

# SEA FORCES EAGER TO FIGHT MEXICO; WEARY OF SNEERS

Bathson Tells of Life on the Battleships as They Steamed to Vera Cruz.

## SHORTAGE OF OFFICERS IN THE MARINE CORPS

Landing Parties Were Organized on Each Vessel and Drilled Daily During Voyage.

Need for senior officers on battleships and for the marines, who have been called into service in Mexico with about 50 per cent less officers than the regular army forces, although they are both "soldiers and sailors, too," is one of the important comments made by Wingrove Bathson, staff correspondent of The Star with the American forces now at Vera Cruz.

In a series of letters, printed below, Mr. Bathson gives interesting descriptions of the life aboard ship and the feeling of the marines and bluejackets while they were hurrying to service in defense of their country's honor in Mexico. These letters were delayed in transmission by the unsettled conditions at Vera Cruz. The first of Mr. Bathson's letters, written after he had landed during the third day of fighting at Vera Cruz, was published in The Star yesterday.

### Letters Written Aboard Ship.

In the following letters, written on shipboard, Mr. Bathson writes entertainingly of the sailors and soldiers' daily life. He describes their ship drills, their methods of punishment, their initiatives, their eagerness to learn all they can about the country they are called to invade, their discipline, their mess, their ship tailor shop. He describes their little world aloft, with its various interests, at the same time reminding his readers that this battleship and its complement of bluejackets and marines are but a unit in the powerful fighting force that the Navy Department of this government has sent to Mexico to exact respect for the flag these youngsters love so devotedly.

Mr. Bathson also gives an interesting description of Tampico as pictured to him by men who have been there and studied its topography from a military viewpoint. It was there the Michigan's equipment expected to be service. While at sea and near Tampico, wireless orders sent the Michigan to Vera Cruz.

### Familiar With Tampico.

ON BOARD U. S. BATTLESHIP MICHIGAN, at Sea, April 17 (by Mail).—Sleeping bags of the officers and men of the Michigan have been in readiness so often for use in the city of Tampico that conversations on this ship about that city are cast in as familiar a vein as one would talk in Washington of the Potomac, the Monument, any of the gas works or parks.

Each by inch Tampico has been gone over by the officers and men of the Michigan. Now that this Mexican town is occupying such a prominent place in the eyes of the world, and is likely to continue to do so for a while, some description of it may prove not uninteresting to Washington readers.

The city numbers something less than 20,000 population. It is situated on a small peninsula formed by the River Panuco and Lake del Carpenario, about six miles inland along the River Panuco channel and on its north bank. The Atlantic fleet vessels, because of the shoal water and the fact that there is a sand bar stretched across the mouth of the river, anchor about three miles off the coast, so that from the battleships to the city proper the distance is about ten miles.

The heart of the town, making the additional mile in distance mentioned, is separated from the wharves along the river front and the customhouse by the canal, which connects Lake de Ahirel, above the city to the north, with the Panuco river, below. This custom-

# WITH THE STAR'S CORRESPONDENT ABOARD THE BATTLESHIP MICHIGAN, EN ROUTE TO VERA CRUZ



Top—A busy day on the Michigan coasting from Collier. Bottom—Landing party.

Top—As the fleet looked approaching Vera Cruz. Center—Senior (wardroom) officers, U. S. battleship Michigan. Bottom—Big guns of the Michigan.

Top—A busy day on the Michigan coasting from Collier. Bottom—Landing party.

house is called the Aduana, and it is a long, well constructed freight shed of brick and iron.

**Important Railroad Terminal.**  
An iron bridge across the canal connects the Calle del Muelle and the main plaza of the city with the Aduana wharves, and the railroad terminals at this point of the National Railway of Mexico, running through the works of the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, to Monterey, toward the north.

Between Tampico proper and the sea-coast, which is, of course, the Gulf of Mexico, are two little towns, Dona Cecilia, near Tampico, and La Barra, right on the gulf. At the latter point is situated a lighthouse, which makes a splendid, natural target point by which to run a line for big gun shooting at the city of Tampico, six or seven miles beyond.

The railroad line runs from La Barra at the gulf to the city of Tampico. All along both banks of the river are situated the immense oil refineries and tank "farms" of the Waters-Pierce Oil Company, and their steamers come and go through the river constantly, as well as vessels of various German packet lines, to Europe and United States ports.

The streets of Tampico are laid out regularly, at right angles, and they are paved with asphalt and are as clean as those of Washington. The land immediately surrounding the city at the river and canal is low and marshy, but the streets of the city slope upward, gradually. The buildings in the main part of the town are of general Mexican residence and shop type. There are several hotels. There are no large warehouses in the main part of the town.

Sanitation is poor. Smallpox and typhoid are prevalent in the city. The water supply comes from the River

the village suburb of Tampico, at which are located the greater Waters-Pierce oil plants, the people of the town, although many of them have the opportunity to work for the oil company, are too lazy to work, and they have a bad character. Occasionally, in numbers, they try to enter Tampico and to shoot up that city, to use the language of the day.

**Plazas and Cathedral.**  
The city has three plazas about three blocks long by two wide, one with gardens and bandstand in the center—the inevitable bandstand and plaza of the center of Central American cities. This plaza is in the main business section. The second is back in the city, higher up on the slope, and near it stands another inevitable of Central American cities—the cathedral. Another plaza contains the municipal offices, police station and jail.

There are a large number of wine shops in Tampico. An officer who recently made a report to the commanding officer of the Michigan tells me: "The particular mesal that these places furnish makes the peon crazy drunk."

The peons, or laborers of Tampico, look with great disfavor on the presence of American ships. They freely salute German and British officers, and so far as the enlisted men of those nationalities will permit it, fraternize with them, but not the American "bluejackets." Him they hate, as they do all other Americans and things American.

It has been said that a peon is "a man who works for 9 cents a day and does not get it." But many of the peons at Tampico are well paid and well employed, if they choose to be so. At Dona Cecilia,

the village suburb of Tampico, at which are located the greater Waters-Pierce oil plants, the people of the town, although many of them have the opportunity to work for the oil company, are too lazy to work, and they have a bad character. Occasionally, in numbers, they try to enter Tampico and to shoot up that city, to use the language of the day.

These residents of Dona Cecilia have again and again threatened to set fire to the refineries. The latter are surrounded with tanks of gasoline and other volatiles, as well as tanks with hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil in them.

**A Center for Americans.**  
Naval officers report that there are about 6,000 or 7,000 Americans in the neighborhood of Tampico who regard this as their port of refuge. The principal foreign interests about the city are American and British oil concerns. The oil fields are productive in spots in an area extending from Tuxpam, 100 miles north, on the gulf along the coast for thirty miles inland to Tampico. The oil is piped and barged to Tampico and Tuxpam, where most of it is exported in crude state.

The mosquito pest in Tampico is great and the fleet needs great quantities of mosquito netting. There is also considerable malaria, and an insect similar to the "chigger," which works under the

skin and causes sores and great pain. The following incident is related by a naval officer as illustrating the attitude of the governing authorities of Tampico shortly before the fleet was ordered there: "The manager of an oil company, at his own expense, began to oil the pools and marsh land about his place, near Tampico, to rid the vicinity of mosquitoes and to prevent malaria. He offered to do this also in all directions five miles from the city. "He was stopped. His offer was refused and he was forbidden to resume the work. The Tampico authorities said that they had been informed that the real intention was to burn the place."

### Public Works Neglected.


Two stone jetties at the entrance to the River Panuco from the gulf have been partly washed away by "northerners," and no attempt has been made to rebuild them. The sand bar across the mouth is only occasionally dredged, and then by a small dredge in an inefficient way. Some pretense is made of continuing this work from time to time because of the great amount of duties Tampico yields, because of the export duty on oil and the necessity for foreign ships carrying it to get in and out of the mouth of the river on their way to and from the city. There is a long swell off the mouth of the river toward the warships anchored from two to three miles off. Vessels drawn in from all directions five miles do not attempt to enter the river. Tampico's distance from Galveston,

Tex., is 400 miles. There are about 400 Americans living in the city or its suburbs. There is no cable station at Tampico. Communication, so far as the fleet is concerned, is by wireless to Galveston. The climate is hot and very moist. The trade winds blow in April, May, June and July. The unhealthy season is from March to October. Asiatic cholera hit the place in 1883 and 1888. Yellow fever devastated it in 1885, 1887, 1879 and 1888. There was smallpox there in 1888, and there is again this year an outbreak of that as well as typhoid. Malaria exists at all times.

### Ready to Land Forces.

ON BOARD U. S. BATTLESHIP MICHIGAN, at Sea, April 18, 1914 (By Mail Steamer).—The organization of a "landing party" is proceeding apace on this ship, and the wireless reports similar preparations on the other vessels of the Atlantic fleet. By the time this is published the cables and radio service will have told what the "landing parties" did, if the impending Mexican trouble comes to a head. The anxious, steady work of the officers, however, in drilling and otherwise preparing their men will be lost sight of in the final result, and it is not too much to say that in this important preliminary as in others they have had a heavy task. The "landing party" of this ship is said to be typical of the others in the Atlantic fleet. (Continued on Eighteenth Page.)

## ARGYFYIN' on religion an' politics reminds me of a squirrel in a cage. Thar's a heap o' noise an' action, but it don't get nowhar. Better discuss smokin' tobacco an' y' kin reach a ver-dick easy—VELVET.



*Velvet Joe*

VELVET, the Smoothest Smoking Tobacco.  
Full weight 2 oz. tins, 10c.  
Coupons of Value With Velvets.

## Pure French Olive Oil

In full measure bottles. Don't let the trust stores sell you short measure. Full quart bottle, **65c**

# O'DONNELL'S

## Rexall DRUG STORE

### 904 F ST. N.W.

Anti-Trust Prices for Today, Friday and Saturday

## Hot-Water Bags

Don't fail to get one of these today; 2 and 3 quart; chocolate color (guaranteed); \$1.50 value. **59c**

25c Dressing Combs.	Durham Deodorator Safety Razors.	Pure Gum Camphor, Lb.	1-lb. Cans Best Soda Phosphate.	\$1.00 H. S. Wampole's Cod Liver Oil.	\$1.00 Rexall Sarsaparilla.	10c Jergen's Violet Glycerine Soap, 3 for	\$1.00 Wampole's Preparation of Cod Liver Oil, the Original.
19c	27c	50c	15c	39c	65c	19c	60c

### Sharpen Your Dull Safety Razor Blade with a Meehan Stropper.

Then you know they will be clean and sanitary. \$2.00 Stropplers, this sale, only **69c**

5c Gillette Safety Razors **\$3.69**  
\$12 Gillette Safety Razor Sets **\$6.98**

1 dozen Gillette Blades... 75c  
1/2 dozen Gillette Blades... 40c  
Durham Blades, set... 40c  
Mark Cross Safety Razors... 19c

50c Neva Hone Strop... 39c  
75c Neva Hone Strop... 59c  
\$1.00 Neva Hone Strop... 79c  
\$1.50 Neva Hone Strop... \$1.19

FREE

\$1.00 Dixon Hone free with a can of Sozoderma Shaving Powder. \$1.25 value. **19c**

### Many a Dressing Table Will Be Quickly Replenished at Prices Like These on Toilet Preparations!

25c Resinol Soap	50c Daggett & Ramsdell's Cold Cream	28c
25c Java Rice Powder	60codont Tooth Paste	16c
50c Zonghiva	Pond's Extract Cream	16c
25c Frostilla	Oriental Cream	98c
10c Physicians and Surgeons' Soap	75c Parisian Ivory Combs	49c
15c Pears Unscented	Viola Cream	31c
20c Pears Scented	Labialace Face Powder	35c
25c Calox Tooth Powder	Sheffield Tooth Paste	16c
50c Pebeco Tooth Paste	Soapodont Liquid	16c
25c Packer's Tar Soap	50c Pompeian Massage Cream	27c
25c D. D. D. Soap	15c Wool Powder Puffs	9c
25c Woodbury's Soap	Bathasweet	18c
25c Woodbury's Cream	25c 4711 Bath Salts	19c
50c Hinds' Honey and Almond Cream	25c jars Peroxide Cream	15c
50c Canthrox Shampoo	25c Johnson's Baby Powder	15c
\$1.00 Dylux Hair Dye. Does not contain Silver or Lead.	25c cans White Cross Foot Powder	17c

## GUARANTEED RUBBER GOODS

\$1.50 2-quart Fountain Syringes, with rapid-flow tubing and all the necessary hard rubber pipes. **69c**

Here's Your Chance to Get a 2-quart Irrigating Can or Granite Fountain Syringe, complete with rubber tubing and pipes. **98c** Worth \$2.00

25c Infant Bulb Syringe... 15c

Bon Ton Bulb Syringes, the old-fashioned kind. **39c**

Goodyear Special Combination Syringe and Water Bag; guaranteed two years. Worth \$3.00. **\$1.89** Sale price.

\$2.50 Whirlpool Spray Syringe... **\$1.49**

2-quart Combination Fountain Syringe and Water Bag; made by the Goodyear Co., and guaranteed by O'Donnell. \$2.50 value. **\$1.39**

50c Nasal Atomizer... 39c

Key's Aseptic

The safe, reliable antiseptic and douche powder. Large box, containing half pound. **50c**

## CIGAR SPECIALS



### Our Special 5c Fives 5c

Not the ordinary 5c cigars, but equal to any and superior to many 10c goods. Strictly all Havana filled and guaranteed as such by James O'Donnell.

WEEKLY CUT OF HIGH-GRADE 5c CIGARS TO 3 for 10c; 8 for 25c; box of 50, \$1.80.

USACUBA, Cuban handmade.  
DON REY, all Havana.  
LA JOYA DEL SUR, from La Yebana factory, Manila.  
BIG REDUCTION IN 3 for 25c PORTO RICANS:  
PILARICA, not many left, 5c; 6 for 25c; box of 50, \$2.00.  
PALVAREZ, 6c straight; box of 50, \$2.75.  
MI ISABELLA, Rothschilds 10c size; for THIS SALE ONLY, box of 25, \$1.35.  
PORTUONDO SUBLIMES, an old 10c standard, cut to 5c straight; box of 50, \$2.40.  
LA ZIKORA, all Havana filler, regularly 3 for 25c; cut to 5c straight; box of 50, \$2.25; box of 25, \$1.15.  
HELLOS, the popular Manila.  
Invincibles, cut to 7 for 25c; box of 25, 88c.  
Americano, 3 for 25c size cut to 5c, 6 for 25c; box of 25, 95c.  
RUY LOPEZ, a few left from the last shipment of this famous brand, 2 for 25c size cut to 3 for 25c; box of 50, \$3.50.  
BOCK PANETELIAS, 15c straight size cut to 11c straight; box of 100, \$10.75; box of 50, \$5.50.  
ROMEO & JULIET, PERFECTOS, 20c size cut to 15c straight; box of 25, \$3.65.  
LA CORONA, BELVIDERES, usually 20c; cut to 15c straight; box of 25, \$3.50.

CIGARETTES.

BILL MOOSE, cut to 7c, 3 for 20c.  
POLOS, 5c, cut to 2 for 5c.  
OASIS, containing 5 whole coupons, cut to 9c, 3 for 25c.  
THEOCARIDES, plain, cork, straw or gold tips, usually 15c, cut to 10c.  
LITTLE CIGARS.  
STAPLETTES, usually 10c, cut to 5c.  
SOUSA, a 15c package, cut to 11c.  
GOLDEN EAGLE, 10c package, cut to 7c; 3 for 20c.

TOBACCOS.

FREE for FRIDAY and SATURDAY ONLY, a \$1.00 STAR SAFETY RAZOR, with 2 blades, with each 90c glass humidifier of TUXEDO, the perfect smoke for pipe and cigarette.  
MIDCHANNEL MIXTURE, embracing all of the rare qualities of the best imported mixtures—10c can; cut to 5c.  
PALMERS' LUXURY, "The Aristocrat of the Pipe," always sold at \$2.00 per pound; 1/2-lb. cans cut to 90c.

All 10c tins of the popular brands, 3 for 25c.  
All 5c packages, 6 for 25c.

# Levertons

1106 G Street  
THE HOUSE OF FASHION.

## Wonderful Values for Two Days

Tomorrow and Saturday we place on sale the greatest values of the season. Every spring garment in the house is in this sale. Don't delay—for delay may mean missing the opportunity to save on the very garments you want.

### 125 Stylish Suits

Divided into two lots. All sizes and every color you can ask for. Materials are of serge, checks, stripes, gabardines, crepes and fancy novelty mixtures. Actual values to \$35.00.

Friday & Saturday, \$13.75 & \$18.00

### 100 Suits--Best Models

100 of the season's best and most exclusive models, some copies of Parisian and Vienna models. Others are the very latest American creations. Each has an individuality of its own. Actual values to \$59.50.

Friday & Saturday, \$23.50 & \$29.50

### Beautiful Dresses

One entire floor devoted exclusively to the showing of Dresses. Any color, style and size you want. Values are unequalled. Special offering of Fashionable Dresses in taffetas, poplins, crepe de chimes and cotton crepes. Values to \$35.00.

Friday & Saturday, \$12.75 & \$18.50

### Summer Dresses

Select your Summer Dresses now, while the showing is at its best. Dresses of cotton crepes, voiles, lingeries, organdies and figured flower crepes.

Friday & Saturday \$7.95 \$12.95 \$19.95 \$25.00

### Fashionable Coats

A limited lot of Handsome Coats in all materials and colors, the very latest styles, and Coats you need now and for vacation purposes. Actual values to \$19.95.

Friday & Saturday, \$8.95 & \$12.95

### Millinery Department

60 Hats Trimmed Exquisitely

All new stock and one of a kind. It is necessary to see these Hats to appreciate what great values they are. None sent on approval or C. O. D. Actual values to \$15.00.

Friday & Saturday, \$5.00

Other Millinery reduced proportionately.

### Largest Waist Department in the City

Our Entire Stock of Waists in This Great Two-Day Sale

More than 500 different styles to select from. Waists of every style and material and sizes up to 50 bust measure.

This sale includes voiles, crepes and novelties, with the new colored embroidery trimmings; striped wash silks, crepe de chimes and Handsome Novelty Waists of silks and laces. Actual values to \$12.95.

Friday & Saturday, \$1.00 to \$5.95

We are prepared for this great Two-Day Sale, and if the alterations to your garments are moderate you can have them for Sunday's wear.