

THE WORLD'S GREATEST FLEET NOW IN CALIFORNIA WATERS

Fifty-Three War Ships and Auxiliary Naval Crafts Ready for Voyage Across Pacific.

The greatest fleet of warships the world has ever seen, fifty-three vessels, will salute the flag with big guns at the review of the Atlantic and Pacific fleets in San Francisco Bay May 8th, just before the sixteen battleships resume their record-breaking voyage of 45,000 miles around the world. When the six thirty-knot torpedo-boat destroyers started on the voyage around South America it was thought to be an event. When the sixteen battleships wended their way through the Straits of Magellan and reached the Golden Gate, it was said to be the limit. These fleets have now met on California's coast and joined by the eight big armored cruisers and other ships of the Pacific fleet, make an aggregation outnumbering any assemblage under any flag on any seas.

The two miles of fighting ships that sailed the English Channel at the Jubilee of Queen Victoria could not stand up against them. The fleet that dotted Oyster Bay when Roosevelt reviewed his strong right arm numbered but thirty-five ships. The rendezvous at Hampton Roads, when the great nations of the earth sent representative ships, numbered thirty-eight American vessels and twelve foreign ships.

The battleships and cruisers alone aggregate more tonnage than all the ships of the Japanese navy. The fleet, according to the official list of the Bureau of Navigation, Washington, D. C., will be made of the following:

Ships of the Fleet.	
First-class battleships	16
Armored cruisers	8
Protected cruisers	4
Torpedo-boat destroyers	6
Torpedo boats	3
Gunboats	2
Submarines	2
Colliers	2
Supply ships	2
Hospital ship	1
Repair ship	1

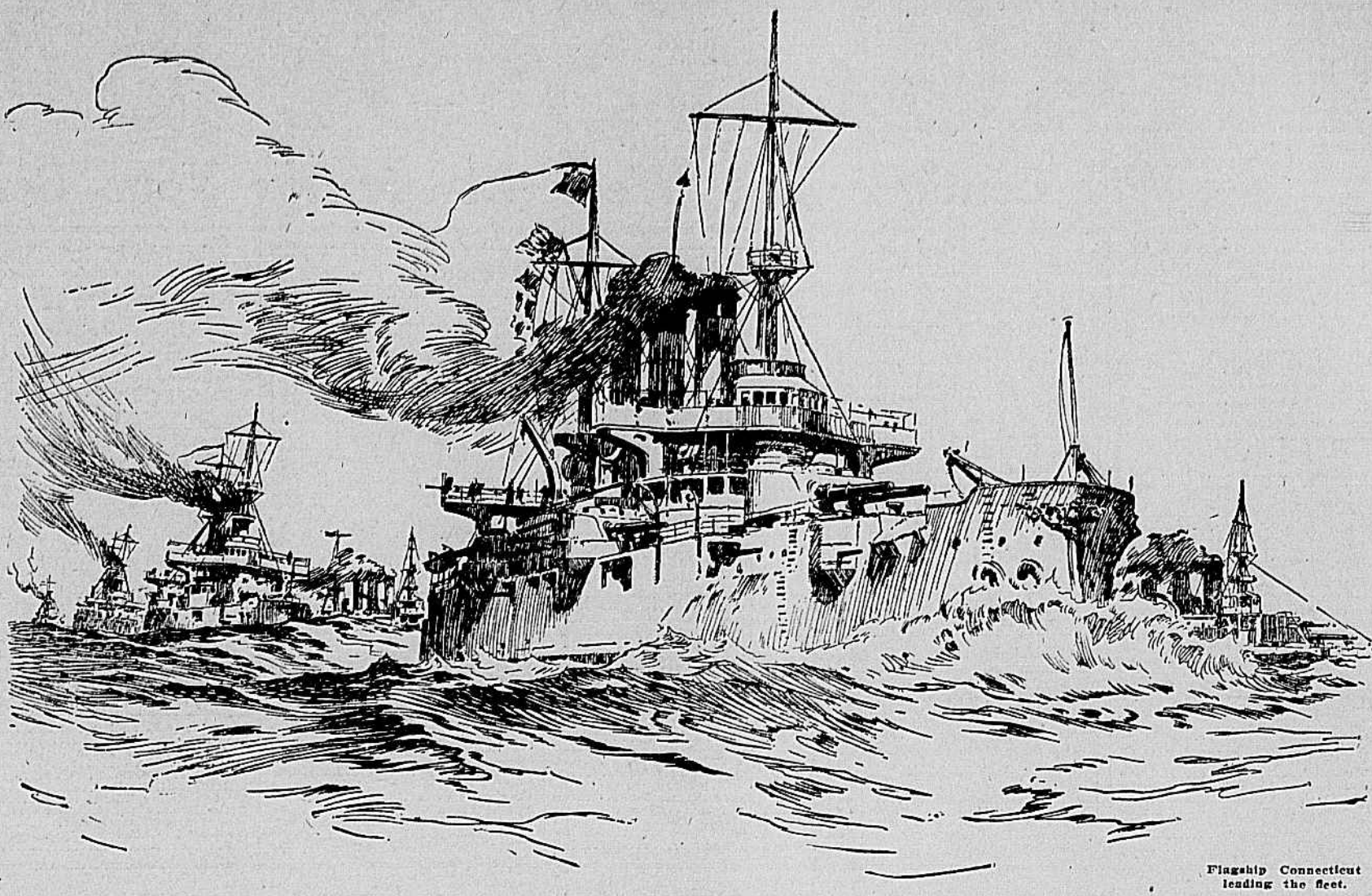
At the head of the fleet will be the sixteen battleships that sailed 14,000 miles around the South American continent, headed by the flagship Connecticut with her crew of 1,050 men, and the two battleships Wisconsin and Nebraska, just completed in Pacific shipyards. With the big white fighters will be the eight armored cruisers, which are really high-speed battleships, making a total of twenty-six swift-firing, hard-hitting, armor-plated fighting machines.

These twenty-six floating fortresses, 500 feet long, are masses of honey-combed steel, giants trained to the minute, but with the agility of a yacht. They are belted with foot-thick steel, and shoot 12 and 13-inch shells to the horizon and beyond. To these will be added eight of the thirty-knot torpedo-boat destroyers, the swiftest craft under the Stars and Stripes, the scorpions of the navy, that fly at an enemy in the dark, give a death-dealing sting with a torpedo and disappear in the night with the speed of an express train; and three of the torpedo boats, the warps, built to wound the big fighting ships of an enemy.

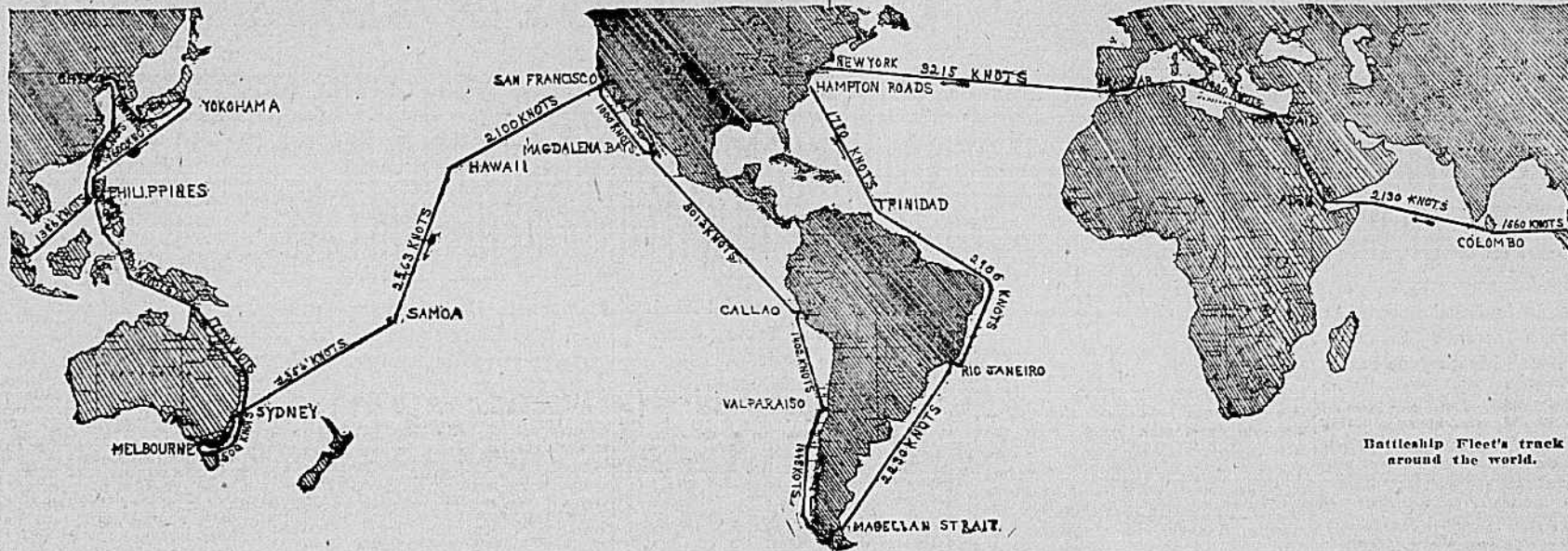
The submarines Grampus and Pike, realizations of Jules Verne's dreams, and the two gunboats complete the list of those that go forth to battle. In the train of the fighting ships will be four capacious-hulled coal colliers, the refrigerators and fresh water supply ships Glacier and Culgoa, the now famous hospital ship Relief, and the floating machine shop Panther, a total of fifty-three ships, all under the Stars and Stripes.

The United States navy now ranks second, and of the world's powers only Great Britain has a greater aggregation. Of necessity, England's ships must remain scattered among her dominions, on which the sun never sets. Can she match the formidable display of this, the greatest nation on earth? When the review is over sixteen battleships will head across the Pacific, on a voyage across all the seas, lengthening the 14,000-mile run around South America to a 45,000-mile cruise around the world.

Two Miles of Fighters.
Placed end to end, with bows and sterns touching, the ships would make a boulevard of steel along which one might walk four miles. Strung out at anchor in single file, the fleet would stretch away for ten miles, which is nearly as far as the eye can reach at sea, and with the farthest ship's hull



Flagship Connecticut leading the fleet.



Battleship fleet's track around the world.

down on the horizon. Anchored four abreast for a review—such as President Roosevelt steamed through at Oyster Bay and Hampton Roads—the four lines would stretch for two and a half miles each.

In fact, the administration has sent its entire fighting strength to the Pacific. The sixteen battleships alone cost \$100,000,000, and are manned by over 15,000 men and 725 officers.

Manning the entire fleet are 30,000 officers and seamen. Were they formed into a parade the line would require four hours' time to pass a given point. As militia, they would make thirty regiments of soldiers. There are but 35,000 men in the entire navy, so nearly the entire navy will be at the review.

The fighting machines bristle with guns. Were they placed twenty feet apart in the wall of a fort the broad-

THE DEFENDERS OF THE NATION The Fighting Ships.

FIRST-CLASS BATTLESHIPS.

Ship.	Length.	Tons.	Speed.	Horse Power.	Cost.	Guns.	Armor.	Coal.	Officers.	Men.
Connecticut	450	16,000	18	15,500	\$6,071,066	74	10 to 12	2,200	41	1,050
Louisiana	450	16,000	18	15,500	5,746,312	74	10 to 12	2,200	41	840
Minnesota	450	16,000	18	15,500	5,338,447	74	9 to 12	2,200	41	840
Vermont	450	16,000	18	15,500	5,174,911	74	9 to 12	2,200	41	840
Kansas	450	16,000	18	15,500	5,214,530	74	9 to 12	2,200	41	840
Nebraska	435	14,948	19	13,000	4,789,875	74	10 to 12	1,700	41	840
Virginia	435	14,948	19	13,000	5,265,524	74	10 to 12	1,700	41	840
Georgia	435	14,948	19	13,000	5,228,405	74	10 to 12	1,700	41	840
Rhode Island	435	14,948	19	13,000	5,247,055	74	10 to 12	1,700	41	840
Maine	388	12,300	18	15,500	5,381,081	44	11 to 12	1,800	35	773
Missouri	388	12,300	18	15,500	5,255,309	44	11 to 12	1,800	35	773
Alabama	388	11,565	17	11,200	4,685,320	44	14 to 16.5	1,280	35	773
Illinois	388	11,565	17	12,700	4,621,405	44	14 to 16	1,280	35	773
Wisconsin	368	11,565	17	12,700	4,723,194	44	14 to 16.5	1,240	35	773
Kentucky	368	11,565	16.5	11,700	5,043,591	44	15 to 17	1,500	35	773
			16.5	12,175	4,998,119	44	15 to 17	1,500	35	773
	7,469	249,440		283,770	\$92,278,368	1,002		31,400	690	14,816

ARMORED CRUISERS.

Ship.	Length.	Tons.	Speed.	Horse Power.	Cost.	Guns.	Armor.	Coal.	Officers.	Men.
Tennessee	502	14,500	23	23,000	\$4,927,122	68	5 to 9	1,762	40	816
Washington	502	14,500	23	23,000	4,829,842	68	5 to 9	1,762	40	816
California	502	12,860	23	23,000	1,219,464	68	6	2,024	41	787
Colorado	502	13,850	23	23,000	5,421,023	66	6	1,828	41	787
Pennsylvania	502	13,850	23	23,000	5,454,189	66	6	1,828	41	787
West Virginia	502	13,850	23	23,000	5,432,048	66	6	2,024	41	787
South Dakota	502	13,850	23	23,000	4,208,848	66	6	2,024	41	787
Maryland	502	13,850	23	23,000	5,467,315	66	6	2,024	41	787
	4,016	111,080		184,000	\$30,049,441	632		15,276	320	6,354

CRUISERS.

Ship.	Length.	Tons.	Speed.	Horse Power.	Cost.	Guns.	Coal.	Officers.	Men.
St. Louis	424	9,700	22	21,000	\$2,740,000	63	1,800	36	624
Milwaukee	424	9,700	22	21,000	2,825,000	68	1,500	36	634
Charleston	424	9,700	22	21,000	2,740,000	68	1,300	36	634
Albany	346	3,437	20	7,500	1,500,000	34	850	19	333

GUNBOATS.

Ship.	Length.	Tons.	Speed.	Horse Power.	Cost.	Guns.	Coal.	Officers.	Men.
Yorktown	226	1,710	16	3,341	\$455,000	16	350	14	182
Yankee	163	1,000	12	1,200	250,000	10	100	10	150

TORPEDO-BOAT DESTROYERS.

Ship.	Length.	Tons.	Speed.	Horse Power.	Cost.	Guns.	Coal.	Officers.	Men.
Whipple	443	433	30	8,000	\$288,000	7	200	3	74
Truxton	443	433	30	8,000	286,000	7	200	3	74
Lawrence	446	440	30	6,375	281,000	7	200	3	74
Stewart	420	420	30	8,000	282,000	7	200	3	74
Hopkins	408	408	30	7,200	291,000	7	200	3	74
Hull	408	408	30	7,200	291,000	7	200	3	74
Perry	480	480	28	9,000	286,000	7	200	3	74
Prieb	480	480	28	7,600	286,000	7	200	3	74
	3,528	3,528		60,755	\$2,257,000				

TORPEDO BOATS.

Ship.	Length.	Speed.	Horse Power.	Cost.
Davis	154	23	1,750	\$81,546
Parragut	154	23	1,750	227,500
Fox	154	23	1,750	81,546

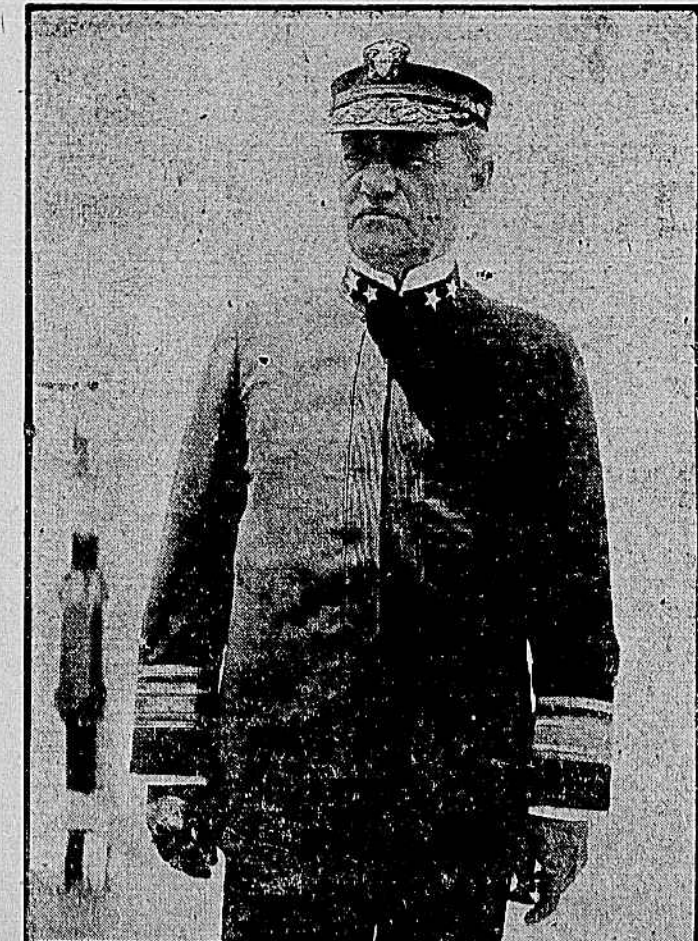
SUBMARINES.

Ship.	Length.	Speed.	Horse Power.	Cost.
Displace	8	120	160	\$170,000
Grampus	8	120	160	170,000
Pike	8	120	160	170,000

THE AUXILIARIES.

Ship.	Length.	Speed.	Horse Power.	Cost.
Supply	8	120	160	\$170,000
Colliers	Alexander, Saturn, Arctus, Justin.			
Hospital Ship	Relief.			
Repair Ship	Panther.			

RULER OF 30,000 SEAMEN



ADMIRAL "FIGHTING BOB" EVANS, of Floyd county, Va., who will relinquish command of the fleet when the warships reach San Francisco.

Thirty Thousand Officers and Men Under Command of Admiral—Ships Reach More than 10 Miles.

will cost \$100,000. For fresh beef there will be expended \$200,000. The 15,000 men need enough flour to fill seventy-five railroad cars, and sufficient fresh beef to load fifty refrigerator cars. The potatoes for the ships will fill twenty cars. Other stores, ranging from cheese to turkey, apricots to sausages, milk to sauerkraut, vinegar to macaroni, and peaches to salt pork, including forty-six big items, range from one to four carload lots, making about 225 railroad cars full of supplies, or nearly ten big trains of food.

The biggest single item is coal. A fleet of thirty-odd colliers had mountains of it stored at Trinidad, Rio Janeiro, Punta Arenas, Callao, Magdalena Bay and San Francisco, and to get the sixteen battleships and the six torpedo-boat destroyers around the South American continent, over 100,000 tons of fuel were piled up at the stopping places. At \$5 a ton this represents \$500,000. The battleships alone took about 34,000 tons at Rio Janeiro, 21,000 tons at Punta Arenas, 21,000 tons at Callao and 35,000 tons at Magdalena Bay. Eighty thousand tons were contracted for at San Francisco, and now that it has been decided to send the ships around the world, mountains of fuel must be deposited along the Asiatic, Indian and Mediterranean coasts.

For every mile of the 14,000-mile cruise of the sixteen battleships from Hampton Roads to San Francisco, the vessels burned eighty tons of coal an hour, which, at \$5 a ton, is \$400 a mile.

When the sixteen battleships shall have ended their cruise of 45,000 miles they will have consumed \$1,500,000 worth of food and \$1,500,000 of coal. Official figures of the Navy Department show that it costs \$25,000 to maintain a battleship for one year. If this is multiplied by sixteen it will be seen that the cruise around the world will cost over \$1,000,000. However, as the cruise is producing the best men-behind-the-guns in the world, it is regarded worth the price.

Records With Big Guns.

The publication of the fact that during target practice on the British Channel fleet, in the presence of King Edward, one gun made nineteen hits in twenty-one shots, thereby earning a decoration from the King, touched the pride of American naval officers. They can beat this. The record of the recent target practice at Magdalena Bay shows that the Maryland made two world's records with the 3-inch and 6-inch guns. Out of 18.65 shots a minute with the 3-inch guns the Maryland's men made 18.65 hits a minute, a record of 1,000 per cent.

In the contest with the 6-inch guns the Maryland gunners easily carried off the honors with an average of 8.43 hits out of a possible 10.74. The Maryland not only carried off individual records, but also led the highest score made among all ships.

The range measured about 1,600 yards, and the men were obliged to train their guns on canvas targets 12 by 20 feet in size, and checked in black and white squares. Six cruisers participated in the shoot. In the final score the following percentages were attained:

Maryland, 78.39; Tennessee, 68.24; Colorado, 61.68; Pennsylvania, 57.50; West Virginia, 57.70; Washington, 55.60.

One gunner on the armored cruiser Maryland made 11 shots and 11 hits in one minute with a 6-inch gun. A 6-inch gun on the battleship Maine has a record of perfect score at the rate of 10.41 a minute, and the battleship Missouri's best record was 10.29 shots a minute, each lodging in a target.

The performance at Magdalena Bay shows that the Albany has broken all records for rapidity and accuracy with her 5-inch guns, her average being 10 hits per minute, and the St. Louis with her 6-inch guns, averaging 8.43 hits per minute.

A 3-pounder on the battleship Virginia made 20 shots and 20 hits in 75 seconds. Another gun made 19 shots and 19 hits in 72.4 seconds, a remarkable average of 25.67 shots a minute.

The battleship Illinois, that holds the target record of the navy at the present writing, made a per cent. of 75.73 in using all guns.

The crew of the after-turret on the Alabama has made 11 straight hits with the 13-inch gun.

At her preliminary practice the Tennessee used 17,742 pounds of powder and 36,242 pounds of shell, the cost being \$18,902.50. At record practice the Tennessee used 17,952 pounds of powder and 31,246 pounds of shell, the cost being \$23,743.50. The Tennessee's largest gun are of 16-inch caliber against the 12 and 13-inch pieces of the battleships.

The standard of accuracy at target practice has been set this year by the cruiser Albany, which made a total score of 123 hits out of 120 shots at a rate of fire never before attained in the navy.

TO COMMAND 53 WAR SHIPS



ADMIRAL CHARLES M. THOMAS, who will succeed Admiral Evans in command. Admiral Sperry will succeed Admiral Thomas, and will command the great fleet in the trip around the world.