's data are based on information supplied by Attorney General Bonaparte and Secretary of the Interior Garfield, in support of the efficiency of the Secret Service in the detection of crime.

The text of the President's letter to Mr. Hale is as follows:

I have seen the report presented by Senator Hemenway on behalf of your committee in reference to the Secret Service matter. The report is inaccurate and misleading in various important respects, and I desire to make certain corrections in reference to statements which appear therein and in the subsequent debate. Until last year the Secret Service, a small body of sixty or seventy men in the Treasury Department under Chief Wilkie, was practically the only body of public servants engaged almost purely in criminal investigation. The Secret Service men were assigned at different times to different departments to investigate crimes and criminals. They were thus assigned to different departments for instance, to the State and Navy departments, but above all to the Interior Department and the Department of Justice. During the seven years of my administration they were instrumental in bringing to justice great numbers of criminals. I append herewith the occasions on which they were furnished by the request of the Attorney General to the Department of Justice during the years 1907 and the first six months of 1908.

They rendered invaluable assistance in securing the conviction of many criminals and in the complete failure to detect and thereby not only wealth and of social and political prominence. In not one single instance during these seven years has it been shown that their action jeopardized the country. I desire to put on record my emphatic belief that the Secret Service under Chief Wilkie has been composed of men of an exceptionally high grade of character and capacity who have rendered exceptional service to the public, and that Chief Wilkie himself, in a very trying and responsible position, has shown qualities of the highest kind, and has been one of the mainstays of the government. No other man in the government employ is so dreaded and hated by lawbreakers, and they especially desire to see his activities hampered, as those of the men who have been restricted in every way.

Congress last year forbade by law the use of the Secret Service men to put a stop to crime aside from counterfeiting, and thereby not only hampered justice in other departments but deprived the Secretary of the Treasury, the official guardian of a billion and a half of the nation's actual money, of the power effectively to execute his duties. Moreover, the Congress provided no substitute whatever for the Secret Service. In consequence the Department of Justice was obliged to develop as speedily as possible its own corps of special detectives to take the place of the Secret Service agents which it had previously used, and the nucleus of this force was made up of officers formerly connected with the Secret Service and trained in its methods. I call your especial attention to the fact that if the Department of Justice had not taken this action, there would have been a complete failure to enforce the law against many types of criminals; and as it was, in the early months of the present fiscal year, during the Morse prosecution in New York, and in connection with the greatest miscarriage of justice had it not been in large part nullified by the prompt action of the Department of Justice, on its own initiative and without any further legislation of any kind by the Congress, in providing a species of secret service within the Department of Justice itself.

ATTACKS ON THE SYSTEM.

Your committee in its report states that it has never been the intention of the Congress to build up a "spy" system. The next sentence, however, advocates the building up of precisely

Continued on second page.

POLICE CAPTAIN KILLED.

Olean Officer Fatally Wounds Bur-
glar—Patrolmen Knocked Down.

Olean, N. Y., Feb. 21.—In a hand-to-hand pistol duel with Nelson Dessler, of Berlin, Ontario, whom he caught in the act of robbing the office of the Droney Lumber Company in the Masonic Temple to-day, Police Captain Timothy Hassett was shot four times. He escaped, but was caught this afternoon in a room at the Olean House, where he registered yesterday from Pittsburg. He is fatally wounded.

A night operator in the telephone exchange, which is in the Masonic building, heard some one in the lumber company's office early to-day and informed police headquarters. Captain Hassett responded. As he entered the door of the inner office Dessler stepped from behind a door and grappled with him. Both men went to the floor, where they struggled for fully five minutes. Dessler was first in getting his revolver in action, but his first shot went wild. Captain Hassett stepped back and fired rapidly, three shots taking effect. Dessler's second shot placed the officer's brain, and he fell dead. Dashing out into the hallway, Dessler was met by Patrolmen Vollmer and Moses, who had been summoned by the telephone operator. Vollmer fired once, wounding Dessler in the leg. Dessler, using the butt end of his revolver, knocked down both policemen, but was found in the hotel. He has two bullet wounds in the abdomen, one in the leg and a fourth in the hand. He was removed to a hospital, where it was said he could not live.

Berlin, Ont., Feb. 21.—Nelson Dessler was convicted of burglary here in 1903 and sentenced to a five-year term in Kingston Penitentiary. He served a little over a year, being released on parole on a petition largely signed.

THINK BOY BLACKMAILER.

Police Arrest Youth in Van Cort-
landt Park After Setting Trap.

Several alleged Black Hand letters have been received lately by George Cohn, the wealthy treasurer of the Yvette Hair Goods Company, whose residence is 200th street and Marlon avenue, threatening to kidnap and mutilate his nine-year-old son, Irwin, unless he placed \$200 under a stone in Van Cortlandt Park.

Cohn and his brother deposited a package of counterfeit bills under the stone at 10 o'clock yesterday morning and drove off in their automobile. Detectives who had secreted themselves in a shanty close by lay in wait until 5 p. m., when a young man came up on a bicycle, took the package from under the stone and rode away.

The officers gave chase, firing their revolvers to frighten the youth into surrender. He fell from his wheel and was taken after a vicious fight. He said his name was Paul Weston, that he lived at No. 232 East 101st street and that he was not yet sixteen years old. He denied his guilt and was turned over to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. He will be arraigned this morning on a charge of extortion.

ARREST MCCABEN MAN.

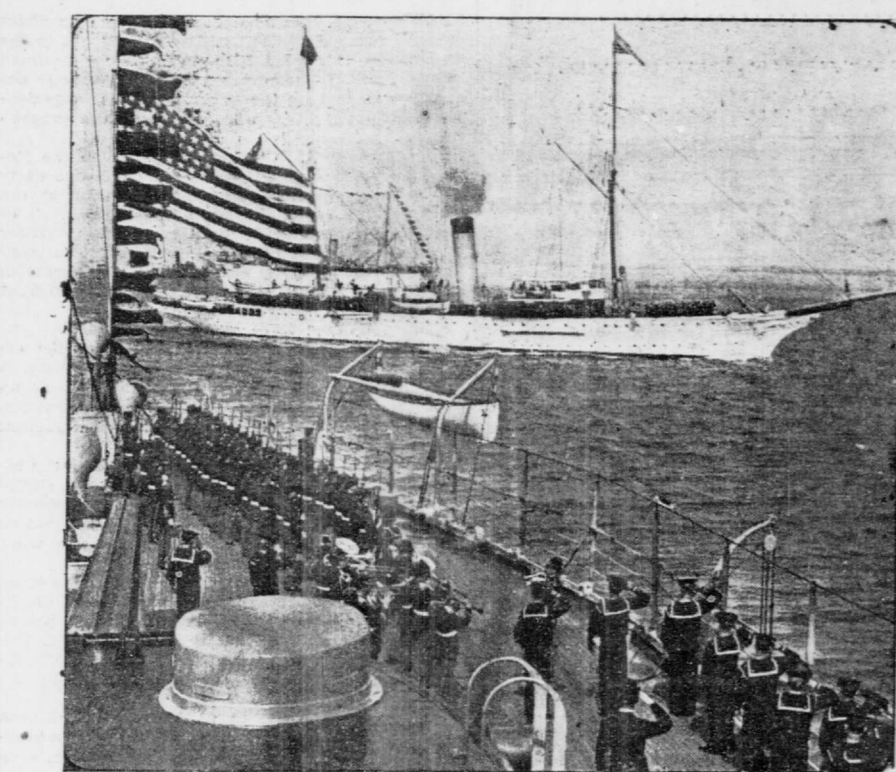
Police Charge Martin J. Conly's
Bartender with Excise Violation.

The police yesterday arrested the bartender of Martin J. Conly on a charge of violating the excise law. Mr. Conly is the McCabren leader of the 2d Assembly District. The anti-McCabren leader, John J. Bridges, is the executive member, but Mr. Conly gets the patronage. Mr. Conly's saloon is at Pearl and Sands streets, Brooklyn. The 2d Assembly District is the one from which Alderman George J. Colgan comes. About twenty arrests were made in the district yesterday.

Concerning them Alderman Colgan said: "This is an exhibition of the methods of a Commissioner of Police who might and ought to close every saloon in the city or else close none. Because I told this to the Commissioner last Friday he now resorts to a petty persecution of saloonkeepers in my district. This shows the calibre of the man who declares himself the only honest official in the city government. These arrests were made out of spite by a man too small to discuss methods calmly. I am not through with him yet. Not a saloonkeeper in town were compelled to obey the law alike."

Inspector O'Reilly and Lieutenant Fleming, of his staff, transferred from a Williamsburg Bridge car at Havemeyer street and Broadway, Williamsburg, at 4 o'clock yesterday morning, and the borough inspector glanced over the window screen of Gauley's saloon at the corner. Then he entered the side door, found liquor being sold and arrested John Hedges, the bartender. He brought his prisoner before Magistrate Furlong, who held Hedges in \$500 bail for examination on Tuesday.

Detectives from the Clymer street station later in the day arrested John Gunter, the president of the Liquor Dealers' Association, of whom it has often been said, "He'll never be arrested." Gunter was charged with selling drinks in his place at No. 433 Bedford avenue, and was held for examination.



THE MAYFLOWER PASSING THROUGH THE FLEET, DECEMBER, 1907. Similar scenes will be enacted to-day, when the President reviews the battleships after their 42,000-mile cruise. (Copyright, 1907, by Underwood & Underwood.)

S. D. ROBINSON KILLED

NEPHEW OF PRESIDENT
FALLS FROM WINDOW.Body Found by Policeman Near
Hampden Hall, a Harvard Dor-
mitory—Youth Had Been Ill.

Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 21.—Stewart Douglas Robinson, nineteen years old, a son of Douglas Robinson, of No. 422 Madison avenue, New York, a nephew of President Roosevelt and a sophomore of Harvard College, fell from the sixth story window of Hampden Hall, a dormitory in Plympton street, to-day and was killed. The body was found by a policeman at 5:30 a. m. and was removed to the Cambridge Morgue. Medical Examiner W. B. Swan said that death was accidental. The body was still warm.

Stewart Robinson had attended a banquet of the "A. D." Club on Saturday night, and it was after midnight when he went to Hampden Hall, which is one of the finest private dormitories in Cambridge and almost directly opposite the clubhouse.

Mr. Robinson had complained of not feeling well, and when the banquet was over went to the apartments of his brother, Monroe Douglas Robinson, in Hampden Hall, instead of going to his own rooms in Mount Auburn street. Monroe Robinson, who is a senior at Harvard, was not in his apartment, but Stewart Robinson had the freedom of the room, and the party of friends accompanied him there.

It is understood that soon after their arrival Stewart Robinson stumbled and fell in crossing the room and struck heavily on his forehead, receiving a painful injury. His friends said that they then put him in his brother's bed, and, after raising the window of the bedroom a few inches in response to his request for more air, went away a short time after, leaving him apparently asleep. That was the last they heard of Mr. Robinson until they were told that his body had been found on the sidewalk this morning.

It is believed that after his friends left him, Stewart, feeling ill, got out of the bed and walked toward the window to open it wider. It is thought that as he leaned over the sill he became dizzy and, losing his balance, fell out of the window, which is about four feet from the floor, to the pavement, five stories below.

The young man's parents were at once informed, and arrived to-night. Stewart Robinson was a member of the sophomore class at Harvard and roomed at No. 46 Mount Auburn street. He was a substitute goal on the varsity hockey team. His brother was a substitute tackle on the varsity football team last fall. The young man's mother is President Roosevelt's sister.

Stewart Robinson was well known among his classmates and was prominent in the social life of the university. He was a member of the Sphinx, "A. D." Club, Hasty Pudding, Institute of 1770 and the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. An examination of the body showed that the skull was badly fractured and that both hips were broken.

Boston, Feb. 21.—Douglas Robinson, of New York City, arrived in Boston to-day and took charge of the body of his son, Stewart Douglas Robinson. The body was taken to the South Station and placed in the midnight train for New York. In the car were Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, parents of the young man; Monroe Douglas Robinson and Theodore Douglas Robinson, his brothers, and Mrs. Theodore Douglas Robinson, Miss Corinne D. Robinson, his sister, and Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., his cousin.

Mr. Robinson made the following statement in regard to the death of his son:

Stewart Douglas Robinson, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, of New York City, a member of the sophomore class of Harvard University, died early Sunday morning, February 21, as a result of an accidental fall from a window of the sixth floor of Hampden Hall, Cambridge.

Stewart had spent the evening at the "A. D." Club, of which he was a member, which is situated across the street from Hampden Hall, and at the close of the banquet which was given last night had gone to the room of friends on the sixth floor of Hampden Hall, on which floor his brother, Monroe, was sleeping. His friends, occupying adjoining rooms, saw him after he had retired for the night.

He was a boy who always insisted on having lots of air in his rooms at night, and at home always slept with his windows wide open. In fact, I have often gone to his room and closed windows at night in our home, for fear that he would catch cold from such a draft. It is supposed, therefore, that he desired more air during the early morning, and went to the window to open it. The window was at least five feet from the floor, which necessitated his climbing upon a table to get to the window. It is believed that in opening the window, half asleep as he probably was, he lost his balance and fell out after the window was opened. This morning a table was found pushed up against the window.

The funeral will probably be held on Wednesday morning in New York, and burial will be in my family lot on my old home estate at Henderson Point, Herkimer County, N. Y.

JAPAN A FIRM FRIEND.

Count Kato Says No Power Can Be
Dominant in the Pacific.

London, Feb. 21.—Count Takakira Kato, recently appointed Japanese Ambassador to Great Britain, said in an interview to-day that he saw no reason why Japanese relations with the United States should not remain excellent, despite the loud talk of a small, excited section. "How highly we prize the statesmanlike and loyal policy of President Roosevelt in this connection," said the ambassador, "it is hard to say, but speaking for my country, I can assure you that nobody ever conceived such a mad scheme as fighting with the United States."

Count Kato said that there could be no dominant power in the vast waters of the Pacific. "We have no interests there," he continued, "that can clash with the United States. We mean to have our own sphere of influence in our own part of the Pacific, but not to the detriment of a single power, for we are not seeking any exclusive prestige."

DEATH IN AUTO'S WAKE.

Brooklyn Church-Goers See Car Kill
Man and Speed On.

While a crowd of church-goers looked on, a well dressed man, apparently about twenty-five years old, was run down and fatally injured by an automobile in Bedford avenue, near Clymer street, Williamsburg, at 7:30 o'clock last night. The driver of the machine never stopped.

The man was hurrying across the roadway in the direction of Division avenue, when the car bore down upon him and hurled him into the gutter. He was unconscious when several women rushed to his assistance. Patrolman Mills, of the bicycle squad, had the man taken to the Williamsburg Hospital, where he died. In the darkness the number of the machine could not be seen, but a general description was supplied to the police, and an effort was made to catch the car at the Manhattan end of the Williamsburg Bridge.

BABY IN CONFESSIONAL.

Week-Old Infant Abandoned in St.
Joseph's Church, Harlem.

Shortly before the evening service last night a week-old baby boy, blue eyed and healthy, was discovered in the confessional, ten paces from the entrance and on the left hand side of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, at 125th street and Morningside avenue. Several minutes before, two boys, unknown at the rectory, had left the following note with William Murphy, a young parishioner, who was in the home of the Rev. Girard H. Huntman, located next door to the church:

"Look in left side confessional box and you will find a baby."

Father Doyle went at once to the confessional box indicated in the note and drew aside the curtain. Upon the step was an infant, lying on his side, fast asleep. The baby boy was clad in an unmarked muslin dress and white petticoat.

Father Huntman delivered the baby to an officer at the West 125th street station. It was sent to Bellevue Hospital and placed in the infants' ward.

YEGGMEN WRECK BANK.

Blow Off Vault Door at Califon,
N. J., but Get No Booty.

Flemington, N. J., Feb. 21.—A charge of explosive which wrecked the building of the First National Bank at Califon and shattered the outer door of the vaults marked an unsuccessful attempt to rob the bank early this morning. The work is undoubtedly that of yeggmens.

Some time last night burglars forced an entrance and started work on the vault door. The explosive, which appears to have been nitroglycerine, was set off about 2 o'clock this morning. All the furniture in the banking room was wrecked and all the glass in the building shattered. The safe door was torn from its hinges and hurled through a partition and against the front door.

The safe was opened to-day and its contents were found untouched. The burglars left their drills and other tools lying scattered about in front of the vault.

WILL GET \$500,000 FROM CARNEGIE.

University of Virginia Raises Equal Sum,
Thereby Fulfilling Conditions.

(By Telegram to The Tribune.)

Richmond, Va., Feb. 21.—The University of Virginia has filled the conditions necessary to obtain the \$500,000 offered by Andrew Carnegie toward a million dollar permanent endowment fund. It was announced to-day by President E. A. Alderman, who told the faculty that he had received subscriptions necessary to complete the \$500,000 to be raised by the university.

HAAN'S RESTAURANT, PARK ROW BLDG. Long famous for cuisine and service. Music.—Adv.

FLEET STEAMING
FOR HAMPTON ROADSBATTLESHIPS ON TIME
FOR TO-DAY'S REVIEW.President to Visit Each Divisional
Flagship—Thousands Flock
to the Scene.

United States Steamer Connecticut, at Sea, via United States Steamer Yankton, Feb. 21, 10:45 p. m.—The battleship fleet is ninety miles south-east of Cape Henry, in line of squadrons; speed ten knots; will arrive on schedule time, slowing down, if necessary. Strong southwest winds during the night of the 19th increased to fresh westerly gales. All battleships pitched heavily but made satisfactory progress. The weather moderated on the night of the 20th.

The cruisers North Carolina and Montana joined the fleet at 11 p. m. on the 20th, after heavy weather, causing some delay to them, making a total of thirty ships—the strongest fleet ever brought together under the American flag.

Old Point Comfort, Va., Feb. 21.—The weather was wellnigh perfect off the coast to-day, and the battleships are expected to arrive off the Cape at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning for the review, which will be notable in the annals of the American navy.

The number of vessels in the line that will file by the Mayflower will not be so great as at some previous reviews, but never before has the President personally visited so many of the ships as he plans to do to-morrow. The review will also be noteworthy in that it will bring together the greatest number of battleships ever assembled under the American flag. There will be twenty first class battleships in the imposing column, more than at the review in San Francisco Harbor last May. In anticipation of to-morrow's pageant, the waters off here to-night are filled with brilliantly lighted yachts and many classes of government vessels. All water lanes seem to be leading to Hampton Roads.

Word was received here to-night that the President and his party, on board the Mayflower, were well on their way down the Potomac. The Dolphin is en route from Washington with the members of the House and Senate Naval committees on board. A specially chartered steamer is bringing another party of more than one hundred members of Congress. From Baltimore, Richmond and New York veritable fleets of excursion boats are making their way to the reviewing grounds, and to-morrow morning will find the Roads filled with a welcoming host of all manner of floating craft.

SPERRY REPORTS ARRIVAL.

Rear Admiral Sperry reported the arrival of his fleet and the escorting squadron, under command of Rear Admiral Arnold, to the Navy Department this morning as soon as the twenty-five ships of the joint command were brought to a standstill at the ocean drill grounds. Practically all of the messages sent to the Norfolk Navy Yard wireless station by the flagship Connecticut were in cipher code. None but official messages were exchanged, Admiral Sperry having given orders to the wireless operators neither to send nor receive personal or commercial messages. Whether or not Admiral Sperry will take advantage of the stay at the drill grounds until to-morrow morning to inspect any of the vessels is not known, but it is generally believed by the officers who are here that he will leave this duty until after the President's review.

Hundreds of persons came to Virginia Beach and Cape Henry to-day, hoping to catch a glimpse of the returning ships. They were disappointed, however, as the ships lay too far off the coast to be observed even from high towers. The faint tracings of smoke from some commercial steamer passing up or down the coast occasionally set the watching throngs astir with excitement, but hopes were quickly dispelled when the unromantic vessels of commerce came within range of vision.

Both Norfolk and Old Point were fairly choked with excursionists and visitors to-day, and the hotels are being hard put to it to care for the crowds.

The repair ship Panther, a converted cruiser, commanded by Commander Valentine S. Nelson, steamed in to-day, the third of the auxiliaries of the fleet to make home after encircling the globe. A homeward bound pennant of red streamer had behind the trim white vessel as she entered almost directly off the government pier. The Panther seems an ill named vessel, having none of the tendencies or qualities of a beast of prey. Instead, she has been more of a guardian angel to the fleet, being ready at all times to make any repairs that might be needed. Fitted with forges and much of the equipment of a modern naval station ashore, the presence of this floating machine shop has given a feeling of security to every commanding officer in the fleet. The Panther, on a larger and more complete scale, has been to the world cruising fleet what the better named Vulcan was to the American naval forces in Cuban waters during the Spanish-American War.

The collier Ajax also came in to-day, a late messenger from the fleet. Colliers have no home other than the restless ocean, and so the black Ajax flew no home bound pennant to-day. The Yankton slipped in last Wednesday with the sentiment steamer notably absent from the afternoon. This busy dispatch boat returned from Washington to-day a veritable treasure ship. In her strong room to-night are golden eagles, double eagles and half eagles to the amount of \$800,000 to be used in paying off the officers and men upon their arrival. The men have not had a payday for some time, and the jingle of American gold in their pockets in a home port will sound good to the bluejackets.

The naval yacht Sylph, one of the vessels placed at the disposition of the President, arrived here to-day to take out to the reviewing grounds to-morrow the wives of the flag officers and captains of the fleet.

WIVES OF OFFICERS ON HAND.

Mrs. Sperry, Mrs. Schroeder, Mrs. Wainwright and Mrs. Potter, wives of the rear admirals commanding the four divisions of the fleet, are here, and more than one-half of the wives of the captains will also be on board the Sylph to-morrow. The naval yacht Oneda, assigned to the militia of the District of Columbia, is here with General George H. Harries, of Washington, and a party on board. Vessels of the Virginia and Maryland "oyster navies" arrived this afternoon and threw out their rainbow dressing lines immediately upon anchoring. Several lighthouse tenders and revenue cutters are here to take out parties of government officials, army officers, etc.

The decision of Rear Admiral Sperry not to attempt to address the hundreds of wireless messages addressed to officers of the fleet has occasioned much woe here among the "navy widows" and the host of sweethearts who have gathered to greet the home coming officers. The